



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 65, Issue 1 January, 2018

JANUARY CLUB HAPPENINGS

Club Meeting at

The Bosch, a tavern on the North West corner of HW100 and Janesville Road, 7:00 pm. January 9

Agenda is Eyeball QSO's and a discussion of the Swapfest.

No pre-meeting dinner at Johnny V's.

the 46th Annual Swapfest at the Waukesha (WI) Expo Center Arena on January 06, 2018.

Wisconsin QSO Party

**March 11, 2018 - 1800Z to 0100Z March 12 (1:00PM CDT to 8:00PM CDT on Sunday, March 11)
(The first day of Daylight Savings Time)**

WARAC 2-meter net

**Every Wednesday at 8pm
SEWFARS K9ABC Repeater 146.820 standard (-)offset
127.3 Hz CTCSS
if repeater down try 146.55 simplex**



NUT NET

3.985mhz

Monday-Saturday

8:15am CT

Milwaukee-Florida Net

Every Day on 14.290 Mhz

7:00AM - 9:15AM ET

6:00AM - 8:00AM CT

Sunshine Committee

If you know of a member who could use a bit of cheer or support, Barb Garnier (KD9HPS) is now the Sunshine Committee Chair.

You can get hold of her at 414-529-3536 or barbsewsblue@gmail.com.

The President's Shack January 2018

Happy New Year, or as the CW and FT8 bands are filled with, HNY!! Amazing how creative the ops are when limited to 13 characters. Hope the holidays went well and now that the winter cold has arrived, it leaves no doubt that our annual Mid-Winter Swapfest is upon us!!!

Speaking of the Swapfest this issue of Hamtrix should arrive just in time to remind everyone that we need your help for our annual ham radio party at the Waukesha Expo. Chairman Erwin is insisting that we get an early start (5:30 AM.... UGH) so I guess that's when the party starts. Not to worry, the usual coffee and doughnuts will be available. Here's hoping the weather plays nice. Cold or warm, either way it will be a great time. And this year, with the inclusion of presentations, that will be a whole new wrinkle, so not just recycled radio treasures. Get your list together and let's have some fun.

Well, 2017 is finally over, and what a year it was. We got a whole new operating mode, FT8, which exploded onto the ham bands. We had a really cool Solar Eclipse which is pretty close to a once in a lifetime event. Our cherished Dayton Hamvention got a new home and by most accounts, it worked out pretty well. And then last but not least the good folks at AMSAT launched their latest bird, AO-91 which supports (almost) HT access. Did I mention a couple of new bands, 2,200 meters and 630 meters? Wow.

Which brings us to 2018. It looks to be a promising year. First up: Grab a QSO from the Bouvet Island, 3Y0Z, Dxpedition in mid-January. And then there is the International Grid Square Chase, a year long event. There's always POTA, SOTA and IOTA to fill in the gaps. Oh and don't

forget the favorite WI QSO Party in March or the warm up MN QSO Party in Feb. OK, OK that should take care of us until the nice weather arrives.

So lets all get on down to the Swapfest this weekend. And don't forget that the January Club Meeting on Tuesday, Jan 9th is going to be held at The Bosch in lieu of a regular meeting. Grab a beer/beverage and a burger and lets all settle in for a post-holiday party. It starts at 7:00. Should be a lot of fun. Needless to say, no Johnnie V's this month.

One final order of business is Membership Renewal. Don't forget to sign up early and often!!!

So here's to having a great 2018 ham radio year. What you got in mind for 2018? For me, after the Swapfest settles in, it is time to get serious about the WIQP. Going mobile again this year so that always takes a bit of planning. What about you? Whether it's a project or an operating event or some trip, share your plans with the club. That's really what makes a great club.

Check out our Facebook page!!! Start Posting!!!!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WestAllisRAC/>

73
Mike WO9B

From the Editor

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. Next for the club is our Swapfest. I hope many of you can make it.

It also looks like the the normal weather for it will be here. The cold will be here but the roads may be clear. To me that make it much nicer !

I not doing much ham radio, I've been busy with our grandkids, wife etc. I get on the nut net and our Wednesday night two meter net. That is always fun. I even got my granddaughter, Ada to speak on the mike when she is here. Maybe if I can keep her interest up I might get a ham in the family!

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WARAC General Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2017

Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by President Mike Johnson, WO9B.
Meeting attendance was 20 members, including 2 new members.

Tonight's Program:

- Minutes were approved as printed in Hamtrix.
- Swapfest discussion lead by Erwin, WI9EV. A signup sheet was passed around.
- 10 Meter Contest discussion lead by Chuck, W9WLX. Chuck had received just 2 submissions.
- Club use of Facebook. Presentation by Chris, KC9UXC

Web 1.0 was basically information provided to users. Not many ways for users to interact.

Web 2.0 began the era of 2 way communications with users.

Ebay.com, YouTube.com, etc.

Facebook started in 2004 as a means for Harvard University students to communicate with each other.

Facebook has 2 billion members.

Facebook also has Groups.

WARAC does have a facebook page. Check it out!

Announcements

January 9th meeting will be held at The Bosch, a tavern on the North West corner of HW100 and Janesville Road, 7:00 pm.

No pre-meeting dinner at Johnny V's.

Agenda is Eyeball QSO's and a discussion of the Swapfest.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Howard Smith, WA9AXQ
WARAC Secretary
2017-12-12

W.A.R.A.C. Board Meeting

December 26th, 2017

The WARAC board voted in the November Board Meeting to cancel the December 26th Board Meeting.

The December 26th Board Meeting was not held, so there are no minutes to report.

Respectfully submitted,
Howard Smith, WA9AXQ
Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.
2017-12-26

Special Event Corner

As I mentioned in last month's column, NASA affiliated clubs are running special event stations all year long to commemorate key milestones. All told, there are a dozen stations around the country that will be participating. However, I've personally heard very little activity so far. The only station I've heard (and seen spotted) was one operating from the Johnson Space Center in Houston. I expect activity to pick up now that the holidays are past.

Here are a few other forthcoming events that might be interesting:

- K7B - January 18th to January 22nd - Lake Havasu City 8th Annual •Balloon Festival
- W2D - January 13th - R. L. Drake 75th Anniversary
- NI6IW - January 13th - USS Midway Museum Ship Special Event: •Desert Storm Kickoff
- K8PRC - February 3rd - Annual Cabin Fever Special Event
- K5C - February 3rd and 4th - Space Shuttle Columbia Special Event
- NI6IW - February 10th - USS Midway Museum Ship Special Event: •Mt Surabachi Flag Raising

More information on these events can be found by looking up the station call on QRZ. Event notices will often state that they'll be operating on specific frequencies. Pay no attention to that. You might find them anywhere depending on band conditions. Just spin the dial or watch your favorite spotting network. In my experience, these stations will usually be found on 20 meters during the day, and 40 meters in the evenings.

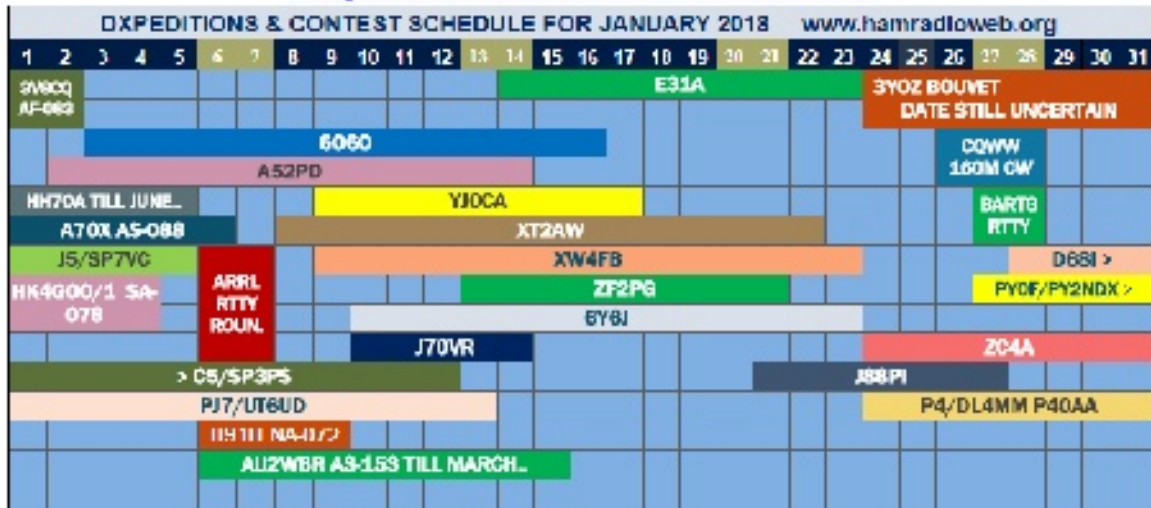
Don't be surprised if you run into nasty pile ups. However, I've found that just listening in for a bit will often allow taking advantage of occasional lulls. So, hang in there!

USS Midway



DX / CONTEST UPDATE

<http://www.iz5cml.it/dxschedule>



DX: Looks like a pretty typical month. Lot's of "normal" DX operations which should show up on the cluster. BUT, the biggie, 3Y0Z Bouvet Island is scheduled for late in the month. Bouvet is a serious operation to be sure. There should huge pileups to navigate. Also, they will be operating FT8, so even the non-DX kings should be able to get a confirmation. Nice webpage: <http://www.bouvetdx.org/> and a Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/639362206232014/about/>

3Y0Z Band Plan

BAND	CW	SSB	RTTY	FT8*
160	1.826.5 MHz			1.835 MHz
80	3.523 MHz	3.765 MHz	3.580 MHz	3.570 MHz
60 **	5.400 MHz **	5.400 MHz **		5.357 MHz **
40	7.023 MHz	7.082 MHz	7.045 MHz	7.071 MHz
30	10.108 MHz		10.142 MHz	10.133 MHz
20	14.023 MHz	14.185 MHz	14.080 MHz	14.067 MHz
17	18.079 MHz	18.130 MHz	18.099 MHz	18.095 MHz
15	21.023 MHz	21.285 MHz	21.080 MHz	21.067 MHz
12	24.894 MHz	24.985 MHz	24.912 MHz	24.912 MHz
10	28.023 MHz	28.485 MHz	28.080 MHz	28.067 MHz
6	50.190 MHz (EME)			50.316 MHz
2	144.144 MHz (EME)			

Contests: Here are a few contests for January

- MN QSO Party: 2/3 <http://www.w0aa.org/index.php/mn-qso-party>

Full Contest Schedule check:
<http://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html>

SEMIAUTOMATIC KEY

31. Use

The semiautomatic key, also known as the Vibroplex, or bug, is used chiefly in fixed stations where operators are required to send for relatively long periods of time.

32. Operation

- a. In sending with the bug the thumb presses against the dit paddle (fig. 14) to the right and the index finger forms dahs by pressing the knob to the left. The key will send successive dits when the paddle is held to the right. One dit or a series may be sent depending on how long the thumb pressure is maintained against the paddle. One dah is formed every time the knob is pressed to the left. Dahs must be sent individually.
- b. During sending, the hand pivots at the wrist, and the hand and arm motion is horizontal.

33. Key Adjustment

- a. Best operation of the semiautomatic key will be obtained when it is adjusted to send dits and spaces of equal length. Locate the parts in figure 14 when adjusting the key. The top view in figure 14 shows the section of the key between the dah contact adjusting screw and the front stop screw. Semi-Automatic Key (bug) Diagram

- b. Before adjusting the semiautomatic key, examine it for mechanical and electrical defects. First, make certain that both dit and dah contacts are clean and in perfect alignment, with the faces parallel. Second, make sure that the lever pivoting screw is loose enough to permit the lever to move freely. Signals will sound unsteady if it is too loose. Third, examine all supporting parts to make certain that they are firm and steady. Fourth, make certain that stop screws and lock nuts are tight. Fifth, inspect the cord and plug for short circuits or loose connections,

- c. Adjust the key as follows:

- (1) Place the key on a level surface.

- (2) Adjust the back stop screw until the reed lightly touches the deadener. Then tighten the lock nut.

(3) Adjust the front stop screw until the separation between the end of this screw and the reed is approximately .015 inch. (Approx. 10 pp. of this manual inserted between the screw and lever will serve as a convenient guide.) Then tighten the lock nut. A greater separation is permissible if the operator prefers more lever movement.

(4) Operate the dit paddle to the right. Hold the lever in this position and stop the vibration of the reed. Adjust the dit contact adjusting screw until the dit contacts just meet. This important adjustment determines whether the dits will be too heavy, too light, or perfect. The adjustment must be made without flexing the contact spring. Tighten the lock nut on the dit contact adjusting screw without disturbing the adjustment.

(5) If the dits are too fast, move the weight, located on the reed, in the direction of the deadener. If the dits are too slow, move the same weight in the opposite direction.

(6) Adjust the dah contact adjusting screw to a clearance approximately the thickness of the cover on a Department of the Army field or technical manual.

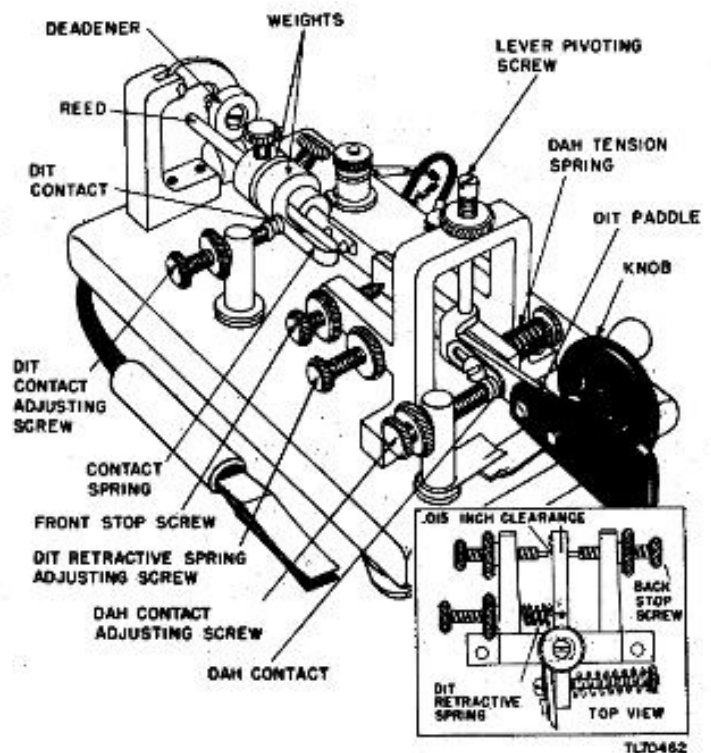
(7) Adjust the dit retractive and dah tension springs for the most comfortable operation.

d. Do not readjust the dit contact adjusting screw unless a complaint is received or unless you are certain that your dits are too heavy or too light. Never change the back stop screw adjustment when the bug is correctly adjusted. It should not be necessary to change the front stop screw adjustment. However, if the lock nut on the front stop screw should become loose, it will be necessary to readjust the dit contact adjusting screw. If the dah contact adjusting screw is too close, the dah contacts will remain shorted.

e. A change in the position of the weight for the speed of dits or a change in the tension of the retractive and dah springs to suit the individual's requirements will not throw the bug out of proper adjustment.

f. If the adjustment instructions are followed carefully, the bug will make 25 or more dits before stopping. The first 12 to 15 dits will be practically perfect with the dits and spaces equal.

g. The bug is designed to make sending easy rather than fast, and perfect control of the key is far more important than speed. Be especially careful to send dits accurately. Not all radio operators have equally sensitive hearing, and careless sending on the semiautomatic key will not be understood.



Taken from Chapter 6 of Army Technical Manual TM 11-459, September 1957



RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

ALL MEMBERS WHO JOINED BEFORE October 1 ST
MUST RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP BY September 30TH

*****FILL IN ALL INFORMATION PLEASE*****

NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____
(As you want it to appear on the roster)

ADDRESS: _____ LIC CLASS: _____

CITY: _____ LIC EXP: _____

STATE: _____ OCCUPATION: _____

ZIP CODE: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE _____

CHECK HERE: _____ IF YOU WANT THE CLUB NEWSLETTER EMAILED TO YOU?

CHECK HERE: _____ If you are an ARRL member?

Would You Be Willing To Serve On A Committee? _____ Officer? _____

Club Activities You Would Like To Participate In?

Field Day _____ Programs _____ Swapfest _____ Hamtrix _____ Elmer Sunshine _____

Education Community Service _____ Public Relations _____ Scholarship _____

QSO Party _____

Class Of Membership: Full Associate New Renewal

Dues Paid: Full \$15.00 _____ Associate \$10.00 _____ Family \$18.00 _____ Student

\$10.00 _____ Retired \$10.00 _____

*****FAMILY MEMBERSHIP *****

A family membership includes the individual applying and all members of such person's immediate family residing in the same household who possess an Amateur Radio license.

NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____

LIC CLASS: _____ LIC EXP: _____

Date of Application _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

FOR WARAC OFFICE USE ONLY

Treasurer Received/ Date: _____

Sec. Add Roster/Date: _____

MAIL TO:

West Allis Radio Amateur Club, Inc.

P. O. Box 1072

Milwaukee, WI 53201

'Quantum Radio' May Aid Communications and Mapping Indoors, Underground and Underwater

https://www.rdmag.com/news/2018/01/quantum-radio-may-aid-communications-and-mapping-indoors-underground-and-underwater?et_cid=6224857&et_rid=353748193&type=headline&et_cid=6224857&et_rid=353748193&linkid=content

From pg 2 Editor

My southern belle greyhound doesn't have a clue what to do with this cold weather. The other day she tried to combine lifting her two front feet while doing her business . It didn't work very well! She is getting a little more comfortable as long as I make sure she is dressed warm.

Not much else from here I hope to see many of you at the swapfest and our next meeting at the Bosch.

73
Frank KA9FZR

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***See our Web Page or contact us
for more information on***

- WARAC Memorial Scholarships
- Wisconsin QSO Party
- Midwinter Swapfest
- Worked all Wisconsin Counties Award
- Amateur Radio Classes

WARAC holds meetings on the second Tuesday of each month and board meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at 7:00 PM at:

**St Peter's Episcopal Church
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue
West Allis, WI**

Entry is off the alley at the rear of the church.
A wheel chair ramp and chair-lift are available.