



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 60, Issue 4 April, 2013

APRIL CLUB HAPPENINGS

Club Meeting April, 9th 2013



Program

VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol),
by Dave Schank, KA9WXN

**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



2013 Field Day: June 22-23

**Field Day Planning Meeting
Tuesday, April 30, 7:00 pm
Parish Office Lunch Room
St. Mary's Parish Hales
Corners
9520 W. Forest Home Avenue**



**AES Superfest
Apr. 5&6
Come visit and/or help
at the Club table**

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 April 2013

Except for some weather issues, the 2013 edition of the Wisconsin QSO Party appears to have gone very well. Winter weather in the northern and western part of the state caused several mobiles to shorten their routes, but propagation conditions seem to have been good to excellent. Forty meters stayed a little shorter than in other years, which is good for in-state participants but may have impacted scores of more distant stations.

The level of on-the-air activity seemed to be very good, both phone and CW. Of particular note is that, based on logs received so far, 70 of the 72 Wisconsin counties were on the air – Richland and Crawford were the exceptions. This is due in large part to the mobiles that activated many counties that wouldn't have been on the air otherwise. Again, hats off to them for their contributions to our Party!

Log submissions are going well, too. As of this writing (Tuesday, 4/2) we have received a total 286 logs, of which 274 have been loaded into the database. These 274 logs contain just under 40,000 entries. The other dozen include paper logs and a few electronic logs that require special handling.

There is about a week to go before the log submission deadline (April 11) – you've submitted your log, haven't you?. Please note that no log is too small. We have received at least two logs that have only one QSO in them. If anyone needs help with their submission, please contact me.

The program for our upcoming meeting is VOIP

(Voice Over Internet Protocol), by Dave Schank, KA9WXN. VOIP is the scheme used to send voice information over the Internet as well as other packetized communications systems. Dave will fill us in on this technology and its applications in ham radio.

The May program will be a presentation on weather by Steve Dryja, NO9B. More about this as the May meeting approaches.

No doubt you're aware that this weekend (April 5 and 6) is Amateur Electronics' annual Superfest. At the last meeting, it sounded like most members planned to attend on Saturday, so please stop by and do a turn at the table for a while. Howard and Phil will man the table on Friday, but I'm sure there will be room for anyone else to help out then, too. CU there!

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!
Tom, K9BTQ

From the Editor

Another Wisconsin QSO party is done. This was my 3rd one. I was able to double my score from last year. Most of that came from being on the air for most of the party. Still no one has any worry of me taking any awards away from them!

I did notice that while it is easy for a beginner to work the contest on SSB. One can hear the correct way to work a contact (you do that naturally while hunting and pouncing). When I listen on CW that is a whole different animal. Everyone on SSB talks at an understandable rate but I'm not able to copy at the rate of the CW experts. I'm trying to come up with a way to get better at it and maybe get others like me interested in CW.

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WARAC General Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2013

Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President, Tom Macon, K9BTQ. Overall meeting attendance was 21 with four visitors.

Program

The evening's program, Digital Modes, was given by Chuck Dellis, W9WLX.

Business

Wisconsin QSO Party conditions and experiences were discussed. The general consensus is radio conditions were good and poor weather experiences in northern Wisconsin. 40 meters was in very good condition.

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

AES Superfest is April 5 & 6. Phil Gural, Howard Smith, Tom Macon, Chuck Dellis, Paul Hass, Leroy Hass, and Dick Wood plan on attending.

Announcements

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

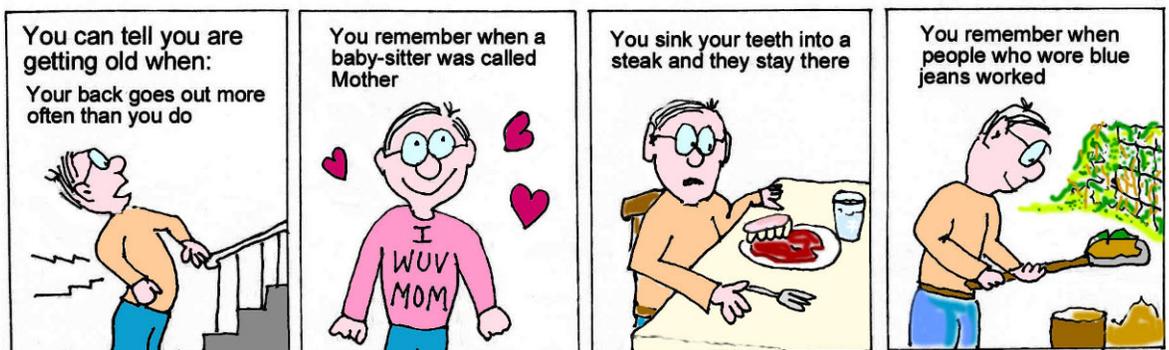
Reminder—the Wednesday night 2 meter net is at 8:00 pm on 147.045, + offset, PL 127.3. Join in!

The Nut Net breakfast is at Genesis Restaurant, 8:30 am, 4th Tuesday of the month.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX
Secretary WARAC

Elmer - by Rich Regent, K9GDF



WARAC Board Meeting

March 26, 2013

Howard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

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

Wisconsin QSO Party

246 logs in the database, 8 electronic logs need further processing, 19 paper logs being processed, 273 logs received to date. Log deadline is April 11. 2 counties were not activated, but all 50 states and 8 provinces were active.

WAWC

Question submitted regarding use of WIQP log for QSL confirmation in WAWC. This will be referred to Lynn Tamblyn as WAWC Chairman.

Vice President

Vice President Position remains vacant. Past President will be asked to fill the vacancy.

Swapfest

The club has not received the final bill from Waukesha Expo. Swapfest financials will be available after the expense is paid.

2013 Budget

Final budget waiting Swapfest financials.

Programs

April: VoIP

May: Weather spotting

June: Field Day

Miscellaneous

No updates to the WARAC Operations Manual

WARAC will be represented at the AES Superfest. Club table will have a Wisconsin QSO Party focus.

Howard Smith will pursue new banner and table top displays.

Paper name tags will be available for visitors

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX
Secretary WARAC

Field Day Planning Meeting
Tuesday, April 30, 7:00 pm
Parish Office Lunch Room
St. Mary's Parish Hales Corners
9520 W. Forest Home Avenue



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.

Elizabeth Ann Nickel wife of Tom Nickel KC9KEP Death Notice



Nickel, Elizabeth Ann Elizabeth passed away early morning of February 17, 2013, following several years of brave battle with Parkinson disease. She was born on Nov. 22, 1953 to Robert, Sr. and Mary Strampp of Bristol, WI. She attended St. John Baptist grade school and Salem Central High School. She received a 4-year degree in Fine Arts from UWM and a physical therapy assistant degree. Elizabeth loved the arts, music, dance, her pugs Sophie and Charlie as well as travel with her husband. She was adept at painting as well. Elizabeth loved learning to cook Cajun cuisine and learning Cajun dance and culture. She was an avid thrift store shopper and collector of ensuing treasure. Her kindness and generosity to all will never be forgotten. She always placed the needs of others before her own. She chose to leave her brain to medical science for the research of Parkinson disease in the hopes that a cure may be found for others. She is survived by her husband Tom Nickel, sisters Mary Claire Hermann (Thomas), Becky Deridder (Daniel), Linda Hartman (Hugo), Kathleen Poras, brothers Thomas Strampp (Daphne), Robert Strampp, Jr., Christopher Strampp, Leeland Strampp, and parents, Robert, Sr. and Mary Strampp.

WIQP Logging Programs

Have you wondered which WIQP logging programs are most popular? Although not all logs are in, here's the story based on the first 277 logs.

Log Program	Entries	% of Logs
N1MM Logger	113	40.79%
N3FJP Logger	98	35.38%
WriteLog	19	6.86%
<i>Unknown</i>	12	4.33%
GenLog	11	3.97%
NA	8	2.89%
TR Log	7	2.53%
K9BTQ Cabrillo Builder	3	1.08%
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	3	1.08%
Aether	1	0.36%
RUMped	1	0.36%
Win-EQF	1	0.36%
	<u>277</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

As expected, the N3FJP program is very popular, but usage of the N1MM logger has grown in the last few years. In case you're wondering, the K9BTQ program is the software tool we use for entering paper logs.

Lightning Protection

I am not an expert on it but I thought I would include some of my observations and thoughts.

While I worked at the airport I remember some of the lightning strikes we had.

One was on the steeple of the old Catholic church on Howell. That strike started the steeple on fire. Also the electrical pulse traveled down our control lines damaging equipment that was more than a mile away from the strike. There was no connection between the church wiring and our control lines. That strike caused no visible damage but did knock out equipment. That occurred over the next couple months.

Another strike was one that knocked a hole in the runway big enough to close the runway and require emergency repair. I remember a number like 12ft across but that might be off.

Waukesha tower had a near lighting strike that knocked out lights and equipment.

On a less dramatic note we had a short haul modem system installed at Waukesha airport. On one end of the line we had a surge protector. The other end it was forgotten. We knocked out two of the unprotected modems. None were knocked out after a surge protector was installed.

Add as much protection as you can afford, especially with solid state equipment. Don't forget there are many paths to your home electronics (phone lines, antenna lines, cable lines and of course power lines).

Protection against a direct hit is much more complicated and expensive. It is also a dynamic science so check on the current spec.

If you have some grounding on your antenna don't forget to periodically check connections because the outdoor environment is hard on equipment.

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NINETEENTH ANNUAL AES SUPERFEST APRIL 5th & 6th • 2013

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Lightning Protection

There many articles on the internet and QST on grounding. Here are just a couple I found after a search.

<http://www.bwcelectronics.com/articles/WP30A190.pdf>

<http://www.nr6ca.org/lightning.html>

Frank KA9FZR

Editor

Ideas for improving. On the web site have a short section on the CW QSO party tips, on what a contact sounds like. Maybe we can add some slow CW freq. suggestions. I'm sure many of the CW operators would be more then happy to slow down if they heard me in there. It is intimidating.

Thoughts for discussion. The next step would be to put these thoughts on the QSO party reflector and see if there is any discussion on the subject.

73

Frank KA9FZR

Icon IC-718 for sale

excess to my station
very lite use

DSP hand mike, Manual,
Power cord included

Best Offer

contact **George AA9SR**
at **AA9SR@ARRL.NET** or
Call **262 - 782 - 6325**



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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.