



Hamtrix

Volume 55, Issue 2 February, 2010

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Meetings & Events



February 9
Club Meeting

Program:

**K5D DXpedition
to Desecheo Island**

by Ron Gorski, N9AU
7:00 PM Church Basement

February 23

Board Meeting

7:00 PM Church Office

February 28

Material Due for Next
Hamtrix

March 9

Next Club Meeting

Sunday, March 14

**WI QSO Party
and Pi Day**



The President's Shack

by *Howard Smith,*
WA9AXQ

The 38th Annual Midwinter Swapfest looks to be one of our better swapfests. The number of tables sold was up and the attendance was up just a little. Phil, W9NAW, the Swapfest chairman, will be reporting the exact numbers soon. 22 club members and 3 friends put forth their efforts to make our swapfest a success. While I did thank each one of you while I handed out the lunch passes, I want to once again give my thanks to eve-

rybody who was involved in the swapfest.

Last year we had a club contest trying to promote on the air activity by club members. The contest was a WAS (Worked All States) contest. Unfortunately, it did not work as well as we had hoped. The board has worked out a new contest this year and the idea of the new contest is to log 26 QSO's, one for each letter of the alphabet. The last letter in the call sign will be used to identify the 26 stations. The contest will begin on Feb. 10th, the day after the Club meeting. Please see this Hamtrix for the rest of the details.

March is not that far away so the Wisconsin QSO Party is coming soon: March 14th and 15th. The WARAC website has been updated with the 2010 information and there is a WIQP article in this Ham-

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THE ALPHABET CONTEST

By *Howard, WA9AXQ*

The purpose of the Alphabet Contest is to encourage members of the club to get on the air.

The goal is to make 26 QSO's with the last character in the call sign matching each letter of the alphabet. For example, my call, WA9AXQ, would be listed as the 'Q' contact. Lynn, K9KR, would be listed as an 'R' contact.

- The contest will begin on February 10th, and will end on June 1st.
- All operation must be done from the home QTH. Mobile operation will not be permitted.
- Contacts made during nets or contests of any form will not be permitted.
- Any band and any mode of operation is permitted. So, Tech and Tech Plus operators, you have a chance this time.
- QSO's can be made at any time, day or night.
- QSO verification will not be required, so the scoring is on the honor system.

Prizes are still being worked on. Please bring your questions to the club meeting.



From the Minutes...

By Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR
Secretary

**Minutes of the General Meeting
January 12, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by President Howard Smith.

Visitors – Ron Pasco, Tom Nickel and Bob Pirkel. WARAC members introduced themselves to the visitors.

Minutes – the membership approved the minutes for November and December, as printed in Hamtrix.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Dues – Howard told the membership that 2010 dues are due. Hamtrix cutoff date is February.

AES Superfest– Happening April 9 and 10, at AES. Howard asked the membership to help man the club table.

WIQP – Howard mentioned WIQP is happening March 14.

Swapfest – Chairman Phil Gural gave a mini-report. He thanked the membership for helping at the swapfest. He said tighter security we had this year helped a lot. He talked about the table situation, both in advance and at the door. The Scholarship fund got a nice boost from sold items, at the club table and the “more valuable items” table. Overall Phil was happy with this years event, even though all the numbers were not in yet.

Ten Meter Contest – Chairman Craven gave a brief report on the conditions during the 10M test.

PROGRAM

Aviation Electronic Systems. Frank Humpal, KA9FZR, who works at Mitchell Field, presented this program on his area of FAA expertise – aviation electronics, their use and repair. There are three groups attached to Mitchell – radar, Navigation Communications (ILS) and equipment service unit. There are 13 VHF frequencies that handle the 500 planes per day that use Mitchell. Power is 10

watts AM, on frequencies from 118 to 136 Mhz. UHF frequencies are mainly military. The FAA has responsibility for West Bend, Waukesha, Burlington, Racine and Kenosha facilities. All planes and vehicles are controlled by the 200-foot tall control tower, using voice synthesizer announcements as well as only one frequency at a time. 3 radar systems exist. Frank works on the Instrument Landing System (ILS). He went thru a detailed explanation of how it all works, which has to be operational so planes can touch down on the centerline of the beginning of the runway. Lastly he talked about the VOR systems, which are basically used by the planes in the air, to move across the county, i.e. they fly from VOR to VOR. He showed lots of pictures of the various pieces of equipment. A question and answer session followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM, followed by refreshments and eyeball QSO’s.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR

**Minutes of the Board Meeting
January 26, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM by Chairman Howard Smith.

Board members present were: Charles Craven, George Dunco, Frank Humpal, Tom Macon, Howard Smith, and Lynn Tamblyn. Guest: Phil Gural.

Swapfest – The Board had discussion on what to do with the accumulated door prizes that have not been claimed. It was decided that they will be given at club meetings as door prizes, except for one \$25 ARRL certificate. Craven mentioned he will be mailing out the remaining \$50 hourly door prize. Phil Gural then gave a report. He does not have final numbers, so he will return at a future date to discuss them with the Board. He said there were more people in attendance and more tables available this year. He is trying to set up a meeting with the Expo people, trying to get a break on table price as well as moving our date further into January. He will also like to discuss the price we are charged for the electric drops, with

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| WARAC Officers and Board | | | Hamtrix – Editor & Publisher |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--|
| President | J. Howard Smith, WA9AXQ | 414.425-5626 | Submit newsletter material to: Tom Macon, K9BTQ 3547 S. 95 St Milwaukee, WI 53228 414 543-3878 tmacon@wi.rr.com |
| Vice President | Thomas W. Macon, K9BTQ | 414.543-3878 | |
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| Director (2011) | Frank Humpal, KA9FZR | 414.425-0794 | |
| Director (2010) | George Dunco, AA9SR | 262.782-6325 | |
| Director (1 year) | Chuck Dellis, W9WLX | 414.543-1134 | |
| Board Chairperson | J. Howard Smith, WA9AXQ | 414.425-5626 | |

2009 WIQP

OUT OF STATE WINNER

By Tom Williams, N2CU

I was first licensed in 1972 as WN2FNS and became an Extra - N2CU in about four years. My main interest right now is 160m DX, which I have been doing for about 4 years, but I take time out for my second favorite - QSO parties.

It was a great pleasure to find out that I had won the Highest Scoring Out-of-State Single Operator plaque for the 2009 Wisconsin QSO Party. This has been one of the more popular parties and getting a plaque is a real challenge. I had submitted entries several times in the past, but for one reason or another I never was able to put in the full effort needed. The last two years I couldn't even get on the air - I lost electrical power before each contest and it stayed out for the duration! I guess I was saving up my kitchen points for this year.



My station consists of a Yaesu FT-1000MP, MicroKEYER interface, and N1MM logger. Antennas are a 30+ year old TH6DXX tribander at 48 ft., two 40m slopers (one east, one west), an 80m half-sloper, and 160m Inverted L. During the winter season I put up a pair of K9AY loops, mostly for 160m but also handy on 80m.

As you know, the key to any QSO party is mobile participation. This year the mobiles were out in force and really did a superb job of activating counties and keeping the interest going. It was especially nice to see them on 80m during the day since the only other band I could work WI on was 40m (I did have ONE 20m QSO). This may have been out of habit by the MN mobiles - the MNQP had similar mobile activity on 80m.

If I'm operating a QSO party that has power multipliers such as in WI or FL, I always go with the barefoot (100 w) class. In others, I sometimes run an amplifier to maximize my score. Operating barefoot makes it very easy to quickly QSY to work a station on another mode or band. In most QSO parties the mobiles are only in a county for a few minutes so it pays to be able to catch them on multiple modes/bands while you can. I personally don't pay too much attention to activation plans; I just like to search for mobiles in the next county whenever they show up. One thing the mobiles do that makes it easier is showing up on the same frequency on each band. That way they are in the bandmap and I can quickly scan those frequencies to check on their status. Although I prefer to stick with CW, making some SSB QSO's can make all the difference, and it did for me this year.

The contest results mentioned the 2007 winner Paul, WB2ABD. Paul is a good friend of mine and a great op. He was one of my Elmers when I was a fuzzy faced teenager, driving me to local radio club meetings and showing off his station. He's very deserving of the 2007 plaque that is so proudly displayed on his shack wall, and I will be just as proud of the 2009 plaque on mine. Thanks for a great time and I hope to be back again next year.

Ham Happenings

Around the area

Ozaukee Radio Club

Wed, February 10
7:30PM

Grafton Senior Center
1665 7th. Ave.
Grafton

CQ3TUE Lunch

Tues. February 16
11:15AM

Old Country Buffet
16750 W Bluemound Rd

Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club

Wed. February 24
7:30PM

Germantown Police Dept
Germantown

Milwaukee Radio Amateur Club (MRAC)

Thurs. February 25
7:00PM

Redemption Lutheran Church
4057 N. Mayfair Rd

South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Wed. March 3
7:00PM

Legion Post 434
9327 S Shepard Ave
Oak Creek

Amateur Radio Testing

Saturday, February 27
9:30AM

WARAC Swapfest
Amateur Electronic Supply
5720 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

NOTE

Please do not contact meeting places for information.

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Dues are due -

**Are you paid up?
See our new Treasurer**

Chuck Craven, WB9PUB
W2292 Beulah Hgts Rd
East Troy, WI 53120

**WARAC David Knaus
Memorial Scholarship**

Available to licensed Amateurs who are Wisconsin residents pursuing an Associate, Bachelor's or Graduate degree in any course of study. The application deadline is May 1, 2010.

Visit the [FAR website](#) for additional information and application forms.

WARAC 2-Meter Net

Since we no longer have a repeater, our off-meeting night net has moved to 147.42 simplex. Please make a note of it!

- 7:00 PM
- 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays
- 147.42 simplex

Thanks!



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

Howard Smith, WA9AXQ



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

Scuttlebutt...

- Our club no longer owns a repeater. The recent bidding was won by Dave Shank, KA9WXN. Dave will soon be taking delivery of the whole system.
- WIQP Rules for 2010 are now posted on our club website. Minor changes include a new Beginner category and a revision to the Canadian province multiplier list. Don't forget—March 14!
- John, K9IAC; John W, N9LGD; and Tom, K9BTQ; and Chuck, N9DII are going to the HamCation Hamfest in Orlando, FL on February 12-14. About two-dozen members of the Milwaukee-Florida Net will meet for dinner on Saturday.
- Jackie, KC9MJO, has a new personal website showcasing his musical endeavors. He also has several pictures of his antennas. <http://www.johnsdoublereedmusicpage.com/>

Do you have news that isn't listed here? It won't be here if ye editor doesn't know about it - call or email Tom, K9BTQ!

Upcoming Meeting Programs

February 9

K5D DXpedition to Desecheo Island
by Ron Gorski, N9AU

March 9

**Multiple Uses for an
Antenna Analyzer**
by Chuck Craven, WB9PUB

Program suggestions?

Let us know - Contact a Board member!

President's Shack

(Continued from page 1)

trix. I sure would like to see a few more club members work this contest. As a club, we generally do well in the club competition, but more operators means a higher score. This is a fun contest because it is just a Sunday afternoon, so the time is usually not a problem. How about marking your calendars and making plans to participate this year?

One of the interesting aspects of our hobby is the DXpedition. Take a bunch of Hams, some gear, and go to a remote location for a week or two, and see how many contacts can be made from that location. When you are done, there are always lots of pictures, videos, etc., capturing the event. The DXpedition, K5D - Desecheo Island, is one of these events that happened in 2009. Ron, N9AU, will be presenting the video about this event for the February program.

*See you at the meeting.
Howard, WA9AXQ*



February 4 - Frank Humpal, KA9FZR
 February 6 - Phil Gural, W9NAW
 February 11 - Tom Liebe, WI9TCM
 February 14 - Gene Wierzbicki, W9RYJ
 March 7 - Ray Massie, WB9WNA



www.warac.org

*Wedding
Anniversaries*

< None to report >

Minutes

(Continued from page 2)

seem rather pricey to our attendees (and to Phil).

Insurance - Craven mentioned that our annual insurance policy came due. Craven would like to look into other providers.

Club Repeater – the Board talked about some guidelines before they opened the bids. Howard thought we had received two bids. (It turns out only one was received, the other envelope was a swapfest announcement). Upon opening, Dave Schank bid for the entire system. By motion, the Board accepted his bid. The money will be put into the general fund, as this is where the funds originally came from, and where the funds to operate the system have come from since. Tamblyn questioned the club frequency. Dave will be asked if he wishes to take over the club frequency before any changes are made.

Audit Of Club Books – audits of 2008 and 2009 are needed. 2007 needs to be finalized. Howard will contact Dick Woods to get the 08 and 09 data, so a date to audit can be set up. Treasurer Craven will only be responsible for 2010 and beyond.

Programs – the February and March programs are in place. Discussion was held about programs for April, May and June. Suggestions were: a software keyer; CWGet; anatomy of a website; a contest night; a homebrew night; and perhaps an RTTY program.

Club Jackets – Tamblyn indicated he is not interested in continuing on, as he does not see anyone who appears interested. He will buy his own and have the club logo printed on it, as Craven has also done.

WIQP – Tamblyn advised the Board of the three items that need attention for 2010:

1. the Canadian abbreviations need to be updated to current Provinces/Territories;

2. a statement needs to be added that National Calling Frequencies not be used; and
3. the new BEGINNER category needs to be added.

Following this, the Board had some discussion on rules for entry into the Beginner category. Tamblyn will provide written information so the club webmaster can put them on the club website.

2010 Budget – Craven questioned the 2010 budget. None has been prepared. He asked if Tom Macon could prepare a tentative budget spreadsheet for 2010, as he has the old budget spreadsheet in his possession, since Craven is still coming up to speed as Treasurer. Craven said he will handle this next year. He indicated the annual budget should be in place as the club enters each budget year, which for WARAC is November 1.

Membership List Update – the Board talked a bit about updating the membership list, as well as doing a new Roster booklet. Nothing definite decided.

Club Contest – the Board had discussion about doing another club contest. Discussion centered on doing an A-Z type, meaning, one would work a station with the last letter of their call ending in “A”, “B,” “C,” etc, thru the letter “Z.” 26 contacts. This would not be limited to stateside contacts and would need to be made from your licensed home station, on any band, anytime, with no contacts on nets or in contests. No confirmations required. The Board will discuss this at the February membership meeting. If there are no objections, the Board thought it could start the day after the Feb meeting, i.e. Feb 10, and could run through June 1, with all logs needing to be submitted no later than the June regular club meeting, June 8, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR*

West Allis Radio Amateur Club, Inc.
Tom Macon, K9BTQ
3547 S. 95 St
Milwaukee, WI 53228



WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC.

PO Box 1072
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W9FK
<http://www.warac.org>

***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.