



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 65, Issue 3 March, 2018

MARCH CLUB HAPPENINGS



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. You can get hold of her at 414-529-3536 or barbsewsblue@gmail.com.

Club Meeting

St. Peter's Episcopal Church,

7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis

March 13, 2018 7:00 PM

Program

The President of West Mountain Radio, Mark Siegesmund

DC power systems, batteries, connections, solar and all the latest info and best practices.

preamble dinner

Johnny V's Classic Café, 1650 S. 84th St. at 5:00PM.

Wisconsin QSO Party

March 11, 2018 - 1800Z to 0100Z March 12

(1:00PM CDT to 8:00PM CDT on Sunday,

March 11)

(The first day of Daylight Savings Time)

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

Field Day Planning Meeting--Save the Date!

2018 Field Day planning meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 18. Our Field Day location will be the New Berlin site, unchanged from last year. The location of the planning meeting has not been confirmed. Watch for confirmation and meeting logistics in next month's Hamtrix. Looking forward to hearing all your ideas and moving the planning forward!

Hope to see you there!

The President's Shack March 2018

Hello WARAC Members.

Hamtrix editor Frank, KA9FZR has really put the squeeze on us to get our articles in early this month. I guess that is par for the course on WI QSO Party month. So that's what happens.

I've been working overtime trying to set up the car for our planned mobile operation. True to form this has been more calamity than success. I've never set up an HF mobile antenna before so this is all new ground for me. Did I say ground? That is exactly what took a big chunk out of my Sunday preparations as that was what that darn antenna needed the most. A decent ground. With a bit of grinding and "ohming" I think we may just have hit pay dirt. I'll let you know how that goes as soon as we can actually test the antenna....for which I am in need of some critical parts. Parts which my dear friends at Amazon just canceled delivery of. It'll get worked out in time. I hope!!

Hope your plans are coming along. Even if you can get on for just a few Q's, join in. I am really pushing for club members to send in their logs this year. This is our club's big national operating event and it will be great to have "All Hands on Deck" show up and participate. Don't let technology get in your way, send in your handwritten log if that's what you've got. So crank up the HF gear and get yourself on 40 meters and give it a try.

Lot's else is happening too:

- Club Meeting: The next club meeting is on Tuesday, March 13th. You do not want to miss the presentation this month. The President of West Mountain Radio, Mark Siegesmund will be talking about DC power systems, batteries, connections, solar and all the latest info and best practices. This is a can't miss presentation this month.

- Outdoor Activations: Now that we've had a taste of the nice weather, the outdoor activation bug is coming out of hibernation. Are you ready

to take your gear on the road? Bring your ideas and plans for the coming season to the meeting and let us know what you have in mind.

- Jefferson Hamfest: Sunday, March 18th is the Tri-County Hamfest at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. Naturally, it is indoor. A great start to the spring/summer swapfest's in our area. Steve, NO9B, will be setting up a club table. Drop by, give him a hand (as in help, not clapping....lol).

- Group Buys: We've been kicking around the idea of putting together club sponsored group buying. Maybe we could get some better pricing has a group? Maybe. So what are you thinking of adding to the shack this year? Bring your ideas to the meeting. You might be surprised who else is harboring those same thoughts.

Hope to see everyone at the club meeting. Johnny V's is the pre-meeting dinner spot of choice, so join the group there and get the evening started off right.

Check out our Facebook page!!! Start Posting!!!!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WestAllisRAC/>

From the Editor

This Sunday is the Wisconsin QSO party. I hope everyone gets a chance to get on the air and see what they can do. I find it a fun thing to do, even for someone like me who is more a rag chewer than a contest. This just seems more low key. This year Mike WO9B, Bill N9KPH and me are going to try mobile. Last year it was portable. We will see how that works. Last year was fun but we ended up way to far from home at the end. Even that wouldn't of been to bad if it hadn't decided to start snowing on the way home. You learn every year. This year we plan to be near home and have supper at the Bosch in Hales Corners. This may help us have nice weather HI HI.

I made some more changes to Hamtrix. Please let me know your thoughts. This is your newsletter I am open to suggestions .

Frank KA9FZR

WARAC General Meeting Minutes

February 13th, 2018

The General Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by President Mike, WO9B.

Swapfest Chairman Erwin, WI9EV, reported on the results from the 2018 Swapfest. The attendance was 692 people. The VEC reported that 22 tests were administered, and 21 persons passed their test.

WIQP Chairman, Tom K9BTQ, discussed the upcoming WI QSO party. In a simple hand count, 11 members said that they would participate. Phil, W9NAW, discussed his choice of which county to operate from. It looks like Phil will be in Wisconsin Rapids, in Wood county.

The main presentation was ‘The Big Loop’ by Mike, K9BBN. His trip was via boat, covered 5,000 miles, and used \$14,000 in diesel fuel. His PowerPoint presentation showed highlights of his trip.

Mike, WO9B, discussed operating, and upcoming activities. He talked about the North and South Carolina QSO Parties, and the Minnesota Ice Fishing Contest.

Tom, K9BTQ, presented his CW Keyer Paddle that was created using 3-D printing. His son, Bob, has the 3-D printer that was used to ‘print’ the parts of the keyer.

Chuck, WB9PUB, presented a PowerPoint showing the installation of his Wilson 40 ft. mast and his rotatable 40 meter dipole.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Coffee, donuts, and eyeball QSOs followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

WARAC Secretary

March 6, 2018

W.A.R.A.C. Board Meeting

February 27th, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Mike, WO9B, at 7:00pm.

All Board Members were present except for Steve, NO9B, who was out of town.

Swapfest Chairman Erwin von der Ehe, WI9EV, was also present.

Swapfest chairman Erwin, WI9EV, presented the final results of the 2018 Swapfest. The Board reviewed and accepted the results. The venue for the 2019 Swapfest was discussed, and the Board agreed that we should remain at the Waukesha Expo.

Club Treasurer Bill, N9KPH, reported the financial status of the club. He also reported that he has changed the financial institution to the North Shore Bank. He indicated that they were much more friendly to small accounts such as ours.

Club Secretary Howard, WA9AXQ, presented the list of members who have not paid their dues. Mike, WO9B, indicated that he would be contacting those persons.

The first activity for creating a new Membership Booklet for 2018 is updating the information in the membership database. Sheets will be handed out at the March club meeting to each member with his information that is in the membership database. Each member is asked to review this and return the sheet to the Secretary indicating what changes needed to be made, or if the information is correct. The updated Membership Booklet is planned for May or June.

Scholarship Chairman, Howard, WA9AXQ, reported that the Scholarship application window had closed on January 31st, and that the next event will be the announcement of the Scholarship Winner sometime in May.

Equipment Sales Chairman Steve, NO9B, was not present, so nothing was reported.

Hamtrix Editor, Frank, KA9FZR, reported that he will send his request for content for the March Hamtrix earlier than usual so the final March Hamtrix can be published several days early this month because of the WI QSO Party happening the weekend before the March club meeting.

WIQP chairman, Tom, K9BTQ, reported that everything is ready to go for the March 11th QSO Party. He indicated that a notice will be sent via email to potential contestants.

There was a general discussion about net activity on the 2 meter FM net on Wednesday nights, the 20 meter Milwaukee Florida net on M-Sat at 7:30am and the 75 meter Nut net on M-F at 8:15am.

Mike, WO9B, reported that the March meeting program would be presented by Mark, the President of West Mountain Radio, and the topic would be on 12 VDC power systems. Tom, K9BTQ, will also lead a discussion about the QSO Party which had happened on the previous Sunday.

The Field Day ladder used to set up the various masts needs to be upgraded to one that is designed for 2 people. Earlier, a Werner T6210 ladder had been identified as a good choice. Howard, WA9AXQ, found a local company that sold this ladder, and he volunteered to purchase it for the club.

The meeting ended at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Howard Smith, WA9AXQ
Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.

March 6, 2018



Super Stick HF VHF Ham Antenna 80m Coil
FREE! - VERTICAL ...

Special Event Corner

March, 2018

Here are a few (but not all) of the upcoming events that may be of interest for the next month. As mentioned in earlier columns, give some of these events a try. In many of them, you can sometimes actually have a conversation with the OPs.

Military Commemorative Events:

03/10/2018 | The Battleship Texas - Her 104th Birthday

Mar 10-Mar 14, 0000Z-0000Z, W5T. The ship was launched on 18 May 1912, and commissioned on 12 March 1914. *Make this a Big Iron weekend by working this station on the 10th and out local favorite - The Wisconsin - during the WIQP the next day.*

03/10/2018 | USS Midway Museum Ship Special Event: Launching of USS Midway

1700Z-2300Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Ship. Operating on 20 Meters.

03/23/2018 | Bataan Memorial Death March

Mar 23-Mar 26, 1800Z-1800Z, K5B, Las Cruces, NM. HF frequencies for contacts on most bands are not currently established.

04/14/2018 | USS Midway Museum Ship Special Event: Doolittle Raid

1600Z-2300Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. Find them on 20 Meters, including PSK 31.

General Interest Events:

03/17/2018 | Winter Field Day Mar 17, 1100Z-2300Z, W2B, Clay, NY.

Find them on 80, 20 and 40 Meters. *Say good bye to Winter!*

03/17/2018 | Cherry Blossom Festival Macon Amateur Radio Club. Find them on 20 and 40 Meters. *Say hello to Spring!*

04/13/2018 | Sharks Tooth Festival

Apr 13-Apr 15, 1316Z-1520Z, K4S, Venice, FL. Tamiami ARC. Find them on 20 Meters. John R. Sproat, Jr, 1419 E Manasota Beach Rd, Englewood, FL 34223-63. *Genuine shark tooth returned with QSL (SASE/\$\$).*

Also keep in mind that Spring is a busy time for State QSO Parties. Here's a link that will give you the calendar for the rest of 2018:

<http://qsoparty.eqth.net/>

It's This Sunday

Sunday is our **Wisconsin QSO Party** and I hope your plans are complete. Starting time: **1:00PM CDST**.

Please remember that there's something for everyone in the QSO party. There are lots of different kinds of operation – phone, CW, casual QSOing and VHF operation, too.

The big thing to remember is that we need everyone! This is the 40th year your club has sponsored this Wisconsin-focused contest so be on the air and let others know we're proud to do it!

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!**

-Tom, K9BTQ

P.S. Don't forget to set your clock ahead!

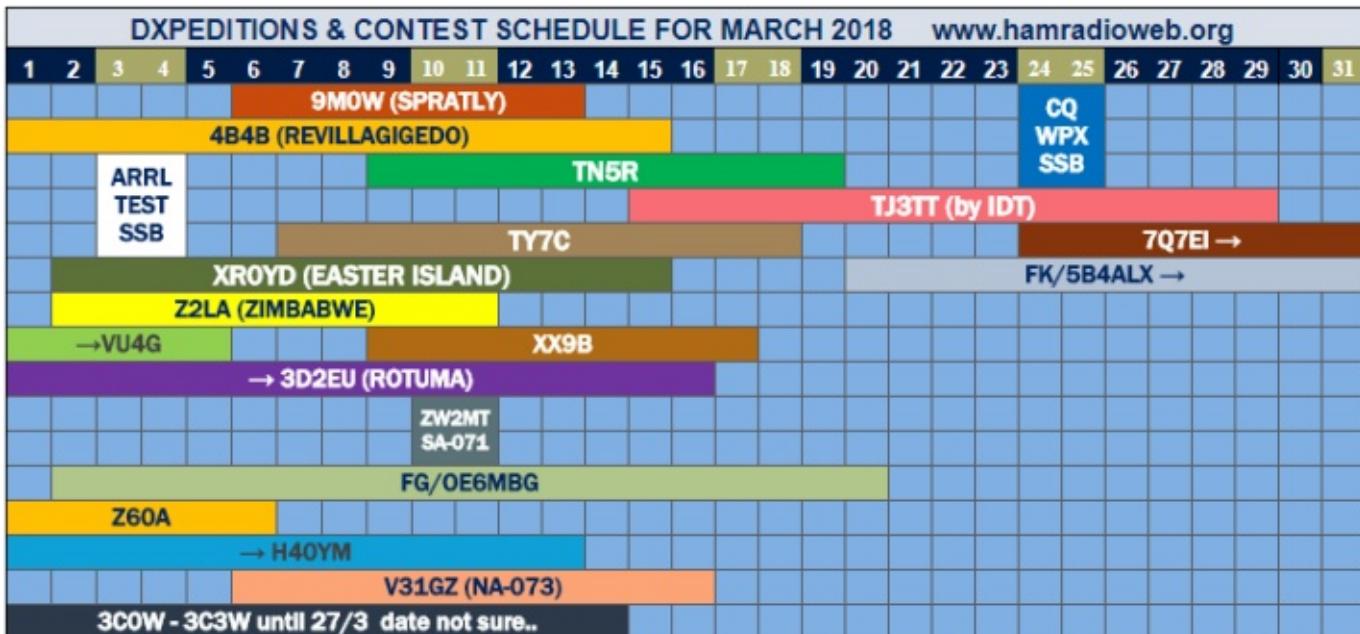
DX / CONTEST UPDATE

<http://www.iz5cml.it/dxschedule>

DX: The bands have been a little dodgy of late. I've been having success on 17 meters, but then I don't have a contest quality set up. 20 meters has been consistent, but certainly not over the top.

Smaller Contests / Operating Events: Even though the major contests are pretty much in the bag, there are a ton of smaller contests to keep you on top of your game. Check out the contest calendar for the link below, but in general the following are being served up:

State QSO Parties: Tis the season, for the next 6 months



Low band DXing is approaching the end of season, but has been decent of late.

From the chart below, the DXpedition's are a bit average. Keep an eye out for Bouvet 2, which would be a nice rebound from last months disappointment. Do check the FT8 sub-bands. The activity remains strong in that mode and the major DX operations are active.

Contests: Contest season is winding down. At least as far as the major events are concerned. Still in the hopper is the CQ WW WPX contests. Those are a lot of fun. Naturally the WI QSO Party looms large as it is THE event of the year.

- WI QSO Party: 1800Z, Mar 11 to 0100Z, Mar 12 <http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm>
- CQ WW WPX, SSB: 0000Z, Mar 24 to 2359Z, Mar 25, 2018

<http://www.cqwpx.com/rules.htm>

QRP Contests: CW only, but these are usually a few hours and easy going events

Sprints: These can be well attended and fun. They are usually short duration. Fun!!

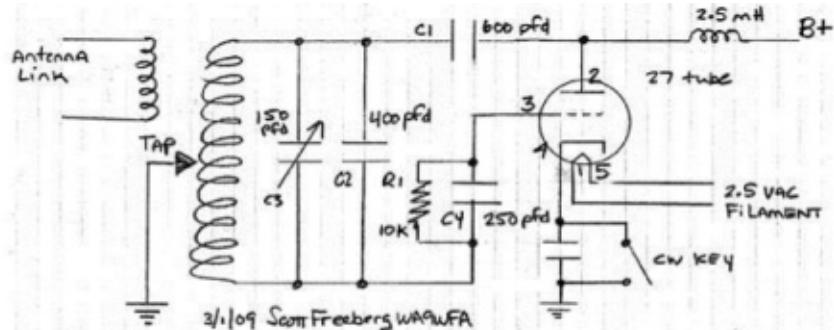
Full Contest Schedule check:
<http://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html>

Bruce Kelley 1929'r – March Update By Mike Johnson, WO9B

As a reminder here is the goal:

- Winding Inductors
 - Construction
 - Going Live

Power Supply: Howard, WA9AXQ, was super nice to pull out of his inventory a



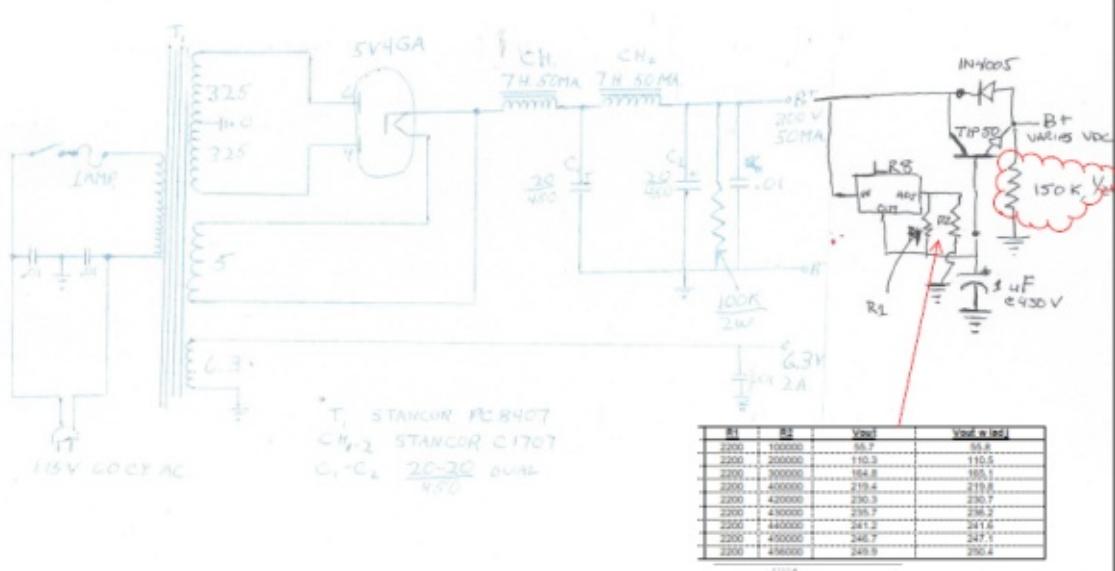
That's right, 5 watts of tube powered RF streaking across the December 80 meter band. So I've begun the scrounging for parts aspect of the project. And that's where this installment starts.

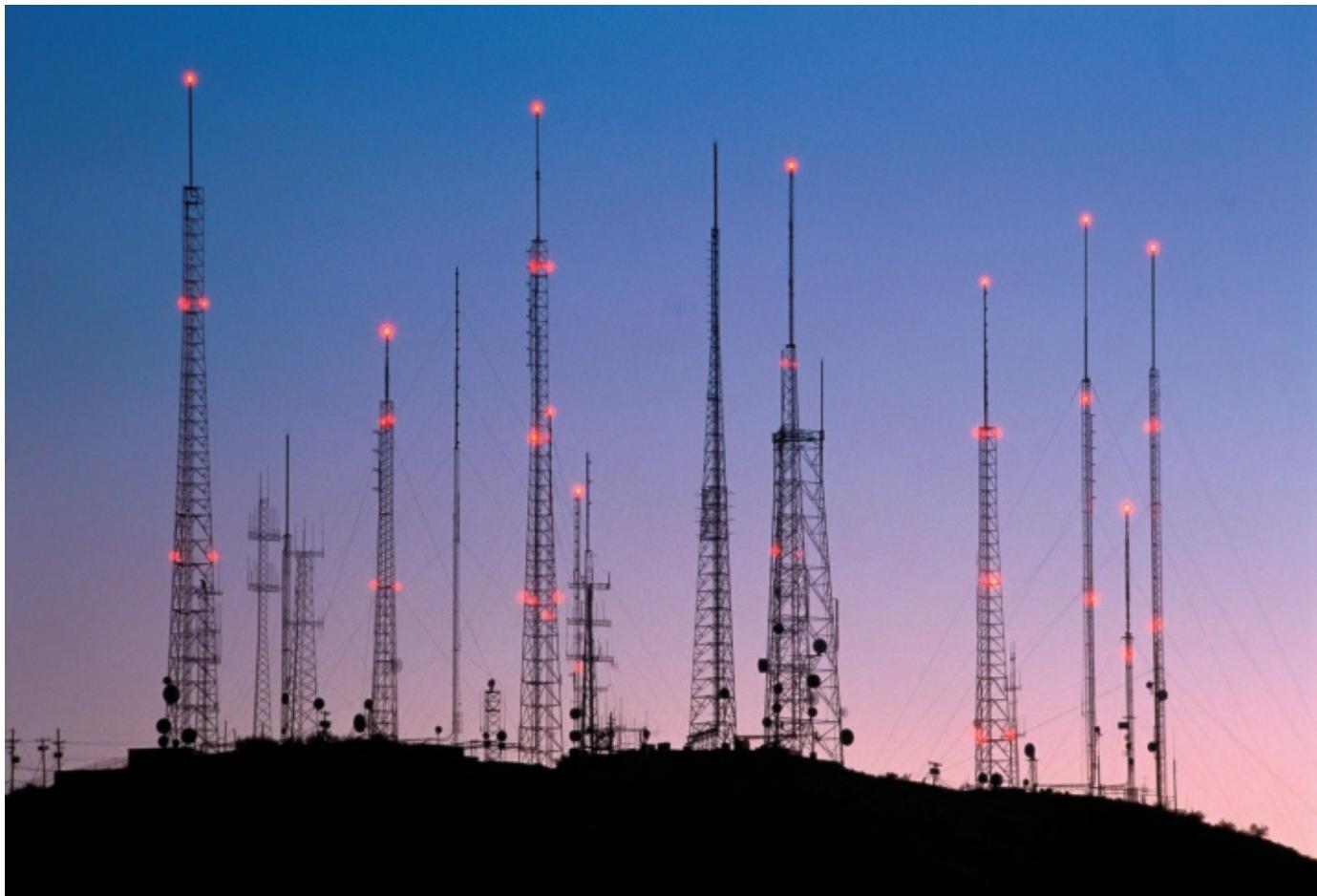
First, let me say my spare time has been focused on the WIQP and putting together a mobile setup. That has pushed BK29'r into the back ground this month. Not a lot of progress to report. But I have been thinking about this and have a plan of action. Sort of. So my priorities will be:

- Power Supply
 - Swap Fest Parts
 - Meters

really nice 5V4GA 300 volt power supply. I'll need to modify it to supply the necessary 250 V for the Type 27 Tube, but that's OK. The problem I have not solved yet is the filament voltage for the

Type 27 is only 2.5V's where Howard's supply provides taps for 6.3 V. Ugh. So, after considering the options, I'm on the scrounge for a 2.5V filament transformer. Mouser's got one for \$12, but I think I'm going to try the swap fest angle first. Besides, I need a handful of other parts and a couple of meters (V and A) and I'm not going to the internet for those. Below is the power supply schematic with the modifications for 250 V's. Sorry for the tough copy.





There might be such a thing as having too much power HI HI

<http://njdtechnologies.net/hall-of-flame/>

http://www.mwrf.com/systems/si-cmos-transmitter-tackles-90-105-ghz?NL=MWRF-001&Issue=MWRF-001_20180301_MWRF-001_316&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article_2&utm_rid=CPG05000005029443&utm_campaign=15662&utm_medium=email&elq2=cf2fbb06705d44f29aaa67a22fa0ea2d

If you scroll down from the original article there is another article about antenna modeling AND there are links at the bottom about even more antenna stuff!

===== Help Wanted =====

West Mountain Radio, a local Amateur Radio equipment company, is looking for person(s) interested in working our booth at local or national Hamfests. All travel and expenses are paid for -- and provides an opportunity to talk to other hams and see other national vendors. West Mountain Radio also has part-time assembly work. If interested, contact Joey Didion at joey@westmountainradio.com or 262-522-6503 x73.

Notes from the Secretary

I am planning to do a new Membership Booklet for 2018. Much of the information in the Membership Booklet is from the membership database.

The membership database needs to be up to date to insure that the proper information is in the Membership Booklet. At the March meeting, I will be handing out a single sheet to each member that shows his or her current information from the database. Each member needs to review this sheet and return it to me, indicating that everything is correct, or showing the changes that need to be made.

One other important point, the Membership Booklet includes current members. If you have not paid your dues yet, you need to do so to be included in the Membership Booklet. See Bill, N9KPH, Treasurer, to pay your dues.

Thanks for your assistance.

Howard, WA9AXQ

Secretary, WARAC

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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.