



# Ham Gab

Next meeting: January 6<sup>th</sup>

January 2017



PO Box 474  
Crestwood, IL  
60445-0474  
[www.hamfesters.org](http://www.hamfesters.org)

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### January Birthdays

Paul Batchelor  
James W9ATT  
Richard KA9HMV  
Jim W9JUG  
Michael N9NNL  
Mark KA9OOI  
William K9OWQ  
Peggy K9QLM  
Michael WA9ZPM  
Ruth Maloney

### 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

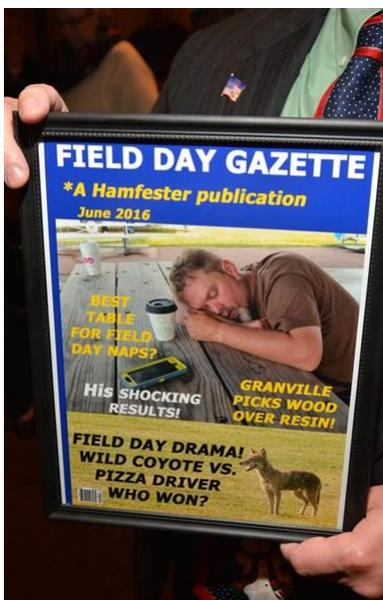
### Hamqab Editors

Steve & Eric  
KC9OOL & KC9OOM



Don KC9EQQ receives a presidential appreciation award.

## Highlights of the December 2016 Christmas Party



Our 1<sup>st</sup> Field Day Gazette



Gene W9PNG receives the President's award.



Bob N9KWG & Kathy KC9NRH present the Hamfester of the Year Award.



Jim Liston, Hamfester of the Year  
R.I.P. Jim: see tribute below.

## Hamgab January 2017

We had a wonderful Hamfester's Christmas party this year. This was Don's KC9EQQ's last Christmas party as President of Hamfesters and boy, did he go out with style. Don was presented a special plaque from the club in appreciation for all of the work he's done as president of Hamfesters. Nice work Don and we're happy the leadership of Hamfesters will "stay in the family" as Nora takes the gavel next year.

Don also received a special letter from St Nick himself giving him permission to put the \$20 joke to rest. We're thinking that's a pretty tall order even for Santa Claus.

The first ever Field Day Gazette was presented to Granville /Gene W9PNG as it featured him taking the obligatory Field Day Nap after a long night of keeping the GOTA tent up and running. It also featured our new Field Day mascot: the Field Day Cayote. Let this be a warning to all Field Day pizza delivery men to be on the lookout.

Don then presented Granville the president's award. It is well deserved as Gene has been so active in running the web site, helping with the trailer, and so much more: not to mention staying up all night in the GOTA tent. Thanks Gene for all you do.

Bob N9KWG & Kathy KC9NRH gave an elegant speech awarding Jim Liston as the Hamfester Of The Year. Unfortunately, Jim was unable to attend due to worsening health problems and as many of you know Jim passed away on December 3. See our tribute to Jim below. Bob and Kathy gave an emotional tribute to Jim under difficult circumstances and our sympathies go out to Cindy and the rest of Jim's family.

The evening was capped off by the marvelous singing of Laurie London. It was an evening that allowed us all to appreciate what a blessing it is to be a Hamfester.

Our next meeting will be on January 6<sup>th</sup> and will be a Hamfester's nostalgia night featuring old Hamfesters pictures and videos. It looks to be very entertaining. The board meeting was cancelled so there are no minutes for this month.



**Jim Liston N9HSH**



**You will be missed.**



# THE PRESIDENTS BEAT

NORA POINTER KC9MLV

JANUARY 2017

Hello everyone and Happy New Year! I am honored to have been elected as only the second female to be president of our club. Keeping the presidency in the family so to speak. Thank you to Don Pointer, KC9EQQ for his awesome leadership the past six years and with him by my side, I hope to continue to keep our club moving forward. We will still have the same Board of Directors with the welcome addition of Brian Davis, W9HLQ. I am not as eloquent a writer as Don is and we all love reading his columns, so I have asked him to continue his thoughts and words to us by writing a separate column for the Hamgab.

I am happy to say goodbye to year 2016 wherein we lost so many beloved members of our club. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the family of our most recent loss of Jim Liston, N9HSH. We shall do a small memorial to him at the January meeting.

Speaking of the January meeting, it will be Nostalgia night. So any Hamfester Club memorabilia you may have or just your stories, please bring them with and share with us. It should be very interesting. So those people who were asking for an evening like this, I do hope you join in.

It has been wonderful to see more women attending our meetings and I hope it continues.

We hope to have more participation from our members. Maybe you have been a member so long and figured you put your time in but we still need you. And Don will need help as he takes over the reins as Hamfest Chairman. The Hamfest's attendance has been diminishing and we need ideas and help to make our August Hamfest successful. Remember, this is the major fund raiser for our club.



Lastly, thanks to everyone who attended our Christmas party and got a special treat of the entertainment provided by renown singer and dear friend to Don and I, Ms. Lori London, who sang for us several songs with that Holiday feel. Lori was a last minute addition to our party and as Don always says, keep an eye on our website you never know what we might come up with to inform you of events happening in the club. Also thanks to Papa Joe's and their staff for their excellent service.

News: Upcoming Hamfest: Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs Mid-Winter Hamfest will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2017, Kane County Fairgrounds Expo Center, 525 S. Randall Road, St. Charles, IL.

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

Nora Pointer KC9MLV

## CQ Field Day de Jim Riley W9JPR

As I write this, it's the eve of some extremely non Field Day weather. The temperature is 9 degrees and the wind is blowing snowy powder over the roads. We're expecting a below-zero high for tomorrow with wind chills in the negative teens and twenties. It's a perfect time to start thinking about Field Day. It's just about six months away.

As you read this, the application for Altman Park in Worth has been submitted. It may already have been accepted. Altman Park is at 116<sup>th</sup> and Oketo, about a quarter mile west of Harlem. Field Day 2017 is June 24 and 25. Take a minute to mark all those calendars you get in the mail, at church, your bank, your insurance company, or anyplace else, with red circles around the dates so you don't forget.

In years past I have presented a Field Day program at the June meeting. This year will be no exception. If you have any photos from FD 2016, please get them to me so I can include them in the show.

If you're new to the club or Amateur Radio, definitely make plans to stop by. Field Day is the biggest operating event of the year. Our crew has been at it a long time and knows what it takes to make ours the best FD anywhere. Yes, we've learned from last year's mistakes. They'll make great stories for 2017.



## Raffle Prize Donations Needed

### Hamfesters Monthly Raffle

We try to do the best we can for prizes for the monthly Hamfest meetings. We however have a limited budget we can work from. We would encourage all members to contribute an item for the monthly raffle. It might be something that would be useful to others, but is no longer of use to you. It could also simply be something you just choose to donate. We try to get as broad a variety of prizes as we can. With your donations, we can have even more variety and nicer prizes for our monthly raffles. If you can help we would greatly appreciate it.

This is one other small source of income for the club. Your prize doesn't have to be electronic in nature; it can be any- thing even if it doesn't deal with ham radio. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of making a prize donation and hope to hear from you very soon.

Feel free to contact me by email at

kb9yxh@yahoo.com or call me at (708)234-0280.

73' Bob Richter KB9YXH Raffle Chairman

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

## TECH SUPPORT Version 1.3

The young woman who submitted the tech support message below (about her relationship to her husband) presumably did it as a joke. Then she got a reply that was way too good to keep to herself. The tech support people's love advice was hilarious and genius!

### The query:

Dear Tech Support,

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and noticed a distinct slowdown in overall system performance, particularly in the flower and jewelry applications, which operated flawlessly under Boyfriend 5.0. In addition, Husband 1.0 uninstalled many other valuable programs, such as Romance 9.5 and Personal Attention 6.5, and then installed undesirable programs such as: NBA 5.0, NFL 3.0 and Golf Clubs 4.1.

Conversation 8.0 no longer runs, and House cleaning 2.6 simply crashes the system. Please note that I have tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail.

What can I do?

Signed, Desperate

### The response (that came weeks later out of the blue):

Dear Desperate,

First keep in mind, Boyfriend 5.0 is an Entertainment Package, while Husband 1.0 is an operating system. Please enter command: I thought you loved me.html and try to download Tears 6.2. Do not forget to install the Guilt 3.0 update. If that application works as designed, Husband 1.0 should then automatically run the applications Jewelry 2.0 and Flowers 3.5.

However, remember, overuse of the above application can cause Husband 1.0 to default to Grumpy Silence 2.5, Happy Hour 7.0, or Beer 6.1. Please note that Beer 6.1 is a very bad program that will download the Farting and Snoring Loudly Beta version. Whatever you do, DO NOT, under any circumstances, install Mother-In-Law 1.0 as it runs a virus in the background that will eventually seize control of all your system resources.

In addition, please do not attempt to re-install the Boyfriend 5.0 program. These are unsupported applications and will crash Husband 1.0. In summary, Husband 1.0 is a great program, but it does have limited memory and cannot learn new applications quickly. You might consider buying additional software to improve memory and performance. We recommend Cooking 3.0.

Good Luck!

Courtesy of Brian W9HLQ



## The Hamfester's guide to Staying Safe Online in 2017

It's the holiday season once again, and many of us are enjoying the chance to sit back and spend some more time with our families. However, online criminals aren't taking time off right now, and one of the best resolutions you can make for the New Year is to learn more about keeping you and your family safe online. The following are a few tips that can help you do just that. The first four are important tips for everyone, while the last few talk about software that can be helpful for the more tech-savvy hamfesters out there.



**Keep your software up to date.** Many times, when a program on your computer restarts to install updates, it doesn't seem like anything has changed afterwards. With this in mind, it's easy to put off updates for months because you don't want to waste an extra few minutes to restart. However, updates like this often patch security holes that researchers have discovered. Even if it seems like an update didn't do anything, it may provide an essential fix for a problem that would have otherwise left your computer open to attackers. It's always good to install updates as soon as possible so you're not left vulnerable.

**Rely on antivirus only as a last resort.** Through years of recommendations (and advertising) many people have come to overestimate the importance of antivirus software. Antivirus works by recognizing unique signatures of malware (viruses) running on the system, but it only works against malware that the company producing it has studied before. This means that antivirus is good at stopping malware that's been around for a while, but useless against brand new ones. Given that it can take some time between a virus showing up on the internet and researchers finding it and studying it, *you* have to be your first line of defense. Rely on your best judgment when deciding what websites to visit and what links to click on. Just like you wouldn't walk into a seedy-looking business in a bad part of town, you don't want to go clicking on things that might not be trustworthy.

**Learn to recognize phishing attempts.** During the holiday season, it's common to see emails from scammers saying that someone has sent you an online Christmas card, that one of your packages has been delayed, or something similar. However, when you open these emails, you might notice that they seem a bit off, or they might try to get you to click on a link that takes you to a login page for a website like Amazon or PayPal. These login pages are likely fake, and the attacker is trying to trick you into logging in so that they can steal your account. This is called phishing, and it's way that most large-scale breaches you see on the news start. Attackers are crafty, so it's hard to combat phishing, but the simplest way to protect yourself is to check that the address of the page matches what you expect before you enter your password into anything. Treat your passwords like you would your social security number – always think twice before entering them into a website.

**Secure your email first.** For an attacker, your email account can act as a master key to all your other accounts. Most websites that you have an account with will give you the option to send an email to yourself containing a link that you can use to reset your password. If an attacker compromises your email account, the first thing they will do is try to reset your password with any site you might have an account on, then use the password reset links to take complete control of those accounts. For this reason, it's important that your email account never get compromised, because if it does, you'll have to call your email provider and be able to prove your identity in order to recover it. Therefore, even if you don't follow advice about using strong, unique passwords on *all* of your accounts, you should make it a priority to have a very strong password for your email account that isn't used by any other services. Even if an attacker compromises one of your other accounts, maintaining control over your email will mean that you can still reset those passwords to get the account back.

**Use an ad blocker (but know how to turn it off).** Many of us know that the majority of websites rely on advertisements for revenue. Unfortunately, the website owner usually has little to no control over these advertisements, which makes them the number one way malware finds its way into otherwise legitimate websites. Ad Blockers prevent this and typically help pages load faster. However, they can't be used everywhere. Using an ad blocker hurts the bottom line for sites that rely on advertising, and many of the more popular sites (especially video streaming and new sites) will ask users to disable their ad blocker before allowing them to view any content. While this can be inconvenient, security experts generally agree that it's better to use an ad blocker and disable it selectively than to go without one entirely. Be careful though! A few months ago, Forbes accidentally served several hundred users malware after asking them to disable



their ad blocker, which just goes to show that even reputable sites can fall prey to malicious advertisements. A good strategy is to make a list of the websites you visit most often, install an ad blocker, then go to each of those websites and disable it for that site. One of the most popular ad blockers among security experts is “UBlock Origin”, which is available as an extension for Chrome, Firefox, and Edge. “Privacy Badger” is sometimes better – it would be my first recommendation if not for the fact that it frequently breaks popular websites, and is a bit more confusing to disable. If you don’t feel particularly tied to your current browser, the Brave Browser is an interesting project that features a built-in ad blocker and a micropayments infrastructure so that you can compensate your favorite websites by just paying them directly the few fractions of a cent worth of ad revenue that you’re costing

them. Whatever you choose, using an ad blocker is one of the best ways to prevent malware from sneaking into otherwise trustworthy sites.

**Use two-factor authentication.** Security researcher Dan Kaminsky caused quite a stir a few years ago when he posted his Facebook and Twitter passwords publicly on his blog. However, he was able to get away with this because he uses two-factor authentication (2FA). 2FA means that whenever Dan tries to log in with to one of his accounts, in addition to his user name and password, he uses a special numeric code generated by an app on his smartphone that changes every 30 seconds. Facebook and Twitter know how to generate the code as well, so before letting Dan log in, they check that the code he entered matches the one that they generated. An attacker wouldn’t have access to Dan’s phone, so even if they knew his password, they wouldn’t be able to log in to his account. While I don’t recommend posting our passwords online, 2FA is a great way to make your accounts very difficult to hack. It’s simple to use via the Google Authenticator app, and [turnon2fa.com](http://turnon2fa.com) has guides on how to enable it for all the major services that offer it. For those without smartphones, many services will even send you a text containing the code when you try to log in, which many people find more convenient.

**Use a password manager.** Many moons ago, we talked about how password storage works and why it’s important to have a strong password. Unfortunately, having a strong password isn’t enough. It’s much more important to use unique passwords for different websites than it is to have one strong password used for all of them. If someone manages to brute force the password for your MySpace account from 2007, it’s a minor inconvenience. But if that’s the same password you use for your bank account, it could be a disaster. Since we all know that it’s difficult to maintain a large mental collection of both strong and unique passwords, programs called password managers exist to help with this. A password manager stores all of your passwords in well-secured database, and lets you protect them behind a “master password”. They’re the high-tech equivalent of keeping a notebook with your passwords in your safety deposit box. This way, when you want to log into a website, you use the master password to retrieve the password for that website from your password manager, and the password manager remembers it for you. This means that you only have to remember one strong master password, while still having strong and unique passwords for all of your accounts on other sites. Most experts use a password manager, but some feel that relying on one leaves users more open to compromise. However, since all the popular password managers have *extremely* good security, I feel that a good balance is to let the password manager handle most of your accounts, but not to put your life in its hands. I choose to remember three strong passwords – one for my password manager, which stores almost all of my other passwords; one for my email account; and one for my bank account. While an attacker compromising my password manager would cause me a very bad day, they wouldn’t be able to steal my money without my bank password, and without my email password, they wouldn’t be able to lock me out of the aforementioned “master key” to my accounts. There are several good password managers available, but the most popular one is called LastPass. It’s available for every major browser and operating system, and they have a helpful guide on how to use it at [helpdesk.lastpass.com](http://helpdesk.lastpass.com). While I use LastPass myself, 1Password and KeePass are also popular, so take a look at the options available to you.

**Think like Taylor Swift.** This sounds weird, but it’s a common joke in the security community. Ms. Swift, along with other celebrities, has to be vigilant about her online security, because she has an influential voice that makes her a juicy target for hackers. It’s important to remember that just because it doesn’t seem to you like anyone would want to hack you, your personal information is still a valuable commodity for criminals. It’s always a good policy to assume that you’re a target, and behave accordingly.

-- 73’s and stay safe de Eric KC9OOM

## Hamfesters VE Testing de Al Bukowski N9ZD VE Coordinator

### Hamfesters VE Testing Report for HamGab January 2017

Hamfester's Radio Club VE's team assembled the morning of December 10, 2016 at Oak Forest City Hall to administered Amateur Radio exams. We had one candidate who passed his Technician exam. The other two individuals passed their General class exam. Congratulations to all. And a big Thank You to all VE's who help me at the test sessions.

### Information to Read before attending any Amateur Radio VE Test Session

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 upgrading can use the FRN number on their amateur license in place of the SSN.

### Upgrade Examinations:

Important: 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 (average 6 days) before your new or upgraded Amateur License is posted on the FCC website. Please check often 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:

We start a New Year for the next exam, January 14, 2017 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 marked 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](mailto:N9ZD@arri.net).

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

Happy New Year to All.

73's de AL - N9ZD



Hamgab January 2017  
Christmas party pictures 2016 courtesy of Don KC9EQQ



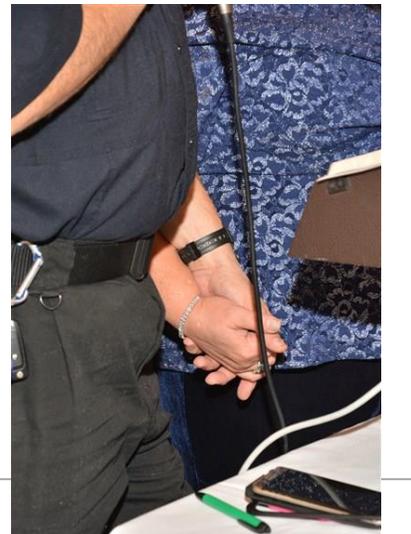
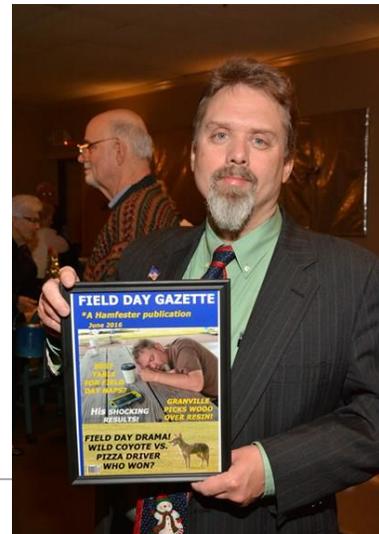
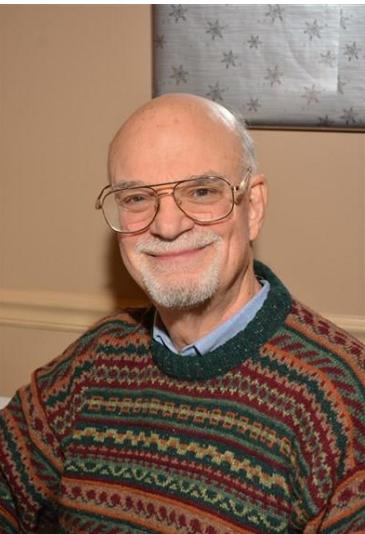
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## Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 474

Crestwood, IL 60445-0474

[www.Hamfesters.org](http://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 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at the Crestwood Civic Center

VE TESTING: Every 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 80<sup>th</sup> 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 115<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.*