

HamGab

Next meeting: April 1st

April 2016

PO Box 474
Crestwood, IL
60445-0474

www.hamfesters.org

Special Interest Articles

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April Birthdays

Dennis N9BIA
Thomas KA9BVQ
Rita KC9CDL
Dave KB9EPL
Dave W0COP
Robert KA9GTX
Mike W9GYC
Norm N9IRO
Patrick KB9KRT
Michael W9MCS
Eric KC9OOM
Ashley AB9RS
Bruce KB9USV
Bob WF9V
George N9VOK
Ben KC9WOS
Alex KC9WOT
Jake KC9WOX
James KN9Y

Officers

President-Don KC9EQQ
Vice President -Jim KB9CYL
Secretary-Patty KC9LYE
Treasurer- ED WA9EOL
SGT at Arm-Jim N9HSH
Trustee-Granville W9PNG

Board Members

Nora KC9MLV
Steve W9KXT
Kurt WB9FMC
Cindy N9CAS
Cathy KC9NRH

Hamgab Editors

Steve & Eric
KC9OOL & KC9OOM
Scapstone@aol.com



Hope you enjoyed last month's White Elephant sale and found lots of cool stuff for your shack.

Silent Key: Kerry AA9SB



Most of you have already heard that Kerry Nelson AA9SB passed away late last month. Kerry was a past president of Hamfesters and was the Hamfest Chairman for many years along with managing the club's publicity. There will be a memorial before the April meeting. We'll miss you Kerry.

Weather Spotting



Our April meeting will again feature our very own Dave N9KPD giving a basic Weather Spotting Class. It is in conjunction with the Romeoville National Weather Service. Preregistration is not required, but is strongly encouraged. Here is the link for preregistration: <https://goo.gl/SsNi8f>
Don and Nora can use help with setup so arrive early around 6 PM if possible. Also, the memorial for Kerry will start around 7:15 for those who would like to attend.

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

**TIME TO REFLECT, TIME TO
GIVE THANKS**

THE PRESIDENTS BEAT

DONALD POINTER KC9EQQ

APRIL 2016

As I write this column, the first possible Severe Storm warnings of spring time in Chicago may find their way across the channels, bands, Social media sites, and TV and Radio stations alike. Ham Radio Weather spotters are no doubt pulling out the Rain gear, filling up their thermos' full of Java in preparation for what may be a long night monitoring the skies and calling in their official weather reports to The Romeoville National Weather Service office. And John Q Public will be squinting their eyes for those very important weather update crawls on the bottom of their TV screens.

We as Ham Radio operators completely understand the importance of what we do as weather spotters and humbly so I might add. Nothing irks me more when after I mention to the un-informed that I am a Ham Radio Operator and the first words out of their lips are: "Well hey 10-4 Good buddy, ya got an eye on Smokey??" It simply does not take long to see their feeble attempt at humor get knocked down a peg or two, when I mention to them the names of some Illinois towns like Peoria, Washington, Oak Lawn, Belvidere and how if it had not been for so many of the legit reports by weather spotters to the NWS many more lives might have been lost or injured in those aforementioned towns that suffered unimaginable devastation in both life and property within their borders.

Yes, you the Ham operator spotter because of your commitment to your communities safety, you continuously attend weather seminars, download the latest radar apps to your Smartphone and you work hard to get the word out to the public as to just how seriously the public needs to pay heed to all those warnings once they hear or see them on whatever media is broadcasting them.

On Friday, April 1st, 2016, Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club will be the proud host for the third year in a row, The Basic Weather Spotters class as presented by our very own weather expert and First Responder Dave Bukowski N9KPD. This class will be about two and half hours in length and is open for everyone, Ham and non Ham alike to attend. Best part you get a dynamite presentation at no cost to the attendee by one of the best in the business. Let's get the word out on the nets and to your neighbors, families and friends about this awesome program. A program that could indeed save someone's life when bad weather comes knocking on their door. It's not a matter of if a storm will bring trouble, we all know it is a matter of when.

I must remind everyone that before Dave starts his program, there will be a brief but proper memorial tribute to Former President of Hamfesters Mr. Kerry Nelson AA9SB. (around 7:15 p.m. or so), He will have some family there and his church will have some of their members there to partake in the celebration of this kind and dear long time member and friend of our club. Kerry passed away a few weeks ago from Cancer and we are all truly saddened by his passing. Once the tribute is over, we then will turn over the meeting to Dave. Thank you in advance for your attendance to our April 1st meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE LARGE ATTENDANCE EXPECTED AT THE APRIL PROGRAM, WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE THAT YOU ARRIVE EARLY. NORA AND I CAN USE A LOT OF HELP AT 6PM TO HELP SET UP THE ROOM. CAN WE COUNT ON YOUR HELP SO THAT WE CAN START THE MEETING PROMPTLY? Thank you so much.



Back on the beat..... Many thanks to all who attended and participated at the March White Elephant sale. Nora and I had a photo shoot to do and could not attend. Special thanks to Treasurer Ed, VP Jim Riley and Secretary Patty for running the show, Bob and Cathy for doing the coffee and donuts, and to all the others who helped with set up and clean up at the March meeting. I really appreciate it!

MORE EXCITING PROGRAM NEWS! Our very own Brian W9HLQ and Granville W9PNG will be presenting their program on Software Defined Radio at our May 6th, 2016 meeting. There is a huge amount of interest in this topic within the Ham Community and I am sure attendance will be great for this event, so like I always say- arrive early!

On Behalf of our Board of Directors, my wife Nora and I, please have a Blessed Easter and Passover to you and your family. Let us count our blessings among our families, friends and selves. See you all on April 1st. 73 to all of you too.

Don Pointer KC9EQQ
President of Hamfesters- The Best darn Ham Radio club around!

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

Hamfesters amateur radio club W9AA board meeting Tuesday, February 23, 2016 meeting start 7:30 PM

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Jim N9HSH, Gene W9PNG, Nora KC9MLV, Cathy KC9NRH, Cindy N9CAS, Kurt WB9FMC, Steve W9KXT, Brian W9HLQ

Health and welfare: Jim KB9CYL, is not here tonight because his wife Judy is in the hospital. Ed's WA9EOL, eye surgery for glaucoma was a success. Gregg KB9MZ, is home from the hospital. Steve W9KXT, is still trying to contact Kerry AA9SB.

President's report: by Don KC9EQQ, at the March 4 club meeting Don KC9EQQ, and Nora KC9MLV, won't be there because they are photographing a wedding, Jim KB9CYL, might not be there either. So, Ed WA9EOL, and Patti KC9LYE, will run the club meeting.

The March 4 meeting is our annual white elephant sale, don't leave any electronics behind! And watch your stuff, it's the dealer's responsibility.

On March 4 there will be split the pot raffle, but no door prizes.

Gene W9PNG, is our new club, trustee! Welcome Gene.

Programs: Gregg KB9MZ, did a great job last month on his program on microcomputers. March 4 program white elephant sale. April 1 program weather spotting by Dave N9PKD.

Hamfesters club logo for clothing: by Cindy N9CAS, Cindy brought samples of T-shirts and polo shirts with Hamfesters club logo. T-shirts are \$20.00, polo shirts are \$30.00, club gets a portion of each sale. You can see photos on our club website Hamfesters.org. You will be able to pay for the shirts using PayPal. Come to the meeting on March 4 and learn more. Thanks, Cindy you did a really great job.

STARS 2 meters Repeater: by Jim N9HSH, Tom KA9ZNX, has asked Hamfesters to pay half the cost of the new Yaesu 2 meters Repeater. The board voted to approve this request. The STARS 2 meters Repeater is 146.640 PL 107.2 Hamfesters uses this repeater every Monday night at 8 PM for our weekly net. Don KC9EQQ, will call Tom KA9ZNX, to inform him of the approval.

New business: Steve W9KXT, for the second year will give a program on April 2nd at 10 AM at Oakton College engineering workshop. Don KC9EQQ, club programs are in place for March to December 2016.

Thanks, to Jim N9HSH, for bringing coffee and donuts to the board meeting.

Treasurer's report: by Ed WA9EOL, club's bills have been paid.

Adjournment: at 8:30 PM



Hamfesters Shirts!



We have club Polo Shirts (\$30) and T shirts (\$20) for sale. The Hamfester's logo is embroidered, not stamped. The shirts look really sharp. Also available is a Hamfesters magnetic logo sign for \$40. See Cindy N9CAS and place your orders at the next meeting.

General Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

Hamfesters amateur radio club W9AA club meeting March 4, 2016 start time 7:14 PM.

Roll: Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Jim N9HSH, Jim KB9CYL

Ed WA9EOL, presided over tonight's meeting.

Don KC9EQQ, and Nora KC9MLV, were not with us tonight, because they had to work.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Ed WA9EOL, led us in a prayer for Kerry Nelson AA9SB, who died on February 21, 2016.

Kerry was our current publicity chairmen, past hamfest chairman, past President of Hamfesters, and Hamfester the Year.

At the beginning of the April 1 club meeting, there will be a Memorial service for Kerry.

Tonight there were 43 members and 9 visitors.

Program: tonight our annual white elephant sale.

VE chairman: by Al N9ZD, at the February Hamfesters VE session there were 9 candidates.

All of these candidates received their licenses, one passed their technician and general, another past their general and extra. Two candidates became associate members of Hamfesters.

Congratulations to all!

Hamfesters club logo: by Cindy N9CAS, we have available for sale (by order) a magnetic Hamfesters logo sign \$40.00, and Polo shirts \$30.00, and T-shirts \$20.00.

Orders for these will be taken in the near future.

Field day 2016: by Jim KB9CYL, field day will be held on June 25, and 26, 2016.

Split the pot winner tonight was Will K9FO

Minutes: The minutes from the February club meeting were approved by Gregg KB9MZ, and Matt N9JXR.

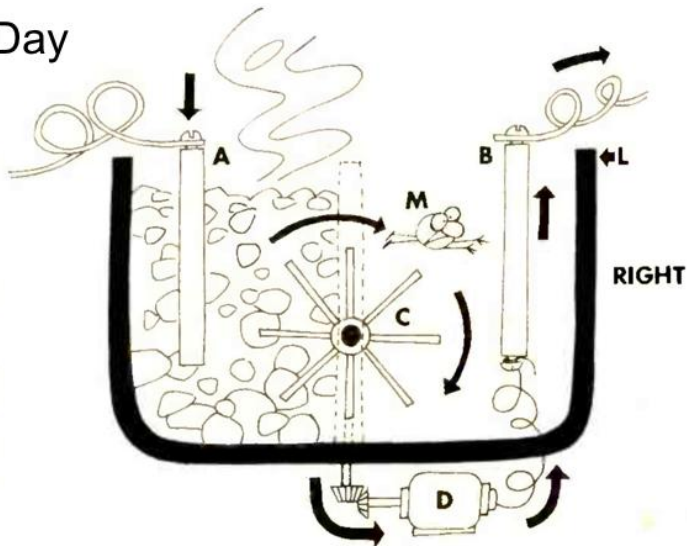
Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

New generator for Field Day

HOW THE BIOCELL OPERATES

- 1 Fill left side of container with either sewage or garbage.
- 2 Feed hydrogen to electrode "A."
- 3 Hydrogen molecule "M" is unable to stand smell and rushes to oxygen electrode "B."
- 4 Movement of molecule "M" causes ion exchange paddle wheel "C" to revolve.
- 5 Paddle wheel is gear connected to electric generator "D" and the output wired to oxygen electrode "B."

Note: For best results, fill to level "L."



CQ Field Day de Jim Riley KB9CYL

There's nothing new since last month concerning Field Day.

I've been given pictures from last year, thanks to Ed Egan WB9STB and the usual 4,000 frames from Don Pointer KC9EQQ. If you have some pictures you'd like to add to this year's FD presentation, please get them to me as soon as possible.

A duty roster based on last year's FD will be emailed to all participants soon. I'm asking last year's crew to let me know if they can repeat in the same capacity. Please let me know either way. If I don't hear from you, I'll be putting the arm on you at the meeting. We need to have all positions filled very soon.

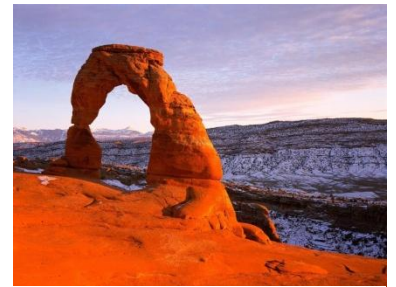
Even if all positions are filled, some of them still need backup. Stuff happens and we need someone on standby for some very important jobs. If you can back up our chefs or our trailer hauler, we need you. If you have a generator you can keep on standby, let me know.

Field Day is June 25 and 26 at Altman Park, 116th and Oketo in Worth. Setup begins at 0800 Saturday morning and operations commence at 1300.



Manhattan Sites and NPOTA

As many of you may already know, in order to celebrate the 100th birthday of the National Park Service, 2016 is the year of National Parks On The Air (NPOTA). Hams across the country have been setting up National Park Units and activators and chasers have been making contacts to help promote the National Park Service. In addition to the National Parks, other included sites are some National Battlefields, Historic Sites, Memorials, Preserves, Reserves, Rivers, Seashores, and National Scenic Trails. See the ARRL website for details. If anyone has made some National Park contacts they'd like to let us know about, send us an e-mail and we'll get them in the HamGab.



National Park Service Photo



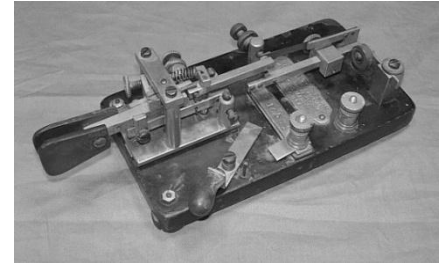
As of late last year, sites of the Manhattan Project are eligible for NPOTA. The three Manhattan eligible Manhattan sites are in Hanford, Washington; Los Alamos, New Mexico, and Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Obviously, you just can't walk into these areas and set up shop. Access to some is restricted by the DOE and some can only be accessed through organized tours.

Hamgab, April 2016

Washington, D.C. – April 1, 2016 –

Today, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) approved Report and Order 16-987af which reinstates the Morse Code test for General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees. “It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test,” admits Dotty Dasher, the FCC’s director of examinations. “We now realize that being able to send and receive Morse Code is an essential skill for radio amateurs. As they say, it really does get through when other modes can’t.”

Not only will new applicants have to take the test, but General Class licensees who have never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 5-wpm code test. Similarly, Amateur Extra class licensees that never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 13-wpm test. Those amateurs that fail to pass the test will face revocation of their operating privileges. Materials for administering the examinations will be distributed to Volunteer Examiner Coordinators by the end of April, so that they can begin the testing on May 1, 2015.



Official FCC Poorly Adjusted Key



FCC’s Dolly Dasher

“This isn’t going to be one of those silly multiple-choice type tests,” noted Dasher. “We’re going to be sending five-character random code groups, just like we did in the old days. And, applicants will have to prove that they can send, too, using a poorly adjusted straight key.”

Technician Class licensees will not be required to take a Morse Code test, nor will a test be required for new applicants. “We discussed it,” said Dasher, “but decided that since most Techs can’t even figure out how to program their HTs, requiring them to learn Morse Code seemed like cruel and unusual punishment.”

When asked what other actions we might see from the FCC, Dasher hinted that in the future applicants taking the written exam may be required to draw circuit diagrams, such as Colpitts oscillators and diode ring mixers, once again. “We’re beginning to think that if an applicant passes an amateur radio license exam it should mean that he or she actually knows something,” she said.

For further information, contact James X. Shorts, Assistant Liaison to the Deputy Chief of Public Relations for the FCC at [\(202\) 555-1212](tel:2025551212) or jim.shorts@fcc.gov. For more news and information about the FCC, please visit www.fcc.gov.

500 Meters?

A five-hundred-meter dish is nearing completion according to China's state-run Xinhua news. The Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST) will be completed in 2016. It will allow researchers to detect radio signals - and potentially signs of life - from planets orbiting a million stars and solar systems. The country's military-led space program is constructing the world's largest radio telescope, a massive construction project. When completed the dish itself will be the size of 30 football fields and has the potential to be a game-changer for our understanding of the Universe, and our search for life on other planets. Construction on the FAST project began in 2011 and it is nestled in a natural indentation in Guizhou province's spectacular Karst mountains. This half a kilometer diameter dish will eclipse the 305 met dish at Arecibo in Puerto Rico but, says the SARL.



Hamfesters VE Testing de Al Bukowski N9ZD VE Coordinator

Hamfesters VE Testing Report for March 2016

On February 13, 2016, Hamfester's Radio Club VE's team assembled to administer Amateur Radio exams at the Oak Forest City Hall. We had Seven Candidates who earned a Technician ticket. One Candidate who earned General and One Candidate who upgraded to Extra. Congratulations to the Nine Candidates. VE's who assisted me were Ron WB9JYZ, James N9HSH, Cynthia N9CAS, and Tim AA9BV. A lot of paperwork was filled out by all the VE's and I Thank You for your dedicated time.



Amateur Radio Exams INFO:

Hamfester's Amateur 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 taking your exam. You may bring your Calculator if you choose, however the volunteer examiners must check it prior the exam that all memories are clear. For the Technician Exam there are 35 multiple choice questions. If you are successful passing the Technician exam, you may take the General Class Exam which also has 35 multiple choice questions. If you are successful passing the General exam, you may take the Extra Class Exam which has 50 multiple choice questions. Please make sure you are studying the latest question pool that can be found usually on the internet, through ARRL publications or Gordon West books.

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. Please remember to bring the FRN number or your Social Security number to the exam.

Upgrade Examinations:

If you are already licensed and are taking an upgrade examination: Please bring your printed *Current Amateur Radio 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 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.

***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@arrl.net.

Our next test session will be held on Saturday March 12, 2016. (0900 hrs)

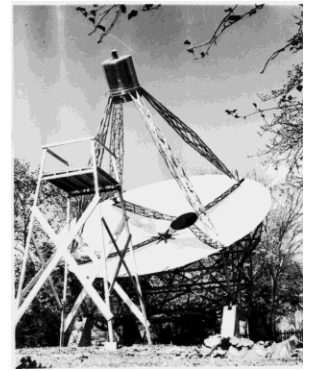
Walk-ins are welcome and the test fee remains at \$15.00 cash only -- no credit cards or checks.

Editor's Rambles

The First Radio Astronomer

Many of you may have heard of Karl Jansky. He was a physicist working at Bell labs in the 1930's. Jansky was tasked with finding the sources of interference that would disrupt radio communications. Jansky built an antenna to detect signals in the 14.6 meter range. He was able to explain all of the signals except for one faint hiss that repeated every 23 hours and 56 minutes. This turns out to be the sidereal day or the time it takes for the stars to make one rotation in the sky. Jansky determined that the signal was coming from the center of our Milky Way Galaxy and thus radio astronomy was born. This is, however, the end of the story for Jansky. There was no more funding from Bell labs for this type of research and this could have been the end of the story if not for one amateur radio operator. Yes, once again Hams come to the rescue.

Grote Reber W9GFZ was a radio repairman in our very own Wheaton, IL. In 1937 he decided to take up where Jansky left off. He was quoted a price of \$7000 to buy an antenna so being a poor Ham, he built an antenna himself. It was a 31 foot dish antenna which he made in his very own back yard. See picture to the right. Reber's first attempt at 3300 MHz and second attempt at 900MHz were unsuccessful at detecting any signals from space. Finally, at 160 MHz he was successful in detecting signals from space and Karl Jansky's work was confirmed.



Reber then set out to make a radio map of the sky. Reber discovered a strong radio source



Cygnus A

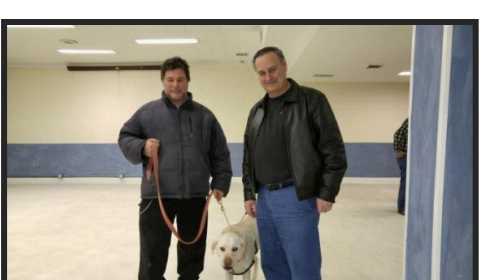
in the constellation of Cygnus which became known as Cygnus A. Cygnus A is an elliptical galaxy about 730 million light years away. Elliptical galaxies are, as expected, in the shape of an ellipse. The radio image consists of a dumbbell shape with 2 bright lobes and a dark area in the middle. It turns out the middle is a super-massive black hole at the center of the galaxy. The black hole has a mass a billion times that of the sun. As the black hole swallows up matter, electrons are accelerated into a fiery soup sending out radio waves as they spiral through magnetic fields. For some reason only elliptical galaxies tend to produce these large radio sources as well as X-Ray emissions. Whereas black holes at the center of spiral galaxies tend to only produce the X-Ray emissions. Who knew black holes could be so fickle.

Reber also discovered Cassiopeia A, the brightest radio source in the sky at frequencies above 1 GHz. Cassiopeia A is the remnant of a giant supernova explosion. The gas that is expanding from the center of the explosion at 14,000 K/S (that's Kilometers per Second) and its temperature is around 50 million degrees. That's even faster and hotter than some of the girls I dated in high school. The X-Ray source at the center is probably either a neutron star or black hole. The visible light from the explosion may have been observed by some astronomers in the 1600's. However, it wasn't very bright since most of the visible light was absorbed in the expanding gas cloud.

Although he didn't know it at the time, Reber had discovered the radio emissions of exploding stars and massive black holes. Not a bad days work for a radio amateur working out of his backyard.

Sources: *From Sparks to Satellites* by Stanely Leinwooll & *Wikipedia*

Pictures Meeting February 2016





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 80th annual Hamfest coming August 7, 2016-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.