

Ham Gab

Next meeting: May 5th

May 2017

PO Box 474
Crestwood, IL
60445-0474

www.hamfesters.org

Special Interest Articles

Field Day pg. 5
DMR Radio pg. 6

May Birthdays

Donald KC9EQQ
Brian W9HLQ
Joshua KD9IAC
Tom KC9JZF
David N9KPD
Gregg AB9MZ
Cathy KC9NRH
Steve KC9OOL
James KC9WEZ
John KC9ZAX
Carl Coffelt (no call sign)

Officers

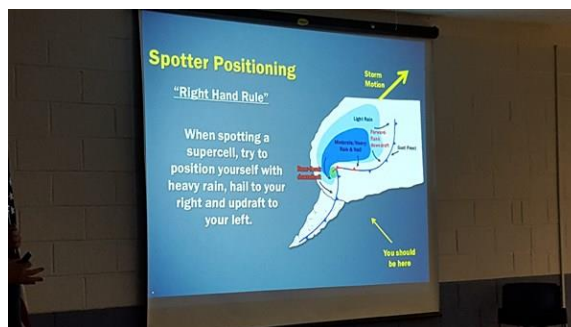
President-Nora KC9MLV
Vice President-Jim KB9CYL
Secretary-Patty KC9LYE
Treasurer- ED WA9EOL
SGT at Arm-Dave W0COP
Trustee-Granville W9PNG

Board Members

Don KC9EQQ
Steve W9KXT
Kurt WB9FMC
Cindy N9CAS
Cathy KC9NRH
Brian W9HLQ

Hamgab Editors

Steve & Eric
KC9OOL & KC9OOM
Scapstone@aol.com



Our April meeting was Dave N9KPD's annual Basic Weather Spotting Class. Once again the class was well attended and expertly presented by Dave. Dave gave some prime examples of what to do and what not to do in cases of severe weather. So remember the "Right Hand Rule" and always be safe. Thanks again Dave!

Digital Radio - DMR Introduction

Our next meeting will feature Digital Mobile Radio.

Digital Mobile Radio is sweeping the amateur radio landscape. There is a lot of excitement about this new mode of voice communication. It is time to find out more about DMR. Hamfesters is bringing in a guest speaker, Tony Tolbert, W9AMT, from Indianapolis to give us the details of what this new open technology mode is all about.

Tony will tell us why DMR is so compelling for hams to use and show us the basics of how DMR operates. We are sure you will be impressed with Tony's presentation and the capabilities of the DMR mode.



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

**APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY
FLOWERS!**

THE PRESIDENTS BEAT

NORA POINTER KC9MLV
MAY 2017

Hello everyone. Thanks to everyone who came out to the Weather Program. We had over 80 people in attendance. Dave Bukowski, N9KPD did an excellent presentation. Thanks to Gregg AB9MZ for his donation of two weather radios for the raffle and Cindy's N9CAS donation of Hamfester T-Shirts. Also thanks to all members for helping in the set up and cleanup of the room. It is very much appreciated.

Health and Welfare: Our best wishes go out to all Hamfesters who may not be feeling well.

New Members: Welcome to Martin O'Grady, K9MOG and Michael McGuire, KD9GTP. Glad to have you aboard.

May Program: This looks like the program you don't want to miss. The subject will be on Digital Mobile Radio. Hamfesters will be bringing in a guest speaker, Tony Tolbert, W9AMT, from Indianapolis to give us the details of what this new open technology mode is all about. Thanks to Brian, W9HLQ and to Dave W0COP for arranging Tony to come and speak to our group. So spread the word to your friends.

June Program: Jim Riley, W9JPR brings his Field Day Program to life. This is always a fun evening. New members you will definitely want to see this and see what goes on when you join us at Field Day.

Emergency Contact info book update: We never know when someone may become ill at any of our given events. A few years ago, Don introduced the Hamfesters Emergency Contact info book. This book has information sheets which are filled out by you our fellow members and has such things on that sheet, like who to contact in an emergency, special immediate need medications and things like allergies, and other medical concerns that we might need to know to help Paramedics better assist one of our own should they become ill at a meeting. This book is only handled by Officers and board members of Hamfesters and is a volunteer sign up. Your information given us in these sheets is purely for revelation to emergency personnel. At the May program, Don will make an announcement to you all to see who either needs to update their sheet or create a brand new one. We strongly encourage your participation as we know it can be a lifesaver.



Volunteers Needed: Now is the season for a lot of charities having their 5K races, and will be looking for ham radio volunteers for staging along the route. If you are looking to put your skills to good use and volunteer your time, please let me or Cindy N9CAS know, so we can start a list of names who would be willing to participate in any of these upcoming events. Hamfesters we need to get out there are promote our club.

As always, we ask you to keep an eye on the website for the most current happenings in our club. On behalf of myself and the Officers and Board members of Hamfesters, thank you for all you do for Hamfesters.

73,

Nora Pointer KC9MLV

President of Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club of Crestwood

P.S: If you need to reach me, please email me at: npointer92@gmail.com

Questions, comments etc., for Nora? Please email her at: npointer92@gmail.com

Board Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

Hamfesters amateur radio club board meeting start time 7:12 PM.

Roll: Nora KC9MLV, Jim W9JPR, Don KC9EQQ, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, Cathy KC9NRH, Steve W9KXT, Brian W9HLQ,

President's report: Nora KC9MLV, Lions Club April 30, Evergreen Park will have a 5K run. Hams are needed to help out.

Health and welfare: Kurt WB9FMC, is having issues with his eyes. Judy Riley will have hip replacement surgery soon. Stan W9KME, has been released from hospital.

Minutes: The minutes from the last meeting were approved by Don KC9EQQ, seconded by Ed WA9EOL.

Treasurer's report: by Ed WA9EOL, we've been receiving club dues. Future, put money into CDs. The trailers vehicle sticker has been renewed.

Membership: Brian W9HLQ, Hamgab's have been mailed to members to need all will them. Members who haven't paid dues since 2015 have been dropped the membership. Back dues are not being collected, to be a member pay only 2017 dues.

Programs: April annual weather spotting by Dave N9KPD.

Five weather radios will be raffle off at the meeting, donated by Gregg AB9MZ.

May program DMR radios by Tony W9AMT, (friend of Dave W0COP).

July 7 picnic Don KC9EQQ, and Nora KC9MLV, won't be there, Jim W9JPR, will preside. Ron KB9TCX, will provide the color guard at the picnic.

Publicity: Gregg AB9MZ, is working with Dave N9KPD.

Field day: Jim W9JPR, the field day location is confirmed. The GOTO station will be Bob N9JYX. There will be a field day Memorial for Jimmy N9HSH.

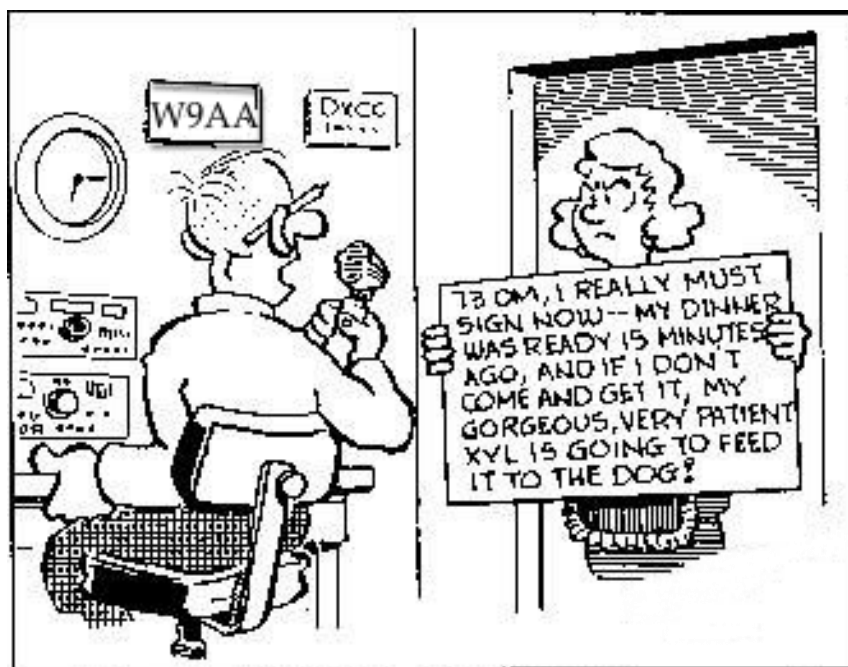
Education: Brian W9HLQ, extra class license classes may be held in the fall. If anyone is interested in attending please contact Brian.

Old business; Nora KC9MLV, thank you for help at the March 3 meeting.

Don KC9EQQ, will bring the club emergency contact book to the April meeting.

New business: the location for the monthly Hamfester board meeting will be changed to the church in Orland Park start time 7:30 PM board members approved.

Adjournment: Brian W9HLQ, seconded Ed WA9EOL, 8:25 PM



"73 OM, I REALLY MUST SIGN NOW...."

General Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

Hamfester amateur radio club club meeting April 7, 2017 start time 7 PM.

Roll: Nora KC9MLV, Jim W9JPR, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE

Attending tonight's meeting; 40 members, 45 visitors.

President's report: Nora KC9MLV, 1A Lions Club 5K run will held on April 30th, hams are needed. A fundraiser will be held on April 15 at the arena bowl. The cost is \$15.00 it includes shoe rental. It's to help a friend of Don and Nora's. For information contact Don and 773-426-1936

Programs: Tonight's program weather spotting by Dave N9KPD.

May program DMR radio by Tony W9AMT

June field day 2016 by Jim W9JPR

Because of the length of the weather spotting program, the regular business meeting was suspended. This motion was approved by John KB9FQB, and seconded by Jim W9JPR.

Tonight's split the pot winner was Rich KB9NTX

Tonight's door prize winners were: Rich N9UNQ, Bob KB9FUR, Don KC9EQQ, Jim W9JPR, Dadlani (no call), Cheryl KC9GMD, Gene W9PNG, Sarah KD9ETH, Ken N9RNT, Kyle Collins (no call), Brian W9HLQ

Adjournment: at 10:20 PM

Hamfesters Roster News

New Members:

Martin O'Grady, K9MOG

He is retired but does some volunteer work in the area. Martin works 2 meter FM although he is a General licensee. He lives in Markham. He entertains with the piano. (Don & Nora: he might be an entertainment candidate for the Christmas party)

Michael McGuire, KD9GTP

He is a college professor at Moraine Valley Community College. He lives in Mokena. Michael likes trail running and camping. He will help with the club in any capacity but did check off helping with web work and field day. He is a tech licensee and operates on 2m and 70 cm bands.

73,

--Brian, W9HLQ--

CQ Field Day de Jim Riley W9JPR

It's getting warmer and Field Day is on the way. If you're setting up a station, it's time to start checking your FD equipment to make sure it's ready to go. Last year's May board meeting was held at the trailer where we cleaned out a lot of unnecessary gear and looked everything over.

Since the board is meeting at the church where the trailer is kept, we'll probably do that again. More on that at the meeting. Our newer members might want to come out that night and get their first look at the trailer.



This is a final call for photos from last year.

Below is a duty roster based on last year's participant sign-in log. Please let me know if you can or can't repeat. You can call my roster number or email fieldday@hamfesters.org. If you let me know before the meeting, I won't have to beg while you're trying to enjoy your donuts.

That's it for this month. If you haven't circled the date yet, Field Day begins on June 24 at 0800 when we start setting up. Operations run from 1800Z Saturday to 1800Z Sunday. The place is Altman Park at 116th and Oketo, a quarter mile west of Harlem in Worth.

Field Day Cast of Characters 2016

Glitchmeister: Jim Riley W9JPR

Sunrise Overseer: George Young N9VOK, in absentia

Trailer hauling: Granville Phillips W9PNG

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

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, Brian Davis W9HLQ, Steve Hennenfent KC9OOL, Jim Riley W9JPR

Teardown: everyone who was still around

What is DMR Radio?

Our May Hamfesters meeting is going to feature a guest speaker to introduce you to a new and fast growing VHF/UHF mode of voice and digital communication. DMR means Digital Mobile Radio. Repeaters supporting this mode are springing up like mushrooms providing an exciting new communication mode. I got involved because I wanted to know what it was all about.

Several months ago Bob, N9KWG, used a small radio like the one shown below (TYT MD-380) and raised a repeater in Gary, Indiana from inside our meeting room in Crestwood. The audio quality was excellent and no noise. Then I saw Mike, N9NNL, with a radio. That raised my interest enough to find out more about this mode and then order a radio off eBay. It cost me \$98 with no shipping charge from California. I received the radio in three days. Now what? How do I make it work?

I learned that setting up the radio can be confusing and intimidating. I spent a lot of time talking to other hams who have DMR radios and watching YouTube videos on how to program the radio. **Some of the videos are very poor...but the good ones explain the process clearly.**

Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) is an international digital radio standard developed by the European **Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI)**, and first ratified in 2005. Hams are “de-tuning” this robust communications system for our needs. More than a decade ago, vendors and users of radio systems recognized that the existing analog trunking standards required updates with modern techniques to provide:

- 1 Improved voice quality
- 2 Improved functionality such as Location information)
- 3 Improved security (i.e. Authentication and Encryption)
- 4 Improved channel efficiency (2 slot TDMA)

The DMR standard also specifies the use of TDMA technology. TDMA stands for Time Division Multiple Access. TDMA provides two logical channels and each 12.5-kilohertz channel space (see diagram below). This provides a useful doubling of capacity within the same analog channel space. The ham repeaters use two slices as shown in the graphic below.



Tytera MD-380

DMR offers several benefits to users:

- 1) **DMR is an 'open' standard and is not proprietary to a single manufacturer. This means that competition is possible between manufacturers, not only when a new system is purchased, but over the lifetime of the system. So, if you need to purchase new radios there will always be multiple options and competitive pricing.**
- 2) For the end user, one of the key benefits of DMR digital radio technology is the *improvement in audio quality* over analog. An analog signal will gradually weaken and become harder to use as the **distance from the site is increased. The user will experience increased amounts of 'hiss and crackle'** until finally the received audio is completely lost in the noise. A digital signal, however, will remain clear to the edge of coverage. Both modes have about the same range, but DMR audio quality remains clear until it abruptly disappears as distance increases.
- 3) Data applications. Not only is DMR capable of transmitting voice, but the end-to-end digital nature of DMR enables data applications such as text messaging, GPS and telemetry. As the DMR standard also supports the transmission of IP data over the air, this allows for the easy development of standard applications. Your ability to host a wide range of data applications on your voice system will result in the possibility for further experimentation.
- 4) DMR is a TDMA technology which offers the principle benefit of two simultaneous and independent talk paths in one single 12.5 KHz channel. Because you use existing licensed channels, there is an easier migration from analog to digital. All the repeater operator needs to do is pull the analog repeater and install a DMR repeater.
- 5) DMR is designed for an easy migration from analog to digital. From the start, a major design goal was that the output spectrum must fit into the existing 12.5 kHz narrowband FM channels used by legacy analog systems. As DMR uses very simple transmitters, similar to those found in analog systems, the portables and mobiles can be operated in dual mode, analog or digital mode. This makes the migration path much simpler. No new licensing or coordination required.
- 6) DMR has longer battery life than regular analog portables. The reason for this is greater power efficiency. One of the biggest challenges with portable devices has always been battery life. Two-slot TDMA offers a way forward. Since a call uses only one of the two time slots, it requires only half of **the transmitter's capacity as the transmitter is idle half of the time.**
- 7) Advanced control features. The DMR standard allows for the ability to use the second time slot for reverse-channel signaling. That means instructions in the form of signals can be sent to the radio on the second time slot channel while the first channel is in a call. This capability can be used for priority call control, remote control of the transmitting radio or emergency call pre-emption and gives precise control and flexibility to the operator of a radio system.

Once you put all this together you have a compelling reason to look into this mode. The radio gear currently available is relatively inexpensive, however the expensive top tier Motorola radios work with this system also. Finally, the hams and the commercial folks are getting together - perhaps as a matter of convenience or coincidence.

Before the Hamfesters May meeting try to learn more about DMR. Search the web for articles and videos about DMR radios. You might be surprised.

73,
-Brian, W9HLO-

Hamfesters VE Testing de Al Bukowski N9ZD VE Coordinator

Hamfesters VE Testing Report for HamGab May 2017

Hamfester's Radio Club VE's team assembled on the morning of April 8, 2017 at Oak Forest City Hall to administer Amateur Radio exams. We had one candidate who upgraded to Extra. To the VE's who assist me at these exam sessions. Thank You!

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. If you fail any exam, it will be up to the discretion of the examiners to retake a different version of that element for an additional \$15.00 dollar fee.

Requirements:

A fee of \$15 dollars is charged for the examination. Payment is Cash ONLY -- no credit cards or checks. Also, 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. SSN or the FRN number is a requirement on the FCC form. Licensed amateurs upgrading will always use the FRN number printed on their current 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.

Are You a New Licensee or an 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/>. Read the instructions to 'Download the Electronic Authorization' to print your 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 stock you desire.

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

The next exam session will be held on May 13, 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 ARRL Amateur Radio testing exam signs for directions.

If you have any other questions regarding our test sessions or wish to pre-register, please contact N9ZD via e-mail at: N9ZD@arrl.net. Last minute Walk-ins are welcome.

73's de AL - N9ZD



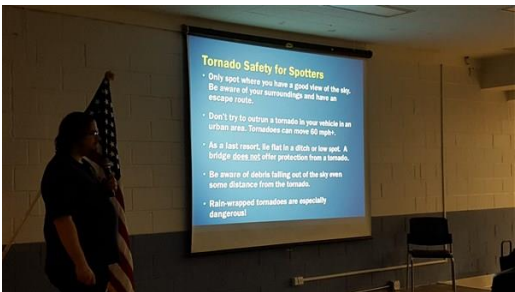
Hamgab May 2017
April 2017 meeting pictures courtesy of Don KC9EQQ



Hamgab May 2017



Hamgab May 2017



Hamgab May 2017





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 81st annual Hamfest coming August 6th, 2017- 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.