

March 12, 2023 - 1800Z to 0100Z March 13 (1:00PM CDT to 8:00PM CDT on Sunday, March 12) > First day of Daylight Saving Time <



From the president

Spring is about to SPRING!

Its that time of the year when we all come out of hibernation to examine, rebuild, install our outdoor systems we use for Ham Radio. Examining connections to all those grounds to keep the nasties out, checking coaxial cables and harnesses to make sure that transmission lines are in "tip-top" shape are all chores that need to be regularly performed in order to maintain an efficient Ham Radio Station. For those of us like me, it is time to get moving an put something in the ground. Yes, I have been talking towers and antennas for a while but nothing has happened. My excuse for better or for worse is "Life keeps getting in the way". Yes, I know it is no excuse. On another note I did blow up a capacitor while troubleshooting one of my linear amplifiers!

Our stations are only as good as the investment in time we put into them. Just like changing batteries in a smoke alarm, make it a point to pause and check out your station and make sure it is good to go for the season. If you are using a computer, try to keep it up to date, try to have backups of your critical information, organize the data you have stored – think of a 4-draw file cabinet and organize yourself!

On a slightly separate note, the Board has come up with appropriate language that would require all activities sponsored by the club to have prior Board approval. We are not a wealthy club and we do not have deep pockets. The idea of this is to try and not sponsor/ sanction any activity of the club that could expose the club to potential liability. We will be beginning the process of adopting the language into our by-laws.

Some interesting programing thoughts are in the cards. This month I will share my thoughts on a computer for your shack. Start revving up your engines.... Field Day is around the corner. Dave Garnier who has so graciously taken on the task of coordinating this activity will have information for us. We will also try to have a "Trunk-to-Trunk" sale scheduled to happen in May. Don't forget to visit some of the many Hamfests that will be springing up around us. A great place to meet, greet, buy, sell and share stuff!

Hope to see you all at the meeting. You are the Club!.

73,

Feroz, WU9N



click here to go to web site

Volume 72, Issue 3 March, 2023

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

Meeting March 14,2023 7pm **New Berlin Community Center** 14750 W. Cleveland Ave. **New Berlin, WI Between Moorland and Sunnyslope Presentations** 2023 WIQP Wrap Up: Stories from the Log Ham Shack Computer: Selection and Configuration Considerations Premeeting dinner New Berlin Ale House 5:15pm 16000 W. Cleveland Ave West of Moorland Rd.

Wisconsin QSO Party March 12, 2023 - 1800Ž to 0100Ž March 13 (1:00PM CDT to 8:00PM CDT on Sunday, March 12) > First day of Daylight Saving Time <</p> See page 9 for more info

Sendik's Grill Fundraiser Will be on May 27, 2023 and September 9,2023 Save the dates and join us.

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From the editor

Is spring here? I guess! If you grew up in Wisconsin sometimes spring seems to be a phantom season. Any weather is ok in this season.

Still spring does mean Wisconsin QSO party. Again this year Mike WO9B, Michael AA9RK and me will be on the road. We have fine tuned the Subaru by adding a speed control to the Screwdriver antenna This will allow us to adjust the antenna especially the 80 meter band which has a sharp tuning point. We have also added more computer power for spotting, location and logging. If you hear WO9B on CW say hello. More info on page 9.

Another sign of spring is Mikes WO9B's article on our club "Wisconsin park ops" on page 14 A. This is a good time for checking your portable rig and all of the parts that go with it. Even if you can't operate because of missing parts there are others there to help and tell you stories of their equipment failing because a part missing HI HI.

Spring has also got me thinking about a couple of antennas I experimented with and have some changes to test. One is an end fed zepp, the other a circular polarized antenna. Will see how far that goes. Some times the ideas don't make it out of the brain HI HI

73 Frank KA9FZR • __• _



WARAC General Meeting Minutes – February 14, 2023

Presentation: Wisconsin QSO Party By Chuck Dellis W9WLX
Contest is on Sunday March 12, 2023 1PM to 8PM CDT 7 hr.s long.
International participation based on Wisconsin. In State (County to County: 72 County's),
Out of State (State to State, DX). HF 160 – 10, VHF/UHF 6, 144, 220, 440. CW, Phone.
LP <= 100W, HP > 100W. W9FK (Club Call) Will be active cw, phone.
Many Awards: For highest score's based on mode of operation.
Talked about the Plague's and certificates.
Can self-spot @ WIQP Spots - QSO Party Hub qsopartyhub.com/wiqp-spots.php
Resources: Wisconsin QSO Party (warac.org) warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm For full information.
Best to learn your logging program before the contest. N1MM (free SW) has a learning curve, N3FJP (paid SW) easier to learn.
WARAC General Meeting Minutes – February 14, 2023

Club Meeting was called to order by Feroz Ghose WU9N @ 7:00 pm. Attendance: 17 -- 13 Members, 4 Visitors. Members intro.

Moment of silent and reflection for silent key Philip Tollefson WA9AQL.

- Long time Member and past Board Member.

Back to regular meeting.

Minutes: Accepted and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Accepted and approved. Audit is done. Report is coming.

Field Day: Dave G. WB9OWN. - Absent.

Question on last years location, Park closes @ 10PM, no overnight stay.

Trunk To Trunk: Looking at May – per-meeting, when its light-out.

Feroz was approached by a Mike. He is looking for an Elmer. He has a time conflict on attending our meetings. He is newly licensed and working on his General.

Board Meeting planned for end of the month. Planned discussion on club liabilities and current policies. Mr Carlson's Lab on YouTube. Talks about older tube equipment. Troubleshooting and repairing.

New Business:

Hamfest's coming up:

3/19/23 MARA Hamfest – Jefferson, WI.

3/25/23 11th Annual Milwaukee Area Swapfest – Milwaukee By HRO.

4/15/23 Madison Area Repeater Association – Stoughton, WI.

MARC w9rh.org. On the 1st Saturday of the month at HRO is doing hands-on workshops. See their website for details.

AT&T FIRSTNET network for emergency high priority traffic during times or emergencies.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted Bill Dargis KD9BJZ Secretary WARAC, February 14, 2023 • —• —••



March 2023 Update

The balloon launch team has had a less than busy month. Regardless, the monthly meeting was on March 3rd and we can report that some progress has been made.

Political Weather: We actually think about it more as "Whether" rather than "Weather". The spate of balloon flight terminations via military intervention seems to have taken a pause. The influx of new and restrictive regulations has yet to materialize. We have decided to proceed with our plans. Despite the increased concerns, new balloons are being launched. The beat definitely goes on.

Design Decisions: The major components have all been purchased. Balloons are in hand. Tracker is actually being tested. Solar cells are on the desktop. We are targeting an altitude of 40,000+ feet for our mylar wonder. We expect the weather at altitude to consist mainly of cold (-70 F) and wind. Given the temperature and pressure, we are not expecting rain/snow. We most likely will be using 20 meter WSPR as our band and mode. We also will have a CW ID.

Propulsion: We are definitely going with hydrogen. That is the only way to make altitude given the size of the balloon.

Solar Cell: The main goal for March is to construct a test solar cell so that the tracker can be tested. Solder 30 ga wire? That sounds like a plan.

Altitude Targeting: The mylar balloons we are using are basically a fixed volume, they don't really stretch when inflated unlike latex weather balloons which expand as the air pressure decreases. Therefore the balloon will rise to the point that the displaced volume of air equals the weight of the balloon. It is then a matter of determining the density of the atmosphere and doing some straight forward math to figure out our theoretical altitude. Naturally the actual air density varies and so does the effect of temperature and pressure on the balloon, so this is a game of getting close. We do have some say in what the final weight of the balloon and payload are. It is in our best interest to keep the weight as low as possible. As of now, the best target weight we have is 15 grams. That is just north of ½ ounce.



DX Update:

The ARRL DX Contest the first weekend in March saw lots of activity on the 10M band. Some upcoming DXpeditions ro watch for are:

JD1BON - Ogasawara, Narch 9-24

TX5XG - Austral Is., April 12-19

CY0A – Sable Is., March 21-30 (K9CT, Craig known to many of us, has now joined the team)

FT8WW – Crozet Is. One more chance March 13-15. QRT on March 16

Contesting:



QSO Parties this month:

Oklahoma: March 11-12

Idaho: March 11 - 12

WISCONSIN: March 12 and 2 hours into 13 UTC

Virginia: March 12-19

Checkout the Contest Corral on page 71 in the March 2023 QST for MANY MORE contests. For even more contests worldwide check out: https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html

Special Event Stations:

For special event station listings (there are many) check out: https://www.425dxn.org/index.php?op=wcal

If you have further ideas or suggestions for this page please let WA9BZW (Al) know. wa9bzw@arrl.net . ____.



By Michael Johnson, WO9B

Ham Radio Texting

For all the advances in ham radio's digital technology, there remains a distinct hole in the panorama of digital modes/techniques that have found their way into our corner of the communications world. I speak of good old fashioned message texting. Of all the useful communications available to this great hobby, as the saying goes, you just can't get a good meal at the ham radio SMS restaurant. Not due to lack of effort mind you. Still the options are a bit thin.

I'd like nothing better than to report that this problem has been solved, but alas no. It remains a definite work in progress. The primary deficiency is the lack of store and forward capability. That's a tough nut to crack as it requires some kind of centralized memory and common widespread distribution method. Uniformity in our hobby can be hard to resolve...digital uniformity remains a bridge too far.

So what is out there? Let's take a look at some of the readily accessible options:

JS8CALL / VARAC: I am unfairly lumping these two very different HF chat modes together as they seem to be nipping at each other's heels. Both are digital modes, JS8CALL based on FT8 and VARAC based on VARA Modem. Both are billed as Chat modes with message storage and limited forwarding capabilities. Of the two, VARAC is my choice as it is significantly faster. Neither has made the jump to creating established networks that users can sign on too. They are working on it. More info: https:// www.varac-hamradio.com/ and http://js8call.com/

APRS: Our old friend APRS offers text messaging. This mode is conveniently accessed via VHF (or cellphone) with a very effective internet distribution backbone. The primary deficiency is the lack of store and forward capability. If your intended target is not on and listening, your message disappears into the There is no delivery confirmation or error void. correction capability within the protocol. Also. generally speaking, the acceptance of APRS for texting is not wide and deep. APRS has its strengths and fans, though texting, being very well developed in this mode, is not one of them.

DMR/DStar/CF4M: Yes you can!! Of the three, DMR is the least practical. Both DStar and CR4M have very good capability, but it really comes down to who is using it. You gotta be on the networks live as, again, there is not store and forward capability. I have experience with DMR and though I was genuinely positive for the capability, the reality is that it is not popular and can be difficult to set up. There is also no receipt confirmation. Not a great experience.

Ribbit: Here is something new. https:// www.ribbitradio.org/#/ Be aware this is test software only, but I have to say there is some promise here. Currently this is an Android test app that allows you to send digital text via analog UHF/VHF systems. Repeaters work. Simplex Works. In a nutshell, you generate a digital hash signal via the app which you pay back through your radio's microphone. Go check out the website to get a handle on how this works. It is definitely not wildly convenient and you can forget store and forward, but it works for just about any radio

WARAC Board Meeting Minutes – February 28, 2023

Board meeting was called to order by Feroz Ghose WU9N @ 7:06PM.

Present: Feroz Ghose WU9N, Mike Johnson WO9B, Bill Reed N9KPH, Tom Macon K9BTQ, Frank Humpal KA9FZR, Bill Dargis KD9BJZ, Erwin WI9EV, Dave Garner WB9OWN, Howard Smith WA9AXQ.

Club sanctioned activities and Club liability concerns:

Proposed Language for Club Sanctioned/Approved Activities. - Any proposed club activity that has the potential to expose the club to any kind of liability must be reviewed and approved by the Board. This includes acceptance of donations that involve or require dismantling of equipment where there could be a risk of liability to the club.

Sendik's Brat fry, 2 events planned. May 27 and September 9.

Field Day: Location - DJ Mackie. Dave WB9OWN will investigate about overnight.

Program activities -Tom K9BTQ: Gary Sutcliff W9XT has programs on: 1. Low Band Receiving Antennas for all bands. 2. Antennas The Third Dimension. And others. Will schedule for July or September. Tom will present on the Clubs history. March WIQSO Party. May Trunk To Trunk. June Field Day.

Howard - Scholarship changes: ARRL Scholarship Fund is requesting a Zoom meeting on the scholarship finances. May need to adjust the scholarship. Still need more information.

WIQSO Party: Tom -Things are in place and ready to go. Still waiting on the Mobile routes.

Website Mike: Waiting for after WIQSO Party. Should be 2 - 3 weeks after.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:57PM.

Respectfully Submitted Bill Dargis KD9BJZ WARAC Secretary, February 28, 2023 • __• __•



2022 Challenge for our membership. Have someone you meet, Ham or Ham wannabe come to a meeting this year!



Nut Net Breakfast

Several years ago there was talk among Nut Net members that we should get to meet each other. A breakfast get together idea was started. It was open to all hams, XYL/partners and anyone who wanted to learn about amateur radio. Even visiting OM/ XYL couples joined us.

So, on the fourth Tuesday each month at 8:30 am we meet at Gensis Restaurant, corner of HWY 100 and Beloit Road, Greenfield, WI. Looking forward to seeing you, mark your calendar.

Phil, W9NAW

Party Time, Wisconsin Style! By Tom Macon, K9BTO

This year's Wisconsin QSO Party starts at 1:00PM local time on Sunday and ends at 8:00PM, (assuming your clock is on Central Daylight Time).

Chairman Chuck, W9WLX, gave a WIOP presentation at the February club meeting (available on the club website) that nicely covers the essentials of participating in WIQP. This article is to further encourage everyone to participate and to provide a little more insight.



A unique thing about WIQP is that there's something for everyone, from big gun contesters to casual little pistols. Remember that the overall goal is for everyone to have fun. We talk a lot about CW, mobiles and activating counties because a lot of entrants are attracted to our Party by this competition, but it's not for everybody. There are lots of other ways to participate – phone, casual QSOing and VHF operation, too.

Strategy

If you have a casual approach to the party, you don't need a lot of strategy but if you want to see how many points you can score, some planning will help.

What band when?

Except for the WARC bands, any HF or VHF band can be used in WIQP but 40 meters and 80 meters are the bread-and-butter bands. At the start, 40 meters is the best bet. Early in the contest you will likely hear mostly Wisconsin stations and nearby states on 40, but at some point the band will begin to "go long" and stations less than 400 miles away will tend to disappear. The big variable is when this will occur. During the lowest years of the sunspot cycle, short 40 meter propagation was poor from the get-go. Now, as sunspot activity increases, we can hope to hear in-state stations until late afternoon but, of course, no guarantee. When short propagation on 40 fades, 80 meters will come to life, sometimes very quickly.

Multipliers

Your base WIQP score is your number of Q's times multipliers, so getting a lot of multipliers is almost as important as getting a lot of QSO's. There are 135 multipliers available to in-state participants in WIQP – US states(50) plus Canadian provinces(13) plus Wisconsin counties(72). The strategy outlined above will maximize your number of counties worked but not the number of states and provinces worked. To get state/ province mults, you need to spend a certain amount of time 20 meters and above during the day and later on 40 and 80 after they go long. The trick is to be frequency-nimble. Watch conditions on all bands and change bands fairly frequently.

Phone, CW or Digital?

Many stations operate both modes and this is a great strategy. CW offers advantages but it's not for everyone. With typical speeds around 25wpm and a short exchange, CW QSO's are often quicker than phone QSO's. And CW is simply a more efficient communications mode because of narrower bandwidth, better signal-tonoise, etc. This is especially beneficial for limited stations such as QRP and mobile. And, like many other contests, CW contacts get two points in WIQP.

And there's a lot to be said for phone operation as well. There are more stations to work and operation is often more casual. You can set your own pace.

As of last year (2022) some digital modes are allowed - RTTY, PSK, Olivia and Feld-Hell. (FT8/FT4 does not support the WIQP state/province/county exchange so it is not allowed). Digital is a third mode you can use and Q's count 2 points like CW.

County Activation

Now, just a few days before WIQP, you have probably decided where you will operate from, but at the February club meeting we had some discussion about county activation, so here's a little more on that.

For information on county activation, see Activate All 72! on the WIQP web page. There is ten years of data summarizing the activity in each county by year. Each year's list is sorted to show the least active counties at the top. There is also an AllYears composite list of all ten years to give an overall view of action in each county.

Just added to the Activate All 72! page is an enhanced spreadsheet contributed by Bob Chudek, KORC. It contains the same data but is more user-friendly and allows you to easily slice and dice the data plus other features. Check it out!

Here's an example of interesting information you can find here - four counties have never had a fixed station during the whole ten years. All Q's from these counties have been made by mobiles passing through.

County	Stns	CW Qs	PH Qs	Qs	% CW	FxdQs	MobQs	%MobQs	RcvdQs
Menominee	16	529	102	631	84%	٥	631	100 %	488
Jackson	19	974	10	984	99%	0	984	100 %	722
Shawano	15	707	122	829	85%	0	829	100 %	739
Taylor	13	407	91	498	82%	0	498	100 %	852

So, get on the air on March 12 because you're a member of the sponsoring club, or because you want to run up a high score, or just for fun of it. But by all means, get on the air! And when WIQP 2023 becomes history, we will want your log! It doesn't matter how many Q's you make or how long you operated – we want your log.

Have fun!

Looking for a tower Check this out

50' Rohn 4-10' sections 1-10' to mount abea, onto it's tapered, Will make an offer you can't refuse

> Bob Garske 1-608-513-2268 cell 1-608-635-4503 home Poynette, WI



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS



Left-Mr. Grebe Tuning up His Auto Radio Phone Set. Top Center-Mr. Grebe Radiophoning En Route. Bottom Center-Complete View of Auto, Showing Antenna Construction. Right-Rear View of Auto Showing Method Employed to Support Masta.

THE AUTO RADIOPHONE By A. H. GREBE

HE present stage of radio telephone development has placed this form of communication on such a highly practicable plane that its rapid adoption for many useful purposes is

ion for many useful purposes is only a matter of a very little time. On aircraft it is now considered indispensable and because of the extreme simplicity of operation it will be used in many places on land over spaces which cannot be economically spanned by wires. Having experimented considerably with

Having experimented considerably with vacuum tube radio telephones during the past few years, and being impressed by the adaptability of this type of radio communication to small antennae, the writer desired to make some tests with a radio telephone equipment installed in a motor car. At first it was decided to use a flat loop

At first it was decided to use a flat loop as the radiating member, but this was abandoned in favor of a four-wire flat top antenna, used in conjunction with the frame and body of the car as a counterpiece. It was found best to depend on efficient radia-



Above-Radio Telephone Generator Panel of Latest Design. To Right-Complete Receiver and Transmitter Combined.

Expert Radio Constructor

tion of the transmitted energy and sufficiently amplified incoming signals, than to sacrifice radiated energy in favor of the advantages of the loop for receiving.

advantages of the loop for receiving. The antenna system was constructed along portable lines, the supporting masts being fitted with socket joints for assembly and attachment to the car frame. When not in use the entire antenna system was slung under the running board on hooks provided for this purpose. The antenna wire was the same as used on aircraft and the non-kinking characteristics of braided wire made it more suitable than other kinds.

The transmitter consisted of a panel and cabinet assembly which included the vacuum tube mounting, choke coils, oscillating circuits and modulating system. Meters were provided for indicating the filament current, modulator and oscillator tube space currents and the radiated energy. The oscillating circuit was so arranged as to be controlled by means of a tickler coupling, and the dial for indicating the position of this coil was provided on the panel. Filament current was obtained from a storage battery located back of the seat, and this battery supplied the current for operating a small dynamotor, as well as the vacuum tubes in the receiver. The microphone transmitter was mounted on a convenient handle and arranged with a plug which was inserted thru the front of the panel. Another plug and jack was provided for connecting a hand telegraph key for buzzer modulation. 'A switch control on the panel



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enabled the changing of wavelengths; it was found that a wavelength of 150 meters gave the best results.

The receiver consisted of a variometer type of regenerative receiver with two stages of audio frequency amplification and for this particular purpose was altered so that the antenna was directly cut in the grid circuit of the detector tube. This was necessary owing to the fact that the re-ceiver was designed for use with the usual amateur antenna, and the wavelength ob-tained with the car was therefore below

the requirement. The three stages of tubes were operated by a telephone plug, which controlled the filament and transformer circuits. Signals from ship stations and land stations within one hundred and fifty miles radius were copied without any dif-feasily.

ficulty. An interesting feature of reception oc-curred when other motor cars were oper-ating nearby. The discharges at the spark ating nearby. plugs were very plainly heard upon the ap-proach of a car and continued until the latter had gone a considerable distance. This same feature caused considerable dif-

ficulty in receiving on the motor car radio station itself and was not entirely over-come by shielding the ignition wires. Owing to the fact that all the tests were conducted on a laboratory basis, it is not possible at this time to furnish data re-garding the distances covered but it is probably sufficient to say that the tests have shown that the auto-radio-phone is entirely practical and the near future should bring extensive developments along these lines extensive developments along these lines and we may soon hear an "SOS": "Send an emergency service car to car No. 999-999 three miles east of "Suburbanville."



Thanks to Brian Ganiere AD9AL for article (readable at around x200 on pdf reader) More at

https://worldradiohistory.com/Radio News Master Page Guide.htm

ELMER

by Rich Regent, K9GDF



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2023 Season Begins

March kicks off the Early Park Ops season. The PreSeason that is. The real dates begin in May when reasonable Wisconsonites have put their winter coats away...finally.

The formula this year will be much like last year: 2:00 PM Wednesday at a different park each week. Of course we will go to our favorite haunts. We will always try to find a spot that has a shelter, close by parking and of course lots of room to spread out. We are going to make an effort to do some real live POTA parks this year, more so than in the past. Also I hope to continue to coordinate with some of the other local clubs. Everyone is welcome.

As per last year, I will post to the West Allis Facebook Group. I also will continue to send out emails weekly to those that sign up. If you were on the list last year, you are already on it for this year. New additions are encouraged!!!!! Let me know: mike@palomonet.com

So get ready. Join the fun. Come on out and say hello. It's only an hour!!!



DON'T KEY LIKE A PHONE MAN



SLOW SPEED CW QSO NET

Monday's - 8:00 PM - WB0AFB Repeater 147.045 + 127.3 Tone

CW Practice

One of the best and maybe the only way to get better at CW is practice. Having someone else who also wants to practice also helps. Just makes it more fun.

The West Allis Radio Club is going to try to help. We are running a CW practice net on Monday at 8pm The repeater is 147.045+127.3 the CW portion is on HF

Mike WO9B has been joining me and setting up some practice but we are open for suggestions on where to go with this. Come join us. Officers and Board President FEROZ GHOUSE WU9N

Vice President MikeJohnson WO9B

Secretary William Dargis KD9BJZ

Treasurer Bill Reed N9KPH

Directors Tom Macon K9BTQ Erwin von der Ehe Wi9EV

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