

# HamGab

Next meeting: November 6<sup>th</sup>

November 2015

PO Box 474  
Crestwood, IL  
60445-0474

[www.hamfesters.org](http://www.hamfesters.org)

## Special Interest Articles

Power Distributor pg. 5

Liquid Metal Antenna pg. 5

## November Birthdays

Robert WA9BXI

John AB9JW

Robert W9KXW

Patti KC9LYE

Herb KC9OOK

Ronald KB9TCX

Bob K9WLS

Bill KC9HRB

Tammy KD9BSZ

## 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



**Steve Cooper presenting *Those Wacky Game Shows***

We couldn't attend the last meeting, but heard the program was a huge success. Everyone enjoyed "Those Wacky Game Shows" courtesy of Steve Cooper. Apparently, Hollywood got Squared, everyone has a Line, the Passwords Matched, and the Quizshow was scandalous. We just wish some Hamfester had answered the \$64,000 question.

## How About Some Geocaching?

Our next meeting will feature our very own Jim KB9CYL giving us the lowdown on Geocaching. If you've never heard of Geocaching, now's your chance to learn. I've included a picture of Eric and his grandpa with one of his early caches. From age 9 to 79, there's nothing like the thrill of finding that elusive cache: so don't be a Muggle, get to the next Hamfesters meeting and you too can learn how to become that bushwacking cacher.

On a program note, we will be holding elections at the next meeting. Every member of Hamfesters is allowed to vote. See you there.



## Christmas Party Tickets

Tickets will be available at the November meeting. They can also be purchased online at [Hamfesters.org](http://Hamfesters.org) using PayPal. Tickets are \$25.00 dollars each. The Christmas party is December 4 at 7 PM, at Papa Joe's restaurant in Orland Park.

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

**"THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES  
AND THEN SOME....."**

# **THE PRESIDENTS BEAT**

## **DONALD POINTER KC9EQQ**

### **NOVEMBER 2015**

It's a phone call no one wants to get. News that a loved one- a parent for that matter has passed away. Such was the case for Nora and I when on that fateful Sunday a couple of weeks back that my Father had passed away at the nursing home where he had been living these past 15 years. Before Nora and I knew it, we were in Funeral planning mode. Not a good place to be, but a necessary one quite nonetheless.

But some interesting things happened. People from all the worlds we and Nora and I are involved with came from everywhere to pay their respects, extend their condolences, and offer their prayers and hugs to us in memory of great guy- my father. And you the fellow Hamfester Club member went above and beyond the call of duty in supporting us and dare I say loving us when we needed it most. So many gestures of fellowship beyond even trying to inventory come to mind by you folks that I don't even know how to begin to pay you back. But you know come to think of it, there is one way I can pay you back- by being the kind of friend back at you that my dad was to all he met. He loved other folks, enjoyed a good laugh, loved reaching down to help another man up when they were down, loved smiling at those who needed one and most importantly truly took an interest in people from all walks of life. I hope that for as long as you all have known me that perhaps I already have been that kind of person to you as my Dad would have been to so many. If you think I have, then I guess I am half way there. The next half will be infused with my promise to you (and my Pop), that I will continue to listen to you, be your friend when you need one and for sure try to make some laughter and share some laughter with all of you. After all, you all were kind enough to share a lot of tears with Nora and I these past couple weeks, so lets begin to have some laughs again. My dad would want us to. And I know he would say "Hey thanks you folks at Hamfesters for being so wonderful", and I know darn for sure I would agree with him to no end. That's the kind of good egg he was. That's the kind of good eggs all of you are. Again thanks all of you. As a side note, the picture at the top of my column is that of my dad when he was 19 serving in the Army during the Korean Conflict. I love you Pop and will always miss you.....

**BACK ON THE BEAT:** *What a fun night we all had, when Steve Cooper of the Steve Cooper Orchestra presented his program to us last month titled*

*"Those Wacky TV Game Shows!" It was so fun taking a trip down memory lane as Steve played all those cool video clips from Game shows on TV of a bygone era. Steve has said to me that he really enjoys coming to our meetings and feels so right at home with our fun bunch called Hamfesters and looks forward to coming back later next year with another entertaining program for all of us to enjoy. Thank you Steve!*

**Back on the beat Part 2:** *Our November program will be presented by our very own Vice President Jim Riley KB9CYL. His topic will be about one of the fastest growing hobbies on the planet- Geo-caching. Jim has been Geo-Caching for some years and enjoys it so much that he wanted to share what he knows with Hamfesters at our November 6<sup>th</sup> program. Apparently there are a number of you who are in to this fun and interesting activity and have expressed to me how much you are looking forward to Jim's presentation. Come on out and bring a friend and lets support another one of our fine members as they step up to the plate with a great program for you and yours!*

*Besides Jim's Geocache program, you should also know that there will be an election of Board members only as we have additional candidates for those seats of board members. Those who currently hold the respective Offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary will retain their positions as they ran un-opposed and won by acclamation at last month's Nominations meeting. On behalf of the four of us, I wish to say thank you for giving us a nod for another year serving you the Hamfester Club members. We will work hard to earn your trust and will continue to strive to keep this club thee Go to club for Ham Radio operators (and XYL'S alike!) all over Chicagoland.*



**Back on the beat Part 3:** *Please note that our January program will be held on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 NOT Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2016. Pass the word to everyone please. That particular program night will feature our very own Jim Liston N9HSH who will educate us about everything we want to know on how to program, operate and understand all those new Handheld radios from China that everyone (including me), has been buying like crazy. I won't even try to spell the names of them for fear of starting an international incident should I really misinterpret a words spelling in a most wrong way. (I hope I said that delicately!) So come out and start the New Year out right with this much needed program that Jim has offered to provide.*

**Hurry! Hurry! :** *Great food and fun times await you at our annual Christmas Party at Papa Joes Restaurant in Orland Park on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are available through our website and at our October and November meetings. Deadline for these tickets will be November 30<sup>th</sup> so order them now! Nora and I hope to see you there! At \$25 per person it's a swell deal! Questions? Please email me at my new email address for club inquiries which is: [donaldpointer75@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldpointer75@yahoo.com) or call me. My number is in the roster. We are going to forgo entertainment this year so that we all may enjoy more fellowship with one another not to mention we have some outstanding Prizes to give away to some lucky party attendees. Such as a new 19 inch Television, two Fifty dollar bills and some other special surprises. Plus we will present the Hamfester of the Year Award and the return of The President's Award presentation. I understand this was done many years ago, so I thought "Why Not?" let's bring it back! SO get your ticket now gang and bring a friend! Important by the way is that you MUST MUST keep and bring with your ticket stubs to the party in order to enter that night's door prize raffles!*

**The final word:** *On behalf my wife Nora, the Hamfester Board of Directors and myself, we wish you a blessed, warm and restful Thanksgiving. Seems hard to believe the year is almost over. We have had so much happen at Hamfesters this year! Thanksgiving is a time for blessings to be made and remembered. We hope yours will be wonderful these coming holidays..... God Bless you all and 73.....Thanks for all you do at Hamfesters- the Best darn Ham Radio club ever!*

**Donald Pointer KC9EQQ** *President of Hamfester Amateur Radio Club.*

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

## Board Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

**Hamfesters amateur radio club board meeting, September 28, 2015 meeting began at 7:30 PM.**

**Roll:** Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Kurt WB9FMC, Jim N9HSH, Cathy KC9NRH, Steve W9KXT, Kerry AA9SB

**New business:** Kurt KB9MFC, is our hamfest chairman for 2016, but needs a placement for 2017.

Do we need to find a new trustee (registered agent)?

Board members, and officers will remain the same for 2016 election in November. Kurt KB9MFC, has discovered that our hamfest tickets for 2016 and the hamfest 2016 tickets for the KARS amateur radio club are the same color (yellow).

Also, our club's trailer needs to be cleaned.

**Minutes:** Ed WA9EOL, and Steve W9KXT, approved the minutes for last month board meeting.

**Treasurer's report:** by Ed WA9EOL, the State Farm CD will be allowed to roll over. The board approved giving the town of Crestwood, \$250.00.

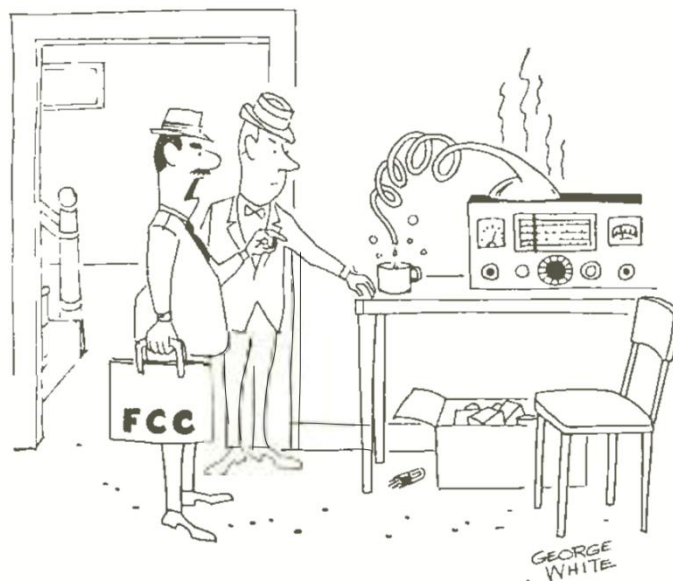
**Publicity:** by Kerry AA9SB, at the October 2, meeting the program will be Steve Cooper "Those Wacky Game Shows."

On the second Saturday of every month Hamfesters radio club holds VE testing at the Oak forest City Hall, at 9:00 AM, exam fee \$15.00 cash only.

**Adjournment:** at 8:30 PM approved by Jim N9HSH, and Ed WA9EOL



I can't get a QSL from Hawaii - what should I do?



Yep, this is a bootleg transmitter.

**A special thank you goes out to Brian W9HLQ for the cartoons above and his constant supply of hilarious HamGab cartoons. Thanks Brian!**



# General Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

**Hamfesters amateur radio club meeting October 2, 2015 meeting began at 7:45 PM.**

**Roll:** Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Patti KC9LYE, and Jim N9HSH  
there were 22 members, and 3 visitors. Welcome back to Rich N9UNQ.

There was a moment of silence for yesterday's school shooting victims in Oregon.  
And for the 6 soldiers killed in Afghanistan.

**Christmas party:** Tickets are available at tonight's meeting and also the November meeting.  
They can also be purchased online Hamfesters.org using PayPal. Tickets are \$25.00 dollars each,  
the Christmas party is December 4 at 7 PM, Papa Joe's restaurant in Orland Park.

**Minutes:** Last month's minutes were approved by Bob N9KWG, and John KB9FQB.

**Club nominations:** our election chairmen Kurt WB9FMC, our club officers; Pres. Don KC9EQQ,  
VP Jim KB9CYL, Treasurer Ed WA9EOL, Secretary Patti KC9LYE, Sgt. at arms, Jim N9HSH,  
trustee Bruno K9QKB, are all running for reelection unopposed.

Jim N9HSH, nominated Cindy N9CAS, for board member, she accepted the nomination.

The candidates for board members; Cindy N9CAS, Nora KC9MLV, Cathy KC9NRH, Steve W9KXT,  
Kurt WB9FMC, and Kerry AA9SB.

Election nominations were closed by Bob N9KWG, and Bob N9JYX. Elections will be held on  
November 6, all members of Hamfesters are allowed to vote.

**Secretaries report:** by Patti KC9LYE, reporting for Pete K9OWQ, on last months Badger trip there  
were 20 contacts made, one of those was in Denmark. The next Badger trip is scheduled for  
September 18-19, 2016.

**Programs:** tonight Steve Cooper, "Those wacky game shows"

November 6, Jim KB9CYL, geocaching.

December 4, Christmas party

**Hamfest chairman:** Kurt WB9FMC, he will remain hamfest chairman for 2016, but will need a  
replacement for 2017. Kurt WB9FMC, has tickets right now for hamfest 2016.

**Old business:** Dave N9KPD, thanked Cindy N9CAS, and Jim N9HSH, for helping last month at the  
college of DuPage Laps for Chap's Run.

**New business:** The Iron dog race will be held on October 11, please contact Tom K9ZXN, if you can  
volunteer.

The split the pot winner Dave N9KPD Door prize winners Don KC9EQQ, Matt KA9BBQ, Nora  
KC9MLV, Brian W9HLQ, and Pat KB9KRT

**Adjournment at 9:00 PM**

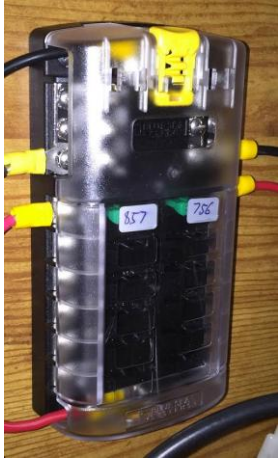
## Health and Welfare

We wanted to send out our condolences to Don KC9EQQ and Nora KC9MLV. Don's father passed  
away in October after a long illness. Don's father was a veteran so we thank him for his service and  
our sympathies go out to Don and Nora and their whole family.

Hamgab, November 2015  
**Power Distributor**

I needed a way to distribute 12VDC power to multiple radios and other devices throughout my shack.

MFJ makes devices to do this but tend to be expensive and I have heard the Power Pole connectors tend to not work well over 10A.

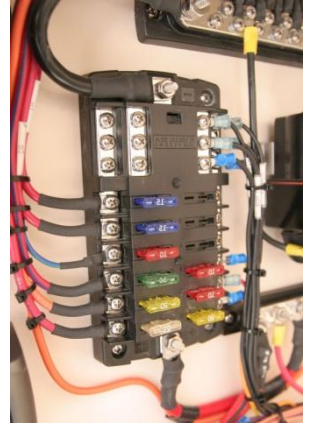


I found this item on Amazon for \$42. I am a Prime member so shipping was free. It's made by Blue Sea Systems for boats. Since boats run on 12VDC it's a perfect Ham application. Each tap can handle 30A and the block as a whole can handle 100A. It uses standard automotive ATO type fuses.

Not having the quick disconnects seems to be the only downside this product.

Currently, I only have the 2 radios on the block as shown in the picture.

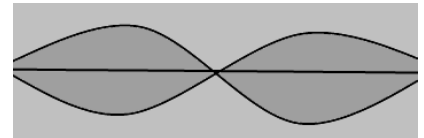
*Courtesy of Gene W9PNG*



## Editor's Rambles

### Liquid Metal Antenna

All hams know the importance of antenna length and shape for determining operating frequencies and radiation patterns. We all diligently learned the dipole length formula for our license test. It's Length in feet =  $468/\text{frequency}$  just in case anyone forgot. Imagine how easy it would be if there were an antenna made of liquid metal able to change lengths on command. That's just what some North Carolina researchers have found.



cartoon of prototype antenna

There are some metal alloys such as a mixture of gallium and indium which are liquid at room temperature. The researchers have combined this metal with an electrolyte which changes the surface tension of the metal depending on if it is exposed to a positive or negative voltage. A positive voltage lowers the surface tension allowing the metal to expand in a capillary tube and a negative voltage increases the surface tension causing the metal to retract in the capillary tube. There is no need for an external pump to move the metal meaning the size of the antenna can remain small making it perfect for wireless systems.

Current phones need reception for 4G, Wi-Fi and GPS. Imagine how useful a liquid antenna tunable to multiple frequencies could be inside your next smart device. For another use, think of those antenna farms on top of ships. I'm sure all of you on the SS Badger trips noticed the multiple antennas on the ship's mast. A liquid metal antenna capable of changing lengths might just make the top of a ship look a little less crowded.

Sources: <http://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-talk/consumer-electronics/portable-devices/a-tunable-liquid-metal-antenna-increases-the-frequency-range-of-communication-devices>  
<https://www.eitdigital.eu/blog/article/tunable-liquid-metal-antenna/>

## Hamfesters VE Testing de Al Bukowski N9ZD VE Coordinator

### Hamfesters VE Testing Report for October 2015

Hamfester's Radio Club VE's team assembled to administered Amateur Radio exams on October 10, 2015 at Oak Forest City Hall. We had four candidates, one who upgraded to General and Two new Technician. Tim AA9BV, Ron WB9JYZ, and Ron N9STU assisted in administering, grading and signing all paperwork. Congratulations to the candidates. And always a big Thank You to the VE's for your dedicated time helping me at the 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 November 14, 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).



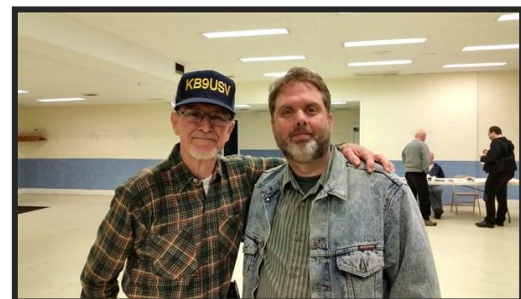
73's de AL - N9ZD

## November is club dues time!

Dues are essential to keep our club financially healthy and strong. Hamfesters dues are based on an annual cycle starting January of the year. We will be collecting dues at the November meeting. Stop by the dues table with your check, cash, or credit card.



Hamgab, November 2015  
October Meeting Pictures





Hamgab, November 2015



God bless  
  
our men and  
women in service

Don't forget to  
honor our veterans  
on November 11<sup>th</sup>.





## Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 474

Crestwood, IL 60445-0474

[www.Hamfesters.org](http://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 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at the Crestwood Civic Center

VE TESTING: Every 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. AI N9ZD VE Team Chairman

### Special Activities

Hamfesters Big Peotone Hamfest: Our 79<sup>th</sup> 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 115<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.*