



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

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Volume 61, Issue 3 March, 2014

## MARCH CLUB HAPPENINGS Club Meeting

St. Peter's Episcopal Church,  
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis  
March 11, 2014 7pm

### Program

WIQP follow-up, Tom Macon/All, K9BTQ

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



NUT NET  
3.985mhz  
Monday-Saturday  
8:15am

**A vote will be taken by the membership at the March 11th meeting to  
approve the Board Motion to move funds from a General Fund CD into the  
Scholarship Fund.  
see pg 7 for more info**

Milwaukee-Florida Net  
Every Day on 14.290 Mhz  
7:00AM - 9:15AM ET  
6:00AM - 8:15AM CT

## Wisconsin QSO Party

March 9, 2014 - 1800Z to 0100Z March 10  
(1:00PM CDT to 8:00PM CDT on Sunday, March 9)

[Click here for latest info on web page](#)



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

**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 2014*

You wouldn't know it from the weather, but Daylight Savings time starts this Sunday, **March 9**. Don't forget to spring your clocks ahead.

More importantly (I think), Sunday is our **Wisconsin QSO Party** and I hope your plans are complete. Starting time: **1:00PM CDST**.

Preparations are on the home stretch. As of this writing, there are several mobile/portable [route postings](#), with more coming in. Several of the regulars from past years have posted plans, but there seems to be some concern about the weather and the roads. I wonder why.

But, please remember that there's something for everyone in the QSO party. We talk a lot about CW, mobiles and activating counties because a lot of entrants are attracted to our Party by this, but it's not for everybody. There's lots of other kinds of operation – phone, casual QSOing and VHF operation, too.

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 3.1 of the N3FJP logging program. If you're running a version earlier than 2.0, please upgrade if possible. If you need information on the new version, go to the WIQP web page and look under Logging Software. And if you need help, please contact me.

And we want your log! Whether it's submitted electronically by email ([wiqp-logs@warac.org](mailto:wiqp-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 QSO's. Again, if you need help, please let me know.

At the upcoming meeting we'll talk about the in's and out's of the QSO Party, but we'll have time for other stuff, too. **If you have something you want to show off, ask about or talk about, let's do it!** If it's more than 10-15 minutes long, please let me know ahead of time.

Amateur Electronics' annual Superfest is alive and well and it's coming up April 5. Just one day this year - Saturday only. WARAC will have a publicity table and it will probably be located in the manufacturer's exhibit area since the garage area is no longer available. 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**

Later in the news letter you will see some of my thoughts on antennas. If you have anything to add or to share from your experiences with antennas feel free to send them in. Don't worry if your writing is not polished. My articles usually start with an idea and then I have my wife (who is much better at putting words in the correct order) look at it. Between the two of us we come up with something we hope is of interest!

With the weather we are having, Sunday may be a good day to sit in a warm shack and try out the QSO party especially if you haven't tried it before. Techs with only FM VHF and UHF capability even have some simplex frequency's to try it on. Again go to the rules at [www.warac.org/wqp/wiqp\\_rules.htm](http://www.warac.org/wqp/wiqp_rules.htm) have fun and hope to hear you on the air.

73  
Frank

# **WARAC General Meeting Minutes**

## **February 11, 2014**

### **Introduction**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by President, Tom Macon, K9BTQ. Overall meeting attendance was 21 with no visitors.

### **Program**

The evening's program was All About the Wisconsin WSO Party, by Tom Macon, K9BTQ.

### **Business**

Motion was made by Bob Zach, second by Dick Wood, and accepted to approve the January meeting minutes as published in Hamtrix.

Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, discussed the proposed future scholarship funding and the status of the CD.

Phil Gural, W9NAW, gave an update on the Swapfest financials.

February 15th is the MAARS/MRAC swapfest. Reminder that the AES Superfest will be held on April 5th at the store's Good Hope Road location.

Leroy Hass upgraded to General, congratulations Leroy!

Bob Zach made a motion to adjourn at 8:34 pm.

Notes taken by Howard Smith, WA9AXQ,  
Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX  
Secretary WARAC

# **WARAC Board Meeting**

## **February 25, 2014**

Howard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Tom Macon, K9BTQ, Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, Frank Humpal, KA9FZR, and Leroy Hass, KC9NST.

### **WIQP**

The tips for the WIQP N3FJP program on the website have been updated. Routes posted on the reflector and county hunters need to be updated on the web. Chuck will put the document together for Tom to publish. N1MM tips still need updating. Any volunteers? Steve continues to work with the remote software operation for log processing. There is a significant amount of spam on the WIQP address, however no action is being taken for now.

### **Scholarship**

The scholarship fund CD was cashed and the funds are temporarily in the general account. The announcement regarding the proposal for the funding of the scholarship needs to stay in Hamtrix for the March publication. Howard will ask the ARRL Foundation if the TOR needs to change. The proposal will be put to a vote at the March general membership meeting.

### **Budget**

2014 budget was reviewed and set. Howard Smith will finish the 2011 budget. 2012 & 2013 need an audit committee. Tom Macon will appoint the audit committee.

### **Programs**

March - WIQP follow-up, Tom Macon/All, K9BTQ

April – Grounding, Frank Humpal, KA9FZR

May – Pizza Night

Future Programs:

Antennas

Rebuilding Rotators

Power Monitoring

### **Other Items**

Howard Smith plans to have the new WARAC banner ready for the club table at AES Superfest. Artwork for the logo setups is under investigation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX  
Secretary WARAC

## Frank's Antenna Thoughts....

I do not claim to be an expert but I did make a living maintaining VHF and UHF communications antennas for the FAA. I also worked on Instrument Landing Systems (ILS) and VHF Omni Directional Radio Range (VOR). They use antennas and modulations to put out some very helpful signals for pilots!

The 50 ohm impedance, which is almost a universal standard in radio frequency work, has advantages. By being a standard we can mix and match equipment, antennas and feed lines between manufacturers and know they will generally work.

The design of transmitters, especially with transistors in the finals has made them very dependent on the 50 ohm impedance. The good thing is the engineers are aware of this and protect the finals by reducing power at any sign of an improper impedance. This protects the equipment but makes your signal weaker. Another option they have is building in an antenna tuner.

Coax cable is one of many ways to get the signal from the transmitter to the antenna. Coax comes in many grades. You get what you pay for! You can get good quality coax at a swap-fest. But look at what you are getting. Poor quality can mean more power loss before you get the signal to the antenna.

If you're using coax to feed an antenna measure the open and shorted impedance of the length of coax. Keep these measurements handy to use when trouble shooting later.

If it's VHF or higher you might consider measuring the power in and out of the coax using a dummy load. At the FAA we checked that yearly.

I feel that if you have a connector on coax and it's outside it needs to be protected. I prefer putting it in a box or covering it with an open bottom cover. There are protective tapes you can wrap the connectors in but they have two problems: 1) It's really a pain to take the stuff off to get to the connectors. 2) If water gets into the connector (due to leaks changing temperature etc.) it stays in there.

Two 50 ohm dummy loads connected in parallel (to a T connector) will give a 25 ohm load which is good for getting a SWR of 2 to 1. This is an easy way to check your SWR meter.

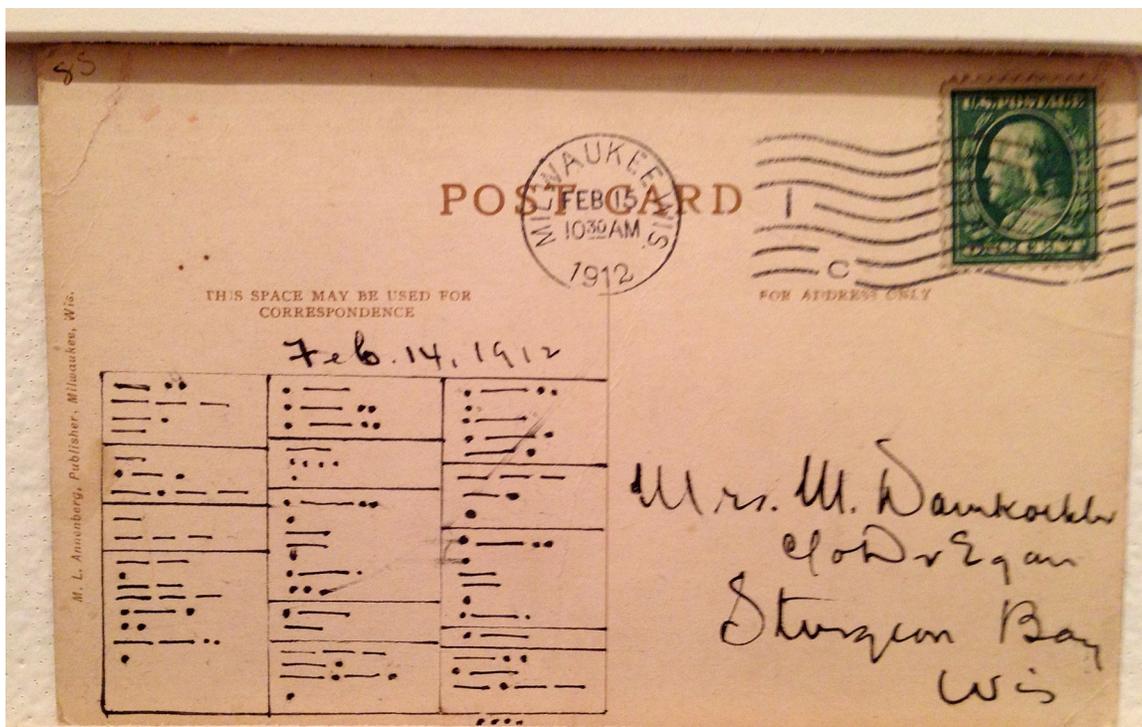
Everyone has different needs for antennas. When you're putting up antennas ask yourself if that antenna breaks during the winter will I need to, want to or be able to fix it safely. After you answer that decide how you can help yourself when the times come. Example I have a tribander on the roof. If it goes down (iced up, rotator stops working etc.) I can at least use my 80/40/30 meter wire antenna with a tuner to get out. Maybe not as strong but still workable. If anyone has further thoughts and/or questions I would be happy to add them as space permits

Enough for now.

73

Frank KA9FZR

## Vintage radio collectors shack picture found on internet



Thanks to Brian Ganiere KC9LYZ for sending this picture of an old postcard he found in a display of old postcards at the JOHN MITCHAE KOHLER ARTS CENTER in Sheboygan, WI

## **We will be voting on this at the March meeting**

### **Meeting Discussion**

A Bank CD became due on February 10th, 2014, for an amount of just over \$6,000. This is money from the General Fund that was placed in the CD two years ago. It was placed in the Bank CD in an effort to have a little larger return than is provided by the General Fund checking account. I recommended to the Board that the funds from this Bank CD be placed into the Scholarship Fund, because it would then bring the Scholarship Fund to the point that it would fully Endow the Scholarship amount of \$1,500. This simply means that the Scholarship would be paid from the interest from WARAC Endowment Fund with the ARRL Foundation. Then, our Dave Knaus Memorial Scholarship would continue at \$1,500 indefinitely, as long as the ARRL Foundation yield on Endowment Funds remained above 4%. I think the club is better served with this money in the Endowment Fund rather than in another Bank CD that currently may pay just 0.15% interest. The General Fund currently has sufficient dollars to easily support all of the WARAC activities, and expenses that generally occur.

This will be discussed at the February meeting. It will also be announced in the March Hamtrix, and then will be voted on at the March meeting. If you have questions, please bring them to the February or March meetings.

Howard, WA9AXQ, Treasurer and Chairman of the Scholarship Committee.

#### Officers and Board

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Steve Dryja, NO9B

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Chuck Dellis, W9WLX

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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.