



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 68, Issue 2 February, 2020

FEBRUARY CLUB HAPPENINGS

New Location for Club Meeting

February 11, 2020

New Berlin Community Center 7:00pm

14750 W. Cleveland Ave.

New Berlin, WI

Between Mooreland and Sunny Slope

presentations

Swapfest info Erwin von der Ehe WI9EV

Nano VNA Steve Dryja NO9B

Premeeting dinner

New Berlin Ale House 5:15pm

16000 WCleveland Ave

West of Mooreland Rd.

Wisconsin QSO Party

March 15, 2020 - 1800Z to 0100Z March 16

(1:00PM CDT to 8:00PM CDT on Sunday, March 15)

(NOTE: Daylight Savings Time starts one week earlier in 2020)

WARAC 2-meter net

Every Wednesday at 8pm

SEWFARS W9TJK 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

NUT NET

Breakfast

8:30am fourth

Tuesday

of the month

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.

Contact her: 414-529-3536 or barbsewsblue@gmail.com.

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The President's Shack

I'm beginning to sound like an old man, I keep saying I don't remember winters being this warm when I was growing up! The fact that I was always skating on ponds and lakes around here and the park commission was able to drive on them to clear the snow off says maybe I remember the winters right.

Mike WO9B and Dave WB9OWN were glad it wasn't a real winter day for their Winter Field Day activation. Bill Reed N9KPH and me drove down to give them some moral support. They had a nice set up. I think our summer park activations have helped to teach us what is needed for going portable in it's many forms.

Otherwise I have been keeping busy, even doing some ham radio stuff. Steve NO9B will be giving us a talk on the Nano VNA tester. It has lots of possibilities but one does have to understand it's limitations. There is a reason it doesn't cost what the professional grade equipment cost. I bought one a while back and have used it to check on some of my antennas.

At the swapfest I actually won a Lithium Iron Phosphate Battery in a raffle. It's an amazing battery compared to the old lead batteries. I've just started to experiment with it.

Not much else here. Hope to see you at the meeting
73

Frank KA9FZR



**W5UDX Hi-Fi
ESSB Voodoo
Audio Amateur
Radio Station**

From the Editor

No editorial do to being occupied by the President's Shack

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WARAC Board Meeting Minuets

January 28, 2020

Meeting called to order 6:38 pm

Meeting held at New Berlin Library (the 2nd floor meeting room.)

All board members were present. Visitors were Dave Shank, Al Hovey & Joe Steifert.

Erwin von de Ehe, WI9EV, gave a Swapfest 2020 summary:

764 total attendance, 733 paid attendance. Table sales were down 8 tables.

First year online payment. Ticket orders were 34 snail mail and 36 PayPal.

There's a \$80 dollar dispute with the arena, something about last minuet table chair move... Contractually we are obligated to pay for it. Who did it?

“Our \$20 table price is in the middle of other Midwest swapfests.”

The 2019 swapfest maybe our highest grossing year.

One person complained about the \$1 dollar ticket increase.

Vendors were generally impressed with our operations.

Bill Reed, N9KPH, gave Financial summary:

Bill's Quicken data compared to Erwin swapfest spreadsheet agreed within \$100 dollars, this was agreed as good correlation.

The clubs yearly fiscal calendar is October 31 to October 31, Where Quicken is December 31 to December 31 fiscal year, this will always be confounding problem.

Bill's total dues paying members (year to date) was \$216. How many paying club members are there Dave? I guessed about 32 paying members, I was way high.

Mike Johnson, WO9B, gave Swapfest 2021 update:

Mike Johnson has stepped forward and assumed Erwin's swapfest duties.

Mike presented an assessment report on an alternative venue to the Waukesha Expo.

A decision will be made real soon.

Joe Seifert KB9QQJ, Swapfest Ideas for the future;

Shrinking club membership drives take home monies down. (Joe's Athletic Club experience.)

This is a problem that ever club is experiencing. The graying of the hobby.

Source or lack of young people?

Maybe need to change with the times - What do the young people of today do?

Create a virtual swapfest. “Keep the money for less work.”

Not a QRZ E classifies, not E-Bay. What then? This is an open challenge to WARAC club, “Nobody anywhere is doing this sort of thing.” Put your thinking hats on people.

Joe knows a website coder that could help.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Garnier

WB9OWN

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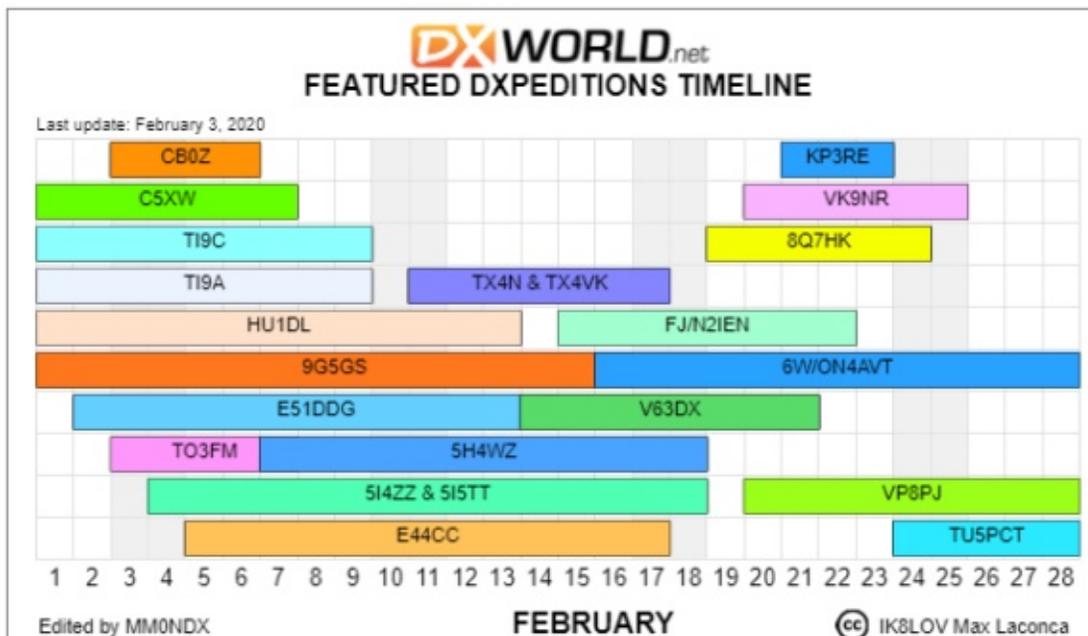
See David Garnier, WB9OWN, to pick up name badges:

WD9EFN	John Tankersley
KD9MFS	Marc Schneider
W9JSP	Jeff Pahl
KD9MUU	Bill Guynn
AA9RK	Michael Falk
KD9Nzb	Max Falk
KC9PQD	Ron Clayton
KA9SY	Bob Schwigel
KD9LCT	Ken Kegley
KD9IGO	Fred LeMere
KC9JET	Paul Hass
KC9REN	Dean Berglund
KF9K	Jim Nickel
W9DC	Conrad Herold
KD9NHK	Tom Massopust
KC9SBN	Darlene Berglund

DX / CONTEST UPDATE

http://www.hamradiotimeline.com/timeline/dxw_timeline_1_1.php

DX: February is here and the DX is popping this month. With the ARRL DX contest in a couple of weeks, you can expect the usual caribbean islands to spring to life...and a whole lot more. KP4/AA7CH Vieques Isl (Puerto Rico), TI9A Cocos Island, HU1DL El Salvador, TO4A Martinique, ZF1A Cayman Islands, CB0Z Alejandro Selkirk Island (Chile). I'm not even mentioning the AF, Asian, PAC stations littering the February calendar. Go get 'em. It's a hot month in DX.



CONTESTS: February is a big contest month with the opening of the 2020 State QSO Parties. Feb 1st hosted MN, VT and BC. And the hits keep coming. The big news in little contests is the announcement of the State QSO Party Challenge <http://stateqsoparty.com/> It is easy to do: Make at least 2 contacts in a state QSO party and upload your score to <https://3830scores.com/index.php>. They will process the information. Couldn't be easier. In the fun contest category is the Dutch PACC Contest on Feb 8th and 9th. Enter and they will send you an award. One contact gets you in the door.

State QSO Parties: South and North Carolina, Feb 29th – Mar 2

CQ WW RTTY WPX – Feb 8th and 9th.

Dutch PACC Contest: Feb 8th and 9th.

ARRL DX Contest CW: Feb 15th and 16th.

CQ 160 Meter SSB: Feb 21st • — • — •

Membership renewal

“Just a friendly reminder that club dues are payable as of November 1st. We'd also appreciate it if each of you would fill out a new application so that we have up to date information to keep the club directory current. Ideally, these along with dues can be turned in at the upcoming meeting. Dues can be paid three ways – cash, check, or via PayPal using the “friends and family” option. The club email address to use is waracpp@warac.org. You can also mail dues and/or the application to the clubs new address: P.O. Box 511381, New Berlin, WI 53151.” **Form on page 7**

Winter Field Day 2020

By Mike Johnson, WO9B

WINTER FIELD DAY
January 25/26 2020



WB9OWN and WO9B stared down the elements and managed an afternoon of Winter Field Day on Saturday, January 25th. This is our first WFD operation and we got very lucky with the weather. It was snowy and wet, but as these things go, mid-30 temps was a pleasant surprise.

What was not a surprise was how nice Shelter E at the Bong Recreational Area was. While not exactly warm, it did provide shelter, lighting and electricity along with several picnic tables which made setting up the two HF stations very easy. For heat, we depended heavily on Dave's propane torpedo heater which took the chill out of the air in no time flat. We did bring a couple of electric heaters as well and had those cranking the whole time.



Dave WB9OWN



Mike WO9B

We operated on 20 and 40 meters the whole time. Dave took care of the SSB and PSK31 Q's and I stuck to CW. The bands were decent, and the activity was steady. We got our wires crossed on the 80 meter setup, so we never got set up on that band. Ah well, next year. We managed 83 contacts and had a lot of fun.

Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	MLT	O	Pt/Q
7	CW	38	76	1	0	2.0
7	LSB	4	4	1	0	1.0
7	PSK3	2	4	1	0	2.0
14	CW	25	50	1	0	2.0
14	PSK3	8	16	1	0	2.0
14	USB	6	6	1	0	1.0
Total	Both	83	156	6	0	1.9



RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

ALL MEMBERS WHO JOIN ED BEFORE October 1 ST
MUST RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP BY September 30 TH
*****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 _____ Hamtix _____ 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 member ship 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
P. O. Box 511381
New Berlin, WI 53151-1381

WI QSO Party Planner 2020

By Mike Johnson, WO9B

The WI QSO Party is just around the corner. This is a great time to start planning your attack. Whether you wander into the shack and make a few friendly contacts or maybe you have decided to iron-butt the whole 7 hours, a plan can help your score and make for a better personal experience. Chatting with the WIQP chairman Tom, K9BTQ a few weeks back, I told him that participation in the MN QSO Party for me was key this year. We have all experienced the band conditions, or more appropriately, the propagation conditions the past few years, sometimes much to our surprise. They have not been what we call normal. The MN party takes place about a month prior to our special hoop-la and is a pretty good indicator of how things are going to go.

The MN QSO Party was held on Feb 1st for 2020. Last year I ran mobile in MN, but this year I just did not want to tempt the weather gods. The operation for MNQP 2020 was from the home shack. As usual, the MNQP has a bunch of mobile stations and a hearty crew of home stations filling the air. It is very similar to the WIQP with an energetic vibe and savvy operators. Here is what I learned:

40 Meter Band: 40 remains exactly as it has been for the past several years. It was slow to “shorten” up and I didn’t really start to hear the MN stations until 10:00 AM or so. The skip from 10:00 to 3:00 was longish. I worked more stations in western MN than eastern. The mobiles were all worked long (western), never short. So I suspect we are looking at a skip zone of 300 to 350 miles. For WIQP, that means WI counties are going to be tough to find on 40.

80 Meter Band: MN stations were easy to work until 9:00 AM. The band basically went MN dead after that until 4:00 PM. I checked the band frequently throughout the contest and saw sporadic stations being spotted, but no real contest activity. It is very much a local band until 3:00 PM when it

starts to lengthen out. After 4:00, MN stations were easy to work. SE WI is too far away to judge local activity in MNQP, but the mobile operations all claimed to be checking 80 throughout the day.

20 Meter Band: Super long. Just what we have experienced for the past several years. Not a whisper of a MN station. Nada.

So what do we learn?

Home/Fixed Station: Very much the same as the past few years. You will need to incorporate 80 meters in your game to get those pesky WI counties in your log. And once again, go early to 80. Don’t wait for the late afternoon. I’d literally do an 80 check every 30 minutes. 40 will bring in the state multipliers from 300 to 1000 miles or so, but for the east coast, gulf areas and the west, you need to do some time on 20 meters.

Mobile/Rover: I plan to work primarily 40 and 80. Those are the money bands with 20 receiving only a tip of the hat effort. Last year of my 360 contacts, only 15 were on 20. Enough said. Mobiles focus on CW given the realities of mobile antennas, so look for me there. I suspect after 4:00 PM we will only be on 80.

Goals: Even if you are a casual player in the WIQP, you should set a goal for your operation. It makes for a much more involved contest. Whether you shoot for 25 contacts or 500 contacts, pick a number and work to hit it. I tend to set contacts and multiplier goals. Working mobile is great as every county line means that no one is a dupe. As nice as that is, if your multiplier rate is falling fast, then it is time to change your strategy. Your score ain’t going anywhere working Indiana all afternoon.

What ever you do, have fun. CW is not the most personal mode, but you can still say HI to a friend. SSB is even better for that. Jump in. Have some fun. • —• —••



Winter Field Day Pictures

ICOM 7300 Noise Blanker Adjustment Tip

The ICOM 7300 is nice transceiver but adjusting the noise blanker for optimum functionality can be a fruitless exercise. I find the 7300's noise blanker operation to be vague to non-existent, more often than not I can't find any setting that works! My local noise sources come from various places, maybe it's 60 Hz line noise, fast arcing/buzzing or slow pulsating noise. Variable rate furnaces or high efficiency washers are another story.

This is my work around. When noise occurs on frequency I switch to **AM Mode** and then adjust Level, Depth or Width settings for any null in the noise, then switch back to SSB or CW.

Additionally, finding the noise null is easier with the AM AGC setting to 0.3 seconds or turned OFF. Be careful with the AGC switched OFF, switching to AM mode may blow your eardrums out!

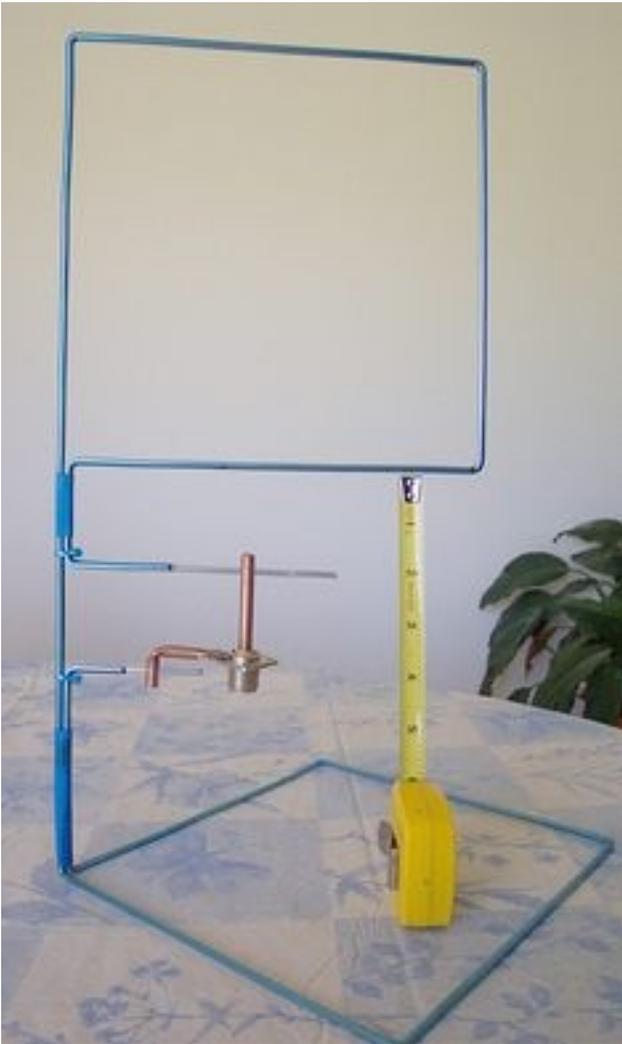
Try it, this method works like a charm.

Any tricks for Noise Reduction function?

No, I use a setting of 1 to 2 and nothing more. This setting takes the edge off band noise and adds a slight AGC action that makes listening less fatiguing... BTW, for the best listening experience ditch the ICOM accessory speaker and use a small bookshelf loud speaker, you will never go back.

73 de WD9OWN • —• —••





2 Meter Full Wave Loop

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