

Ham Gab

Next meeting: November 4th

November 2016

PO Box 474
Crestwood, IL
60445-0474

www.hamfesters.org

Special Interest Articles

Highland IND pg. 5

Spies pg. 5

JOTA pg. 6

November Birthdays

Robert WA9BXI

Bill KC9HRB

Patti KC9LYE

Herb KC9OOK

Ronald KB9TCX

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

Hamqab Editors

Steve & Eric

KC9OOL & KC9OOM

Scapstone@aol.com



We couldn't make the October meeting, but we heard Steve Cooper again gave a gut busting and highly entertaining show on Humor in Music. Steve is shown above playing his heartwarming rendition of the National Anthem.

November Meeting

The sunspot numbers are falling (the dreaded Solar Minimum) and High Frequency propagation is getting worse. This means we may need to resort to some interesting tricks to increase the odds of making a meaningful QSO. Come to the November meeting and find some tricks to improve your HF.



Our New President!



Congratulations to Nora KC9MLV who will be our new president starting in 2017 and to all of our returning officers and board members. We'd also like to thank Don KC9EQQ for his dedicated service. We are truly blessed to have such a devoted couple at Hamfesters.

Hamfesters Christmas Party

de Jim Riley KB9CYL

This is your final call for Christmas Party tickets. We'll enjoy an evening of fellowship and awards on Friday December 2 at Papa Joe's in Orland Park. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

We have seven tickets sold already. To purchase yours, you can see me at the November meeting where I can accept cash and checks. You can also see Brian W9HLQ to pay via credit card. Can't make the meeting? You can go 24/7 to the club website and purchase your tickets via PayPal. I've made it easy for you. Here's the link: <https://www.hamfesters.org/main/meeting/christmas-party-for-2015-information/> After the November meeting, this will be your only way to get tickets. We will hold them for you at the door.

You have no excuse. Come out and enjoy an evening of fun and great food with your fellow club members.



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

**"ROLLIN' ROLLIN' ROLLIN'
KEEP THAT TRAILER ROLLIN!"**

THE PRESIDENTS BEAT

**DONALD POINTER KC9EQQ
NOVEMBER 2016**

It all started with this vision I had back in the beginning of 2016. And the cool thing about this vision was that I was blessed with a board of Directors whose titles should be changed to Board of Visionaries. They embraced this idea and made it the board's mission to believe in it and see it through. And man oh man did they ever!!

I always felt that one of the single, physical most important assets this club owns is its Communications Trailer. Just like the children's story "The Little Train that could" I always felt that we owned "The Little Trailer that could!" Trouble is it needed a push down the tracks with enough fire stoked in its "Locomotive" to take it and our club to places we never dreamed of going to! Let's look at a little timeline for the trailer that came to be this year:

May 2016: Instead of a regular board meeting, the board members gather at the site of where our trailer is stored and pull everything out, tossed stuff out and gave it a thorough cleaning. An assessment was made initially of some of its appearance and technical shortfalls and a plan is put into place to fix those shortcomings. With Field day around the corner, we made a concerted effort to spruce it up a bit.

Over the summer, new locks are put on the trailer to secure it better in various aspects. Steve Peters, Brian Davis, Granville Phillips, Jim Riley, Cindy Schaulastas, Jimmy Liston, Kurt Pawlikowski, Jim Riley and Ed Broniarczyk all contributed a significant amount of time to see this trailer get updated, wheels checked, wiring harnesses fixed, generator tuned up and much more assuring the club that The Little Trailer that could, become The Little Trailer that can. And can it has!

This past Saturday, October 8th, 2016 the trailer made its newly refreshed debut at the Highland, Indiana Fire Department's annual Fire Prevention event where it was seen and in many cases viewed by a crowd estimated at over 2500 people who were there to participate and enjoy all the many activities that went on that day recognizing First Responders and Amateur Radio operators many contributions to public safety. As President of this club, I must say that if I had buttons on my sweater that day they would be popping all over the place! How incredibly proud I am of my fellow board members and others in the club for making the dream a reality. That dream being to get the word out via that trailer of ours. Granville a note to you for your great job in connecting us with the good men and women of the Highland Fire Department. Thank you my friend. Thanks to all from our club who came out to support this wonderful endeavor and event! And of course thank you to Fire Chief Bill Timmer and Logistics and Planning Chief Don Scheidt for their support and generosity shown us in allowing us to be at this all important event, and by the way thanks for inviting us back next year too! Hamfesters are thankful I can assure you!

But wait the Trailer story continues! On October 15th, the Trailer will be front in center of the Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air event which will take place at the Southbridge Church in Orland Park. The run time will be 10am to 3pm. For more details please see our website for the club. Thanks Pastor Dean for your support along with our very own Kurt for making this event happen for us to participate in.

On October 22nd, the trailer will be at the Coast Guard station on Lake Michigan in Chicago on the far southeast side for a closed to the public event which will highlight the emergency communications of Ham Radio with our trailer front and center once again. Thanks to our very own Mel Marcus and Mike Vannier for opening the door so to speak to bringing our trailer to this important communications event!

This is just the beginning for a new era for our club my friends. Want to be a part of this era? Just give me a call and I will get you set up. Speaking of a new era....

It is with great pride that I tell you that my wife Nora KC9MLV will be your new Hamfesters President effective 2017 and she was voted in unanimously along with all the current in-chair Officers and Board members of our club. I can tell you Nora is excited about this new chapter in her life and that of our club too. I truly hope you my fellow Hamfester members will show her your love and 100 per cent support as I am sure you will. Congratulations to Nora and our Officers and Board members!!



Back on the beat....

Bandleader and Pop Historian Steve Cooper gave a wonderful presentation as he always does for us every October, but this year he out did himself with his program on Humor in Music. And may I say, I very much enjoyed his horn rendition of our National Anthem and the playing of Taps in remembrance of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the U.S. Armed Forces and the Various First Responder agencies. Great job Steve and we thank you and look forward to next year's presentation to our club!

Don't forget that at our November 4th meeting, our very own Gregg Rosenberg will be presenting his much anticipated program on Digital Modes and how they are used in Ham Radio. Let's fill the house for this very dedicated fellow Hamfesters member!

Its Christmas time!!! Well, it's at least TIME TO BUY YOUR HAMFESTERS CHRISTMAS PARTY TICKETS TIME! Enjoy a night of great food, fun, prizes and recognition, not to mention that little old thing called Fellowship! On December 2nd, 2016 at Papa Joes Restaurant in Orland Park, Illinois please join your fellow members and their better halves for a wonderful night of great food and fun at an exceptionally great price per person of \$25.00

You can purchase the tickets through our website at Hamfesters.org or you can see Jim Riley W9JPR at our next meeting of November 4th, 2016. The deadline for purchasing your tickets is Monday, November 28th, 2016. Tickets will not be available the night of the dinner as we need to give the restaurant a head count by Tuesday, November 29th.

Also, please remember all our loved ones who are or have served in our U.S. Armed Forces on Friday, November 11th, 2016 as that day is Veterans Day. As a side note, afford yourself some time to visit The Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois. What a moving place it is. My parents are in that place of quiet beauty and respect and it is quite impressive. Going there will make you wonder why anyone would want to kneel during the playing of our National Anthem anywhere. My opinion, but I am sure many of you would agree. God Bless our military past, present and future. Without them we would not know the meaning or joy of the word Freedom! 'Nuff said.

Lastly, On behalf of Nora and my fellow club officers and board members we extend to you our wishes for a blessed and joyous Thanksgiving this month. God Bless you all. Nora and I are truly blessed by you our fellow members and friends of Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club- truly the best Ham Radio Club around for sure. P.S. My thanks to Nora for posing and taking that very nice image of me at the top of my column this month. She did a nice job considering the subject matter.....(HAHA Riley—I beat you to it with the dig! LOL!)

See you all at the next meeting and thanks for everything you bring to our club!
Don Pointer KC9EQQ

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

Questions, comments etc., for Don? Please email him at: dpointer65@gmail.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 26, 2016 start time 7:40 PM

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim W9JPR, Nora KC9MLV, Steve W9KXT, Ed WA9EOL, Brian W9HLQ, Patti KC9LYE, Cathy KC9NRH, Cindy N9CAS, absent Kurt W9FMC, and Gene W9PNG

President's report: by Don KC9EQQ, September program Memorial for Bob Koran N9JYX, and Gregg AB9MZ, program on emergency preparedness were a success.

October program club's 2017 nominations and a program by Steve Cooper called humor in music.

November program club elections, and Gregg AB9MZ, program on digital modes.

December Christmas party Friday, December 2, doors open 6:30 PM, Papa Joe's in Orland Park, tickets \$25 each. Buy tickets at the October & November meeting or online using PayPal

Hamfester.org for details.

In 2017, many board meetings will be held on the 3rd Monday of the month. At the hamfest in Peoria, Illinois Don KC9EQQ, helped a man who was having a heart attack.

Health and welfare: Jim N9HSH, is in the rehab Inst. in Chicago and is improving. Contact Steve W9KXT, or Cindy N9CAS, with questions.

Ron Koran and Janet Johnn, were grateful for the club's support, after the death of Bob Koran N9JYX, on August 13.

Treasurer's report: by Ed WA9EOL, our club made a profit from our 2016 hamfest.

Minutes: the August board minutes were approved by Steve W9KXT, and Cindy N9CAS.

Membership: by Brian W9HLQ, we have a new club member KD9GLZ.

Club's trailer events: October 8 10 AM to 3 PM fire safety in Highland, Indiana. Jim W9JPR, will be there with the field day display.

October 15 scouting event. Its purpose to get scouts on the air, (interested in amateur radio) will be held in Orland Park. See Hamfester.org for location and time or contact: Kurt WB9FMC, Steve W9KXT, or Jim W9JPR.

October 22 Coast Guard event in Chicago at Lake Michigan. Contact Mike N9NNL, or Mel K9ZAV, See Hamfesters.org

Badger trip 2016: by Cathy KC9NRH, 12 hams attended, not many contacts, but we had fun.

Adjournment: 8:40 PM



How about ham radio
as a hobby?

General Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

Hamfesters amateur radio club meeting start time 7:45 PM October 7, 2016

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

Program: Tonight Steve Cooper humor in music, and Hamfesters 2017 nomination for club officers and board members.

Tonight there were; 25 members, and 3 visitors.

Tonight's nominations, everyone ran unopposed, so they are elected as 2017 club officers and board members.

Our current president (since 2010) Don KC9EQQ, chose not to be reelected as president. Don is now the hamfest chairman for 2017. This is an appointed position.

These are the Hamfester officers and board members for 2017.

Nora KC9MLV, elected as president.

Jim W9JPR, (formally KB9CYL) reelected vice president.

Ed WA9EOL, reelected treasurer.

Patti KC9LYE, reelected secretary.

Dave W0COP elected Sergeant of arms, temporarily until Jim N9HSH, has recovered.

Board members;

Brian W9HLQ, elected.

Don KC9EQQ, automatic board member because he is former president.

Steve W9KXT, reelected.

Cathy KC9NRH, reelected.

Cindy N9CAS, reelected.

Kurt WB9FMC, reelected.

Election closed Secretary Patti KC9LYE, witnessed election results.

There will be no club paper ballot elections in November.

Congratulations, to the officers and board members of the Hamfester radio club for 2017.

Membership: Brian W9HLQ, club membership renewals \$20, are taking place until November.

You can renew at the club meeting, or online. See Hamfesters.org

We have a new club member KD9GLZ, a technician class, and a member of the ARRL.

Health and welfare: by Steve W9KXT, Jim N9HSH, could soon be released from rehab Inst. of Chicago.

Treasurer's report: by Ed WA9EOL, paid expenses for repairs to our club's trailer.

New business: Senator Dick Durbin has proposed a bill that would make it easier for hams to set up antennas in residential areas.

Programs: November Gregg KB9MZ, digital modes.

December 2 Christmas party at Papa Joe's in Orland Park, doors open 6:30 PM tickets \$25 each purchase tickets from Jim W9JPR, also, on Hamfesters.org

Hamgab, November 2016

Great PR for Hamfesters

On Saturday October 8 we set up the Hamfesters trailer on the ramp at the Highland, Indiana main fire house. They were conducting an Open House in conjunction to fire prevention week.

We set up the trailer, "V" antenna and Flex 5000 HF radio. The weather was perfect and there were many people of all ages in attendance. **We had a wonderful day "playing radio".** Don, KC9EQQ was seen running around taking a camera full of photos, no surprise there was a lot going on. We had a flag raising ceremony complete with bag pipes and honor guard, fire truck rides, amateur radio, donuts, train rides, hot dogs and hamburgers, cold drinks, young people, some teens, and a lot of parents, pop corn, cookies, cakes, living room fire demonstration, ham radio, visits with many firefighters, and making lists of what we need to do for the next event. Those also present; Jim, W9JPR; Granville, W9PNG; Mel, K9ZAV; Al, N9ZD; Mike, N9NNL; Brian, W9HLQ. There were also a number of local hams that stopped by the trailer to visit and say hello.



We urge you to stop by our trailer the next time we have a Special Event operation. Your club has an impressive set up.

Check out our Picture Gallery here for some great pictures of the event!

<https://www.hamfesters.org/main/picture-gallery/highland-2016/>

--Brian, W9HLQ--

North Korean Spies

In July 2016, North Korea has restarted coded radio broadcasts, presumed to be targeted at its spies, for the first time in 16 years. The messages, a recording of which was broadcast by South Korean TV channel KBS, were disguised as a mathematics lesson for distance learners and appeared on North Korean radio station Voice of Korea. The radio messages, also known as numbers stations, work by broadcasting strings of seemingly random numbers over shortwave signals to an agent in the field. The technique, a method of sending one-way secret messages, dates to the French Resistance in World War II and is still in use by some governments today. South Korea jams most North Korean radio frequencies but Pyongyang-based Voice of Korea broadcasts on shortwave which can be picked up far beyond the Korean Peninsula, and are impossible to jam. South Korea's station is known as V-24 to amateur radio enthusiasts who have tracked the source of the signal to a location somewhere south of the Demilitarised Zone separating the two Koreas, and has been known to begin with a scratchy rendition of Beethoven's Piano Sonata No 8.



From Westlakes Amateur Radio Club September Newsletter

Hamgab, November 2016

Hamfesters Participate in Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air

De Jim Riley

On a dreary, damp, windy Saturday 15 October the Hamfesters communications trailer traveled exactly zero feet to participate in its first Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air in a long time. We set up right where we store it and prepared for a steady stream of scouts eager to use our station to contact other scouts around the world via the club's SDR.

In harsh reality, conditions weren't the best and we contacted only a couple of stations. A grand total of two scouts come by. They were provided by Brian Davis W9HLQ as he begged his grandsons to visit. They were Cub Scouts but both made contacts with Boy Scouts in Cincinnati. They seemed to enjoy themselves.



Hamfesters JOTA crew: Standing l to r, Steve Peters W9KXT, Kurt Pawlikowski WB9FMC, Jim Riley W9JPR, Brian Davis W9HLQ, Nora Pointer, KC9MLV, Mel Marcus K9ZAV, and Al Bukowski N9ZD. Kneeling, Don Pointer KC9EQQ and Brian's grandsons.

On the plus side, we discovered that we were woefully underprepared. That's why we learned so much. We learned from the previous week's event at the safety day in Highland, Indiana, that the trailer needs several improvements. We added to that knowledge at JOTA. Ed, get the checkbook ready. From listening to the other stations, we learned how to better run an event like this. This was just a shakedown run. Next year's event will be a vast improvement.

Thanks to Kurt Pawlikowski WB9FMC for getting permission to operate from his church's parking lot. Thanks also to his wife, Helen, for supplying lunch. Thanks to President Don Pointer KC9EQQ for doing the photography. See more pictures on pg. 10 of the web version.



Brian Davis W9HLQ with his grandsons and their father making contacts via our Flex radio

Hamfesters Roster News

We have a new member.... be sure to seek Bill out and invite him to join you in a club activity or project. Get new members involved with the club!

Bill Sheehan, KD9GLZ

He lives in Chicago and works at Argonne Labs.

Bill is into photography, skywarn, kayaking, and backpacking. This might be good for an interest in Nat. Parks on the Air effort, should you be doing that.

73, --Brian, W9HLQ--

Hamfesters VE Testing de Al Bukowski N9ZD VE Coordinator

Hamfesters VE Testing Report for HamGab November 2016

Hamfester's Radio Club VE's team assembled to administered Amateur Radio exams on October 8, 2016 at Oak Forest City Hall. We only had one individual who upgrade to General. Thank You to all VE's who help me at the test sessions.

Information to Read before attending any Amateur Radio Test Session

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>

FCC 'Paperless' Amateur Radio License Policy Now In Effect:

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/>. The FCC site will present a FRN number and request a password when you search your full name and address. Read the instructions to 'Download the Electronic Authorization' for the official license. On the 'Download Authorizations' page the license holder will add their call sign to the 'Authorizations to Download' and then click download. A PDF of the license can be saved to your computer and/or printed immediately on any paper you desire.

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

Our next exam date is November 12 , 2016 at the 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 other questions regarding our test session or about upgrading, please contact N9ZD via e-mail at:

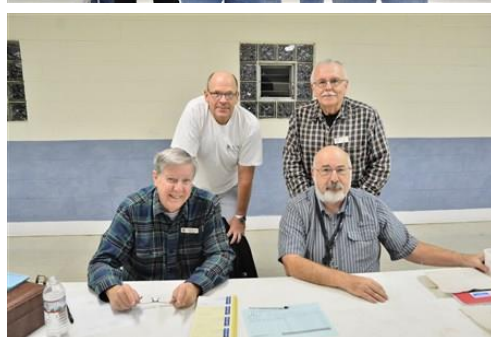
N9ZD@arri.net.

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



Hamgab, November 2016

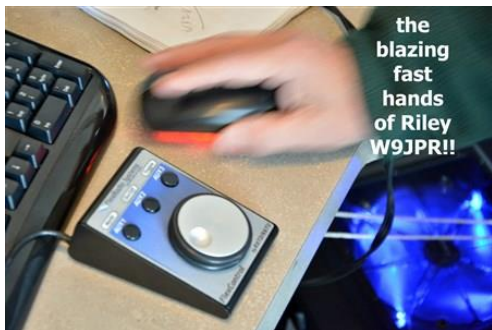
October 2016 meeting pictures, all pictures courtesy of Don KC9EQQ



Hamgab, November 2016



October 2016 Jota Pictures



Hamgab, November 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 24 & June 25 2017 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.