



# Hamtrix

Volume 54, Issue 1 January, 2009

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## Meetings & Events



- January 13**  
Club Meeting  
Program:  
*Modeling Wire Antennas*  
**Starts at 7:00 PM**  
.....
- January 27**  
Board Meeting  
**Starts at 7:00 PM**  
.....
- February 1**  
Material Due for Next  
**Hamtrix**  
.....
- February 10**  
Next Club Meeting  
.....
- March 15**  
**Wisconsin QSO Party**  
.....



## The President's Shack

by Howard Smith,  
WA9AXQ

Did it seem that 2008 went by rather quickly? It may be nice if 2009 went at a little slower pace. But it has sure started out with a BANG! Our 37th Annual Midwinter Swapfest is already completed. Phil, W9NAW, will have more information at the club meeting, but he thinks that the turnout was about the same as last year. I want to believe that this is the result of our reminding people of its early date and of those little appointment cards that we handed out at the 2008 Swapfest. The weather even cooperated. The freezing rain came later in the day and was not a problem. Finally, I want to thank all of you who

came and helped with the Swapfest. The success of this Swapfest is the result of your efforts.

I talked with several members, and they said that the 10 Meter band conditions on the weekend of the ARRL 10 Meter contest were quite poor. Unfortunately, the scores for the contest this year were down significantly. I trust all that did operate enjoyed the contest. Please remember to submit your WARAC entry form with your log to Chuck, WB9PUB, to enter our club competition.

While I'm talking about competitions, this year's WIQP is March 15th. Be sure to mark your calendars. And, the February meeting will be about setting up a contest station, presented by Chuck, WB9PUB, with inputs from Ron, N9AU, and Lynn, K9KR. This will be a great chance to learn about techniques that could improve your contest scores.

The program for the January meeting

*(Continued on page 3)*

Wrap-up of

## SWAPFEST 2009

By Phil Gural, W9NAW, Swapfest Chairperson

The year 2009 isn't even a week old and we are already looking at the results of our 37th Annual Midwinter Swapfest. This year's event was held on January 3rd—one of the earliest dates ever. The slogan that Tom, K9BTQ, developed "2 days after New Year's" proved to be an eye opener that made buyers aware that the Swapfest was going to be here before you knew it!

The hall layouts were similar to last year except that the tables in the East Hall were turned 90 degrees to allow easier

access for the buyers and the delight of sellers. The North building was again used for concessions, rag chewing and PR by many of the local ham clubs as well as the ARRL officials, Dick Isely, W9GIG, Central Division Director and Don Michalski, W9IXG, Wisconsin Section Manager. We also had impressive static displays by ICOM, Yaesu and MFJ.

On Friday afternoon, Tom, K9BTQ, John, K9IAC, Bob, KC9AGX and Phil, W9NAW went to Waukesha Expo to mark

*(Continued on page 6)*



**From the Minutes...**

By Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR  
Secretary

**Minutes of the General Meeting  
December 9, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by President Howard Smith. Approximately eight members were present due to snowy weather. There were no visitors, so there were no introductions.

*Minutes* - the membership approved the minutes as printed in Hamtrix.

Howard reminded members that dues are due and expressed sadness at the passing of Mike Povlich, WB9HGS. He also mentioned the upcoming Ten Meter contest.

*Program* – Howard then turned the meeting over to Phil Gural, W9NAW to talk about Swapfest plans. Phil said preparations were proceeding well although ticket sales have been a little slow so far.

Permission has been received to allow vendors to set up on Friday. Phil, John Z. and Tom will meet at 11:00 Friday morning to number tables.

The large club table will be located in the east end of the East hall as it was last year and John, K9IAC, will

have a table for selected items in the South hall.

Phil has contacted Yaesu, Icom and Kenwood about exhibiting at our Swapfest. No tables have been purchased, but some sales materials have been received and a table will be provided for this material.

As in past years, support from all club members is needed. If possible, please be on-site at 5:30AM and bring a 2-meter radio (145.17) and your club hat if you have one. Hats will be provided for anyone who doesn't have one.

Phil emphasized that during the setup period, only the pink admission tickets are valid. People without pink admission tickets cannot be admitted without an escort Tom, K9BTQ, said he would make a reference card for members with key info such as ticket colors, etc.

Phil also mentioned the need to sell as many advance tickets as possible. Hand stamping will be optional and will not be done until after the doors are open for general admission.

As last year, testing will be across the street from 9:00 to 11:15AM and VE's are entitled to free food.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM, followed by refreshments and eyeball QSO's.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*For the Secretary, Tom Macon, K9BTQ* .....

There was no Board meeting in December



**Swapfest 2009**

**2007 WARAC Officers and Board**

President	J. Howard Smith, WA9AXQ	414.425-5626
Vice President	Thomas W. Macon, K9BTQ	414.543-3878
Secretary	Lynn C. Tamblyn, K9KR	262.534-9655
Treasurer	Richard M. Wood, W9JBE	262.542-5118
Director (2009)	George Dunco, AA9SR	262.782-6325
Director (2010)	Chuck Craven, WB9PUB	262.642-7628
Director (1 year)	Robert F Zach, KC9AGX	414.427-0333
Board Chairperson	J. Howard Smith, WA9AXQ	414.425-5626

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# ROY PEDERSON, K9FHI

## SILENT MICROPHONE

*By Rich Regent, K9GDF*

**R**oy A. Pederson, K9FHI, passed away on December 3, 2008, from lung cancer at the age of 84. He was a resident of Juneau in Dodge County and treasured his long retirement from working as an electrician. He was a well-known Radio Amateur, first licensed in 1961 as Novice KN9FHI. His wife, Beryl, KA9BAC (Extra Class), and sons Gary, KA9BAE (Extra Class) and Michael, N9QMV (Technician Class), made the Pedersons an all-ham family.



K9FHI (Extra Class) was ARRL Section Manager for Wisconsin from 1973 through 1984 and 1996 to 1999, and at times was the Assistant Section Manager as well. Roy combined camping, his other favorite hobby, with travels to visit Wisconsin Hamfests, Swapfests and Wisconsin Nets Association meetings promoting Amateur Radio and the ARRL. He could be easily found wearing his bright red cap and jacket.

Roy was active on most of the Wisconsin phone nets and loved to be a Net Control and handle traffic. He volunteered as an Assistant EC for the Dodge County ARES, qualified as a QCWA Member and enjoyed visiting local Chapter 55 events. Roy also held the Official Relay Station and Official Emergency Station ARRL Appointments.

On a cold January 13, 1994, Roy and his wife Beryl, KA9BAC, passed their Advanced class amateur radio license exams together. They started their license classes in November 1993, with WA9ZTY as their instructor. A few classes were canceled during winter blizzards and snow packed roads made travel to a few other classes impossible. So they stayed home and used their computer and a study program on diskette with sample questions. Roy figures that he reviewed the pool of 500 questions until he had scrutinized all of them. Beryl practiced using the same method until they both averaged about 95 percent test scores. "We sat in opposite corners of the exam room, yet each of us had 8 questions wrong", Roy said. We'll never know if they had the same questions wrong, though.

The Pedersons were active in the Rock River Radio Club where Roy was chosen as the 1995 Ham of the Year. Roy had been a member of the club since he received his first license and served as an officer in various capacities. He was General Chairman of the club's annual Field Day and Beryl provided the refreshing hospitality tent and delicious food. They both were members of the club's ARRL Volunteer Exam Team and served as the club's Sunshine Committee. Roy was typically the first to volunteer for many of the club activities. Roy and Beryl also enjoyed attending the Ham Radio event called the Annual Ground Hog Party held in Watertown.

Roy was well liked throughout the Wisconsin Ham community with his wry sense of humor and sunny disposition. He will be sadly missed.

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### Ham Happenings

#### Around the area

#### Ozaukee Radio Club

Wed, January 14  
7:30PM

Grafton Senior Center  
1665 7th. Ave.  
Grafton

#### CQ3TUE

Tues. January 20  
11:15AM

Old Country Buffet  
16750 W Bluemound Rd

#### Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club

Wed. January 28  
7:30PM

Germantown Police Dept  
Germantown

#### Milwaukee Radio Amateur Club (MRAC)

Thurs, January 29  
7:00PM

Redemption Lutheran Church  
4057 N. Mayfair Rd

#### South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Wed. February 4  
7:00PM

Legion Post 434  
9327 S Shepard Ave  
Oak Creek

#### Amateur Radio Testing

Saturday, January 31  
9:30AM

Amateur Electronic Supply  
5720 W Good Hope Rd

#### NOTE

*Please do not contact meeting places for information.*

#### President's Shack

*(Continued from page 1)*

will be a follow-up to the Swapfest, lead by Phil, W9NAW, and then a presentation by Tom, K9BTQ, on *Modeling Wire Antennas*.

Finally, have you paid your dues? If you haven't, this may be your last Hamtrix.

See you at the meeting.

73,  
Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

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Don't forget . . .

### Club Meetings

Now Start at

**7:00 PM**

Meeting Room Opens at 6:30 -  
Come Early!

### Have You Paid Your Dues?

If you haven't already done so, please forward your 2009 dues to our treasurer, Dick, W9JBE. You can do this at any club meeting or by mailing it to him at:

S46 W22328 Tansdale Rd;  
Waukesha, WI 53189



**Thanks!**



Thanks and a tip of the editor's hat to the following contributors to this month's issue of **Hamtrix**

**Phil Gural, W9NAW**

**Rich Regent, K9GDF**

**Ward Silver, N0AX**



Write an Article  
**This means You!**  
Please??

### Scuttlebutt...

- Have you noticed anything different about this issue of Hamtrix? I hope not, but there have been a couple of behind-the-scenes changes. The biggest change is that the pdf file for this issue was generated with a different software package called pdfCreator. Also, this issue was prepared on a newer computer but using the same publishing program, Microsoft Publisher. As always, if you have any problems or questions about Hamtrix, please contact me. -Tom, K9BTQ
- Have you sent in your 10-Meter contest log? Don't forget - the deadline for your ARRL submission is January 13, the day of our next club meeting. And you can submit your log for the piggy-back WARAC contest to Chuck, WB9PUB, at the upcoming club meeting if not before.
- Do you have something you'd like to have published here? A new rig or license upgrade? A unique on-air experience or anecdote? Please let me know... -Tom, K9BTQ
- A recent scan shows that there are 226 web sites around the world that have links to our club web site. One-third of them link to our WIQP page. Some changes have been made to our web site to make it more visible to Internet search engines, especially Google. Now, if you search for words like *Hamtrix* or *WIQP*, you will see our site show up more prominently in your results.

### For Sale

- Forty foot Rohn 45 tower, folds over at about 20 ft. on a hinge plate using winch/cable counterpoise method. Good condition, has rotor plate and mast. Selling price \$300. Contact Phil, W9NAW, 414.425.3649
- Ameritron ALS-600 solid state 600-watt amplifier with matching ALS-600PS supply and manuals. \$650. Contact John Zach, K9IAC.

### Upcoming Meeting Programs

January 13

#### Modeling Wire Antennas

by Tom Macon, K9BTQ

Now is the time to start thinking about next summer's antenna projects. This program will get you started now, in spite of the winter weather.

February 10

#### Setting Up a Contesting Station

by Chuck, WB9PUB; Lynn, K9KR and Ron, N9AU

Sure, you operate in contests from your station. But is your operation really efficient? This program will show you how little things can make a difference - just in time for the Wisconsin QSO Party on March 15.

**Have an idea for a program? Something you'd like to hear about?  
Or do you have something you'd like to talk about?  
Let us know - Contact a Board member!**

## ANOTHER GOLDEN AGE

by Ward Silver, N0AX

Reprinted from the ARRL Contest Update, Dec. 24, 2008 with permission

**A**nother golden age of what? Surely, I'm joking? The economy and solar cycle are in a race to see which can be most disappointing. Half the world seems angry with the other half. Long faces are seen on every television screen--and even that old black-and-white set we've kept forever is going dark in February. Bah, humbug...golden age, indeed! Of what?

Well, amateur radio. Oh, right! Tell me another! Our licensee totals are flat, code hasn't been heard in a testing room for years, and your homeowner's association board faints like goats at the very mention of antennas. Electrical shop has been expelled from the high school curriculum, vacuum tubes are surely made from moon dust for what they cost, and "they" are taking lead out of solder! Golden age...what holiday nog has the editor gotten into this time?

Not so fast, you Ebenezers of Electronics, you Scrooges of Software, let's take a moment to remember a time long ago. There was another time when things really were tough. It was called the Great Depression and if you think radio stuff was expensive now, go back and compare prices of radio stuff to wages in the 1930's! There were exactly two big contests--Sweepstakes and the ARRL DX Contest. Most hams didn't even know what sunspots were and DX meant "out of state".

Yet in many ways, that era of deprivation and hard-scrabble ham radio is remembered as a Golden Age of Amateur Radio. It was during those cold winters and hot summers (without forced-air heating and central air conditioning) that many of the characteristics of modern amateur radio were forged. The elements that came together were technology, materials, tools, and an interest in experimentation and self-improvement.

I see many of those very same elements converging today. To be sure, technology has a much broader scope than when "Radio Was King!" but this is a technological age! The materials are vastly more sophisticated, although no one seems to have figured out how to calm an obstinate roll of Copperweld(tm) even yet, but amazing capabilities are available for a pittance. We are awash in tools, both of the hardware and software persuasion, many of which are even free!

That leaves the interest in experimentation and self-teaching element. To the skeptics out there grumbling and muttering about appliance operators and "dumbed down" stuff, have you tuned into any of the "do it yourself" movement? And that's what it is...a movement! The first spark was struck with "This Old House" on PBS and

slowly the ember grew. Cable TV channels picked up local and national shows on food, crafts, and science, providing kindling to the flame. The number of channels grew, creating an insatiable demand for content. Programmers of the entertainment industry discovered that people like shows about *doing things*. The Web fanned the flames with the sudden realization that everyone can be content.

And then the "Mythbusters" phenomenon exploded! Jamie and Adam took stuff apart! They wired, they drilled, they welded, and they measured things! And they blew stuff up! And laughed like hyenas as the fragments pinwheeled and beams shattered and frozen chickens blasted through windscreens! And no-nonsense Jamie fixed the viewer with a steely gaze from under his cap and said, "Don't try this at home." Well, what more encouragement do you want? It is now officially desirable to be able to tinker, to build, to design, to think, boys and girls.

This groundswell of interest did not go un-noticed by the media and now there are literally dozens of magazines, books, Web sites, television shows, blogs, and whatever media was invented this week, all dedicated to some aspect of doing-it-yourself. There is even a Do-It-Yourself Network - check it out! Make Magazine hosts an event called Makerfaire that in four events has attracted around 200,000 people, each paying \$25 to get in and see people...that's right...doing stuff. The Web site *instructables.com* is crammed full of individually-contributed projects from people beating down the door to contribute! These three examples are but a ripple on the pond.

Who are these do-it-yourselfers? They're people just like you and me with one important difference. They don't know about ham radio yet...or maybe they know the wrong things about ham radio. These are our people! If they can just find the door to ham radio, they'll find an amazing hobby in which you can be an inventor, a collector, an emergency worker, an athlete, an engineer, a radio show host, a scaler of heights, a teacher and mentor, an astronomer, and a geophysicist. All at the same time.

Whatever it is that they are doing now--robotics, hang-gliding, geocaching, hiking, bike racing, programming--has some facet that can link up with a complementary facet of ham radio. These people love the smell of solder in the morning, the thrill of competition, the feel of a

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January 1 - Pat Weeks, KB9ULJ  
 January 10 - George Dunco, AA9SR  
 January 11 - Ferd Wesolowski, K9CGZ  
 February 6 - Phil Gural, W9NAW

*Wedding  
Anniversaries*

January 20 - Eddie and Ethel Smith



**What do you think of our club's web site? What would you like to see changed or added?**  
**- Forward your comments to Tom, K9BTQ**

**Swapfest Wrapup**  
*(Continued from page 1)*

the tables, just ahead of the arrival of several buyers.

Saturday morning activity started at 6:00 AM with the arrival of many sellers. Chuck, WB9PUB, was busy selling the remaining tables and "will call" advance reservations. After 8:00 AM, all three halls filled quickly and the noise level was quite high, which made it difficult to communicate via our HT's. Preliminary attendance data indicates that it is nearly the same a last year. A big boost for this year's attendance was the advance ticket sales by club members.

The scholarship fund income was \$1173, more than three times what was collected in 2008, thanks to some very generous donations. It was disappointing that only 22 club members/friends participated in making this Swapfest a success.

The weather was cold and cloudy, but roads were good and attendees were able to travel from the adjacent states.

Unfortunately, several of the bigger sellers were missing due to health and other reasons.

VE testing was offered by the MRAC VEC Team lead by Tom, KF9PU, VEC co-manager. A total of 10 candidates visited the session with four becoming new Technician Class licensees and one ham upgraded to Extra Class. Due to a mix up, the session had to be held in the Forum Building instead at the AMF Waukesha Lanes.

What about next year? The tentative date is January 9th, 2010. We are working on getting MFJ, Icom and Yaesu to set up demonstration booths bring and to some of their latest radios. Of course, we are always looking for additional sellers. Considering the economy and the early date of this year's event, WARAC members can proudly say that our Swapfest is one of the best in Wisconsin!

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**Golden Age**  
*(Continued from page 5)*

well-cut thread, the sound of a well-modulated signal, the satisfaction of watching a network spring to life. They're our people! They just don't know we're here. Why? Because we're afraid to tell them.

The Ebenezers are shifting uncomfortably, worried that these newcomers won't do things just like us, they'll want to change ham radio, I won't like it! Oh, fiddle-dee-dee...the exact same worries bedeviled ham radio as the transition was made from the old spark to the new CW. And again when hams started using phone. And then when SSB displaced AM. And when we started using FM. And when we started using computers. You'd think ham radio had died a dozen times to read the letters in old QSTs about rotten this and rotten that. But we're still here.

Those flat licensing numbers are hiding something, dear readers. There's a quiet change afoot as new hams are signing up, masked by natural attrition and the whitling away of dead wood in the ranks. Below the surface

of that still water, powerful tides are flowing. More and more new faces are joining us every day. They're finding out what ham radio is really all about--the original open-source technology, the 'net before the 'net, where hands-on lives on. Just as seventy-five years ago, ham radio can be a melting pot of many good things, creating something even better out of the resulting alloy. If we let it and if we let them.

That's a good thing to ponder as we prepare to turn the page on another year, hoping that 2009 will bring us a sunspot or two. Golden Ages look a lot different coming than going. They're new, they're challenging, they're risky, they're scary. It is said that it's not a Real Adventure if you enjoy it while you're having it, but that's no reason not to have an adventure. Or have we forgotten the exciting possibilities that pulled us up to the tower top and down to the workbench and onto the bands in the first place? I don't know what's coming, but I'm feeling those tides of change. And it's going to be golden.

73, Ward N0AX

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