



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

Volume 59, Issue 4 April, 2012

APRIL CLUB HAPPENINGS

**March Club meeting
April 10, 2012
Program**

Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT owner of Unified Microsystems
will talk about his company's Ham products
including the use of the Arduino Processor

**Join us for a pre-meeting dinner
at Johnny V's Classic Cafe
1650 S 84th St at 5:15pm**

Official Notice

Per Section 5 of the Constitution which states

All Board vacancies occurring between elections must be filled by special ballot, at the next regular meeting, providing a quorum is present.

There will be a special election for vice president at the April meeting.

WARAC 2-meter net
Apr. 17 & May 1, 2011 7:00pm
MATC repeater 147.045 standard offset
127.3 Hz CTCSS

Club Happenings

Reminder

The snack kitty provides funds for our after meeting refreshments.

Help us keep the fund going for all our enjoyment!



NEW club jackets and hats!

Go to club Web site and click on
The GOLD MEDAL IDEAS block

For more info



The President's Shack April 2012

Another Wisconsin QSO Party has come and gone. Conditions were off a bit, especially in the early going, probably because of the solar flare the night before. But things seemed to improve as the day went on, with most of the action on 40 meters. 80 meters didn't seem to be able to get going, partly, I think, because 40 was so good in the last hour.

Thanks to all who participated in WIQP 2012 and thanks again to Lynn, K9KR, for putting together another great party! Don't forget to send in your logs if you haven't done so. The deadline is April 12.

Unfortunately, I need to report the resignation of George Dunco, AA9SR, as Vice President, for personal reasons. Our constitution requires that we elect a replacement at the meeting following a resignation, so this will be an item of business at the April 10 meeting. Here's your chance to become an officer and board member! And George, thanks for your service!

The program at the upcoming meeting will be Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT, who will tell us about some new ham products that his company, Unified Microsystems, will be coming out with soon. In particular, he will talk about his use of the Arduino processor in these products. This will be an interesting program from an interesting guy. Don't miss it! Spread the word and bring a friend!

Here's something new! Let's get together for dinner before our next meeting on April 10. The plan is to gather at Johnny V's Classic Café, 1650 S. 84th St. at 5:15PM. Get together with

your fellow club members! Arrange your schedule and mark your calendar now.

Last weekend's AES Superfest was a great gathering as usual. Our club's promotional table was visited by a number of attendees, and I hope to see some of them at future meetings. In particular, thanks to all who helped man our club table.

See you at the meeting!

- Tom, K9BTQ

From the Editor

April already and it looks like we may actually have a spring like you see in movies or read about in books. Not a usual Wisconsin one that seems to go from winter to summer. Still we are in Wisconsin things so could change.

Not much happening on the Ham radio front. I'm always on the lookout for information on antennas especially portable ones to use with my QRP equipment. It's just too, bad that we have to follow physics, rules. It would be so much easier to design antennas that worked if you could take some shortcuts.

I still enjoy the chase. Always something to learn and try to see how it works in real life. The internet is a continual source of info but you really have to sort through it. Some of the information comes from experts but others may be not quite as knowledgeable

Not much else going on here. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Frank KA9FZR

WARAC General Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2012

Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by President, Tom Macon, K9BTQ. Overall meeting attendance was 15 with 1 visitor.

Program

The evening's program was Wisconsin QSO party review lead by Tom Macon. Participating members shared their experiences with this year's event.

An open discussion was held to brainstorm ideas for driving club membership and club activities. Ideas shared:

Send new licensees a letter inviting them to the club and communicating what the club is all about.

Conduct licensing classes for anyone interested in getting into ham radio.

Contact libraries to let them know we are available to give presentations on ham radio.

Many libraries promote and advertise information sessions.

Purchase ARRL publication such as "How to Become a Ham" and offer them to libraries for reference. Club contact information may be added to the book. Also suggested - to pool funds with other clubs for publication purchases.

Promote Field Day to EMCOMM groups. Invite them to WARAC Field Day and get them on HF. Sell ham radio to these groups as another tool for handling emergencies.

Participate in career days at various schools. Career day events have opened up to more than just presenting vocations. They typically have other interests represented as well.

Solicit other technology groups, i.e. robotics, astronomy, etc. Many times interests will cross-over.

Promote contesting and position it as a competition. Ham radio can be presented as having similar characteristics as other hobby attractions for younger audiences.

Promote digital modes, SDR, and computer control to attract younger interest.

Determine why new members lose interest and don't come back.

Define a welcoming committee for new members. Make sure there is socialization, follow-up calls, and an interest in new members.

Reach out to scouting organizations, radio merit badges, etc.

Provide social opportunities, such as club picnic.

Contact schools and determine if they need/want help in running a school club station.

Business

Motion was made and accepted to approve the February meetings minutes as published in Hamtrix.

Dues were due in November, please see Howard Smith.

The license class tentatively scheduled for March has been postponed.

(continued on pg 5)

WARAC Board Meeting

March 27, 2012

Howard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Present: Tom Macon, K9BTQ, Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, George Dunco, AA9SR, Jim Wilkins, KC9KEQ, Dave Schank, KA9WXN.

2012 Budget

Fiscal budget is complete, but the CD interest amounts are pending. Budget data will be available after the interest amounts are obtained. The 2009 and 2010 audits need to be completed. 990-N IRS form has been filed and approved.

Club Operations Manual

Tom Macon will compile the operations manual pieces. Anyone who has a piece that is not complete will be asked to complete it within the next four weeks and send to Tom.

Programs

April: Ham Radio Applications of the Arduino Processor, by Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT, Unified Microsystems.

May: Tower Climbing Safety, Frank Humpal, KA9FZR.

June: Field Day

Other Items

Tom Macon will contact members who have not paid their dues.

George Dunco resigned his position of Vice President. At this time, he is unable to devote adequate time to the role.

Club table at AES Superfest will have the WARAC Banner, recent copies of Hamtrix, Scholarship and QSO Party information pieces, and club application forms.

A club picnic is tentatively planned for July 14. More information will be available in the near future.

A suggestion was made to plan a social activity prior to the April 10 meeting. A 5:00 dinner has been tentatively planned at Johnny V's, 1650 S. 84th Street.

Chuck Dellis will design a welcome letter to send to Hams in the area and to new Hams.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX
Secretary WARAC

Announcements

Next month's program is tentatively scheduled, Use of Arduino in Ham Accessories by Gary Sutcliff.

Club hats and jackets are available through the WARAC website. Members are encouraged to order them.

New rules have taken effect for 60 meters. One frequency has been changed, power increased to 100 watts, and additional emission types are allowed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Chuck Dellis, W9WLX
Secretary WARAC**

New Product from Google Announced on 1 April 2012

by Chris Matyszczuk April 1, 2012 6:25 AM PDT

I am delighted that Google has used this first day of April to launch yet more of its most ingenious technology.

For the company's GMail blog has announced that it's time to move beyond the QWERTY keyboard. There are simply too many keys to think about. Instead, why not reduce the number of keys to two?

How is this possible? By turning each key into a dot or a dash, thereby allowing you to send Gmail by Morse code.

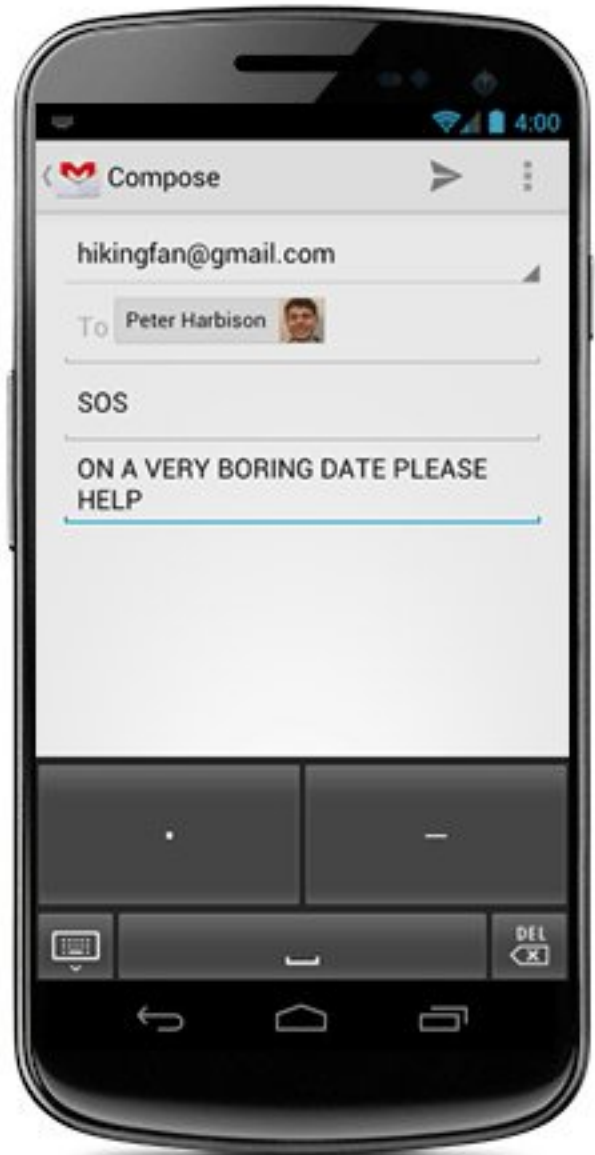
"This makes it ideal for situations where you need to discreetly send emails, such as when you're on a date or in a meeting with your boss," wrote a post to the blog by a software engineer with the astoundingly coincidental name of Reed Morse.

In a beautifully produced launch video, Morse himself explains that the creator of Morse code, Samuel F.B. Morse, was his great-grandfather's grandfather's brother.

The mischievous new Google product is called Gmail Tap. It already has its own product page, where Google explains that it will offer "multi e-mail" mode with a dual-threaded keyboard, to allow you to type multiple messages at one time. This is only, of course, for power users.

Moreover, in an even more uplifting section called "Coming Soon", the Gmail team promises that it will introduce Ship To Shore Mode, which "activates your phone's flash to communicate with other power users across an ocean (of people)."

Some, having already heard about Google's marvelous introduction of 8-bit Google Maps for Nintendo Entertainment System, will feel sure that Gmail Tap is another piece of April Fools' humor.



<http://worldsbesthobby.com/>

A free ebook of one mans
adventure's which included
much info on ham radio.

A good read. Lots of memories
for any older ham.



Officers and Board
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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.