

PO Box 474  
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[www.hamfesters.org](http://www.hamfesters.org)

### Special Interest Articles

#### December Birthdays

Joseph KB9FBF  
Brock KF9GI  
Greg KD9HOK  
Stephen W9KXT  
Robert K9MDO  
Richard N9UNQ  
Michael WA9YJA  
Ron KB9ZBN  
Al N9ZD  
Charles N9DJK

#### 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

Bob Richter  
K9RDR  
[Kb9vxh@aol.com](mailto:Kb9vxh@aol.com)



*In memory of  
Kelly Harris KB9ZRM*



Kelly Harris is now a Silent Key as of November 6, 2017. She was active in Hamfesters and brought food to the special occasions that Hamfesters held. She enjoyed cooking, crocheting Blankets for others and helping wherever she could. Her husband is Bob Harris N9RAT. Kelly will be missed by all.



Have a Merry Christmas  
A Happy New Year  
May your Holidays be safe

## Presidents COLUMN

**NORA POINTER KC9MLV**

**DECEMBER 2017**



I am sure I speak for our entire membership when I mention how saddened we all are on the recent sudden loss of our dear friend and member Kelly Harris, KB9ZRM, SK. Our sincerest condolences to her husband and fellow member Bob, N9RAT, on your sad loss. We can not even try to comprehend what he is going through right now. We want you to know Bob that our club will do whatever we can to ease your pain and heartache. To you our members, please look up his contact info on your roster and maybe drop him a call, or send him a card. I am sure he would appreciate it. God Bless you Bob and the memory of your dear wife Kelly. We certainly are grateful for everything you and Kelly have done for our club. Our prayers are with you.

And now back to current club news:

Thanks to Steve Cooper, Ron Smolen and Frank Mrgan for their awesome performance at last months meeting. If you didn't make it to the meeting, you missed a good evening of music. Thank you also to John Russell, from Midwest Ballroom on College of DuPage, for traveling all that distance to come check us out. John interviewed several of our members and will feature the evening's festivities on a future program of his show called The Midwest Ballroom heard on WDCB, 90.9.

**A word of appreciation:** Thanks to the Officers and Board of Directors for choosing to serve our club for another year. And welcome to Mel Marcus, NE9A as a new Board of Director. Thank you Cathy, KC9NRH for your long time of servitude upon the Hamfesters Board.

**Health and Welfare:** Best wishes go out to all Hamfesters who may not be feeling well. Special Prayers go out to Gregg AB9MZ and Dave, W9COP, fighting their health issues.

**DUES:** Thank you to everyone for continuing to pay your dues and renewing your membership in Hamfesters. You can pay your dues at the meeting or you can send it to the club by mail.

**DECEMBER Program:** OH YEAH! Christmas party time! Come join us on December 1, 2017, at Papa Joe's Restaurant in Orland Park, Illinois. Please arrive by 7:00 p.m. Get tickets on line or by mail by contacting Jim

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W9JPR. Hope to see everyone there for a night of laughs, recognitions, great food and friendships.

As always, we ask you to keep an eye on the website for the most current happenings in our club. Remember to Like us on our Hamfesters Page on Facebook. On behalf of myself and the Officers and Board members of Hamfesters, thank you for all you do for Hamfesters. And at this special time of year, my husband Don KC9EQQ and I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and a great New Year!

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

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

## Board Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE



Hamfesters amateur radio club board meeting October 23, 2017 meeting began at 7:30 PM.

Roll: Nora KC9MLV, Ed WA9EOL, Patti KC9LYE, and, Cathy KC9NRH, Steve W9KXT, Brian W9HLQ, Cindy N9CAS, Mel and NE9A, Kurt WB9FMC, Jim W9JPR

**Members:** Rich KB9NTX, Bob N9KWG, Bob K9RDR

health and welfare: Pete K9OWQ, is in the hospital, with a blood clot.

**Minutes:** Steve W9KXT, and Cindy N9CAS, approved the minutes from the last board meeting.

**Treasurer's** report: by Ed WA9EOL, the club has paid Crestwood a stipend, for the use of the community center for our meetings.

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Dues and Christmas party fees have been collected.

**Membership:** by Brian W9HLQ, we have a new member Russell Vondrasick (not sure of the spelling of the last name), he lives in Indiana, he was once a member of Hamfesters.

**Programs:** November Steve Cooper and his orchestra, special guest John Russell.  
December 1st Christmas party (purchase tickets on the website Hamfesters.com)  
Field day: by Jim W9JPR, the numbers from 2017 will be available next month.  
Hamfest 2018: Jim W9JPR, will order 1,500 tickets.

Christmas party 2017: by Jim W9JPR, 21 tickets have been sold.

**Education:** by Brian W9HLQ, four new general class license hams, Mel NE9A, will mentor.

**New business:** by Brian's W9HLQ, challenge coins, a fundraiser for our club, \$3 each.

Hamfester VE's will give a coin to those who pass their license exams.

Kurt WB9FMC, How can the club generate interest to new hams?

**Adjournment:** at 8:20 PM and WA9EOL, and Kurt WB9FMC

## General Meeting Minutes de Patti, KC9LYE

**Hamfesters amateur radio club.** November 3, 2017 club meeting start at 7:30 PM

roll: tonight there were 32 members, and 5 visitors.

Election: club's Secretary Patti KC9LYE, why be voted to approve the officers, and board members for 2018.

**Health and welfare:** in honor veterans day, Steve W9KXT, read a prayer for veterans and people who are now serving.

President's report: by Nora KC9MLV, voted to suspend tonight's club meeting. Approved by Jim W9J PR, and Ed WA9EOL.

**Programs:** tonight, John Russell interviewed veterans for his radio show which can be heard on Saturday at 5 PM on 90.9 FM WDCB.

Tonight's program will air on November 11, 2017. Also, tonight Steve Cooper and 2 members of his orchestra played 1940s music.

December 1. Our Christmas party, to purchase tickets go to Hamfesters.com. The deadline for purchase is the Monday after Thanksgiving.

**Split the pot winner:** Bob N9KWG.

**Adjournment:** at 9:30 PM

### 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

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for our monthly raffles. If you can help we would greatly appreciate it.

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 K9RDR Raffle Chairman

## **Parks On The Air - *"Make Nature Your Shack"***

Recently Ron, (WB9JYZ) and I went on a portable operation to Kankakee River State Park which is just west of Bourbonnais, IL about 4 or 5 miles. We went there to attempt to "activate" that state park site for the "Parks On The Air" (POTA) program. If you look back to the February issue of the Hamgab newsletter you will see an article that I wrote that fully explains the POTA program. It is basically very much like the "National Parks On The Air" (NPOTA) program that was administered by the ARRL during 2016, except the POTA program has significantly more sites that can be activated than the NPOTA program had. There are over 3000 entities/sites included in the POTA USA program, of which 65 are located right here in Illinois and 31 in Indiana which include not only National Parks but also State Parks, Nature Preserves and National Wildlife Refuges.

We picked a really nice day to go. I believe the high temperature for the day was only about 72 degrees with no rain in site and a nice gentle breeze. We arrived at the park about 9:15 AM and started to set up our respective antennas and radio equipment. All of the sudden, Murphy showed up. By the way, Murphy was not invited. He never is invited. He just shows up unexpectedly. He shows up in a lot of places even though no one ever invites him. You know who Murphy is, right. He is the one that started what is commonly referred to as "Murphy's Law" which states "if anything can go wrong, it will go wrong."

Once I got my Buddipole antenna all set up, I checked the SWR while the antenna was only about 5 feet above ground so that I could make any necessary adjustments before I raised the mast up to it's normal operating position of about 18 feet. Everything looked great. The SWR was only about 1.2. You can't get too much better than that, so I raised the mast to the 18 foot level and checked the SWR again. Whoa, wait a minute. Now the SWR went to 8.0. What the heck happened? So I lowered the mast back down to where I could reach everything and checked all my connections to make sure they were tight. Low and behold one of the little mini banana plugs was so loose that it was almost floating inside the socket of the coil clip that it was plugged into. All I could do was plug it about half way in to a point where it was making slightly better contact. Good enough to get by for the day. So at that point I thought that Murphy probably left the area.

Once I fixed the antenna and got all my equipment ready to operate, Murphy showed up again. This time he prevented my laptop computer from accessing the internet. I wanted internet access so that Ron and I could spot ourselves on a DX Cluster. That way more people would know that we were out there and it possibly would



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help to increase the number of our contacts. By this time I was getting pretty tired of Murphy and his mixed bag of tricks. But there was nothing I could do about the internet spotting. You see I don't have a Smart Phone, I have what I call a Dumb Phone. It only makes phone calls. Can you imagine that. It is one of those phones for senior citizens, a Jitterbug phone.

Just when I thought that Murphy was finally out of the picture and we hopefully 'sent him packing', Ron's Buddipole antenna fell over as he was trying to set the guy wires in place. One of the telescopic rods got bent, but there is an extra one in the Buddipole kit. So Ron was able to get on the air with no problem. Of course there was almost nobody to talk to once we were on the air. Oh well, it was another learning experience to add to the many others that we encounter during our lives.

Well, needless to say, Murphy kind of ruined our day. I only made 3 contacts and I believe that Ron made 2 contacts. The band conditions didn't help much either. The day was not a total loss though. We got outside in some nice weather in the State Park nature type surroundings. We were under a picnic shelter that had picnic tables and plenty of room all around the shelter to set up our antennas. There was even a bathroom only about 150 to 200 feet away from us. It was a pleasant day despite our several problems.

You should consider doing some portable operating before the weather gets too cold. As I write this article it is already November 1st, but a nice day is still possible yet before the snow falls. If you don't make it out before winter, then start planning for an outing next Spring. It is really nice to get out there and "Make Nature Your Shack" and hopefully have some fun too. The phrase, "Make Nature Your Shack" is a quote from the POTA program website. Maybe you will be more fortunate than Ron and I, and Murphy won't show up where you go. Make sure you don't even let Murphy know where you are going and hopefully he won't follow you.

By the way, the POTA website is <https://wwff-kff.com/> Check it out.

73,

Ed Stroh – K9EGS



REMEMBER FIELD DAY JUNE 23-24 2018

W9JPR Jim

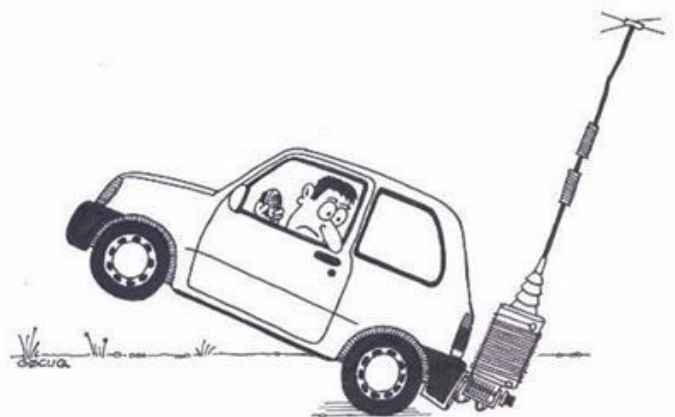
CQ Field Day de Jim Riley W9JPR

The 2017 Field Day scores are in and, once again, we did pretty well.

Overall, we ranked 347 out of 2965 entries with a score of 4166 for W9AA and N9JYX combined. We were 38th of 228 in the Central Division and 21st of 56 entries in Illinois.

In the 3A category we were 68 of 322 which put us in the top 21%. In the Central Division we were 6th of 18, and 4th of 10 in Illinois

And we did this while having a great time and eating very well. Thanks to all who participated. I look forward to working with you again in 2018.





## Hamfesters VE Testing de Al, N9ZD

Al Bukowski N9ZD - VE coordinator

Hamfester's Radio Club VE's team assembled on October 14, 2017 to administer Amateur Radio exams. We had Seven candidates who passed the Technician exam. One Candidate passes the Tech and General Exam. And one Upgrade from General to Extra. Congratulations to All! Thank you to all the VE's who assist me.

### 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 photo ID; (one ID could be a driver's license). For Technician candidates. If you would prefer not use your Social Security Number on your FCC 605 application, we suggest obtaining a Federal Registration Number (FRN) from the FCC website. 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 your paperwork.

### Are You a New Licensee or an Upgrade?

Candidates who had a passing grade, Congratulations. It may take the FCC 5 to 10 business days (average 6 days) before your new or upgraded Amateur License is posted. 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 access 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 your call sign to the 'Authorizations to Download' and then click download. A PDF of the license can be saved on 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 November 11, 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](mailto:N9ZD@arrl.net). Last minute Walk-ins are always welcome. 73's de AL - N9ZD



Thoughts.....

- Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?
- What if my dog only brings back my ball because he thinks I like throwing it?
- If poison expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?
- Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?
- Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?
- Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and It just takes 75-100 years to fully work.
- Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty
- The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims".
- Intentionally losing a game of rock, paper, scissors is just as hard as trying to win.
- 100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.
- Your future self is watching you right now through memories.
- The doctors that told Stephen Hawking he had two years to live in 1953 are probably dead.
- If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them.
- Many animals probably need glasses, but nobody knows it.
- If you rip a hole in a net, there are actually fewer holes in it than there were before.
- If 2/2/22 falls on a Tuesday, we'll just call it "2's Day".  
(It does not fall on a Tuesday)-



### Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 474

Crestwood, IL 60445-0474



## 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 81<sup>st</sup> annual Hamfest coming August 5th, 2018-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 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24 2018 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. Tom KA9ZXN is Net Control

2 METER NET: Every Monday Evening at 9:00 PM on 146.640. Tom KA9ZXN is Net Control

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  
Attn: Patti KC9LYE Secret