



HamGab

Next meeting: February 5th

February 2016

PO Box 474
Crestwood, IL
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www.hamfesters.org

Special Interest Articles

CQ Field Day pg. 4

Space Suite Alive pg.4

February Birthdays

John KA9BUM

Ben KC9CXT

James KA9GUC

Joseph KA9KBU

Robert W9TOE

Robert KC9KUY

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



Jim N9HS presenting "Cheap Chinese Radios"

Radios and Donuts! Jim Liston, N9HSH, gave an excellent presentation on programming "Cheap Chinese Radios" at our January meeting. Jim reported that these radios are very capable and often retail for less than thirty dollars, so it's a good idea to pick one up, program it with your local repeaters and weather frequencies, and keep it in your glove compartment for emergencies. Three lucky hamfesters received Baofeng radios as door prizes which were generously donated by Rich KB9NTX. Thanks Rich! Everyone enjoyed programming these radios and witnessing their capabilities.



As most of you know Gregg AB9MZ knows computers. At the next meeting we will be fortunate enough to have Gregg share some of that knowledge with us. Gregg will give a presentation about the programming and use of some of the newest microcomputers. He will give an overview of the workings of these new devices along with some demonstrations so we can see them in action. It's sure to be highly educational. See pictures to the left.

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

**"MEMORIES- THEY DON'T
MAKE 'EM LIKE THAT ANYMORE!"**

THE PRESIDENTS BEAT

DONALD POINTER KC9EQQ

FEBRUARY 2016

(Presidents note: This month I dedicate this column to the memory of my parents, Donald and Barbara Pointer whom Nora and I just lost recently. Their photograph appears at the top of my column this month. Thank you for all your kind words, cards and support to all our fellow members in our time of mourning.....)

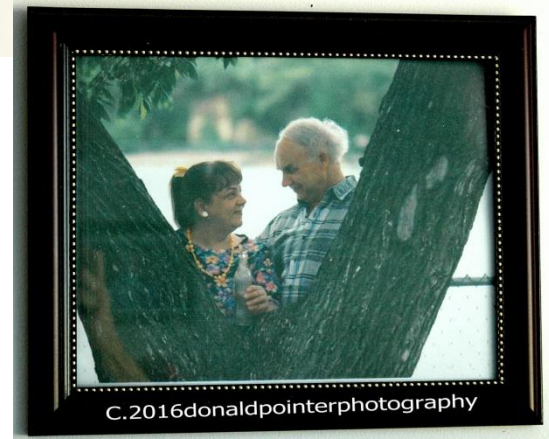
The year was 1967. The year I was introduced to Dx'ing. I received from my parents an old General Electric Clock and AM combo Desktop. With that radio I would spend countless nights slowly turning that tuning dial looking for far away radio stations. Back then there was an abundance of overnight signals and that 11 year old boy known as me found a whole new world of fun that has kept me in it to this very day. Oh, and when in 1970 those same parents gave me for Christmas a BRAND NEW ALLIED/ RADIO SHACK FIVE BAND RADIO, well I darned near jumped out of my PJ's for joy. On the Air Radio traffic from Airplanes, Fire Trucks, Police cars, Elevator music, the audio from various local TV channels and for crying out loud the BBC was mine to listen and enjoy with a pair of Rabbit Ears antennas from Kmart into the wee small hours of the morning! YEE HAH!! I was in my glory.

But it only made sense that this would be a gift from my parents specifically. Radio was in their blood too. My dad used to appear on a local Radio Talent show playing his guitar and singing with his brother Phil back in the late forties down in their home state of Oklahoma. My old man was a helluva musician who taught me to love and appreciate any kind of music I would hear on the radio. And that love is evident today if you were to look at the large and diverse body of music I have at home on Wx and digital formats. Just recently, I now am starting to learn how to play the guitar like my dad did. Could explain why there are not many birds flying around my neighborhood these days!

Back in her youth, say around the age of 12, my Mom developed an affinity for finding old radios big and small, AC or DC and taking them apart and putting them back together. Yep that's where I no doubt got the gene to do the same thing with most things mechanical at home. Remember how I told you my dad appeared on the radio, well my Mom was one to flaunt it but in a different manner. She was Beauty Pageant contestant frequently back in her teen years. And I dare say she won her share of events from what she used to tell me. I would enter beauty contests, but not with my legs!

In 1955 my parents met and were married in 1956. One year later, I was born and after the Doctor slapped me to get me "talking", I have not stopped since then as most of you will attest! But talking was a skill I no doubt got from my Dad. He so enjoyed talking to folks. Many a soul would be next to him and just start up a conversation with him and he could go on for hours...and hours...and hours....sound like someone you know?

My parents also possessed the incredible gifts for writing, storytelling and acceptance. The gift of acceptance is in my opinion the most treasured one I have received from them. Through my writing, it is my hope that I can instill in others that having a belief system based on love and acceptance only then can we make the world a really better place for all of us to co-exist together. We as Ham Radio Operators are in my opinion THEE Greatest communicators there are. We learn of other communities both far and wide, from one ocean shore to the other, one continent to the other, we turn off that Ham Radio at the end of the night with that feeling of fulfillment having learned and hopefully accepted the many peoples that call this planet home. Maybe those gifts of radios I received as a youngster was my parent's way of saying they will always be with me, especially every time I turn on any radio, any time. And to not forget the diversities that make us all unique and hopefully appreciative of one another too. Thanks Ma and Pa for the incredible gifts you have given me. And believe me I will do my best to honor not only those gifts, but to honor the love you have given me to give to others. Nora and I love you both and will never forget you. May you Rest in Peace with this knowledge. What a legacy you have left us.....all of us.....



BACK ON THE BEAT: *Thank you Jimmy Liston N9HSH for your great program you presented last month on the new breed of Handheld and inexpensive HT radio. Over 60 members and guests attended Jimmy's presentation. Special thanks also to Jimmy for also staying late to program the radios of various members too- that was so nice of you.*

Almost LAST BUT NOT LEAST: *Our very valued fellow member Gregg Rosenberg AB9MZ will be our Program speaker at our February 5th meeting night as he will be speaking about another new trend that is here to stay in Ham Radio and that trend is Micro- Micro Computers and how they are being used in so many things that are Ham Radio and other day to day electronic devices that we all use. He will bring some very cool examples of this unique technology and demonstrate them too! Another can't miss it program from your friends at Hamfesters! Come on out and show your support to these two hard working members in the guise of Jim and Gregg at their respective programs won't you?*

For sure last but not least, Mark your calendars folks! *March is White Elephant meeting month and April is the month where our very own Dave Bukowski will present his annual Basic Weather Spotters class! See you there! 73 to all of you from Nora and I.*

PS: *Lately, I have had a couple people express their concern about the length of our meetings. Here's my reply to that concern: You know I find that if you strike up a conversation with your fellow members about life, radio and the pursuit of happiness during the meetings then suddenly you will find the meetings are TOO short! Food for thought..... Relax, and enjoy some great fellowship at one great club- Hamfesters!*

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.

General Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

Hamfesters amateur radio club January 8, 2016 club meeting. Meeting began 7:30 PM

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim KB9CYL, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Jim N9HSH. There were 35 members, and 11 visitors here tonight.

Upgrades: Patti KC9LYE, upgraded to extra class amateur license last month.

President's report: by Don KC9EQQ, welcome everyone and happy new year. The 2016 Christmas party will be held at Papa Joe's. Tammy's KD9BSZ, son was accepted into South Suburban.

Tonight's programs will be on how to program your cheap Chinese radio by Jim N9HSH.

Rich KB9NTX, has donated three, Bofang HT radios for tonight's raffle. Thank you everyone for your support to Nora KC9MLV, and I concerning the recent losses of loved ones in our family.

New member: Jerry Celmet K9PY Welcome!

Treasurer's report: by Ed WA9EOL, Hamfesters 2015, the split the pot raffle, and the Christmas party were all a success.

Programs: February Gregg AB9MZ, technology, March the white elephant sale, April Dave N9KPD, weather spotting. Anyone that might be interested, Governors State University is offering a meteorology course.

Field day: by Jim KB9CYL, field day June 25 and 26 2016. And, there's a year-long contest called national parks on the air, Hamfesters might consider taking part.

Hamfest 2016: Dave N9KPD, will have hamfest ticket for sale at next month's meeting.

Split the pot winner Cindy N9CAS.

Door prize winners for the Bofang HT: Rita KCC9DL, Mel K9ZAV Eric KC9OOM

Door prize winners: Dave N9KPD, Marty WD9ABG, Lenny KB9OOQ, Ed WA9EOL, Don K9KNZ, Sue WA9ARH, Chuck NB9U, Marie KD9CAE, Frank KC9WXI, and John AB9JW.

Adjournment: 9:15 PM



Health and Welfare

Our President Don KC9EQQ's mother passed away on January 15th after a long illness. Don and Nora KC9MLV have had rough stretch with the recent losses of Don's father and Nora's Aunt. The Hamfester's radio club extends them our deepest sympathies. Don's mother had very little resources and Jim KB9CYL has set up a GoFundMe site to help with expenses. Here's the link gofund.me/j5kbm4dw.

CQ Field Day de Jim Riley

This is the first Field Day article for 2016. Field Day is less than five months away and will come up fast. This year it's June 25 and 26 at Altman Park in Worth, one quarter mile west of Harlem on 115th St. Setup begins at 0800 Saturday morning. Operations run from 1 p.m. Saturday until 1 p.m. Sunday.

We have a few new things for this year including our new software defined radio for the trailer, controlled by our custom-built computer. I had the opportunity to have it in my shack and put it through its paces. It's a lot of fun to use and the display lets you see what's happening across the bands.

The trailer has a new 75-meter antenna that can be raised with only one mast instead of three. (Stop cheering, Ray.) It should be a vast improvement over the folded dipole we've been using.

One of the extra 30-foot masts will go to the GOTA station. It will raise their G5RV higher than ever and will decrease the risk anyone getting killed during setup. They've come close the last few years.

That leaves one mast and all the hardware for anyone who wants to use it.

If anyone has pictures from last year (Don), please get them to me as quickly as possible or my presentation at the June meeting will be pretty boring.

We finished in the top 14% last year. I expect to see an improvement this year. Be sure to come out and join us.

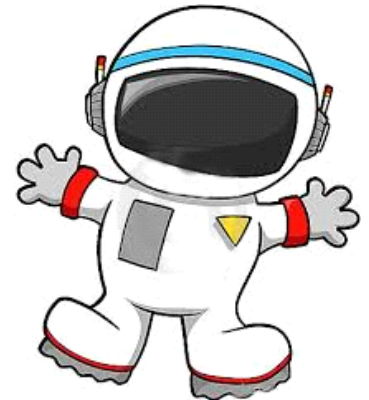


Space Suit Alive!

The spacesuit that was tossed out of the International Space Station after being stuffed with old clothes and a radio transmitter is again sending weak signals as it circles the globe, amateur radio operators have reported.

A spokesman for the American Radio Relay League said the signals were "weak, cold and really hard to copy, but alive." NASA reported a month earlier that the spacesuit had ceased transmitting. The suit was to send recorded messages in six languages to amateur radio operators for several days before eventually re-entering Earth's atmosphere and burning up. Along with the transmitter, the spacesuit has internal sensors to monitor temperature and battery power. Radio operators were supposed to pick up the messages for only several days by tuning into FM frequency 145.990 MHz.

So it seems like it's been transmitting for 9 years! Not bad for a "bag of rags."



From Westlakes Amateur Radio Club September Newsletter

Hamfesters Roster News

Please welcome new member Jerry Celmet K9PY. Jerry lives in Midlothian, is retired, chases DX, and plays the guitar for fun.

Hamfester's VE Testing de Al Bukowski N9ZD VE Coordinator

Hamfester's VE Testing Report for February 2016

On January 9, 2016, Hamfester's Radio Club VE's team assembled to administered Amateur Radio exams at the Oak Forest City Hall. We had three Candidates who earned a Technician ticket. Congratulations to the candidates. VE's who assisted me were Ron N9STU, James N9HSH, Cynthia N9CAS, Tim AA9BV, Bob N9JYZ and Ron WB9JYZ. A Big Thank You to all the VE's for your dedicated time.

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:

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 the exam on your first try, and would like to try a gain, 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 Hamfester's 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.

***Special note --- upcoming changes in the Extra Exam:

The Question Pool Committee of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators ([NCVEC](#)) has released the 2016-2020 Element 4 (Extra Class) question pool. The new question pool becomes effective for all Element 4 examinations administered on or after July 1, 2016, and it remains valid until June 30, 2020.

The question pool files are available in [PDF](#), Microsoft [Word](#) (.doc), and ASCII [text](#) formats.

What this means is that the Extra Exams on July 1, 2016 will be new and anyone wishing to take the Extra Exam AFTER July 1, 2016 should be studying the new question pool prior to the exam.

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

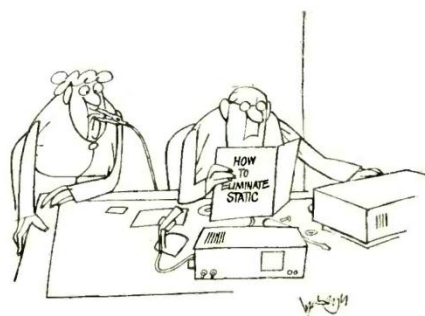
Our next test session will be held on Saturday February 13, 2016. (0900 hrs)

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

73's de AL - N9ZD



"Hey, I have an idea, lets license and tax all contest operators!"





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. AI 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 25 & June 26 2016 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.