



Hamtrix

Volume 55, Issue 3 March, 2010

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Meetings & Events



March 9

Club Meeting

Multiple Uses for an Antenna Analyzer

by Chuck Craven, WB9PUB
7:00 PM Church Basement

Sunday, March 14

Wisconsin QSO Party

March 23

Board Meeting

7:00 PM Church Office

April 4

Material Due for Next
Hamtrix

April 13

Next Club Meeting



The President's Shack

by Howard Smith,
WA9AXQ

As you will soon notice, this Hamtrix is larger than recent issues. There is a good reason for that - WIQP is happening on the weekend after the club meeting. And there are several WIQP related articles in this Hamtrix. I hope you enjoy them. Don't forget, Sunday, March 14th at 1:00pm to 8:00pm is the WIQP contest, and I would like to hear lots of club members participating. See you on the air...

Amateur Electronic Supply is holding

their Superfest 2010 event this year on April 9th and 10th. We will have a club table there and I will be asking for some volunteers to man the table for us. This is an opportunity to promote our club, and hopefully find a few new members.

The program for March will be presented by Chuck, WB9PUB, and will talk about using Antenna Analyzers to assist in fine tuning your antenna farm.

Finally, I hope we are now past the snowstorm season, so we won't have to have last minute cancellations of club meetings. I always hate canceling a meeting, but sometimes there just is no other choice. I hope you didn't come to the February meeting only to find nobody was there.

See you at the meeting.
Howard, WA9AXQ

You're invited!

Wisconsin QSO Party

Sunday, March 14 - 1:00PM to 8:00PM CDT

Reservations Not Required

WIQP

ARE YOU READY?

By Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR, WIQP Chairman

Are you ready for some contesting? I know I am. For seven short hours, the March 14, 2010 version is going to keep the bands hopping, especially 40, 75 and 80 meters here in Wisconsin. You should be able to work all 72 of Wisconsin's counties. Better yet, you should be able to work all 50 states, if you expand your band selection to include the higher bands. What more could you ask for? Work All States and Work All Wisconsin Counties in an afternoon. March 14, Sunday afternoon, starting at 1:00 PM local time and ending at 8:00 PM local time.

Over the course of this past year I have been trying to emphasize contesting. We have talked about logging programs, had a well-known local contester give you some

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From the Minutes...

By Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR
Secretary

**Minutes of the General Meeting
February 9, 2010**

The February general meeting was cancelled due to a snow storm. Ron Gorski's program on the Desecheo Island DXpedition will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

**Minutes of the Board Meeting
February 23, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM. by Chairman Howard Smith.

Board members present were: Howard Smith, Chuck Craven and Tom Macon. Guests present were Phil Gural and Dick Wood. It was noted that a quorum of Board members was not present, so no official business could be conducted.

Wisconsin QSO Party – By email to the Board, Lynn announced that WIQP is ready to go on March 14.

Alphabet Contest – It was agreed among those present that the contest started as planned on February 10, the day after the meeting that was cancelled. Chuck asked how the winner would be determined and it was agreed that it would be the first member to submit a log with callsigns ending in all 26 letters of the alphabet.

Club Repeater – Howard informed those present that Dave Schank, winner of the bidding for the club repeater equipment, submitted a check for the purchase amount and picked up all the equipment except for the antenna. He will pick up the antenna from John Westimayer's house.

Audit Of Club Books – Howard stated that he plans to do a "pre-audit" with Dick and Chuck to help speed the actual audit. He will set up a meeting to do this.

Club Budget – Dick Wood provided copies of the budget spreadsheet that included the actual income and expense numbers for 2008. Based on this, the Board

members discussed budget numbers for 2009. Tom agreed to distribute the updated budget spreadsheet to all Board members.

Programs – Since the February meeting was cancelled, Howard recommended that the February program by Ron Gorski be rescheduled to March. Chuck indicated that he would actually prefer to do his Antenna Analyzer program in April. Tom agreed to contact Ron about scheduling this.

Possible future programs include a Software Keyer by Howard, WA9AXQ, Anatomy of our Club Website by Tom, K9BTQ, and a CWGet code reader demo by Chuck, W9WLX, and Tom, K9BTQ. Howard's keyer program was scheduled for May.

Howard mentioned that AES Superfest is April 9 and 10 this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

For the Secretary,
Tom Macon, K9BTQ



2009 WIQP Club Winner - Doug Schultz, N9EZF, president of the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club, accepts the 2009 First Place Club plaque on behalf of his club. FDLARC's 21 ops scored a total of 517506.5 points. Way to go!

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WIQP 2009

IN-WISCONSIN WINNER

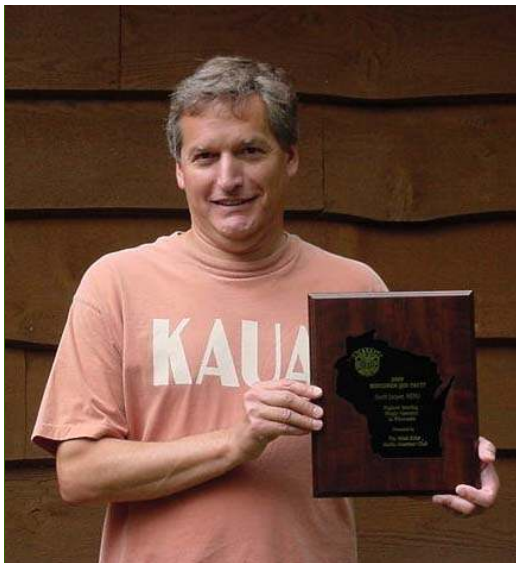
By Scott Jasper, NE9U

I was first licensed in 1972 at age 13 as WN9JWO and upgraded to General a year and a half later to WB9JWO. WB9JWO was an extremely bad CW call, so in the early 80's after being largely inactive my college years, I switched to NE9U. My main interest right now is CW contests. I don't have much of a DX/contest station (Icom 765/751's and a Cushcraft A4 at 56 feet and low wires), so I usually end up multi-opping in the CQWW and ARRL DX contests from W0AIH. I have also operated from there as a single-op for the last few "no sun-spots" 10 meter contests.

My long-time mobile QSO party driver Art, N9BCA, and I usually go out mobile for the Wisconsin and Minnesota QSO parties. Both of them can be very interesting weather-wise as it can be 20 below zero or 80 above zero. We have experienced both! We usually make a weekend out of it either starting or finishing at my cabin in far northern Wisconsin. Propagation-wise it isn't a smart choice as, if there is any solar activity that takes place, the bands that far north can be shut down. One year, when we started the WQP in Douglas County, there was a solar flare and it took us an hour to make our 15 QSO's (under then old rules). This year, our rate meter was pegged at over 100/hour from the start (the sun must have been quiet).

Our station is rather simple. I use the old school Hustler resonators in a spider arrangement. Our transceiver is a Kenwood TS-850, which is a pretty good CW radio. I find it best for rate to keep the filters wide open and let my ears do the filtering so I don't miss anyone who is calling off frequency. Often with the huge pile-ups we get, the off-frequency callers are the only ones that can be deciphered! Staying old school, we run an old DOS 486 laptop with TR on it.

One strategy that I have tried the last



Scott showing off his in-state winner's plaque for the 2009 WIQP. He visited 17 counties, did 777 CW Qs and 9 phone Qs, with 70 multipliers and 8,500 bonus points, for a total of 172,615 points.

few years in MNQP and WQP is to go to 80 early and often. I used to get hurt by my low multiplier count, but by hitting 80, that has improved. I still do not have much luck calling CQ'ers whether fixed or mobile. I guess a mobile signal is just too weak or people aren't listening deep enough in the noise. So I try and find a spot away from any loud fixed stations and call CQ. On 80 we get pushed around a lot and can't hold the same frequency very long. On 40 and 20 we try and keep the same frequency as it helps callers find us quicker. I also always make a special effort to hit 20 in every county we are in as 20 is often the only band far away stations can participate on. We try and keep the contest interesting for them!

The most important thing that has improved our score (besides practice, practice, practice) is obtaining a QUIET vehicle. In our first WQP attempt years ago, we used N9BCA's Ford pickup truck. When it was running we always had 20/9

(Continued on page 5)

Ham Happenings

Around the area

Ozaukee Radio Club

Wed, March 10

7:30PM

Grafton Senior Center

1665 7th. Ave.

Grafton

CQ3TUE Lunch

Tues. March 16

11:15AM

Old Country Buffet

16750 W Bluemound Rd

Wisconsin Amateur

Radio Club

Wed. March 31

7:30PM

Germantown Police Dept

Germantown

Milwaukee Radio
Amateur Club (MRAC)

Thurs. March 25

7:00PM

Redemption Lutheran Church

4057 N. Mayfair Rd

South Milwaukee
Amateur Radio Club

Wed. April 7

7:00PM

Legion Post 434

9327 S Shepard Ave

Oak Creek

Amateur Radio Testing

Saturday, April 10

8:30AM

One hour earlier than normal.

Amateur Electronic Supply

5720 W. Good Hope Rd.

Milwaukee, WI

NOTE

Please do not contact meeting places for information.

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
Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR



Write an Article
This means
You!
Please??

Scuttlebutt...

- Howard's XYL, Vickie, is recovering from hip replacement surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery.
- Liam Bennett, KC9NGW, recently passed his General test, missing only three questions. Liam is 11 years old and is grandson of Louie, W9GSV. His dad, Terry, KB9YPS, upgraded to General last December. The Bennetts live in Wausau. Good work, Liam and Terry!
- AES Superfest is on April 9th and 10th this year, the weekend after Easter. As in recent years, our club will have a table to promote our club. Please sign up at the next meeting to help out.

See <http://www.aesham.com/superfest.shtml> for more info on Superfest.

- A Lobster Feast dinner at Orlando's HamCation hamfest was enjoyed by John, K9IAC; John W, N9LGD; and Tom, K9BTQ in February. More than two-dozen members of the Milwaukee-Florida Net came together for the dinner. See pictures at <http://www.warac.org/mke-fla/lf2010/>

- Here's club member Bob Scrip, WD9ANY, holding his electric powered R/C airplane. He decided to go electric after watching fellow R/C pilots struggle to start their fuel engines. Bob is a member of the Rainbow Aero Modelers Society (RAMS), which has a flying field near 76th and Oakwood Road in Franklin.



Bob's dad, Edmund WA9HAH, was a long-time club member until he became a Silent Key a few years ago.

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!

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Upcoming Meeting Programs

March 9

Multiple Uses for an
Antenna Analyzer
by Chuck Craven, WB9PUB

Program suggestions?
Let us know - Contact a Board member!

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ON THE AIR FOR WIQP-

USS WISCONSIN RADIO CLUB N4WIS

By Tom Macon, K9BTQ



Established in 2000, the USS Wisconsin Radio Club's stated purpose is to promote public interest in the Battleship *USS Wisconsin* (BB-64), the United States Navy and the Nauticus National Maritime Center in Norfolk, Virginia. Their club callsign is N4WIS.

N4WIS will be on the air from the USS Wisconsin on Saturday and Sunday, March 13 and 14. During the hours of the Wisconsin QSO Party on Sunday, N4WIS will give preference to Wisconsin stations working WIQP.

By working N4WIS, you can get a nice pictorial QSL card if you send a SASE – see <http://n4wis.org/> for details. (Click on *QSL Info*). N4WIS will be on the air three more weekends during 2010.

- Museum Ships On The Air (MSOTA), June 5 and 6
- USS Wisconsin final De-Commissioning, September 25 and 26
- Commemoration of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 4 and 5

Again, see <http://n4wis.org/> for details. (Click on *Special Events*).

The *USS Wisconsin* is one of four battleships of the *Iowa*-class (BB-61 through BB-64) that were built during WWII. The other three are *Iowa*, *New Jersey* and *Missouri*. Two other *Iowa*-class ships, *Illinois* and *Kentucky*, were scrapped prior to completion. The *Missouri* is probably the best known since it hosted the signing of the surrender of Japan in Tokyo Bay in September, 1945.

The *Iowa*-class battleships were the last of the big battleships. They hosted nine 16-inch guns and were designed to fit through the Panama Canal with less than a

foot to spare on either side. All four *Iowa*-class battleships are now museums. The *Missouri* is located near the *USS Arizona* Memorial at Pearl Harbor.

When you work N4WIS, please express your thanks to the USS Wisconsin Radio Club for their support of the Wisconsin QSO Party.



In-state Winner, NE9U

(Continued from page 3)

fuel pump noise. That first year to make any QSO's we had to be on the side of the road with the engine shut off. We installed the Ford modification to get rid of the fuel pump noise but it didn't help much. Over the years we have also tried my Chevy Blaze, Chevy Astro, and Jeep Cherokee with various levels of success. Currently we use Art's Jeep Grand Cherokee and have just about no noise at all. You can't work them if you can't hear them, and currently I think we can hear anyone that hears us.

73 and see you all in MNQP and WQP's in 2010.

Avoid County Confusion

Wisconsin county names can be confusing. Here are a few to watch out for. Don't lose a multiplier by using the wrong abbreviation!

- Green county (GRE) and Green Lake county (GRL) are two different counties.
- Washington (WAS) and Washburn (WSB) are easily confused.
- Three county names start with **Wau..** - Waukesha (WAU), Waupaca (WAP) and Waushara (WSR).
- Three county names start with **Mar..** - Marathon (MAR), Marinette (MRN), and Marquette (MRQ)

NOW IN PROGRESS...

THE ALPHABET CONTEST

ENDS JUNE 1

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 began 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.
- The winner will be the first member to submit a log with all 26 QSO's.
- 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.

FOLLOW-UP ON LAST NOVEMBER'S ROBOTICS PROGRAM



The email below was recently received from Brian, K9WIS, who connected us with the More Robotics team that did the demo at last November's meeting.

Hi Tom,

Just a reminder for your guys... The FIRST robotic competition is just around the corner. See the link below for details. <http://www.wisconsinregional.com/>

All teams received the game rules on January 9th. Team 1714 from Thomas More has completed the design of their robot for this year and has fabricated most of the parts. They are in the process of putting it all together. Programming is close to completion. This year's robot features a camera to give the drivers a robot's view of the playing field. A gyro to provide heading information and a 3-axis accelerometer to provide robot orientation information. We only have two more weeks to finish the robot before it gets shipped to the first competition. This year's game will be a modified version of 3 on 3 soccer with some obstacles in the playing field.

Come to the arena to watch the competition. If you're a real gearhead, geek, hacker or nerd come down to the arena on Thursday, March 11th. That's practice day when the teams fine-tune the robots before competition starts on Friday. It's a little bit more relaxed and the kids have more time to talk. It's all free to the public.

The team is always looking for sponsors.. How would a nice W.A.R.A.C. logo look on our robot... Based on my experience I think you would be the first ham radio club to sponsor a robot at the WI regional.

As usual, you can stop by American Acrylics in South Milwaukee to see how the robot build is going. The team is there every weeknight from 5:30 to around 8:00 and all day Saturday starting at 8:30 AM.

Brian Cieslak - K9WIS
Programming Mentor
Team 1714

See more at <http://www.morerobotics.org/>



March 7 - Ray Massie, WB9WNA
 April 6 - Karen Engemann, N9CCX
 April 10 - Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

Wedding
 Anniversaries

April 8 - Lynn and Joanne Tamblyn



www.warac.org

ANNOUNCING THE NEW

ARRL ROOKIE ROUNDUP

Adapted from <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/02/18/11349/>

Rookie Roundup is a new contest specifically for those new to Amateur Radio. It's designed to help newly licensed amateurs build their operating skills on HF, reminiscent of the ARRL Novice Roundup contest that ran from 1952 until 1995.

Three Rookie Roundups will be held each calendar year: SSB in April, RTTY in August and CW in December. Any ham licensed for 3 years or less qualifies as a Rookie. Non-Rookies may only work Rookies, while Rookies may work anybody.

But there's a new 21st century twist to Rookie Roundup – 100% “real time” scoring. This means that each QSO made gets logged immediately over the Inter-

net to www.getscores.org. No separate logs are required -- it all happens online in real time and final scores will be available online within hours of the end of the contest! There are three ways to participate: by using your favorite logging software with the real time scoring support; by downloading a simple logging program from the www.getscores.org website, or by logging your contacts directly into a www.getscores.org web page.

See <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2010/rr.html> for the Rookie Roundup rules. Note that there have been some changes since the original announcement in March QST. The first RR is on April 18 from 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC.

Are YOU Ready?

(Continued from page 1)

pointers, and even practiced during Field Day. Last month in Hamtrix we featured our 2009 out-of-state winner. This month we feature our 2009 in-state winner, NE9U. I even include our 2009 winning club presentation picture with this HT issue. All of this to try and motivate the membership to participate. I hope it worked and you are. March 14 is real close.

The contest exchange is simple – you provide your county. If the other station is in Wisconsin, he provides his county. If he is out of state, then he provides his state. If he is DX than just log his country. You will be able to contact the same station on all modes, such as CW and phone, but certainly not limited to those two. Digital works too. So with the same station on one band using two modes, you get two valid contacts. However, it is not limited there. If you change bands, you can re-work that station again. And if the station is a mobile station, and we have lots of them each year, you can work him as he changes his county, on all modes each time. Bottom line, if you do nothing else but chase the mobile stations from county to county, you could make

lots of contacts in the seven hours. But, you do not have to use HF at all. There are quite a number of VHF and UHF stations that participate, with coverage around Milwaukee pretty decent, with perhaps 6 to 7 or more counties possible.

Check the club website for the rules and a WI county map to help you work all 72, which you could use to cross them off as you work them. Then use a logging program or just plain olde paper to participate. Be sure to send in your log.

By the way, if you plan to use our suggested N3FJP software, please be aware that we updated the Canadian Province and Territory abbreviations to reflect current practice. VY0, Nunavut Territory, abbreviated NU, was added. The N3FJP program will not accept NU. So when you work VY0, just type in “Canada” and hit *enter* to log it. The rest of the changes will cross over without a problem. Be aware, that with these changes, we still will only allow 13 Canadian abbreviations to be claimed by any entry.

Hope to CU on the bands *and* then receive your logs.

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
Milwaukee, WI 53201
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.