

Ham Gab

Next meeting: August 5th

August 2016

PO Box 474

Crestwood, IL

60445-0474

www.hamfesters.org

Special Interest Articles

CQ Field Day pg. 6

AES news pg. 7

National Parks pg. 8

August Birthdays

Barb KA9BAG

John W9BNR

Richard KA9BUK

Charles WV9C

Wayne AC9EF

Ed K9EGS

Richard KD9EOD

Matthew KC9JXC

Colette K9LKT

Nora KC9MLV

Jack W9NJB

Lenny KB9OUQ

Donald KX9Q

Bob N9RAT

Bill W9ZJ

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



The flag flew with me in my C-130 as I participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom. If a place in Iraq has an airfield, that flag has been there. It accompanied me as I flew troops, ammo, cargo, Humvees, POWs, you name it. I am honored that you thought to fly it over Field Day.

So next year we can fly it again since it was properly folded and stored in my field day supplies.

--Brian, W9HLQ--



Hamfesters had a great time at our annual July picnic. It included our salute to veterans and first responders. A special thank you goes out to Ron KB9TCX and Robert, members of the Chicago Ridge VFW post, who came out to present the colors. Nice job once again guys.

Field Day notes from the GOTA station:

As the GOTA Gang raised the mast for the antenna we included an American flag to be pulled to the top. The flag we used was given to me by my son, Daniel, KI6PBI. He flew his C-130 transport plane out of Kuwait frequently in support of the Iraq war. I thought it flew at the Bagdad airport, but better yet, the flag hit all the operational airports in Iraq. Here is a quote from Dan when asked about the flag we used:

Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club 82st Annual Hamfest Sunday August 7th, 2016 at the Will County Fairgrounds

Gates open at 6 AM, commercial exhibit buildings open at 8 AM

Fun for the whole family! There will be vendors, speakers, VE testing and the flea market. We need your help to make this Hamfest successful for the club. Contact Kurt WB9FMC and let him know how you'll help and be sure to attend Kurt's presentation at the next meeting. We also need your wallets. Support the vendors and buy that special something you've always been looking for. See Don's column below and the Hamfesters Website for more information. See you there.

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

August 7th is our clubs biggest day of the year. Its Hamfest time, where our members team up, meet up and dial it up when it comes to making sure our event is the best one in the area of its kind. When the volunteers, (aka our members), show up the night before at the Vendors and members thank you gathering you can feel it in the air that you the members are ready to do whatever it takes to make our guests all across the board both warmly welcomed and made to feel at home. The same way they are at all our regular monthly meetings. I get a lot of compliments thrown my way on that day about how nice it is that we take the time to work hard and try to get everything just right for seller, vendor and buyer alike. I cannot tell you how happy that makes me feel to hear these kind words about our club.

Our Hamfest Chairman Kurt WB9FMC is sitting by his phone waiting to hear from you with the news that "YES- count me in!" as a Hamfest Volunteer! Contact him during normal business hours and I am sure he will be elated to have your help at our biggest event of the year and every year- HAMFEST! By the way, Kurt's program on Hamfest will be Friday August 5th and Hamfest itself will be Sunday, August 7th, 2016. Tickets are now available at all Hamfester meetings. Let's all look forward to seeing each other at Kurt's program and to show him our support. He is working so hard to bring his best stuff to the table that is the planning board for Hamfest, but he cannot and should not do it by his self. He needs you and you and you and you! So how about it? Get on the band wagon for Hamfest now and give Kurt a call- he deserves your all!

While we are on the topic, here is my annual checklist for Hamfest: If you are selling, please watch your table and personal items at all times. If you need to leave your selling area, have someone watch it for you and try not to be gone too long, so that your items are safe and of course so that you can avoid losing sales by not being there to answer questions.

Please note- Hamfesters Amateur Radio club and its members are not responsible for any stolen or missing items under any circumstances from any and all participants at Hamfest. Keep a tight rein on your area please. Keep an eye out for any suspicious activities and report any such to us immediately. Our event has a solid reputation as being safe for all to enjoy. With your help we can continue to keep it that way.

Please arrive early, so that you may claim a good spot.

Prepare for the weather. Bring water, food, whatever you need to keep you going. In the main building, food and such are available for purchase if you so desire.

Under no circumstances are items to be left behind after you go home. Our club will get fined by the Fairgrounds management if we leave anything behind as sellers or buyers. Electronics especially. Failure to do this will result in revocation of your membership in our club. Last year six of us spent 3 and half hours cleaning up after someone who ditched all their stuff behind and we did not find out till after they skipped the premises. By the way, we almost lost having our event for this year at Peotone, when it was an executive board member of the Will county Fairgrounds who found all the left behind items there. He was none too pleased. So let's play nice while we are at this facility, for the sake of everyone. Sorry for sounding so harsh, but my job is to protect our club and I need your help in doing so. If you witness any infractions to this effect, I need to be notified that morning immediately.



Kurt and I each will have a golf cart available in the event someone needs us at any given location on the fairgrounds. If you need medical assistance or security please let us know ASAP. As always, call 911 first if your circumstances are serious or life threatening. I will be in charge of medical and security that day and have other qualified individuals with me to respond accordingly.

Please remember that Saturday night, August 6th at about 7pm we will have our Pizza night for those members who are scheduled to help at Hamfest and also for those vendors who arrive the night before on the sixth also. Please all signed up helpers only meet at the main building by six pm as we need help setting up for dinner.

Back on the beat.....

It was a great night on July 8th as we saluted our Veterans and First Responders by having our annual Independence Day inside picnic. Special thanks to Ron Kalat KB9TCX and his VFW colleague Robert who are both from the Chicago Ridge VFW Post, who served as Color Guard that same night presenting our nations flag. Also, thank you to everyone who brought food to go along with Pizza from Beggars that night. Thank you Beggars in Oak Forest too. Nora and I look forward to seeing you all weekend long at Hamfest Weekend!

Please do not forget that our very own Gregg Rosenberg AB9MZ will be presenting on September 9th, his program on Emergency Preparedness for home. I look forward to his very worthwhile program. By the way, the annual Dahlia flower show will be happening during the first weekend of September, which is why we will be meeting on the ninth of September. Please mark your calendars accordingly. See you soon and 73 to all of you!

Don Pointer KC9EQQ

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

Board Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

W9AA Hamfesters amateur radio board meeting June 27, 2016 start 7:30 PM

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim W9JPR, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Nora KC9MLV, Cathy KC9NRH, Cindy N9CAS, Kurt WB9FMC, Steve W9KXT, Gene W9PNG, Al N9ZD
President's report: by Don KC9EQQ, Jim W9JPR, will be in charge July 19-27, while Don KC9EQQ, and Nora KC9MLV, are in California. Thanks to Cathy KC9NRH, and Bob W9KWG, Jimmy John's, and Beggar's Pizza, for helping to make field day a success.

Programs: July 8 our annual picnic set up at 6 PM there will be a short business meeting. August 5 Kurt WB9FMC, Hamfest 2016

September Gregg KB9MZ, Emergency kits. Please check with the Hamfesters website to determine the date of the September meeting.

Treasurer's report: by Ed WA9EOL, paid the fee for 3 years for the upkeep of the club's website.

This was approved by the board. Also, paid for expenses for field day 2016.

Ed WA9EOL, asked Gene W9PNG, to find a way for PayPal to specify purchases; membership, shirts, hats, etc.

Hamfest 2016: Kurt WB9FMC, our hamfest has ad's in QST magazine. Kurt will send out letters to vendors, including single stub Hamfesters tickets. If we have out of town speakers for our hamfest we will provide them a place to stay. Bob KB9YXH, will get hamfest prizes. There will be no cash prizes, radios, instead. If the winner is not a ham, they will receive a cash prize. This was approved by the board.

Steve W9KXT, will find out what color the KARS radio club hamfest tickets will be in 2017. This is so we don't have the same color tickets. Hamfesters will print 2000 hamfest tickets for 2017.

Gene W9PNG, will put on our club's website that we need a new hamfest chairman for 2017.

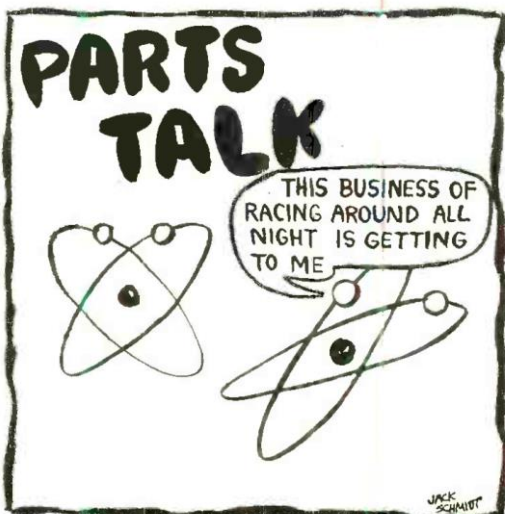
Field day 2016: Jim W9JPR, we were down 2000 points this year. Our club needs a new/or better 80 meter antenna. Also, we need a new battery for the club's trailer, need a checklist for the trailer, and we need to check function of equipment before field day.

Security: Al N9ZD, we need to discuss safety of equipment and people for field day 2017. We need more than one person to stay awake in the GOTO tent overnight. The park is located by the canal, boaters are an issue, also coyotes.

Adjournments: 8:45 PM Kurt WB9FMC, Ed WA9EOL



HamGab Goes Green



Beginning this month, the *Hamfesters Radio Club HamGab* PDF files have been adjusted to an environmentally friendly, gluten-free format. Members will notice no degradation in screen or print quality. If you choose to print this issue of HamGab, we recommend the use of low-fat, vegetarian-based inks and use recycled paper. Notice: no electrons were harmed in providing this HamGab to you although a few of them may have become tired.

General Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

W9AA Hamfesters radio club meeting July 8, 2016 start at 7:25 PM

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim W9JPR, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE,

Tonight's meeting there were: 40 members, and 8 visitors. A special welcome to Don KC9EQQ, and Nora KC9MLV, friends the Gehle family.

Health and welfare: Happy 83rd belated Birthday to Ed WA9EOL. We are remembering fallen police officers, club members that we've lost. Tonight we also remember Christine Mack N9RFY, she was Hamfesters President died on July 8, 2006. We welcome her husband Terry Mack N9FRY.

President's report: by Don KC9EQQ, thanks to Tom KA9ZXN, for taking the Hamfesters' trailer to participate in the Evergreen Park Fourth of July parade.

Programs: Tonight our annual picnic. there will be a short business meeting.

August 5 Kurt WB9FMC, Hamfest 2016

September Gregg KB9MZ, Emergency kits. Please check with the Hamfesters website to determine the date of the September meeting.

Field day 2016: by Jim W9JPR, Murphy's Law was present at field day this year; zero sunspots, Worth police arrived to take possession of a stolen car in the parking lot, coyotes, and noisy boater's. But, the real reason for the problems Tom Gulick (Patti KC9LYE's brother) was not at Field day this year.

(We're just kidding Tom, missed your help).

Hamfest 2016: by Kurt WB9FMC, continuing to content vendors for our hamfest on August 5, 2016, the adapter guy has canceled. Also, continuing to look for speakers, and radio manufacturers to attend.

This year Hamfesters will give away RADIO prizes instead of cash. If the winner is not a licensed ham, they will be given cash. On Saturday, August 4 at the Fairgrounds, there will be a pizza dinner for the vendors, and the setup crew. Dave N9PDK, has hamfest tickets.

New business: by Dave N9PDK, there will be a walk/run on September 17 at 5 PM at the college of DuPage. Hams are needed, please arrive 3 PM. Contact Dave his email N9PDK@ARRL.net Paul KA9WYM, has CFMC hamfest tickets, the hamfest is on September 24, 2016.

Adjournment: at 8:45 PM by time KA9ZXN, and Kurt WB9FMC split the pot winner: Paul KA9WYM

Hamfesters Roster News

Paul Batchelor (no call yet)

He lives in Calumet City and is a photographer for a living and a relic collector for fun. Paul is interested in working with the club in helping with publicity, hamfest, field day, and programs. Be sure to welcome him to the club and put him to work.

73,

--Brian, W9HLQ--

CQ Field Day de Jim Riley W9JPR

Field Day 2016: The Year of the Glitch

Another Field Day is in the books. Speaking of books, I'm going to sum it up with the first line of "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

It was the best of times because the weather cooperated except for a brief thunderstorm on Sunday morning, and a group of friends put together their best effort in a common cause and shared some great meals and good times.

It was the worst of times because the bands weren't cooperating and there were numerous glitches that made for a difficult day.

The first glitch came two days before FD when we found out that Jimmy Liston N9HSH was in intensive care. We had to scramble for a generator and someone to bring the trailer. That led to a day of panic as we looked for alternatives. The next day, Jimmy's wife Kathy called to say that Jimmy had told her to make sure we got the generator. That was right before he took a turn for the worse. Steve Peters W9KXT made arrangements with her and he and Gene Phillips W9PNG went to pick it up. Gene also towed the trailer.

Glitch number two didn't happen on site or even on the planet. It was 93 million miles away as the face of the sun was totally devoid of spots. That made for marginal band conditions at best. At least that affected every other station around the world.

Setup went smoothly but glitch number three came as President Don Pointer KC9EQQ went to pick up lunch at Jimmy John's. The order seemed to be in disorder and it turned out to belong to a Mr. Murphy. I kid you not. Don got that straightened out but Mr. Murphy, the one with the law, wound up coming along for the ride.

Fortunately for the rest of the group, the operational glitches, numbers 4 -6, were confined to the trailer. Our new Van Gorden All-Bander dipole wouldn't tune to anything less than 5:1 no matter what we tried. We had to quickly install the V antenna so we could operate on 15 meters during the day. After dark, Brian Davis W9HLQ and Eric Hennenfent KC9OOM raised a G5RV they'd found buried in one of the coax boxes and the trailer operated 80 meters through the night.

Also not working in the trailer was the MFJ tuner. At first we couldn't get even the tried and true V to work but I moved the output from coax 2 to coax 1 and it worked just fine. Not so for the All-Bander it was still 5:1. I think it was their POS model.

We started out using the trailer's ICOM 706 but switched to the new SDR as soon as it was operational. A note has been made to make sure the SDR is hooked up *before* Field Day. As the day wore on, the SDR started acting erratically and the 706 stopped working altogether. As darkness approached, we discovered our problem as the lights in the trailer weren't as bright as they normally are. It was then that we realized the power supply was unplugged and the trailer was being run on battery power alone. Plugging it in got the 706 working again but no such luck for the SDR. We thought it was fried but Brian later checked it out at home and it's fine.

There were two more glitches that happened during the event and plagued me after. I will not name the guilty parties. They know who they are. One station logged with the wrong date on its computer and I had to edit every contact. Another station logged almost half its contacts in the wrong band. More editing on my part.

Glitches notwithstanding, everything else went well. The new mast went up fine at GOTA station KC9LYE. The new loop antenna at the 40-meter station worked well, as did the aerial concoction at the 20-meter station. Altogether, we worked 78 sections, 48 states (Where were you, Nevada and Hawaii?), five foreign countries,



Hamgab, August 2016

and three continents. CW was the mode of choice with almost twice as many contacts as phone. Digital was a distant third.

Once again, Kurt was our Top CW op, and Eric topped the phone ops. Top digital honors go to Dave Bukowski N9KPD.

It didn't seem like there were as many participants and visitors this year (until the pizza arrived) but the sign-in sheets told another story: 29 and 16 respectively.

The final numbers follow as does the cast of characters as taken from the sign-in sheets and my memory. We can, and will, do much better next year. I'm looking forward to working with each and every one of you again. Field Day 2017 is June 24 and 25.

W9AA Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
----	--	-----	---	-----	---
80	0	65	0	65	9
40	175	81	54	310	43
20	277	0	30	307	42
15	0	21	0	21	3
2	0	18	0	18	2
1.25	0	1	0	1	0
70	0	1	0	1	0
	--	-----	---	-----	---
Total	452	187	84	723	100

KC9LYE Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
----	--	-----	---	-----	---
40	0	96	0	96	100
	--	-----	---	-----	---
Total	0	96	0	96	100

Field Day Cast of Characters 2016

Glitchmeister: Jim Riley W9JPR

Sunrise Overseer: George Young N9VOK, in absentia

Trailer hauling: Granville Phillips W9PNG

10,000-watt generator: Jimmy Liston N9HSH, in absentia

Lunch and supper: Jimmy John's and Beggars

Breakfast: Ed Broniarczyk WA9EOL

Setup: Everyone, including Mike Kiley WA9ZPM, Rich Schneider, KA9HMY, Ron Kalat KB9TCX, Mike Vannier N9NNL, Paul Batchelor

Field Day message: Al Bukowski, N9ZD

Hamgab, August 2016

Sign-in sheets and Field Day pins: Patti Gulick KC9LYE

20-meter CW station: Kurt Pawlikowski WB9FMC, Ron Carlson KB9ZBN

20-meter Digital station: Al Bukowski N9ZD, Dave Bukowski N9KPD

40-meter CW station: Ray Paschke NW9S, Wayne Strickland W9BBB, Sue Strickland W9ARH, George Kirn N9PNO

Trailer station: Eric Hennenfent KC9OOM, Steve Hennenfent KC9OOL, Eric's friend Malachi, and Lou Sica AC0X.

GOTA station: Brian Davis W9HLQ, Steve Peters W9KXT, Bob Richter KB9YXH, Nora Pointer KC9MLV, Ed Egan WB9STB, Cathy Fleischmann KC9NRH, Bob Fleischmann N9KWG

Free VHF/UHF station: Linas Matonis KC9PCP, Tim Szymanski KC9POS, Vince Matonis KC9PLO

Solar Panels: Linas Matonis KC9PCP

Photographers: Don Pointer KC9EQQ, Cindy Shlaustas N9CAS, Brian Davis W9HLQ, Steve Hennenfent KC9OOL, Jim Riley W9JPR

Teardown: everyone who was still around

Ham Radio Outlet - Press Release for Immediate Release July 12, 2016

RE: HRO-Milwaukee, Amateur Electronic Supply's closing on 7/28/2016

On July 1, 2016 Amateur Electronic Supply (AES) made the decision to close down their entire organization and terminate all retail operations at their Las Vegas, Cleveland, Orlando and Milwaukee locations.

Upon hearing the news, and with the concurrence of AES senior management, Ham Radio Outlet (HRO) sent senior management to each location to interview the staff with hopes of acquiring some of the Amateur Radio retail employee talent in each of the current AES locations. Together with this interview process, HRO examined what it would take to perhaps acquire one or more of the AES store locations. At the time of these interviews, many opportunities were explored with current AES senior management.

We are very excited to announce that HRO was successful in providing offers of employment to a number of soon to be former AES employees and that to some, we have offered positions that involve HRO sponsored and funded relocation. We are also extremely pleased to announce that, after the closing of the Milwaukee AES location on July 28, 2016, Ham Radio Outlet will begin an extensive remodeling project to create the largest Amateur Radio retail showroom in North America. We will open our newest and largest Ham Radio Outlet in Milwaukee at the end of August 2016.

Effective at the closing of AES on July 28, 2016, all former AES locations' direct telephone numbers and toll free telephone numbers will be redirected to the closest HRO location so as to not disrupt providing service to the AES customer base. Additionally effective on July 28, 2016, the www.aesham.com website will be directed to www.hamradio.com also so as not to disrupt service for the AES online customer base.

Steve Gilmore, National Sales Manager for HRO states, "We are extremely excited to have a store in the Central Northern part of the United States. It will minimize shipping times for our products to be able to be delivered in 2 days or less in most of the lower 48 United States. We are building a showplace that all must come see! It will be expansive with massive inventory levels and a large all encompassing demonstration area featuring nearly all of the Amateur Radio transceivers on the market today."

HRO is a family owned business with 14 sales locations throughout the United States which includes a formidable presence on the Internet, making it the largest Ham Radio dealership in the world.

Ham Radio Outlet - Milwaukee is located at 5710 W Good Hope Rd, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It will be open for business at the end of August 2016.

Hamgab, August 2016 National Parks On The Air

by Ed Stroh - K9EGS

Many of you may already know about National Parks On The Air (NPOTA). It is a year long event sponsored by the ARRL in conjunction with the United States National Park Service. Its purpose is to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, promote the National Park Service and showcase amateur radio to the public. The event began January 1, 2016 and goes through December 31, 2016. As the name implies, "On The Air", this is an operating event. The way it works is one or more licensed amateur radio operators go to one of the numerous national parks around the country and set up a portable station. It doesn't necessarily have to be strictly a portable station, one can also operate mobile from your vehicle. The rules state that one has to operate within the borders of the park facility. The person(s) that set up and operate their radio equipment in the park are called "activators." By operating from that site they are "activating" that site. The rules state that as long as the activator makes at least 10 contacts/QSOs while at that site, that qualifies as an official activation. The hams on the other end of the QSOs are called "chasers." They are trying to chase as many NPOTA activations as possible. All contacts/QSOs are supposed to be uploaded to LOTW. No paper QSLs are involved. There are also awards/recognition for activators and chasers.



Now, how does all this pertain to me? I recently have acquired an interest in portable operating. So the timing of this NPOTA event is just right.

I recently purchased a Buddipole portable antenna, a deep cycle battery, a DC to AC inverter, a small toolbox to hold the necessary tools and equipment as well as a few other things that are necessary for portable operations. I got together with Ron Bellinger (WB9JYZ) and Steve Bennett (K9SGB), who are both also interested in portable operations, to plan our NPOTA activation. The date that we settled on was Saturday, May 7th. As the time drew nearer I began to worry about the weather possibly spoiling our plans. When Saturday finally came, the forecast said rain and possible thunderstorms in the morning, but they were supposed to be spotty. So we figured let's give it a try anyway.



We went to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore which is only about 30 miles away near Portage, Indiana. We picked a very nice spot that has 3 picnic shelters. If we could set up under one of the shelters then we would have protection in case it started raining. The shelters were one of the reasons for choosing this particular site. It is a beautiful site that has lots of woods and the convenience of a nearby washroom. As we were driving there and were about 5 miles away we saw lightning ahead. Now I was getting worried that our plans would be spoiled by Mother Nature. Just as we arrived at the site it began raining so we sat in the car for a bit until the rain slowed down to a drizzle before we started to unload our gear. Mother Nature decided to give us a break and it only rained about 20 minutes. But, once the rain stopped, a front passed by and changed the wind direction and speed to about 15 or 20 mph coming right off of Lake Michigan and the temperature dropped about 15 degrees. It took us about 30 minutes to set up. Once I was all set up I received a nice surprise after I fully extended the 18 foot mast with my Buddipole antenna on top. I found the SWR to be 1.1:1, that's right it was flat!! That was perfect and I was a happy camper. We set up 2 antennas and 2 stations. My Buddipole and I were on 14.329 mHz. and Steve's Hamstick antenna on a military style mast and tripod was on 7.243 mHz.

I got my station assembled a little before Steve and Ron finished with Steve's set up and I called CQ on 20 meters. The first person to answer me was IK2EAD from Italy. Wow! I guess my Buddipole antenna was doing it's job well. I also

Hamgab, August 2016

contacted CU3EJ who was in the Azores Islands. These first 2 contacts were a nice surprise since this was only my second time using the Buddipole.



Once we were ready to start our "activation," one of the first things that we did was to "spot" ourselves on DX Watch. I believe that this was crucial to the success of our Activation. Within one minute after posting our "spot" on DX Watch I called "CQ" on 20 meters and the pileup instantly began. I made contacts from the east coast to the west coast and everywhere in between. It was quite a different feeling to be on that side of the pileup where people are all trying to contact me, as opposed to me trying to break through a huge pileup to make that elusive contact. I made 42 contacts in the first 43 minutes of operation. Steve also did well on 40 meters, although those contacts were a bit fewer and a little farther between. I attribute that to band conditions which limits the contacts to a closer in distance during the daytime hours on 40 meters.

Steve and I easily exceeded the necessary minimum of 10 contacts to qualify as an official activation of our call signs at the NPOTA site. After we took a break for a while, actually we were warming ourselves up in the car, Ron tried to activate his call sign but he was not successful. I don't know if the band changed or what, but the needed 10 contacts for an "official" activation just weren't there for him, and he was OK with that.



We did not anticipate the cold weather conditions so we weren't dressed properly for it. The temperature when we started out was about 70 degrees so we thought that light jackets would be enough. But as I stated earlier, the temperature dropped about 15 degrees once the wind changed to the north coming off of Lake Michigan. Around lunchtime we took all the equipment down and put it back in the car. We would have liked to have stayed longer but we were too cold to continue. We then proceeded to the National Park Visitors Center. We went there in order to get an official stamp on Ron and Steve's National Park passports and a stamp on a blank sheet of paper for me to use as proof that we were there on the day that we claimed. The park rangers there were very friendly and even knew about the NPOTA program. In fact they were so nice and accommodating that they allowed us to use their employee lunch room in the visitors center to eat our lunch. By the way, it was a heck of a lot warmer in there than it was outside.

I forgot to mention that when we were still at the site where we had our equipment set up, one of the park rangers showed up to see what we were doing. I guess he was just making his appointed rounds. It turned out that he was a newly licensed ham with a Technician license, (licensed only 6 months ago), KD9MBB Micah Bell, and he was very interested in our operation. We even let him make a contact over the air and he took a group photo of us. Little did we know that he was going to post that photo on the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Facebook page.



After returning home I uploaded all of my contacts to LOTW. Steve also uploaded his contacts to LOTW. Steve and I have confirmed almost all our contacts on LOTW and I am sure we have made a lot of "chaser" hams happy to be able to log and confirm the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

We all had a good time and I gained some experience operating portable. I look forward to operating portable more in the future. You should try it sometime if you haven't already done so. It is great fun, a bit of a challenge, gives you experience on setting up emergency communication operations in the field and offers great camaraderie when you make the trip along with others. But make sure that you are fully prepared for any possible weather conditions.

73 and good DX to you!
Ed Stroh, K9EGS

Hamfesters VE Testing de Al Bukowski N9ZD VE Coordinator

Hamfesters VE Testing Report for August 2016

On July 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. Two Candidates upgraded to General. One Candidate upgraded to Extra. Congratulations to the Candidates. VE's who assisted me were Tim AA9BV, Gene KB9RNM, Ron N9STU, and Robert N9JYX. Thank You VE's 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 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). For Technician candidates. If you would prefer not use your Social Security Number on your application, we suggest obtaining a Federal Registration Number (FRN) from the FCC website - otherwise please bring your Social Security Number. This is a requirement on the FCC form. Licensed amateurs can find their FRN number on their present amateur license.

Upgrade Examinations:

If you are already licensed and are taking an upgrade examination: Please bring your printed *and signed Current Amateur Radio License*, and a copy of your current license that we can send with your paperwork. 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 the CSCE* that we can send with you paperwork.

Retaking a 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.

New License or Upgrade!

Candidates, Congratulations on passing your Exam(s). It may take the FCC 5 to 10 business days before your new or upgraded Amateur License is posted on the FCC website. Please check the FCC Website for your license info. <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

How to Print your Official FCC License:

Download and Print License: The licensee can log into the FCC ULS License Manager System <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> with their FRN and password to 'Download the Electronic Authorization' of the official license. On the 'Download Authorizations' page the license holder will addtheir call sign to the 'Authorizations to Download' and then click download. The PDF of the license can be saved to a computer and printed later or the file can be opened and printed immediately.

Location's and Time of the next Hamfesters VE administered Radio Exams:

- 1). Hamfester's Radio Club "Hamfest" - Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone, IL August 7, 2016 from 8:00 AM to 10:30 AM
- 2). Oak Forest City Hall, 15440 S. Central Ave. Oak Forest, IL August 13, 2016 starting at 9:00 AM
Oak Forest City Hall 15440 S. Central Ave. Oak Forest, IL 60452. Please arrive by 9:00 AM. We begin testing promptly at 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.

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

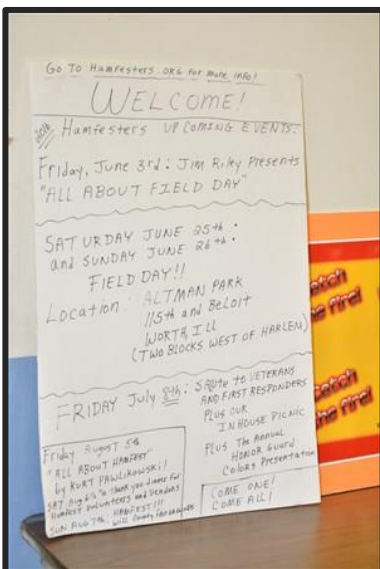


Hamgab, August 2016

Pictures July Meeting



Hamgab, August 2016



Hamgab, August 2016



Hamgab, August 2016



**Stay cool and enjoy the
rest of the summer!**



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 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.