

Ham Gab

Next meeting: December 2nd

December 2016

PO Box 474

Crestwood, IL

60445-0474

www.hamfesters.org

Special Interest Articles

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December Birthdays

Dorothy N9ALC

Joseph KB9FBF

John KB9FQB

Brock KF9GI

Steve W9KXT

Robert K9MDO

Richard N9UNQ

Michael WA9YJA

Ron KB9ZBN

Al N9ZD

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



Christmas Party December 2!

Our Hamfesters Christmas Party is on December 2nd at Papa Joe's in Orland Park. Doors open at 6:30 PM-Dinner at 7 PM. The deadline for purchasing tickets is December 1. Ticket prices are \$25.00 each, they can be purchased online at Hamfesters.org using PayPal. Jim W9JPR will bring your tickets to the event. Also, this year's awards will include a President's award along with the Hamfester Of The Year Award.

It will be a fantastic evening. Papa Joe's is located at 14459 S LaGrange Road. It's easier to come in from the back. If you can, arrive early to help with setup. We hope to see you there.



Thanks again to Gregg AB9MZ for giving last month's presentation of DXing in a mediocre sun spot cycle. Despite some technical difficulties, (apparently, Gregg had a major computer malfunction causing him to lose his slides the day of the presentation), Gregg gave a very informative talk on solar activity and its relation to DXing success. It's hard to keep the SFI, A-index and K-index straight. We appreciate Gregg for making it all a little bit easier.

THE PRESIDENTS BEAT

DONALD POINTER KC9EQQ

DECEMBER 2016

THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA

This column is to be my last as I finish up a wonderful six year run as the President of your Hamfesters Amateur Radio club. Together you and I have witnessed many a change over these past six years. Not just as a club, but personally too. We have said many fond farewells to so many both in the club and outside who are now hopefully in a better place than many of us had come to know and love. We have too though, seen many a new face come to our club looking for a home to call their own, if you will, amongst those who - like these new people - want to share their love for Amateur Radio and embrace all those good things Ham radio has come to stand for in these many decades since the first Ham transmission was made. Things like fellowship, laughter, knowledge and a desire to work together to help out our respective communities of which we work, eat, worship, and raise our families in. Kinda sounds like the great values this country was founded upon, doesn't it?

I have been witness to seeing great and kind people in this club reach out their hands and hearts to strangers coming through our doors and leaving as newfound friends. Nora and I have also been fortunate enough to see, witness, and receive the goodness these same kind people help one another in times of trial and strife. We have seen and felt the melodic sound of laughter when we as a club share great moments of humor at any one of our many club gatherings. (Field day alone we all could write a book about funny moments! Hey is Gene still sleeping on the bench at this year's Field day?? LOL!)

Since I took over the reins as President those six years ago, I have been witness to another great change in our club. More family involvement especially in the increase of wives attending and enjoying this craft called Ham Radio with their Hobbies. That is one message I am SO glad to see getting out is that we are not a bunch of good old boys hunkered down forever in our shacks but we are men and women who are anxious to share all the good things that our craft can bring into the lives of so many. As December begins now I look forward to January when my wife Nora steps behind the gavel because she shares that same mindset as I - To keep reminding folks that we are a family and anyone who comes through our doors shall be welcomed and encouraged to join our club and get involved. And by getting involved we can continue to serve as one of the Premier Amateur Radio clubs worldwide if not the best Ham Club.

I have seen the dedication to this club first hand and personally that all of you in our club have put forth. You keep this club going with your sweat, love, acts of fellowship, ideas, dedication and footwork all of which are designed to keep Ham radio viable and our club too for that matter. Won't you please join with me in welcoming our new President-Elect Nora Pointer KC9MLV at our January meeting? She needs your spirit, your fire and your involvement to guide her, motivate her and propel her into leading this great group of people...
HAMFESTER PEOPLE!

Finally, my friends, I must thank each and every one of you for the support you have shown me over these years. Perhaps not every decision I have made was agreed upon by you, but I dare say, I think most of them have met with your approval and for that I am eternally grateful to you. Especially now as we enter our Holiday season. A season symbolic of Love, grace, Peace, and acceptance. God bless all of you and if I may be of any help at any time to you, I encourage you to reach out to me.



Back on the beat....

Thanks must be given to our very own Gregg Rosenberg for his outstanding program at our November program dealing with all things digital in Ham Radio. We had about 60 people show up and give him great support in the desire to learn more about this new age that Ham Radio has embraced so rapidly and anxiously. Great job Gregg!

A special surprise can now be revealed. Renown singer and dear friend to Nora and I, Ms. Lori London will sing for us several songs with a Holiday feel at our Christmas party on December 2nd at Papa Joes in Orland Park at 7pm. I hope to see you there for a night of great fun and enjoyment.

You can purchase the tickets for \$25.00 per person through our website at Hamfesters.org or you can contact Jim Riley W9JPR. 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.

Lastly, On behalf of Nora and my fellow club officers and board members we extend to you our wishes for a blessed and joyous Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanza this coming 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.

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 October 24, 2016 board meeting 7:30 PM

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim W9JPR, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Nora KC9MLV, Kurt WB9FMC, Gene W9PNG, Cathy KC9NRH, visitor Pete K9OWQ

Silent key: A moment of silence was held for Hamfester members; Bruno K9QKB, Bob N9KTOE, and Jack W9NJB

President's report: by Don KC9EQQ - Congratulations, to Nora KC9MLV, elected Hamfesters President, and all the officers, and board members elected or reelected for 2017.

All 3 events in October that involved the club's trailer were a success and we were invited back next year. The fire safety event in Highland, Indiana. The scouts event held in Orland Park, Illinois, not many contacts, but we had fun. The Coast Guard event held in Chicago. Our club is talking with the Coast Guard about ham license classes.

Hamfest chairman: Don KC9EQQ, will hold a hamfest ideas meeting at Traverso's restaurant in Orland Park on November 3 at 4 PM.

Board meeting: The meeting on November 28 will be held here at the Crestwood center.

Treasurer's report: by Ed WA9EOL - the club's bills are paid. For the trailer. We need to buy chucks for the wheels, the trailer almost ended up in Lake Michigan at the Coast Guard event. Also, for the trailer we need orange cones, and we need a better set of stairs in order to enter the trailer.

New business: The possibility of a stipend for Ham Radio Now, HamNation, and the church where the trailer is stored will be discussed at the November 13 meeting. There will be a certificate of thanks given to the pastor.

Field day: by Jim W9JPR – Field Day will be held on June 24 and 25th 2017. The 2016 Field day results will appear in the December issue of QST magazine.

Awards: by Nora KC9MLV - At the Christmas party, the Hamfester of the Year award will be given out, alongside the President's award.

Can we have certificates for members who work event's?

Minutes: The September board minutes were approved by Jim W9JPR, and Ed WA9EOL.

Adjournment: Nora KC9MLV, Kurt's WB9FMC, at 8:35 PM



Silent Keys

Unfortunately, we recently lost three of our Hamfesters members. Bruno Marusarz, K9QKB, Jack Nienhaus, W9NJB, and Bob Maloney, W9TOE have all passed away. Our sympathies go out to their families.

General Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

Hamfesters amateur radio club meeting, November 4, 2016 7:45 PM

Roll: Don KC9EQQ, Jim W9JPR, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Dave W0COP

There were 39 members, and 7 visitors at the meeting tonight. Welcome everyone!

Silent key: Club members Bob W9TOE, Bruno K9QKB and Jack W9MJB. Also remembered: fallen police officers.

Programs: Tonight: Digital Modes by Gregg AB9MZ.

December 2: Christmas party at Papa Joe's in Orland Park. Doors open at 6:30 PM; tickets are \$25 each, available at Hamfesters.org.

February 2017: Topic Software by Gregg AB9MZ

March 2017: White Elephant Sale.

April 2017: Weather Spotter Certification by Dave N9KPD.

Last month's program by Steve Cooper - Humor in Music - was well received.

Health and welfare: Nora KC9MLV – Her sister Linda had a heart attack; thoughts and prayers go out to her.

Jim N9HSH, is back home at last!

Trailer: Our club's trailer made 3 event appearances in October. We were well received, and asked to attend in 2017.

Hamfest chairman: by Don KC9EQQ - please note there is change in the date. The 2017 Hamfest ideas meeting will be held on Saturday, November 12 at Traverso's restaurant at 4:30 PM.

Treasurer's report: by Ed WA9EOL - The club will buy for the trailer chucks for the wheels, orange cones, and a set of stairs to enter the trailer. The club's bills are paid.

New members: by Brian W9HLQ - New member: Tony Cumbo N9EUR. Welcome Tony!

Awards chairmen: Jim W9JPR, is our new awards chairmen. If you worked club event's in 2016 please email Jim so he can make certificates to be presented at the Christmas party.

Dues: by Brian W9HLQ - Pay your dues for 2017 online at the website with PayPal.

Field day: by Jim W9JPR – Field day will be held on June 24 and 25th 2017. The December issue of QST magazine will have the results for field day 2016.

Old business: by Mike WA9ZPM, Senator Dick Durbin is considering a bill that would make it easier for people living in restricted areas such as condos to put up ham radio antennas.

Minutes: The October club minutes were approved by Gregg AB9MZ, and Bob N9KWG.

New business: Congratulations, to Bob N9KWG, IDOT employee for 25 years. He received a plaque. Club member Carl Coffet (no call sign), renewed his membership to the club and made an additional donation.

Split the pot winner: Rich KB9NTX, door prize winners: Jim W9JPR, Rich N9UNQ, Patti KC9LYE, Mike K9LSH, Lenny KB90UQ, Don KC9EQQ, Steve W9KXT.

Adjournment: at 9:45 PM

Hamfesters Roster News

Welcome to these new members.

Tony Cumbo - N9EUR, general class. Tony lives in Tinley Park and works as a communications engineer. He likes saltwater aquariums, photography and fishing. He hangs out on two meters. Look for him on the air.

Richard Bacorn - KB9NTX, general class. Richard lives in Oak Lawn. Be sure to look him up at the next meeting!

CQ Field Day de Jim Riley W9JPR

Field Day Results de Jim Riley W9JPR

The December digital QST has been posted. That means the results of Field Day 2016 are official. Despite all the glitches, mostly our mistakes and bad luck, we finished with 4020 points. That tied us for 41st place out of 132 in the 4A category. That puts us in the top 31 percent, not as good as our normal 15 percent finish. It was still good enough to gain us first place in Illinois and first in the Central Division.

Thanks to all who participated. Field Day 2017 is June 24 and 25. Looking forward to working with you all again.



Ham Radio License in a Day



(Brian Davis, W9HLQ lecturing on ham radio to a classroom filled with Coast Guard Auxiliary members. The only light available was from the window in the classroom, since the power was out for an hour while Brian was presenting. Nothing stops him!)

Amateur radio is increasingly popular in the U.S. since the Morse code requirement was eliminated. Many first responders, mariners, and Coast Guard Auxiliary members have ham radio licenses. In cooperation with the Hamfesters W9AA amateur radio club, a one day course on the essential information needed to pass the initial (e.g., Technician Class) ham radio license test was presented on 12 November 2016.

This course was held at the West Rock USCG Auxiliary Training Center in Chicago. A syllabus and

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links to online audio and video presentations were provided beforehand. The all-day class taught by senior ham radio operators, led by Brian Davis W9HLQ from Hamfesters.

About 1 hour into the course, we heard that the electrical power would be turned off for about an hour. This didn't stop Brian who continued his presentation without PowerPoint slides or electricity. We were all amazed by his poise and stamina. At the end of the class, a testing session was provided by a group of volunteer examiners, led by Al Bukowski, N9ZD. All six students that took the 35-question multiple choice Technician license test passed and have been issued new licenses. Several other students in the class are continuing their studies and plan to take the exam later.

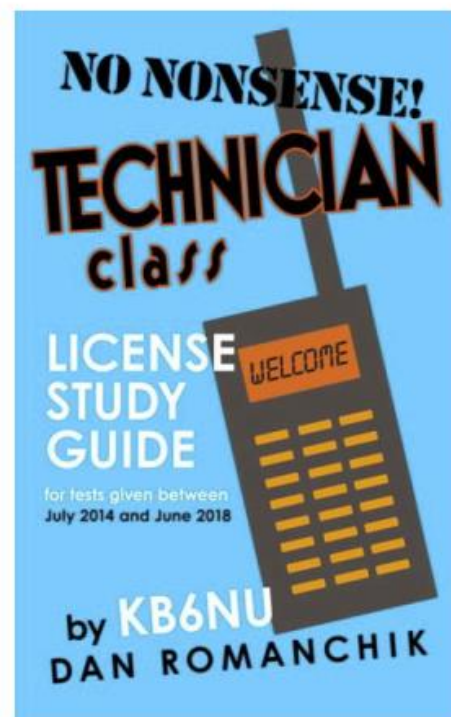
Brian W9HLQ was assisted by other Hamfesters members, including Mel Marcus K9ZAV, Pete Peterson K9OWQ, and Mike Vannier N9NNL.

A ham radio license is a useful complement to the USCG Auxiliary Telecommunications Operator qualification standard, Watchstander requirements, and the AUXCOM program (a separate course on Auxiliary Communications).

Despite the temporary loss of power and the long day, the event was a great success. We welcome our six new colleagues to amateur radio:

Jeff, KD9HKQ
Jen, KD9HKK
Sally, KD9HKP
Dean, KD9HKT
Nick, KD9HKS
Jim, KD9HLA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE			
KF4IJF			
DELGADO, ALBERTO J			
FCC Registration Number (FRN) 0007086481			
Special Conditions/Endorsements			
NONE			
Grant Date	Effective Date	Print Date	Expiration Date
03-30-2006	03-30-2006	03-31-2006	04-04-2016
File Number	Operator Privileges		Station Privileges
0002555456	Technician		PRIMARY
THIS LICENSE IS NOT TRANSFERABLE			
 (Licensee's Signature)			
FCC 680		April 2002	



W9C – Special Event Station

commemorating the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's 77th anniversary

We operated “Whiskey Niner Charlie”, W9C a special event amateur radio station on Saturday October 22, 2016 at USCG Station Calumet Harbor. This station, based on the Hamfesters W9AA communications trailer, operated on amateur H.F. frequencies to commemorate the 77th anniversary of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. This annual event, involving 20 CG Aux stations nationwide, gave us the opportunity to exercise our capabilities while demonstrating our skills to a wide and diverse audience.

Hamfesters (W9AA) communications trailer

This station used a communications trailer and was staffed with guest operators from the Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club (W9AA). The event was a great success with fine weather and warm hospitality from the uniformed Coast Guard personnel. A certificate of appreciation from the USCG Auxiliary Division 35 for support of this event was presented to Don Pointer at the Hamfesters November monthly meeting..



John “Hoppy” Hopkins from the USCG Auxiliary welcomes Don Pointer (KC9EQQ), President of Hamfesters, to the USCG Station Calumet Harbor on the 77th anniversary of the USCG Auxiliary special event.

Hamfesters VE Testing de Al Bukowski N9ZD VE Coordinator

Hamfesters VE Testing Report for HamGab December 2016

Hamfester's Radio Club VE's team assembled in the morning on November 12, 2016 at Oak Forest City Hall to administered Amateur Radio exams. We only had five individuals who earned a Technician ticket and one individual who earned a General ticket. Then in the afternoon, the VE's had a special exam session at the Coast Guard Auxiliary. We had six individuals who took the Technician exam and passed. Congratulations to all. And a big Thank You to all VE's who help me at the test sessions. We had a lot of paperwork to complete.

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](http://www.fcc.gov) - 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 December 10 , 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.

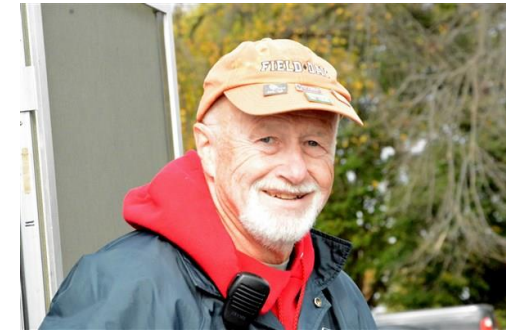
If you have any other questions regarding our test session or about upgrading, please contact N9ZD via e-mail at:

N9ZD@arrl.net.

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



Pictures from Coast Guard Auxiliary Special Event courtesy of Don KC9EQQ



Hamgab, December 2016



Michael is still looking for Jimmie Johns Phone number!



Merry Christmas!



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.