



HamGab

Next meeting: September 11th

September 2015



PO Box 474
Crestwood, IL
60445-0474
www.hamfesters.org
[Special Interest Articles](#)

Digital Communications
Conference pg. 5
Hamfester's FlexRadio
5000 SDR loan program
pg. 6
Project Bambi pg. 6

September Birthdays

James KA2DRQ
Jon KC9FIN
Gary W9GUN
Patrick K9JAU
Dave NF9N
John KC9OOO
John AB9SI
Gordon WM9T
Mathew Flisk
Peter WB9W
Martin Linke WD9ABG

Officers

President-Don KC9EQQ
Vice President -Jim KB9CYL
Secretary-Patty KC9LYE
Treasurer- ED WA9EOL
SGT at Arm-Jim N9HSH
Trustee-Bruno K9QKB

Board Members

Nora KC9MLV
Steve W9KXT
Kurt WB9FMC
Kerry AA9SB
Cathy KC9NRH

Hamgab Editors

Steve & Eric
KC9OOL & KC9OOM
Scapstone@aol.com

Final Reminder: The SS Badger trip has been changed to September 19&20. Go to SSbadger.com or call 1-800-badger for reservations.

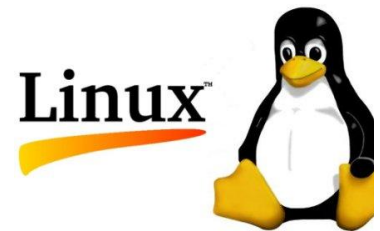
Next Meeting will be September 11 not September 4!

Gene W9PNG will present "Linux the viable alternative to Microsoft"

Did your Windows computer die again? What if viruses were no longer a concern? Do you have an older computer sitting and collecting dust? Contrary to some beliefs, Linux is friendly now and it's free.

I will cover the pros and cons, the basics, the slew of different options, dispel the myths, and how it can be applied to ham radio.

Gene W9PNG



Hap Holly and the Rain Report

Hamfesters were treated to a fabulous talk by Hap Holly at our August meeting. Hap KC9RP is the author of the Rain Report. He was accompanied by his wife Stephanie of 39 years. Hap has had an amazing life and he sure knows how to tell a story. For those of you who were unable to attend there is a rebroadcast at www.therainreport.com.

DON'T FORGET YOUR SPLIT THE POT TICKETS AT
THE NEXT MEETING!

**"SEASONS CHANGE-
IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE"**

THE PRESIDENTS BEAT

DONALD POINTER KC9EQQ

SEPTEMBER 2015

Recently this past month Nora and I had the opportunity to finally get away and visit with some of her family out in Los Angeles. It was a week well spent with some really wonderful family folk. I'm sure many of you can relate that a good visit with good family can really recharge the old batteries. Fresh air, fresh environment and renewed ties to loved ones not seen in awhile can surely do a body (and mind) good. Those who know us close, know that we have a penchant for the west coast. And yes some day, I can see us out there maybe for good when all the right ducks line up.

Getting back to our visit, Nora and I thought about the forthcoming changes in our lives once Summer is over upon our return to Chicago. We will be moving to a new residence in Chicago, Nora will be leaving her job after many years, due to it's owner retiring, and my photography business is picking up nicely. As the seasons change, we find one thing does not change- the devotion and loyalty of good friends and family who help you get through the ups and downs of this little old thing called life. And let me tell you first hand, there's some mighty great friends who have shown their support and kindnesses through this "Season of Change", and they share a name- **Hamfesters**. Never my fellow club members doubt what kind of friends you can make in this club. They will go the extra mile and then some for you. Most importantly their friendship and acts of fellowship will inspire you to do the same for others. Its contagious. And you know what? That's a good thing- a beautiful and wondrous thing.....

BACK ON THE BEAT: This years Hamfest was OUTSTANDING! On behalf of our club members, I thank all the volunteers, speakers, Vendors and sellers who made this year's Hamfest Rock! A big shout out goes to Hamfest Chairman Kurt WB9FMC along with his wife Helen. They along with so many others, did an amazing job pulling our most important event of the year together. Special Recognition to Dale at The Peotone Fairgrounds for all his help and I might add we wish him much luck as he retires and moves out of state. Thank you for all you have done for our club over the years of our association with you and the grounds!

___So what kind of a follow up show do you put on after such a great Hamfest? Well, you bring in the much respected and loved Hap Holly KC9RP and his wonderful wife Stephanie to speak at our August monthly meeting. The owner and operator of the Rain Report, the audience enjoyed Hap's engaging and humorous presentation as he presented anecdote after anecdote about his most varied and fascinating life's stories. Thank you Hap for your time that night. I understand he and his wife enjoyed the company of various members of our club at Beggars Pizza afterwards. (Hey how could you not with our bunch eh?).

___Our next meeting will be held on September 11th. **NOT** the fourth, due to the Labor day weekend. Please make a note of it. At that meeting, the topic will be all about the Linux computer operating system and the presenter of our program will be none other than our very own member Gene W9PNG. I truly interested in learning about a system that seems to have a lot of benefits over Windows and Apple operating systems. I hope to see you there too with questions and curiosity.

As you know, September 11th is the 14th anniversary of the day we who can remember will never forget- The 911 attack on our great nation. At our September 11th meeting If you are or were Military or a First Responder, I respectfully ask you to please wear your uniform as a symbol of remembrance, if you will, of all who gave all that fateful day in 2001. Thank you in advance for your participation. God bless our country and thank you to all of you who wore a uniform in the above capacities.

Back on the beat part two: Our October 2nd program brings back a guest speaker who is back by popular Demand- The one and only Steve Cooper of the Steve Cooper Orchestra with his new program entitled: "Those Wacky TV Game Shows". This is a brand new presentation by Steve and he tells me that it has been exceptionally well received by the many audiences who have seen it.



Steve has done a number of presentations for our club over the years and you all should know that Steve thoroughly enjoys our club and looks forward to giving us another program, so let's have a night full of fun and fellowship. I have invited he and his wife Mary to join us for pizza with the club at Beggars after his program. Please feel free to join us there.

Back on the beat Part Three: Uh oh! He's baaaaaack! Jim KB9CYL will be our presenter at the November 6th program for our club. His topic will be "The ABC'S of Geo Caching!" I know for fact many of our members are into this HUGELY POPULAR hobby and I plan to join you and them and see what is involved in getting into this. (OH BOY NORA- New toys!) (I am so dead!!).....

Always worth saying again! Brian W9HLQ and Gene W9PNG want you to know you can now go to our website, (www.Hamfesters.org) and pay with your credit card for things such as dues, Hamfest Tickets and even our Christmas Party tickets. Yes, it is secure and handled through PayPal. Contact Brian or Gene for more info. And yes, we still will take good old Cash at the meetings too for all the aforementioned purchase items!

LAST BUT NOT LEAST: At our Christmas Party this year, it has been decided to omit live entertainment in order to have an atmosphere filled with more fellowship, laughs and good times- not to mention Great food and some incredible awards and Prizes! Order your tickets through our website or buy them at our next meeting. You say you have been there and had a fun time? Well spread the word and lets all have a nice night together at Papa Joes in Orland Park on Friday, December 4th, 2015. Nora and I hope to see you there! At \$25 per person it's a swell deal!

Welcome Fall and 73 to you and yours!

Don Pointer KC9EQQ President of the best darn Ham Radio club there is- Hamfesters!

Questions, comments etc., for Don? Please email him at: hamprezlistens@mail.com or call him between the hours of 10am to 8pm at: 773-426-1936.

Board Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

W9AA Hamfesters amateur radio club board meeting July 27, 2015 meeting began at 7:35 PM

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Cathy KC9NRH, Nora KC9MLV, Steve W9KXT, Kurt WB9FMC, Gene W9PNG, Helen Pawlikowski. Our next club meeting will be held on August 7. There won't be another club meeting before our annual hamfest.

Health and welfare: Tony Sabick's 1927-2015 wake was yesterday. He is a member of the Hennenfent family. Tony is Judy's Dad, Steve's KC9OOL, father-in-law, Eric's KC9OOM, & Maureen's grandfather. Together over the years they attended many Hamfester club meetings, and many Hamfester special events. Just this past June, Tony and family attended field day. Tony will be missed. Our condolences go out to the Hennenfent family.

Upgrades: Gene W9PNG, past the Extra class license exam, on July 19 at the Karsfest. Congratulations Gene!

Programs: August 7th Hap Holly KC9RP, Will talk about ham radio's The Rain Report - a news program for amateur radio. Our annual July picnic on July 10 was a success.

Minutes: There was no board meeting in June.

Treasurer's report: by Ed WA9EOL, the 36 month CD at State Farm will be allowed to roll over. Bruno K9QKB, will remain our club's trustee..

Hamfest 2015: by Kurt WB9FMC, August 1st set up, and the vendors picnic, August 2nd, our hamfest. Volunteers are needed!

Field day 2015: by Jim KB9CYL, it was a success numbers submitted to the ARRL, 6,204 contacts.

Adjournment: 9:15 PM



General Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

W9AA Hamfesters amateur radio club meeting August 7, 2015 meeting began at 7:40 PM

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Patti KC9LYE, Jim N9HSH.

32 members attended tonight, and 5 visitors. Special guests; Hap KC9RP, and Stephanie Holly.

Health and welfare: Tony Sabick's 1927-2015 wake was July 27th. He is a member of the Hennenfent family. Tony is Judy's Dad, Steve's KC9OOL, father-in-law, Eric's KC9OOM, & Maureen's grandfather. Together over the years they attended many Hamfester club meetings, and many Hamfester special events. Just this past June, Tony and family attended field day. Tony will be missed. Our condolences go out to the Hennenfent family.

Upgrades: Gene W9PNG, upgraded to Extra class license on July 19 at the Karsfest.

Patti KC9LYE (me), upgraded to a General class license on August 2 at Hamfesters hamfest. Congratulations!

Program: by Hap Holly KC9RP, "How I became interested in ham radio, meeting Stephanie, and my involvement with The Rain Report".

President's report: by Don KC9EQQ, thank you to our hamfest chairman Kurt WB9FMC, and Helen for their work on hamfest 2015. Thank you also to all the volunteers. August 1 was the setup and the vendors picnic, the vendors enjoyed the picnic, and express their thanks. Our hamfest on August 2 went well. We don't have any actual numbers yet about ticket sales.

Our two speakers; Dave N9KPD, whose program was on basic weather spotters, and Val's program on the DXing, were very well received.

You can purchase Christmas party tickets online at the Hamfesters website.

Field day 2015: by Jim KB9CYL, all the scores are in, we did 1/3 better than in 2014.

SS Badger: by Pete K9OWQ, the date for the badger trip has been changed to September 19-20, 2015.

Split the pot winner: Mike N9NNL

Door prize winners: Chuck NV9U, Herb KC9OOK, Don K9KNZ, Ron KB9ZBN, Linas KC9PCP, John KB9FQB, Mike WA9ZPM,

Adjournment: 9:32 PM

Hamfesters Roster News

New Members

Jim Georgias, W9JUG Lives in Chicago and is an electronics instructor. (We should get him to put on a presentation about electronics)

He is an extra class licensee. His personal info is at Members Only as is the following new members.

Marie Getty-Stan, KD9CAE

She is a General licensee, living in Chicago. She is a legal secretary and office manager

Charles Zee, NB9U,

He is an extra living in Chicago. He is a service man

Hamfest Raffle Winners

500.00 Allen Gharst K9UXC
300.00 Tom Dombrowski K9BVQ
100.00 Steve Brichta WB9ZNL

73

Ed Broniarczyk
WA9EOL

2015 ARRL/TAPR DCC (Digital Communications Conference)

DoubleTree Hotel Arlington Heights, IL
October 9 - 11, 2015

We are fortunate to have this important ham radio digital conference so close to us - consider attending to learn more about digital communications. The Digital Communication Conference is the premiere annual Digital Conference covering all Digital Modes & Techniques including Data, Voice & Television and SDR.



The DCC has two full days of Technical presentations on Friday & Saturday, concurrent Introductory forums on Saturday, a Saturday night Banquet with a Guest Speaker and a Sunday morning Seminar deep dive into a technical subject.

There are also Friday & Saturday Lunches and a Friday Night Social.

The 2015 DCC will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Chicago northwest suburb of Arlington Heights not far from O'Hare airport with a free hotel shuttle to O'Hare.

Be sure to register for the DCC and reserve your hotel room early.

The DCC Early Bird Pre-Registration Discount ends on September 19th.

DCC Registration is available at: <http://www.tapr.org/dcc#registration>

The DCC Hotel Special Rate ends on September 15th. DCC Hotel Information is available at: <http://www.tapr.org/dcc#hotel>

Look forward to your participation in the DCC.

Hamgab, September 2015

Hamfester's FlexRadio 5000 SDR loan program

A friend of Hamfesters, George, K9PAW, recently gave the club a Flex 5000 100 watt SDR HF transceiver. Jim, N9HSH, then built a cool and robust computer to use with the Flex. This package is available as a loaner radio for one month periods. This package is complete, so you do not have to alter your current station, other than make room and connect your antenna. You can take it home and play with it and get a feel for the wonderful performance available from a Software Defined Radio.

It will be available for the month of October and in January. Our plan is to trade radios at the Hamfesters meeting. Jim, KB9CYL, has it booked for November. We will use it in the trailer for Field Day, so June time slot will not be available.

Contact Brian, W9HLQ, if you would like to get on the list to borrow this fine radio/computer system.

Thanks again, George, for the fine gift!

73,
--Brian, W9HLQ--

Project Bambi

Project Bambi is an amateur radio "Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence." The Bambi group believe that amateurs can construct affordable systems with sensitivities comparable to the all-sky search strategies even with antennas of limited aperture. Also that amateurs can achieve a reasonably respectable frequency coverage of a search spectrum as well.



Project Bambi operates for several crucial reasons. Most importantly, it is a lot of fun when you experience a goose-bump feeling when you realize you are actually detecting radio emissions from a source almost a billion light years away.

The band most used is 4 GHz where the benefit to the amateur radio astronomer at 4 GHz is the narrower half-power beam width obtainable with even a modest sized antenna than at lower observing frequencies plus the ready availability of inexpensive state-of-the-art low noise amplifiers, feeds, antennas, and positioners mass produced by the TVRO industry for satellite TV reception.

If you have some familiarity amateur radio and analog and digital electronics as well as programming, you should be able to build a system similar to Bambi. All of the front end electronics from the antenna up to the IBM-PC spectrum analyzer card are pre-made items that are patched together using F and N type jumper cables. Even the spectrum analyzer can be obtained pre-built if desired. The construction kit to build a Bambi system is relatively simple. Remarkably, amateurs can obtain sensitivities comparable to NASA's all-sky search SETI program.

You can download the Bambi Software Collection and view the Bambi Schematics at:
www.bambi.net

From Westlakes Amateur Radio Club Inc. - Magazine June 2015

Hamfesters VE Testing de Al Bukowski N9ZD VE Coordinator

Hamfesters VE Testing Report for August 2015

Hamfester's Radio Club VE's team assembled to administered Amateur Radio exams at the Hamfesters Radio Club Hamfest. There were twelve Candidates that came to the testing area. Four Candidates received a Technician License, Three Candidates received a General License, and finally two Candidates received an Extra license. VE's who assisted me were Ron N9STU, Bob N9JYX and a special thanks to Brian WB9UGX for his assistance.

We also tested on August 8, 2015 at Oak Forest City Hall with Five candidates being present. We had three Additional Technician license and one additional Extra license upgrade. Ron WB9JYZ, Tim AA9BV, Ron N9STU assisted in administering, grading and signing all paperwork. Congratulations to the candidates. And Thank You to all the VE's for your dedicated time helping me at all test sessions.

Amateur Radio Exams INFO:

Hamfester's Radio Club VE's offer License Testing for those who want to get their first ham license, or those who want to upgrade to a higher class license. Examination sessions are available on the second Saturday of each month. We will assist you with completion of all necessary paperwork prior to taking your exam.

Requirements - What to Bring to an Exam Session:

A fee of \$15 dollars is charged for the examination. Payment is Cash ONLY. Please bring a government-issued ID; (one ID could be a driver's license). If you would prefer to not use your Social Security Number on your application, we suggest obtaining a Federal Registration Number (FRN) from the FCC website - otherwise you'll need to use your Social Security Number.

Upgrade Examinations:

If you are already licensed and are taking an upgrade examination: Please bring your printed *original* license, and a copy of your current license that we can keep. Also, If you have recently taken an examination that has not been processed by the FCC, Please bring your *latest CSCE* and a *Copy of that CSCE* that we can keep.

Retaking the Exam:

If you almost passed an exam on your first try, and would like to try again, you may retake a different version of the exam for an additional \$15 fee.

Morse Code Not Required!

Morse Code is no longer required for any level of amateur radio license. All Morse Code testing requirements for the Amateur Radio Service in the USA were eliminated on February 23, 2007.

Location and Time of Hamfesters VE administered Radio Exams:

Oak Forest City Hall 15440 S. Central Ave. Oak Forest, IL 60452. Doors open at 9:00 AM. We begin testing about 9:15 AM. Enter through the Police door entrance and look for the Amateur Radio testing exam signs for directions.

If you have any questions regarding our test session or about upgrading, please contact N9ZD via e-mail at: N9ZD@arrl.net.

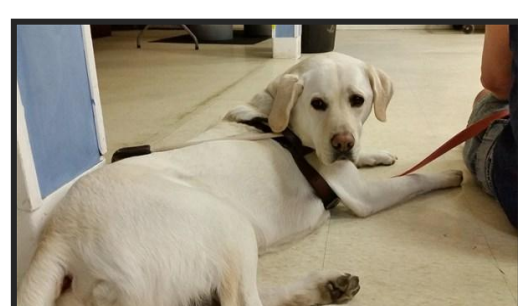
Our next test session will be held on Saturday September 12, 2015. 0900hrs @ Oak Forest City Hall 15440 S. Central Ave. Oak Forest, IL 60452.

Walk-ins are welcome and the test fee remains at \$15.00 (cash only -- no credit cards or checks).

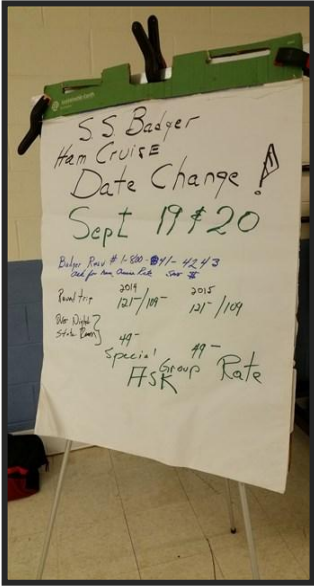


73's de AL – N9ZD

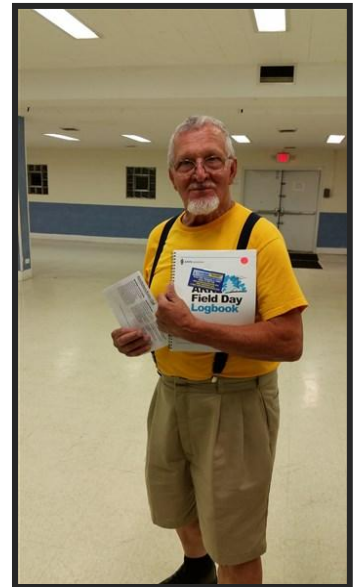
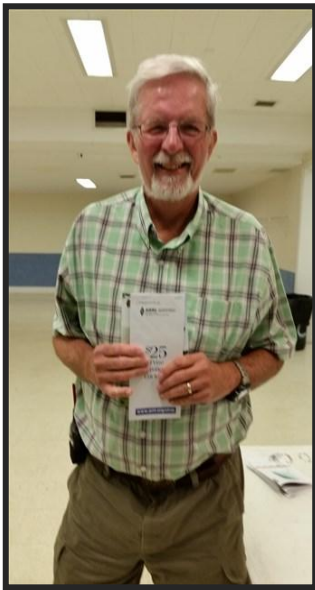
Hamgab, September 2015
August 2015 Meeting Pictures



Hamgab, September 2015



Hamgab, September 2015





Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 474

Crestwood, IL 60445-0474

www.Hamfesters.org

Hamfesters Radio Club



Meetings and VE Testing

Club meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at the Crestwood Civic Center, 14025 Kostner Ave. in Crestwood, IL.

Meetings begin at 7:30 PM. September meetings may vary if our meeting date conflicts with the Crestwood Flower show.

Board Meetings: 7:30 PM on the 4th Monday of each month at the Crestwood Civic Center

VE TESTING: Every 2nd Saturday of the Month at the Oak Forest City Hall, 15440 S. Central Ave. Testing begins at 9:00 AM but we ask that you arrive 10 minutes early. Exam fee is now \$15.00. Al N9ZD VE Team Chairman

Special Activities

Hamfesters Big Peotone Hamfest: Our 79th annual Hamfest coming August 2, 2015-Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone, IL. Kurt WB9FMC Hamfest Chairman.

Field Day: Join the W9AA crew for one of the best Field Days ever on June 27 & June 28 2015 at 115th and Oketo Avenue, Worth, IL.

Jim KB9CYL Field Day Chairman

WAHM: Worked all Hamfester Members-work 10 Current members for a beautiful award certificate. Matt KC9JXC Awards

Nets/Contact Info

10 METER NET: Every Sunday Evening at 8:00 PM on 28.410. Jim N9HSH is Net Control

2 METER NET: Every Monday Evening at 9:00 PM on 146.640. Tom KA9ZXN is Net Control

W9AA Mailbox:145.650 24 hours a day.

Bruno K9QKB is Sysop. ILOAK:Node on 145.650

WEB SITE: www.hamfesters.org Webmaster Granville, W9PNG & Brian, W9HLQ

Club's address:

Hamfesters Radio Club

P.O. Box 474 Crestwood, IL 60445

Patti KC9LYE Secretary

Deadline for Submitting to the Hamgab is the fifteenth of the month.