



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

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Volume 60, Issue 3 March, 2013

## MARCH CLUB HAPPENINGS

**Club Meeting  
March 12, 2013**



**Program**

Digital Modes

Chuck Dellis W9WLX

**Join us for a pre-meeting dinner  
at Johnny V's Classic Cafe  
1650 S 84th St at 5:00pm**

WARAC 2-meter net  
Every Wednesday at 8pm  
MATC repeater 147.045 standard offset  
127.3 Hz CTCSS

**Wisconsin QSO Party  
March 10, 2013**

**[click here or see club webpage for more  
info](#)**



**NEW** club jackets and hats!  
Go to club Web site and click on  
The GOLD MEDAL IDEAS block  
**[For more info or click here](#)**



# *The President's Shack March 2013*

Chances are you will be reading this a day or so before our Wisconsin QSO Party on Sunday.

Preparations are on the home stretch. As of this writing, there are nine mobile/portable route postings, perhaps a couple more by week's end. Most of the regulars from past years have posted plans, but a couple are unable to go mobiling this year because of surgery or other personal issues. Check out the [route postings](http://www.warac.org/wqp/2013/ch-list.htm) on the WIQP web page at <http://www.warac.org/wqp/2013/ch-list.htm>.

As you probably know, much of the mobile activity is on CW, simply because usually relatively weak mobile signals can be heard by more people on CW. Also, there is usually less QRM there. If you've never "been there", take a listen around 7050 kHz, or 3550 kHz later in the day. I think you'll find that it's another fascinating aspect of QSO party operation.

No doubt about it - CW operation is the "hard core" of QSO party operation, but it's not for everybody. But the neat thing about statewide parties is that there's something for everyone, all the way from serious contesting to casual QSOing and VHF operation (simplex only, please).

The big thing to remember is that we need everyone! The more stations participating, the more QSO's will be made, and that makes it more fun for everyone. Be sure to read the [Rules](#), get on the air and join the party!

If you were at the last meeting, you heard about version 2.0 of the N3FJP logging program. Please upgrade if possible. If you need information on the

new version, go to the WIQP web page and look under Logging Software. There you will see how to upgrade and what the changes were. If you need help, please contact me.

And we want your log! Whether it's submitted electronically by email ([wqip-logs@warac.org](mailto:wqip-logs@warac.org)) or sent in by snail mail, we want your log. And don't think you didn't do well enough - in the past we've received logs with just two or three QSOs. Again, if you need help, please let me know.

Besides discussion of the Party, the program at the upcoming meeting is **Digital Modes** by our resident digital expert, **Chuck Dellis, W9WLX**. Chuck plans to do a live demo.

Amateur Electronics' annual Superfest is coming up the weekend after Easter, April 5 and 6. Set aside at least one of these days to visit our local toy store. As usual, our club will have a publicity table. And as usual, we'll need people to man that table. We will talk about this at the upcoming meeting.

Also don't forget our before-meeting dinner at **Johnny V's Classic Café, 1650 S. 84th St.** at 5:00PM. If we have at least ten attendees, we will be able to use their private room, located through the doors at the north end of the main dining room.

See you at the meeting! Bring a friend! And Good Luck in the contest!  
Tom, K9BTQ

## **From the Editor**

It's time for the QSO party! I hope you all have time to get on the air and make a few contacts. With the possible exception of Field Day this is usually my only venture into Contesting. I make it a real challenge by doing it with QRP SSB and who knows maybe CW. I do have the latest N3FJP which I can run on my Linux machine under Wine. Even if you only get a couple contacts add your log to the pile!

**EDITOR pg 7**

# **WARAC General Meeting Minutes**

## **February 12, 2013**

### **Introduction**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President, Tom Macon, K9BTQ. Overall meeting attendance was 16 with two visitors.

### **Program**

The evening's program, Mobile CW Operation, was given by Pat Hoppe, WW9R.

### **Business**

A Wisconsin QSO Party roundtable was conducted. The new version of the Wisconsin QSO Party logging program by N3FJP was reviewed. Version changes and installation were discussed.

The March meeting program will be HF Digital Modes by Chuck Dellis, W9WLX.

Motion was made and accepted to approve the January meeting minutes as published in Hamtrix.

Club dues are due, see Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

Club name tags will be ordered and hopefully available by the March meeting.

### **Announcements**

Please welcome a new Extra, Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, pass the Extra examination.

Johnny V's is the place for the WARAC pre-meeting dinner. The dinner starts at 5:00 and everyone is encouraged to participate.

Reminder—the Wednesday night 2 meter net is at 8:00 pm on 147.045, + offset, PL 127.3. Join in!

Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX  
Secretary WARAC

## Board meeting canceled due to snow storm

### West Allis Radio Amateur Club 2012 10 Meter Contest Results By Chuck Dellis, W9WLX

Here are the results of the West Allis Radio Amateur Club 10 Meter Contest. Certs will be presented at the November awards dinner.

#### Mix Mode, CW & Phone Low Power

Place	Name	Call	CW	Phone	Club Members	Score
1st	Chuck Dellis	W9WLX	100	117	5	500.5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tom Macon	K9BTQ	56	110	7	368
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dave Engelmann	WB9GZP	2	9	3	34.5

#### Phone Only Low Power

Place	Name	Call	QSOs	Club Members	Score
1 <sup>st</sup>	Chuck Craven	WB9PUB	307	6	495.5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	John Zach	K9IAC	186	8	319
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ron Crown	KA9JCP	174	6	291
4 <sup>th</sup>	Phil Gural	W9NAW	91	9	181.5
5 <sup>th</sup>	George Dunco	AA9SR	54	6	111
6 <sup>th</sup>	Howard Smith	WA9AXQ	54	4	101
7 <sup>th</sup>	Dick Wood	W9JBE	25	1	42.5

## **Field Day Around the Corner?** **By Chuck Dellis, W9WLX**



We are into a busy season of Ham Radio events, the Wisconsin QSO Party, AES Superfest, Dayton, and then Field Day. So while Field Day may not be “around the corner”, it will be here before you know it! We need to start thinking about what Field Day 2013 is going to look like for the West Allis Radio Amateur Club.

WARAC had a respectable showing in 2012, placing in the top 20% overall with some great publicity. Let’s beat our 2012 performance this year! A key element is getting operators on the air, especially during the overnight hours. What suggestions do you have to effectively engage as many operators as possible? Watch for club announcements or Hamtrix for the upcoming Field Day planning meeting and voice your ideas. If you are unable to make the planning meeting, please give me a call and share your thoughts. I am looking forward to working with everyone in the coming months towards a memorable Field Day 2013.

## **Invitation to see the Robotics** **From the MORE Robotics Club**

Hi Frank,

Just a quick note...

The MORE Robotics Club, the high school team that did a presentation for WARAC a couple of years ago is once again competing the FIRST robotics tournament to be held at the Milwaukee Celluar Arena on March 22, and 23. Over 50 robots from all over the US will compete. And its all free.

The game is a real challenge this year as the robot has to throw frisbees through goals of varying sizes and difficulty for points. Also the robot had the opportunity to climb an 8 foot tall structure in the middle of the field to score additional points..

The team is also competing in Duluth this weekend, March 8 and 9. The Duluth and Milwaukee regionals will be webcast. To get the links go to [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org)

Here is a special invite for WARAC. On Thursday, March 21, the teams will be setting up, testing and practicing with their robots for the competition. Come down and visit the pit area, see the robots, talk to the kids. Visit us at our pit, MORE ROBOTICS, FRC Team 1714.

73, Brian K9WIS

# Wisconsin QSO Party Sunday, March 10, 2013

*By Tom Macon, K9BTQ*

With the 2013 edition of our Party only a month away, preparations are in full swing. Here's what's happening.

No doubt you've already heard that we now have an Internet mailing list (a.k.a., email reflector) for WIQP. It's open to anyone interested in discussing the QSO Party, including plans for mobile and portable operating plans, ideas, suggestions or other banter about WIQP. So far, there are about 40 sign-ups. See *Join our Mailing List* on the [WIQP web page](#) for sign-up information. QSO parties are about working counties and we hope that all Wisconsin counties will be activated, either by mobiles passing through, portable stations, or by local hams. Northern counties are least likely to be active, so if you know or talk to hams up north, invite them to the party!

For more information on county activation, see [Activate All 72!](#) on the WIQP web page. The table there shows the number of fixed and mobile stations in each county based on 2011 data. That year, mobiles activated 56 counties while fixed stations activated only 42, so you can see that the mobiles are a big part of getting our Wisconsin counties on the air. Eight counties were not activated at all.

Information on Planned Mobile Routes for 2013 will be published on the web page in the next couple weeks and will be updated as more information comes in. Mobile route postings may be made on the WIQP reflector or on the [County Hunters](#) website, as in past years.

In January the popular N3FJP logging program for WIQP was updated with the release of version 2.0. As you may recall, there was a statement on the N3FJP website about changes in the contest rules that the program did not support. This statement is now gone. Changes include updating the Canadian province list, addition of our Beginner (Rookie) entry category, and updates to the Setup and Write Submission File screens. For a more complete list of changes, see <http://www.warac.org/wqp/n3fjp-changes.htm> on the WIQP web page.

Instructions on how to upgrade to N3FJP version 2.0 plus Operating Tips for setting up and using the program are also on the web page. Go to <http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm> and look for Logging Software.

Another addition to the web page is tips on the use of the N1MM logger. Since this program handles many contests, it's a bit more difficult to make the proper setup selections. So please check out our [N1MM Tips](#) for WIQP if you'll be using the N1MM program.

We will want your log! Electronically (by email) if at all possible. But it doesn't matter how many Q's you make or if you have a handwritten log – we still want it. If you have questions or problems with your setup or log submission, please post your questions on the WIQP reflector or contact us at [wiqp@warac.org](mailto:wiqp@warac.org).

Please get on the air on March 10! It's only seven hours – 1:00pm to 8:00pm local time. WIQP has something for everybody, from hard-core contesters to casual “mom and pop” operation and everything in between. Do because you're a member of the sponsoring club, do it for a high score, or do it for fun but, by all means, do it!

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**SUPERFEST**  
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**EDITOR**

Also note on page 5 the “MORE Robotics Club” offered us an invitation to go down and watch them test their machines.

See you on the air!

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.