



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

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Volume 65, Issue 4 April, 2018

## APRIL 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](mailto:barbsewsblue@gmail.com).

### **Club Meeting**

St. Peter's Episcopal Church,  
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis

April 10, 2018 7:00 PM

Program

Geoff Clay of Milwaukee Tool  
talking about 3-D Printing and best practices.

**Notice of the Changes to the Bylaws**

**See pg 7 and 8 for more info.**

**premeeting dinner**

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

### **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 17 at 7pm Our Field Day location will be the New Berlin site, unchanged from last year. Looking forward to hearing all your ideas and moving the planning forward!

**See pg 9 for more details**

Hope to see you there!

### **The May meeting will be our annual Auction & Pizza meeting.**

If during your spring cleaning of your shack you find something to donate for the scholarship auction. Set it aside for the meeting Thank you

## The President's Shack April 2018

CQ CQ WARAC,

My calendar tells me it's spring. Heck we've even had Easter already but oh my, Old Man Winter is not ready to call it a season just yet. I know our friends just north of us have plenty of the white stuff still on the ground. And I was thinking about my summer garden. Jokes on me.

I've not been too awfully active on the radio of late. A few QSO's here and there. Didn't even make some courtesy contacts in the latest State QSO Parties. I did pick up a new DMR HT and have been learning all about the wonderful world of digital radio. It is quite interesting. Programming is quite the chore. Guess it wouldn't be fun if it just worked out of the box.

You can check out the articles this month in this Hamtrix edition. But to highlight a couple of items:

- Club Meeting: The main presentation this month is by Geoff Clay of Milwaukee Tool talking about 3-D Printing. Jeff will share his considerable knowledge on the subject and I have to say I'm really looking forward to hearing all about it. So bring a friend or two along to the meeting. Jeff is planning to stick around for the post meeting gabfest as well.

- By-Law Changes: I know this is not the most exciting topic, but buried a couple pages deep is the post for updating three By-Law sections. Nothing too too serious, just minor updates reflecting how the club conducts the day to day business. So please read the notice and feel free to ask any questions. We will need to have a vote on them at the meeting, so there you go.

- Field Day. That's right Field Day or rather planning for the big weekend. April 17<sup>th</sup> at St Mary's in Hales Corners is the planning session. Come and make the club's 2018 FD your event. There is lots to do and we can use your help.

- Group Buys: I think we ran out of time on this last meeting. No one mentioned any ideas, so I'm going to bring it up one more time. Let us know what you've got going. We want in!!

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

It sounds like this meeting will have an interesting presentation. 3D printing is becoming more and more mainstream. I'm not sure how useful I would find it. But I'm still interested in it.

Other things of interest: I'm sure we are all ready for a change in weather but having grown up in Wisconsin I know better than to expect a movie type spring with flowers blooming and green trees and grass.

I always remember as a kid going down to central Illinois for Easter with relatives and finding that spring is a real thing in some places. We never knew what we would come back to.

I'm still working on the format of Hamtrix and as always looking for ideas and or articles to add and make it more interesting for you the readers.

I will keep this short this month and hope to see you all at the meeting.

Frank KA9FZR

## WARAC General Meeting Minutes

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The General Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by President Mike, WO9B.

The main presentation was 'DC Battery Operation' by Mark Siegesmund, President, West Mountain Radio. Mark discussed the various batteries that can be used in ham applications, what their characteristics were, and how they would perform. He also talked about the 'battery boosters' that are available and how they work and perform.

WIQP Chairman, Tom K9BTQ, discussed the WI QSO party which happened last Sunday. The general consensus was that the bands were not great. 20 meters did not work well, 40 meters went long very early, leaving 80 meters as the primary band. There seemed to be fewer participants that last year.

- Mike, WO9B, Frank, KA9FZR, and Bill, N9KPH, talked about their mobile activity.
- Phil, W9NAW, talked about his portable operating in Wisconsin Rapids in Wood County.
- Chuck, W9WLX, talked about operating as W9FK, the club call, and giving out 100 bonus points for each contact.

Mike, WO9B, discussed operating, and upcoming activities.

Paul, W9PCS, (formerly WB9HCO) showed his Go Box rig using the DUO-COMM radio.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Coffee, donuts, and eyeball QSOs followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

WARAC Secretary

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

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

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Mike, WO9B, at 7:02pm.

All Board Members were present. There were no visitors.

Swapfest chairman Erwin, WI9EV, sent an email to each board member containing 4 documents for review by the board. The board discussed these documents, and agreed that the 2019 Swapfest should be on January 5th, 2019, the contract with the Waukesha Expo Center should be signed, and a deposit of some amount should be made. Mike, WO9B, would contact Erwin with these results.

Field Day Chairman, Chuck, W9WLX has scheduled a Field Day planning meeting on Tuesday, April 17th at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Hales Corners. Howard, WA9AXQ, reported that he had purchased the 10 Ft. Dual Access Fiberglass Step Ladder for use during Field Day.

Club Treasurer Bill, N9KPH, provided the financial report as an email to the board members. The board reviewed the financial report and accepted it. Bill indicated that the switch to North Shore Bank is almost complete, still waiting for a check to clear at the Tri-City National Bank, the old account. Investigating the use of PayPal for selling Swapfest Tickets on our Website has been delayed for now.

Club Secretary Howard, WA9AXQ, reported on the status of the Membership Renewal forms. The board suggested that members that were members but did not attend club meetings should be called to confirm their information. A suggestion was made to include a cell phone field in the membership database.

Mike, WO9B, requested that any new members and visitors at membership meetings be made available so he could contact them. Frank, Hamtrix Editor, would also like that information. The secretary has agreed to do this.

Work on the Membership Booklet is waiting for the updated membership information. Bill, N9KPH, suggested that the Handbook could be produced using Microsoft Publisher, that his wife Barb was a Publisher Expert, and that he and Barb would be glad to help with its creation.

Scholarship Chairman, Howard, WA9AXQ, had nothing new to report. Bill, N9KPH, asked that the ARRL Foundation be contacted to find out why the \$500 scholarship check has not been cashed.

Equipment Sales Chairman Steve, NO9B, reported that the Jefferson Swapfest sales were greater than \$600.

Hamtrix Editor, Frank, KA9FZR, asked how the new format for Hamtrix appeared. He is converting it to a two column format, making it easier to read. He is also using standard fonts, providing a larger selection of available fonts.

WIQP chairman, Tom, K9BTQ, reported that 328 logs had been received, almost as many as in 2017. The board discussed the band conditions and how that had affected the Party.

The program for the April membership meeting will be about 3D printing.

Mike, WO9B, presented 3 changes to the WARAC Bylaws, concerning Section 3, Meeting Notices, Section 8, Auditing, and Section 12, Scholarship Program and Fund. The text changes will be published in the April Hamtrix, and discussed and voted on during the April membership meeting.

The meeting ended at 9:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018



## Special Event Corner April, 2018

By Bill Reed/N9KPH

Here's a listing of just a few events that will occur during the next month that may be of interest. There are MANY others as well.

### Military Commemorative Events:

**Special Event Station EI100MCV - US Armed Forces Day** - May 19, 0800Z-2359Z, EI100MCV, Dublin, Ireland. National Maritime Museum of Ireland Radio Club. All bands, all modes; operating on or close to frequencies ending in 18.

### General Interest Events:

**The Feast of the Ransom** - Apr 21-Apr 22, 1100Z-0200Z, W8TFC, Richwood, WV. The

Family Center Amateur Radio Club. The Feast of the Ransom, better known as The Ramp Festival has been going on since the 1930s in Richwood, WV. Want to know what a Ransom is? Look it up!

**Honoring the Birthday of the Boy Scouts of America** - Apr 28, 1000Z-1500Z, W1BSA, Fall River, MA. Operated from the ward room of the USS Massachusetts. Scouts camp over night on the ship and will be operating the station. There will be another station operating from "Battleship Cove" as well.

**150th Anniversary of Tabasco Pepper Sauce** - May 19-May 20, 1500Z-2000Z, W5DDL, Avery Island, LA.

As mentioned in earlier columns, some special events produce very nice commemorative QSL cards or Certificates. Of the many I have collected so far, this is my all time favorite:

### 2015 Elk Falls, KS Outhouse Festival



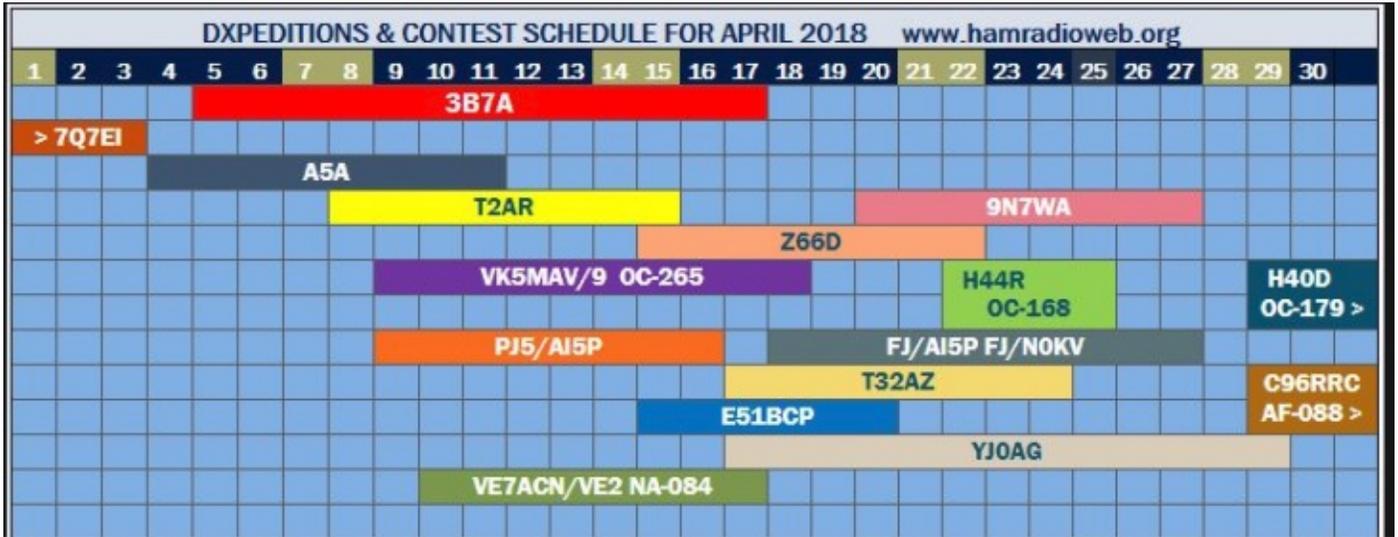
Elk Falls, KS bills itself as the Outhouse capital of the world. This was one of the most enjoyable special event contacts I've made. Where else but in the US can you find a collections of such whimsical events?

# **DX / CONTEST UPDATE** <http://www.iz5cml.it/dxschedule>

**DX:** Not much to report. The DX is out there, but you really need to be persistent to work it. The full effect of the sunspot cycles are really becoming evident. The longer days are

**Contests:** Contests are wound down. It's state QSO Party time, and fortunately April has a couple of good ones:

- MI QSO Party, 1600Z, Apr 21 to 0400Z, Apr 22, 2018 <http://www.miqp.org/Rules.htm>
- FL QSO Party, 1600Z, Apr 28 to 0159Z, Apr 29 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 29, 2018



stretching out the timing on the low bands, not to mention the noise levels are on the rise. Nothing new, just the seasonal band changes.

<http://floridaqsoparty.org>

The MI party is a lot of fun. Should be very active on 40 meters and they feature a number of mobile's.

From the chart above, the DXpeditions are on the smaller side. Still if you need them they are there. Maybe. Don't forget to load up the FT8 mode. Any decent operation will include FT8 and that may just be the ticket these days.

Full Contest Schedule check:

<http://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html>



As a club, changes to our governing Constitution and By-Laws is not something that comes up very often. However, as part of the Board's normal tasks it is appropriate to monitor our governing articles and when necessary, update them to reflect current practices and developments in our club. As such, the board has reviewed and is proposing three Sections of the By-Laws be submitted to the membership for approval.

As the changes are to the By-Laws, the procedure for Amendments is to publish them in Hamtrix and in the following meeting present them for approval to the gathered membership. By-Law changes require a majority vote of those present (10 minimum). Each change will require a separate vote. Below are the changes proposed for By-Law Sections 3, 8 and 12. The existing section wording is listed first, followed by the proposed change.

**SECTION 3:** The change formalizes the use of email or other electronic means as an approved technique, in addition to mail, for notifying members of club meetings and other official notices. This change reflects exactly what we have been doing for the past several years. Note that the member retains the option of being notified via regular mail.

*Section 3*

*ORIG*

MEETING NOTICES: Notices sent by mail shall be timed to arrive at least twenty four hours in advance of the time set forth for such meeting. No less than one notice per month shall be mailed for regular meeting <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-43659653>otices. **Notices may also be sent via email or other common electronic delivery technique unless specifically directed otherwise by the member. Notice posted in the club monthly newsletter will also be considered an acceptable meeting notice vehicle.**

*Section 3*

*Proposed Revision*

MEETING NOTICES: Notices shall be timed to arrive at least twenty four hours in advance of the time set forth for such meeting. No less than one notice per month shall be mailed for regular meeting notices. The club will use email or other common electronic delivery techniques to deliver notices unless specifically directed otherwise by the member. Notices posted in the club monthly newsletter is an acceptable meeting notice vehicle.

**SECTION 8:** For the past several years, the Board has had difficulties finding two willing non-board club members to perform the annual audit of the club's books. We have been able to regularly find one qualified and willing non-board member. The second reviewer has been a board member, which while allowed is not technically consistent with an independent review. The change reflects what has effectively been practiced and adds written report with formal Board acceptance requirement.

*Section 8*

*ORIG*

AUDITING: An audit of the club's financial records shall be conducted annually by at least two full members appointed by the President.

*Section 8 Proposed Revision*

AUDITING: An audit of the club's financial records shall be conducted annually by one full member appointed by the President. The member shall provide a written report of his findings and submit them to the Board for review and acceptance.

SECTION 12: The wording for the Scholarship Program Section was put in place when the program was primarily executed by the club. Since we have moved to the ARRL operated endowed program, the club's responsibilities have changed significantly. The changes proposed change the program from being run by committee to a single person chairman. Additionally, a annual report is to be presented to the Board by the chairman detailing the status of the Scholarship Program.

#### **Section 12**

##### *ORIG*

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND FUND: A Scholarship Program and Fund shall be established for the purpose of disbursing monies through the awarding of scholarships to qualified Amateur Radio Operators. The Scholarship Program and Fund shall be administered by a Scholarship Committee which shall be appointed annually by the President and confirmed by the Board of Directors. The committee shall be responsible for managing the routine and regular functions of administering the Scholarship Program, and formulating recommendations to the Board of Directors on matters involving disbursements of monies from the Fund, contributions of monies to the Fund, and administration policies of the Scholarship Program.

Any monies contributed to the Scholarship Fund shall be deposited into an interest bearing account in the name of the Fund, and maintained separately from the general funds of the Club, until such time that the Fund is depleted or the Scholarship Program and Fund are dissolved in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Club. Upon dissolution of the Fund, any monies remaining in the Fund which are determined to have been contributed by donors exclusive of the Club treasury shall be disbursed to a similar, legitimate, scholarship fund.

#### **Section 12**

##### *Proposed Revision*

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND FUND: A Scholarship Program and Fund shall be established for the purpose of disbursing monies through the awarding of scholarships to qualified Amateur Radio Operators. The Scholarship Program and Fund shall be administered by a Scholarship Chairman which shall be appointed annually by the President and confirmed by the Board of Directors. The chairman shall be responsible for managing the routine and regular functions of administering the Scholarship Program, and formulating recommendations to the Board of Directors on matters involving disbursements of monies from the Fund, contributions of monies to the Fund, and administration policies of the Scholarship Program. The chairman shall prepare an annual report detailing the financial status of the Fund, projected fund expenditures and other matters relevant to status of the Fund.

Any monies contributed to the Scholarship Fund shall be deposited into an interest bearing account in the name of the Fund, and maintained separately from the general funds of the Club, until such time that the Fund is depleted or the Scholarship Program and Fund are dissolved in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Club. Upon dissolution of the Fund, any monies remaining in the Fund which are determined to have been contributed by donors exclusive of the Club treasury shall be disbursed to a similar, legitimate, scholarship fund.

## Field Day Planning Meeting

The 2018 Field Day planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17. Our 2018 location is the New Berlin site, unchanged from last year. The location of the planning meeting is:

St. Mary's Parish, Hales Corners

Conference Room 2

Tuesday April 17, 7 pm

9520 W. Forest Home Ave

Please enter through the doors between the two buildings.

2018 will be a year of some change-up for West Allis RAC's Field Day. New for this year is an additional station with some digital utilization. More feedback is needed to get some great ideas for maximizing the added station, modes, antennas, operators, and ????. All input is welcomed! The FlexRadio is planning a return. New for this year is their latest 6600, opening up discussions about employing diversity reception.

Changing up Field Day gives us some nice options, but we need your input to flush out how we best deploy. Hope to see you there and get your thoughts on Field Day 2018!

Thanks.

Chuck, W9WLX

Field Day Chairman

## Wisconsin QSO Party Status – 2018

The log submission period ended March 25 and 332 logs have been received! Log checking is proceeding and we plan to complete the results earlier this year.

Overall, the 2018 WIQP conditions were somewhat similar to last year and the numbers reflect that. A total of 30226 log entries were reported, down about 400 (1.3%) from last year. These numbers are down a lot from 2013's nearly 50000 log entries. So perhaps this is more typical of what we will see during the next few years as we go through the solar minimum.

Sixteen club members submitted logs and it looks like WARAC will be third in the club aggregate scores. This is even though two members operated from locations up north (more than 50 miles from West Allis) so they can't be counted in our club aggregate.

Good job!

Thanks to the team for their help, especially Howard for dealing with the non-standard logs.

Tom, K9BTQ

WIQP team

## Hamtrix Sale Corner

The following items were donated from Gene's K9WFE (SK) estate and are available at this time. Contact Phil, W9NAW, for additional information/questions/sales.

Yaesu FT-920, HF + 6M transceiver with new hand mike and power cable, excellent condition. Unit was just serviced by Burghardt Radio Repair. Cannot transmit on AM—replacement processor chip is no longer available. Asking \$750 or make an offer.

Yaesu FT-890, HF transceiver with internal antenna tuner, new hand mike and power cable, good condition. Unit was just serviced by Burghardt Radio Repair. Several QSOs have been made on 75m and 40m. Asking \$450 or make an offer. It is ready to ship!

Cushcraft A3S, tri-band beam antenna, good condition, with manual and balun. Priced at \$125 or make offer.

Rohn 25G tower, 40 feet, with rotator mounting plate, good condition. Asking \$125.

PLG, W9NAW

2 April 2018



## 2018 QSO Party Mobile Run

For the second year in a row Mike WO9B Bill N9KPH and me did the Wisconsin QSO party on the road. Last year it was as a portable operation where we drove to a site set up an inverted V antenna and operated before moving on to the next county.

The radio setup worked fine but between driving and setup (which included tuning the antenna) a lot of time was spent not operating.

This year we went full mobile. Mike set up his van with a multiband mobile antenna including a Wolf River Coil. Other changes were starting and ending closer to home. Last year adding 2 hours to starting point and at least 2 hours going home made for a long day.

So come Sunday we were ready and waiting down in Wind lake. Not to go into details but we were able to hit 11 counties of our scheduled 14 getting 8 counties for bonus points. Total points appears to be 28,007.5 points. We did make it to the Bosch for a late supper at 8:30 or so.

Overall a fun time. Yes I would do it again. This year with combining driving and operating we learned that the vehicle noise level can be a problem. Having a shortened vertical with a manual coil took longer than we thought to change bands. Fatigue can be a problem maybe a voice keyer would help especially for SSB.

Frank KA9FZR



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

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

[https://www.ecnmag.com/news/2018/04/cat-hearing-device-tens-trillions-times-smaller-human-eardrum?et\\_cid=6304015&et\\_rid=353748193&type=headline&et\\_cid=6304015&et\\_rid=353748193&linkid=Cat-Like+%26%23039%3bHearing%26%23039%3b+With+Device+Tens+Of+Trillions+Times+Smaller+Than+Human+Eardrum](https://www.ecnmag.com/news/2018/04/cat-hearing-device-tens-trillions-times-smaller-human-eardrum?et_cid=6304015&et_rid=353748193&type=headline&et_cid=6304015&et_rid=353748193&linkid=Cat-Like+%26%23039%3bHearing%26%23039%3b+With+Device+Tens+Of+Trillions+Times+Smaller+Than+Human+Eardrum)

## 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**

Officers and Board  
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Mike Johnson WO9B  
Vice President  
Steve Dryja, NO9B  
Secretary  
Howard Smith WA9AXO  
Treasurer  
Bill Reed N9KPH  
Directors  
Frank Humpal, KA9FZR  
Dave Garnier WB9OWN  
Newsletter Editor  
Frank Humpal, KA9FZR  
fhump@milwpc.com  
Webmaster  
Tom Macon, K9BTQ

West Allis Radio Amateur  
Club  
P. O. box 1072  
Milwaukee, WI 53201



## WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC.

PO Box 1072  
Milwaukee, WI 53201  
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.