



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

Volume 57, Issue 3 March, 2010

## MARCH CLUB HAPPENINGS

Club Meeting  
March 8, 2011 7:00pm  
Programs: History of Ham Radio  
Since WWII by Bill Shadid, WA9MXQ  
2011 Wisconsin QSO Party by Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR

WARAC 2-meter net  
March 15 & 29, 2011 7:00pm  
MATC repeater 147.045 standard offset  
127.3 Hz CTCSS

Wisconsin QSO Party  
Sunday March 13, 2011  
1:00PM CDT(1800Z) to 8:00PM CDT (0100Z  
14MAR11)

## UPCOMING CLUB HAPPENINGS

### 2011 WISCONSIN QSO PARTY – PLAN TO PARTICIPATE

By the time you get to read this third of three WIQP articles, there will be just over a week until WIQP 2011 happens March 13, starting at 1 PM local time. I hope you enjoyed reading the January Hamtrix article by Paul Kirley, W8TM, our out-of-state 2010 plaque winner, and the February Hamtrix article by Jim Callow, K8IR, operator of mobile NG9T, who was our in-state 2010 plaque winner. I hope you picked up some tips from either or both of them.

As I usually do each year, I try to do a pep talk for the membership, so they will decide to participate in the Wisconsin QSO Party, sponsored by their club since 1979. This year I am going to try

something different. Still a pep talk, but this time by another person.

CQ Magazine does a very good job, trying to get people on the air – contest wise – in addition to sponsoring a number of contests annually that enjoy very good participation. At the end of last year, their long time Contest Editor, John Dorr, K1AR, decided to step down. Until they find a replacement, CQ Editor Richard Moseson, W2VU, has been doing the column. In the Contesting Column for February, Richard Moseson, W2VU, spoke to casual operators in contests. He did such a good job, that I would like to quote some excerpts from his discussion ( February 2011 issue, page 108 ) –

Continued on pg 5



# *The President's Shack March 2011*

As I write this, I am sitting in front of my radio looking for stations in the North Carolina QSO Party. Lots more CW activity today than I could hear yesterday in the Mississippi QSO Party. This is one of the times of the year when there are lots of QSO parties and other small contests.

When you read this it will be just one more week until it's Wisconsin's turn - Sunday, March 13! All you need to know about the 2011 edition of our Party is on our website at <http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm>

In addition, the second program at our upcoming meeting will be Wisconsin QSO Party chairman Lynn, K9KR, leading a discussion about our upcoming Party. He'll have plenty of good tips and other information to help you make the most of your WIQP effort.

Whether you're a contester or not, please be on the air for this one. It's sponsored by our club and members need to show their support. Also, it would be great if WARAC could place higher in the club standings. Last year we were in 10th place with eight club members participating. I think we can do better with an all-out effort. If you have station problems or anything else you need help with to get on the air, please call on me or other club members to give you a hand.

The first program at the upcoming meeting will be "The History of Ham Radio since WWII - From Boat Anchors to DSP", by Bill Shadid, WA9MXQ. This promises to be a really interesting program.

On February 19, the first annual Interclub (MRAC / MAARS) Hamfest took place and it appeared quite successful for the first time out. We had club PR table there to promote our club and we will be doing this again at AES Superfest on April 1st and 2nd. Again, we'll need some help manning our PR table for that event.

We should promote our club in other ways, too. You can help by inviting other hams to come to our meetings or by bringing a friend. Tell people about the programs we have coming up - they are listed in advance on our website and in Hamtrix. See you at the meeting!

- Tom, K9BTQ

## **From the editor's desk**

I know February is a short month but this year both January and February seemed to be extra short. The weather and short months meant very little was done on my kite antenna experiment or my software defined radio project. Hopefully I'll have something positive to report on it next month. I think March is a long month.

As of now I hope to get on during our WI QSO party and make a few contacts. I have never been a contester so it will be a new experience for me. I did buy a copy of N3FJP's software for the WI QSO party after loading the demo copy onto my UBUNTU (LINUX) system seems to work good under the WINE (windows simulator) I have installed. It will be a good test if I can use 5 watts on ssb and still get out.

73

Frank KA9FZR



## **TOWARD ONE MOVING PART – Part Three**

After building a balanced antenna line measurement device, and testing it, I discovered that I had a problem - the readings from the device were not balanced. I used 600, 450, 300 and 150 ohm feedlines during that testing. Not only that, I found a second problem. My homebrew tuner would not load properly with some of those feedlines. It was looking to me like I was not gaining. Decision time. Should I continue trying to figure out both problems, or should I instead try a different path ?

After a period of studying the readings I had, I decided that perhaps I should try moving the antenna from its present resonant point of 3.2 Mhz, more up into the 75M band. I wanted to see whether having an antenna at 4 Mhz was easier to load than an antenna at 3.2, as I understand the impedance J factor would be all capacitive between 3.5 and 4 Mhz. I took out a bit of wire. I ended up at 3.8 Mhz. It was a bit of luck ending up at 3.8, as this way I could see both the inductive and capacitive effect of loading.

Using just the 150 ohm feedline, I saw readings become closer to 100 ohms at the

end of the feedline. For some dumb reason, I then tried a 4:1 balun at the end of the feedline inside the outer wall of the basement. Wow. While the readings were almost too low, I discovered that I could eliminate my tuner, and just use coax from the balun to the radio. Interesting. With the almost too low readings, I then tried a 1:1 choke balun I had. Double wow. I was right in the ballpark. The radio liked the SWR. I found the bandwidth I could cover was 80 KHz with under a 2:1 SWR, and almost 160 KHz with a 3:1 bandwidth. No moving parts now. I was making progress.

Encouraged by that, and since our 40 feet of snow had melted, I got the ladder out and put the choke balun at the antenna feedpoint, with 50 ohm coax from the choke balun to the radio. Much the same happened as with the balun inside the house.

The thought occurred to me. I would probably still need some moving parts with the balun at the antenna if I wanted to be able to cover all of 80/75M with a reasonable SWR. In effect, unless I did some kind of changing of baluns, or the balun ratio, or added wire to the antenna to change the resonance point, I would still need some moving parts, although of a different kind.

I am still pondering what I want to do. It looks like I will need moving parts. I plan to try a step down transformer in the feedline. Depending whether I have success or failure with that will determine my next move.

Stay tuned.

Lynn K9KR



## **WARAC General Meeting Minutes February 8, 2011**

### **Introduction**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President, Tom Macon, K9BTQ. There were 3 visitors. Overall meeting attendance was 19.

### **Program**

Home Brew Challenge Show and Tell  
Home brew challenge projects were presented. Six members presented 7 projects.

### **Announcements**

March program will be History of Ham Radio, presented by Bill Shadid, WA9MXQ and Wisconsin QSO Party Discussion, presented by Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR.

Reminder the MRAC/MAARS Swapfest is Saturday, February 19. WARAC will have a public relations table and volunteers are needed to staff it.

Reminder the Wisconsin QSO Party is March 13, 2011. All club members are encouraged to participate.

### **Discussion**

Motion to accept the January meetings minutes as published in Hamtrix.

Motion to accept two new WARAC members, Charles Kremer, KC9CEQ and Darren Beahler, unlicensed.

Four WARAC members participated in the Minnesota QSO party. Most QSOs worked appeared to be on CW, many were rovers.

Upcoming activities include MRAC FM simplex contest, 2/13; NHQP, 2/12-2/13; LAQP 2/12-2/13, MSQP, 2/26-2/27; and NCQP 2/26-2/27.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX  
Secretary WARAC

*“ Who is the most important operator on the air during a contest ? Is it the operator of the 20 meter ‘run’ station at a big multi-multi ? The single-op on a remote island, sorting through a pile-up that never seems to end ? The ham who might not even be on the air but who provides facilities for a superstation setup ? All of these people are important, of course, but I submit that the most important operator in any contest is..me! Not me individually, but the people like me - casual contest operators with average stations ... who get on for 4 to 8 hours ...and make a couple of hundred contacts. They are not competitive, they are not likely to show up on the Top Scores listings, and it is highly unlikely that they will wind up with a certificate, let alone a plaque. So what makes them so important ?*

*Simple. Without these non-competitive casual contesters, the so-called ‘little pistols,’ there would be no contest, or at least not one that’s any fun or that would draw many... If it were not for these little guys, the big multi-multis, the contest superstations, ... would all work each other, and then everybody would pack up and go home.....*

*Bottom line, ... more readers say they participate in CQ contests than identify themselves as contesters! These are the people who become the ‘wild cards’ for the dedicated contesters, and who often make the difference between winning and losing for the ‘big guns.’*

*Their main motivations for getting into the fray on a contesting weekend: Fun and camaraderie.... So the vast majority are not in (it ) for competitive reasons, yet they are the ones who make the contest competitive for those who are. ....*

*Remember folks, I ( along with all my fellow casual contesters ) am the most important operator in the contest.”*  
W2VU

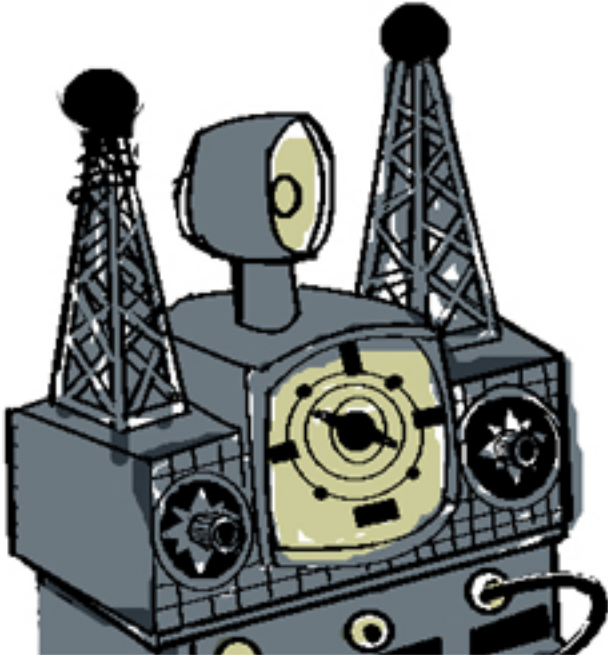
Well put Richard. The same holds true during WIQP. Without all the casual stations, most of our WIQP “big guns” would not be “big guns.” Casual operators simply chasing mobile stations from county to county provide lots of repeat contacts for mobiles. Of course, to a lesser extent, the fixed stations also benefit from casual operators, simply because the casual operator is on the air.

Bottom line – be a casual operator in 2011 WIQP for WARAC, as well as yourself. I believe you will enjoy it very much. The number of contacts you make is not important. Being on the air is. Be sure to send in your log for the Club Competition segment of WIQP. Learning a bit about contesting in the process is a plus. It might even be a reason to get on the air in other contests, if for no other “excuse” than to test your station. That is what I do each year – lots of testing. I not only enjoy the fun of chasing mobile stations from county to county, but I also enjoy the camaraderie that exists during WIQP, which WIQP has lots of. For the seven hours, less potty breaks and “tired time”, I find out how my station antennas are working, make sure the radio and computer still work, check out band conditions and learn propagation. Plus I have fun trying. Join me.

Lynn K9KR  
Chairman WIQP for WARAC



<http://www.dashtoons.com/dash!clips1.html>



*Visit the WARC web site for  
QSO Party rules and info  
<http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm>*

## **February 22, 2011 Board Meeting**

Howard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Present: Tom Macon, K9BTQ, Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, Chuck Craven, WB9PUB, Frank Humpal, KA9FZR, and Dave Schank, KA9WXN.

### **Audit**

Howard Smith will create Quicken books for 2008 & 2009 financial data. Chuck Craven will enter 2010 financial data into Quicken.

### **Defining the 2011 Fiscal Budget**

Howard Smith and Chuck Craven will work together on 2011 fiscal budget. Budget scheduled for review at March 22, 2011, board meeting.

### **Club Operation Manual**

The Board reviewed Chuck Dellis' example for Office of Secretary and Frank Humpal's example for Hamtrix publishing process. The complete list of items is under discussion.

There was a brief discussion about the Secretary taking on the role of club archivist/historian. Much historical data does not exist causing a considerable challenge. No further decision was made.

### **Scholarship**

Howard Smith requested a check to submit funds to FAR.

### **Programs**

March – History of Ham Radio, Bill Shadid, WA9MXQ and Wisconsin QSO Party, Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR.

April/May – Weather Service, Tom Krocharski, and HD Radio. Dave Schank will confirm dates and presenters.

June – Field Day, Tom Macon.

Additional suggested topics include Digital Circuit Design, Home Brew Antenna Projects, and N1MM Logging.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX  
Secretary WARAC

# Tidbits

**\*John, K9IAC**, is now Extra Class! And he went all the way to Florida to take the test. Congratulations, John!

**\*Betty Rogers**, XYL of longtime club member Ken Rogers, W9NUE, passed away on February 15. Services were on February 21st and several club members attended.

## **\*Club website**

Our club website, which moved to a new site in early January, again has operating statistics available. To see them, go to <http://warac.org/stats/> (Go to our main page, then add “/stats” to the end of the website address on top of your browser).

You’ll see lots of graphs and data on visits, downloads, etc. Graphs show activity by day of the month and time of day plus much, much more. Take a look!

## **\*QSO Party stuff**

The best QSO Party listing site I’ve seen on the Internet is at <http://qsoparty.eqth.net/>. It’s quite complete and appears to be well maintained by N5NA. A really nice thing about it is that it is sortable. For example, you can sort the listing alphabetically by state or by party date.

## **\*What’s 3830?**

Perhaps you’ve heard of 3830 but have wondered what it is. For sure, you would never guess what it is by its name. Basically it’s an Internet place where anyone can post their claimed scores immediately after any contest. It’s a way to quickly get an idea of what the top scores might be, or to see how you did compared to others. In other words, it’s a contest rumor central.

To post a score, go to <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>, select a contest from the list, then fill in the form with your information. There are a number of places

where you can see the posted information. There is a list of summaries at <http://lists.contesting.com/pipermail/3830/>. Remember that 3830 is not official for any contest and is strictly on the honor system.

So why is it called 3830? Rumor has it that once upon a time, contest participants gathered on 3830kHz after a contest to exchange claimed score information. At some point, this after-contest activity found its way onto the Internet.

- Tom, K9BTQ

## **Officers and Board**

### **President**

Tom Macon, K9BTQ

### **Vice President**

Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

### **Secretary**

Chuck Dellis, W9WLX

### **Treasurer**

Chuck Craven, WB9PUB

### **Directors**

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR  
Dave Schank, KA9WXN  
Jim Wilkins, KC9KEQ

### **Newsletter Editor**

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR

### **Webmaster**

Tom Macon, K9BTQ

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.