



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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APRIL CLUB HAPPENINGS

Club Meeting

St. Peter's Episcopal Church,
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis
April 8, 2014 7pm

Program

Lightening protection 101 Frank KA9FZR

**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 central
time

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

**Twentieth AES SUPERFEST
April 5th 2014
9am -3pm**

see

<http://www.aesham.com/aes-superfest-2014>

for more info



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 April 2014

If you see this newsletter in time, remember that Amateur Electronics' **Superfest** is coming up Saturday, April 5. Stop at our club table, which will probably be located in the manufacturer's exhibit area since the garage area is no longer available. We plan to have **2015 Swapfest flyers** fresh from the printer and we will be accepting WIQP logs. Also, our updated club banner will be on display.

It's hard to believe, but Field Day is less than three months away. Maybe it will warm up by then. Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, has agreed to be FD chairman again and has begun the site reservation process. And you will see a **Field Day meeting** notice for **April 29** elsewhere in this Hamtrix.

The program topic for the upcoming April meeting will be **Station Grounding** presented by Frank, KA9FZR. With Frank's extensive FAA service background, this promises to be an interesting and informative presentation.

Something different for our May meeting - **pizza!** And after we munch, we'll have **open discussion** of any ham radio-related problems and questions that anyone wishes to bring up. Please note that the **meeting will start ½ hour earlier** (6:30) and our regular before-meeting **dinner at Johnny V's will be cancelled** for the month. Pizza will be on the club. Save up your discussion questions and come hungry!

The 2014 edition of the **Wisconsin QSO Party** happened on March 9 and was another success from all indications. Propagation conditions were good but not quite up to last year's great conditions. On the other hand, weather and road conditions were better than last year.

It appears that all 72 counties were active this year and there is indication that at least one station pulled off a "clean sweep" – they worked all 72 counties! As far as I know, this is the first time this has ever been done.

Another noteworthy item is that 12 WARAC members have submitted logs so far. This is great! If you participated but haven't sent in your log, please do so.

At this point, about 270 logs have been received and they continue to come in, although a bit slower than last year. There's still about a week to submit your log - the cut-off is April 10. And don't think you didn't do well enough – we have already received a log with just one QSO. We want your log!

Don't forget our usual before-meeting dinner at **Johnny V's Classic Café, 1650 S. 84th St.** at 5:00PM. Also, don't forget that in May we will skip this dinner in favor of pizza at the club meeting.

See you at the meeting! Bring a friend!
Tom, K9BTQ

From the editor

Much to my amazement we may thaw out this year. The weather was bringing up thoughts of permafrost glaciers and other permanent cold weather hobbies.

With spring and hopefully summer on the way. I'll be giving a basic lightening protection lecture next meeting. Hopefully I will give you some ideas to make operating with outdoor antennas safer for you and your family.

However if your antenna farm is in the open and high enough to be seen from a distance, you may need more than just the basics.

I'm having fun on the morning nut net. As with most ham activities a bunch of fun people to be with. You never know what subjects will come up.

Hopefully see you at the meeting
Frank KA9FZR

WARAC General Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2014

Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President, Tom Macon, K9BTQ. Overall meeting attendance was 24 with no visitors.

Program

The evening's program was Wisconsin QSO Party review, by Tom Macon, K9BTQ.

Business

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

Motion was made and accepted to vote on moving cash funds from the liquidated general fund CD to the scholarship endowment. Majority vote to allocate the funds to the scholarship endowment was carried unanimously.

Reminder that the AES Superfest will be held on April 5th at the store's Good Hope Road location. WARAC will have a table and needs help staffing it.

Announcements

2 meter net every Wednesday at 8:00 pm on 147.045, + offset, PL 127.3. Join in!

CQ Tuesday, 1:00 pm 3rd Tuesday at Country Buffet

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

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX
Secretary WARAC

WARAC Board Meeting

March 25, 2014

Howard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm.

Present: Tom Macon, K9BTQ, Steve Dryja, NO9B, Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, Leroy Hass, KC9NST, and Ervin von der Ehe, WI9EV.

WIQP

QSO party committee is handling the incoming logs. The deadline is 2 weeks away.

Club Banner

The old club banner is in physically good shape. It can be updated for around \$35 and continue to be used in the future. Tabletop displays are pricey, around \$140, and do not hold up well.

Swapfest

WARAC will do a price adjustment for the 2015 swapfest ticket sales, advance and at the door. Free admission will be given for multiple tables sold. Table prices will be held consistent with 2014. Flyers will be printed for display at AES Superfest.

Scholarship Endowment Plan

Howard is waiting for a response from Mary Hobart on whether or not the Terms of Reference needs to be changed. Howard will send the recently allocated funds to enhance the endowment to the ARRL Foundation.

Programs

April – Grounding, Frank Humpal, KA9FZR

May – Pizza Night

June – Field Day, Chuck Dellis, W9WLX

Other Items

The WARAC liability insurance policy was renewed with The Hartford, through the ARRL agent.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX
Secretary WARAC

WAWC Award.... We have a Winner

By Michael Johnson, WO9B

That's right, we have a new Worked All Wisconsin Counties Award Winner. The venerable WAWC award has been on hiatus since....well since quite awhile. But that has all changed. The latest award winner is Ed Erickson, W2CVW. Way to go Ed!!

Ed has been a continuously active ham radio operator since 1949. He is an avid CW operator who has gathered a number of awards throughout the years including 5BDXCC, 160M DXCC (try getting that one!!), WAZ, WAS....well you get the idea. He's been very successful chasing the Ham Wall Paper!!

Ed will be receiving the WAWC Certificate #7. And naturally, given his CW expertise, the award is being issued with a CW Endorsement. Those who have been working the WI QSO Party might just find Ed's call in your log from years past. He has been a dedicated contest entrant over the years. Ed's award entry reads like a WiQP mobile CW Who's Who. Absolute proof that without those dedicated mobile operators, so many of the counties would remain off the air.

Now that we have dusted off the award just a bit, why not get in the game and get one for your very own? The website will be updated shortly with the new rules and application forms. The biggest change is that WiQP contacts can be used for credit toward the WAWC Award. There are a couple of qualifiers to that, but it sure will make it easier than collecting those trusty QSO cards.



brought to my attention by Ted KD8HYT

Repeater announcement help with an experiment

Come to AES SUPERFEST for a demo

On March 16, 2014, the Milwaukee Area Digital Operators Group (MADOG) and the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club (MRAC) partnered together to demo the Yaesu "System Fusion" repeater. "System Fusion" is Yaesu's version of digital communications, offering repeater owners the ability to provide a repeater that can be used by both analog and digital users separately. It has the ability to automatically switch modes depending on the type of signal received. Additionally, there is another repeater mode available in which digital users can talk into the repeater and transmit as analog for all users to hear.

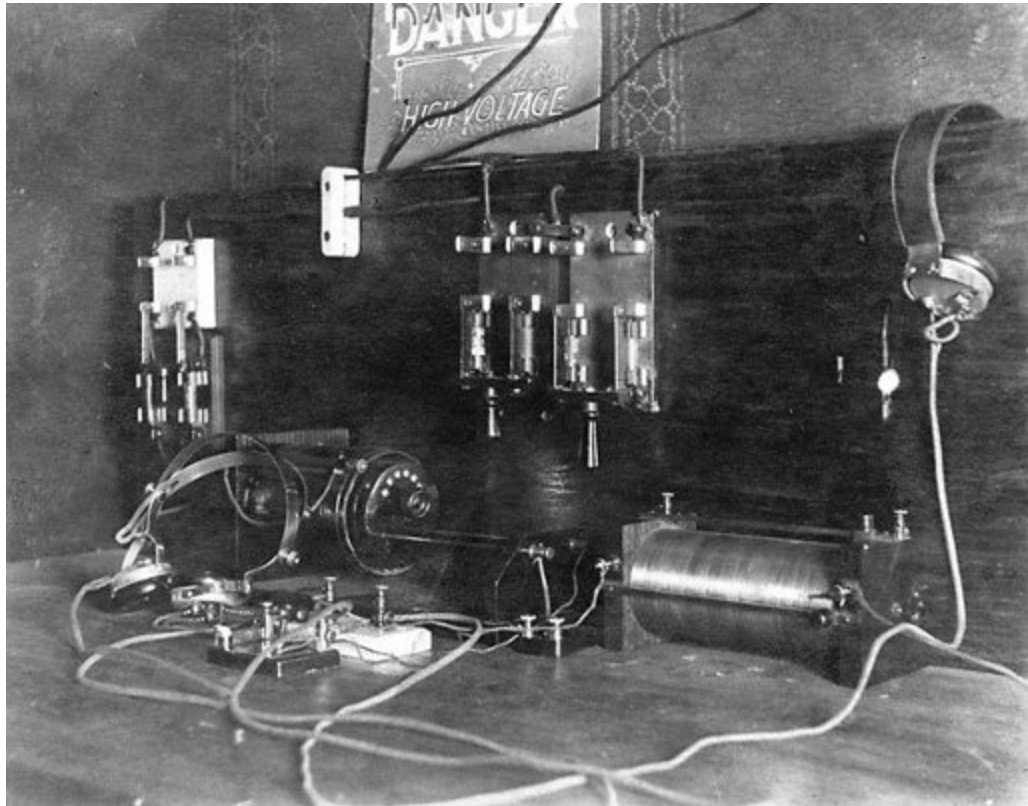
MADOG and MRAC have temporarily replaced the 145.390 W9RH repeater with the "System Fusion" repeater. Testing of the system will continue over the next several weeks leading up to AES Superfest on April 5th, 2014. Analog users will hear what sounds like static. This noise is the digital signal being transmitted by the repeater. We recommend users program a tone squelch of 127.3Hz into their radios. Over the next several weeks, we also plan on incorporating the current MRAC controller.

We need your help testing the system. We are required to submit reports at the 1-week, 1-month, and 3-month intervals after operation is started.

Please provide us with your feedback about the repeater's operation to ka9wxn@gmail.com. Is the analog range the same as before? How is the audio quality? Have you noticed any problems with the repeater?

We welcome your help in testing this new repeater system, and thank you in advance for your participation and patience during the testing period.

Dave KA9WXN MRAC President



Save the Date!

2014 Field Day planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 29. At this time, the location is still being determined. More information will be available at the April 8th club meeting and an email will be sent to club members with the location. If you seemed to be missing the information, please reach out to Chuck Dellis at w9wlx@wi.rr.com. See you there!

Officers and Board

President

Tom Macon, K9BTQ

Vice President

Steve Dryja, NO9B

Secretary

Chuck Dellis, W9WLX

Treasurer

Howard Smith WA9AXO

Directors

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR

Erwin von der Ehe, WI9EV

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W9FK
<http://www.warac.org>

***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.