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Volume 73, Issue 4 April, 2024

APRIL CLUB HAPPENINGS

Meeting

Tuesday April 9, 2024 7pm
New Berlin Community Center
14750 W. Cleveland Ave.

New Berlin, WI

Between Moorland and Sunnyslope

Presentation

Field Day Preparation

Dave Garnier WB9OWN

Premeeting dinner

New Berlin Ale House 5:15pm
16000 W. Cleveland Ave
West of Moorland Rd.



NUT NET

3.985mhz

Monday-Saturday

8:15am CT

WARAC 4th Tuesday

Breakfast

At the Forum

Layton & Hyw 100 at

8:30am

While spring cleaning keep a look out

For Items

For May's meeting

TRUNK to TRUNK

Sale

The Milwaukee-Florida Net

time is:

7:15 – 8:00AM Central

8:15 – 9:00AM Eastern

Mon through Sat

Mark your Calendar

Sendik's Grill fundraiser dates

May 18, 2024

September 7, 2024

At the New Berlin store

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WARAC 4th Tuesday Breakfast

NOTE NEW LOCATION

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 **The Forum Restaurant, corner of HWY 100 and Layton, Greenfield, WI**. Looking forward to seeing you, mark your calendar.

Phil, W9NAW

WARAC

Find Us On The Air

VHF Simplex 146.55 Mhz

Looking for a Club Member to chat with? Fire up the VHF rig and give a shout out on the VHF Simplex Frequency 146.55. You'll be surprised how often someone is listening. Hit the PTT and say "Hello"

DMR - BM TG 3155 WI State

The WI State 3155 TG is available on all the local DMR Repeater AND via your HotSpot. Put yourself monitoring and come find a Club Member

Nut Net - Mon to Sat on 3.985 Mhz @ 8:15 AM

Join The Nut Net on 80 Mtr SSB from 8:15 to 9:00 AM Mondays thru Saturdays. Check-ins are from all over WI. You'll be a Nut Netter regular in no time. This is a general discussion net that gets your day started out right.

Milw - Florida Net - Mon to Sat 14.290 Mhz 7:00 AM

Join Tom, K9BTQ, for this early morning Check In Net, Mon thru Sat on 20M from 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM. Get the news to get your day started out just right.

6 Meter Chat - Wed, Fri 50.160 Mhz @ 9:30 AM

Paul, W9PCS, hosts this informal 6m online get together on Wed and Fri starting at 9:30 AM. This is a round table discussion and everyone is welcome to drop by and join in.

WARAC General Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2024

Called to order by Feroz WU9N @ 7:05pm.

Attendance: 26 Members.

Feroz WU9N: – did intro's.

Feb. General Meeting Minutes: - Approved.

Treasury Report – Bill N9KPH: - Approved.

Howard WA9AXQ – Scholarship: Howard contacted the ARRL, and asked if the club could add \$1k to increase the \$2k to \$3k for this year only. The ARRL responded yes. Bill N9KPH will send a \$1k check to the ARRL to make this years scholarship \$3k.

Dave WB9OWN – Field day: New location. Col Heg park, Norway,WI. Saturday only. June 22. A lot of trees with a open shelter. He will setup a Field Day planning meeting in the near future.

Rick Wyrwas WA9JBQ: POTA presentation.

In 2016 the Forest Service with the ARRL started Parks On The Air program to celebrate the Forest Service Anniversary, over 1 million contacts where made in 2016. In 2017 volunteer got together to continue POTA. Ham Sports, having Fun. It is not a contest, there are awards. All volunteers, they ask for donations to continue and maintain the website and app. [Parks on the Air | POTA | Parks program for amateur radio.](#) , Spots [Parks on the Air | POTA](#) . There are 2 elements to POTA. The Hunter,any one can be a hunter (looks and communicates). And the Activator - logs the qso. The Activator goes to Parks/entities (307 Parks/entities in WI alone.), you need to make 10 contacts(cw, digital, phone, ssb), within the entities boundary to activate the location. Activators can self spot, activator can ask the hunters to re-spot the activator. See the POTA website for the rule and other details.

Fund raising Raffle: B&K 40 MHz Dual Trace Oscilloscope.

Website update: Making some progress, working on formatting and cleaning up information. Looking for 2 volunteers to work on the symposium idea, hopefully for next year.

Chuck Dellis W9WLX: QSO Party – So far 403 logs have been received. There was activity on all bands from 160 to 70cm. About 10 club members participated in the contest. Some members talked about the problems, troubles, equipment failures they had, and the success, the fun they had.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Bill Dargis KD9BJZ

Secretary WARAC, March 13, 2024

Contest Corner and DX Report

Michael Falk, AA9RK

Whoever said April is the cruelest month (T.S. Eliot, incidentally) must have been thinking of the contest calendar. There aren't a lot of big events this month, but if you look around, there are a ton of smaller events that fill a niche.

First off, there are state/province/POTA QSO Parties galore this month. The weekend of the 6th and 7th features the Louisiana, Mississippi, and Missouri QSO Parties, and the Florida and Georgia State Parks On The Air events. The Georgia, New Mexico, and North Dakota QSO Parties are the weekend of April 13th and 14th; the Michigan, Nebraska, Ontario and Quebec QSO Parties, and Texas State Parks On The Air take place on April 20th and 21st; and then the Florida QSO Party hogs the spotlight on April 27th and 28th. Looking ahead to May, the first weekend is the 7QP (7th Call Area QSO Party), along with the Indiana, Delaware, and New England QSO Parties. Cruelest month? I think not. (For details on all of these contests, check out the excellent website of Bruce Horn WA7BNM, contestcalendar.com)

The VHF/UHF events are the 222 MHz Sprint, 7-11 PM on Tuesday, April 16th; the 432 MHz Sprint, 7-11 PM on Wednesday, April 24th; the Microwave Sprint (902 MHz and up) from 8 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, May 4th; and then the 50 MHz Sprint, 6-10 PM on Saturday, May 11th. (This is a good shakedown for the June VHF contest, but more about that next month.)

I want to draw your attention to a weekly event I enjoy. On Thursday nights, there are three different events you might like to try. From 8:00-8:30 PM is the NCCC's FT4 Sprint. If you don't know, FT4 is like FT8, but with a faster sequence (7.5 seconds transmit, 7.5 seconds receive, as opposed to 15 and 15 with FT8). The goal is to make as many FT4 contacts as you can in those 30 minutes. The multiplier is unique grid squares worked per band. Activity is high, and recently there have been European, African, and South American stations on 20 meters at that time, so there is some interesting DX to be had. (I told you about 7P8EI on the DX side last month; we found them on FT4 at that time.) Then from 8:45-9:15 is the Weekly RTTY Test, which is not a Sprint-style contest but just a regular, informal contest. Activity is good on 20 and 40 meters. Finally, from 9:30-10:00 is the NCCC's CW Sprint. This is the activity with the QSY rule (after you call CQ and make a contact, you must give up the frequency and QSY at least 1 kHz), and speeds are FAST (most contacts go down between 35 and 40 WPM). It's not for the faint of heart, but every interaction I've had with the sprinters has been positive, and they've been kind and gracious with me as I struggle to match speeds with them.

If you enjoy 10 meters and the joys and challenges of that most fickle of HF bands, try the 10-10 International Spring Contest. The digital weekend is April 27 and 28; CW is May 4 and 5;

May brings the CQ World Wide WPX Contest (CW), and June is ARRL month: the first weekend in the International Digital Contest, the second weekend is June VHF Contest, the third weekend is Kids Day, and the fourth weekend is Field Day. We'll talk about all of those next time.

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What's the DX news?

- 3D2AJT in Fiji should be on the air through April, all modes.
- HB0/OH2YL will be on HF CW and FT8 during the second week in April.
- 8Q7HZ in the Maldives will be on air the second week in April, all modes.
- E6SP in Niue will be on 10 and 15 meters in April, phone and FT8.
- A8OK in Liberia will operate from 160-6 meters, all modes, from April 5th through 19th.
- A52CI and A52P from Bhutan will be on the air the last two weeks of April and into the first week of May.

Keep me in the loop. Let me know what exciting DX you hear, and I'll include it next month.

-Michael AA9RK

Worked All Wisconsin Counties Award 2024 Update

With the close of the 2024 WI QSO Party, the Worked All Wisconsin Counties Award department prepares for the onslaught of applications from those seeking this prestigious and hard to achieve award. Most years, not much happens, but 2024 is not most years. We are proud to announce we have a new award winner: David Pritchard, W9QL.



Achieving confirmed QSOs with all 72 counties in Wisconsin is indeed a commendable feat, especially considering the challenges associated with working the less populated areas. It's great that David's application, primarily consisting of WIQP QSOs, has been successfully vetted and confirmed with the help of the WIQP Committee's Chuck Dellis, W9WLX. This meticulous process underscores the dedication and thoroughness of the WARAC team in administering the WIQP.

Congratulations to David, now recognized as an award winner for 2024! This accomplishment not only highlights his commitment to the hobby but also showcases the supportive role of WARAC in fostering a vibrant amateur radio community. Well done to everyone involved!



April 2024 * Hamtrix * By Michael Johnson, WO9B

6 Meter Digital Season Begins

The 6 Meter Sporadic -E season is just about to take off. It is indeed the “Magic Band” and despite unpredictable day-to-day propagation, season after season it delivers excitement and oodles of fun. FT8/FT4 have dominated the activity on 6 meters for several years now. Given those modes' weak signal capability, it is a perfect choice. And also check out the MSK144 Meteor Scatter mode buried under the hood of the WSJT software.

Most of us have 6 meter capable radios. But how are you fixed for an antenna? The beauty of 6 meters is the antenna size is pretty easy to deal with. Even getting it up high enough is easily done on this the lowest VHF band we have. Here are a couple of antenna ideas that won't break the bank and are within most of our capabilities to cobble together.

Dipole Wire Antenna: That's right. Stick up a dipole. Use good coax as cable attenuation starts to “count” above the HF bands. It will work. It is horizontally polarized. It's small (+/- 3 meters long). [Here](#) is one idea.

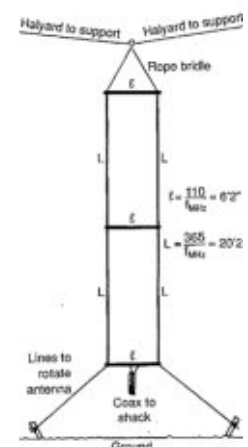
Loop/Halo/Squalo Antenna: Fashion about 12' of Ace hardware 1/2” copper pipe into a nice easy to handle loop antenna. [Here](#) is the one I've had for 3 years now. Works great. Lot's of other sources on the net.



Both of these solutions will generate good activity. They are, however, non-gain antennas which will limit your activity to North America, for the most part. You will be successful with trans-equatorial propagation so Central and South America will also end up in your log. And if you happen to be active when conditions are

off the charts, you might nab EU or JA. The serious players all have yagi antennas, but that is a solution I'm not willing to undertake. Being pretty much a wire and tree guy, I'm going to be trying something a little different this summer. And I've got just enough time to put this together.

H Double-Bay Antenna: Ron, N9AU pointed this out to me. The plan for it is [HERE](#) and basically it consists of PVC spreaders and wire hung from a tree. The overall size will be roughly 3' x 12', so actually quite small. Hung from a branch up 25' or so, it will be just about high enough. The performance will give directivity (front and back) and 4dB of gain. This is my ticket to EU QSO's this

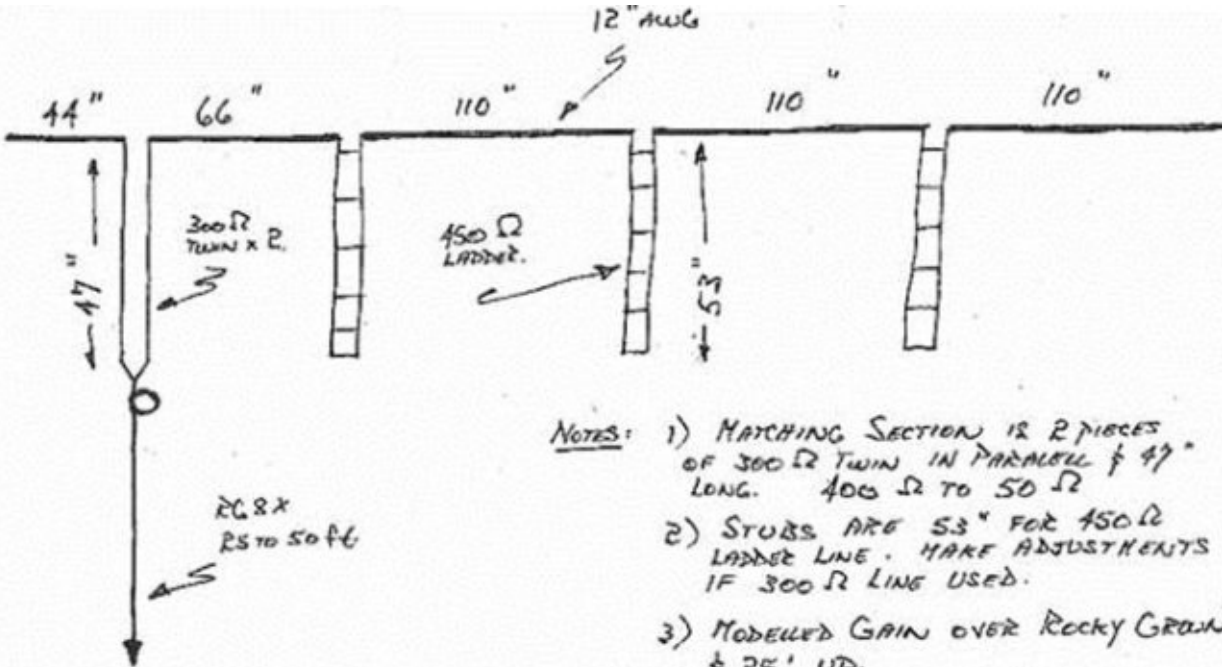


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Sporadic-E season.

All the above are right down mainstreet antenna solutions. What if you are feeling a bit adventurous and don't mind spinning up a real odd-duck antenna solution. You know, the kind where halfway through the construction a combination of sanity and dread set in? Well this just might be the something to scratch that itch:

Quick and Dirty 6M Array



- NOTES:
- 1) MATCHING SECTION IS 2 PICES OF 300 Ω TWIN IN PARALLEL & 47" LONG. 400 Ω TO 50 Ω
 - 2) STUBS ARE 53" FOR 450 Ω LADDER LINE. MAKE ADJUSTMENTS IF 300 Ω LINE USED.
 - 3) MODELLED GAIN OVER ROCKY GROUND & 25' UP.
8 DBD ON 6M
6 DBD ON 2M
8 DBD ON 70 CM
 - 4) EZNEC MODELLED

6M, 2M, 70 CM
COLLINEAR ARRAY.

JEFF SMITH VE1ZAC

EMAIL JHSMITH@NS.SYMPTICO.CA.

A Quick and Dirty 6M array

You can read all about this basement agglomeration [HERE](#). I am intrigued, but still, this is the type of project that just reeks of lots of fiddling and maybe it works. As luck would have it, I just last night stumbled on a cut off piece of 450 ohm ladder line and I was thinking, what am I saving this for? Ah hem.....

6 Meters can add a whole new dimension to your radio work. While not just a Spring/Summer band, that is when activity peaks, so don't miss out.

2024 Challenge for our membership. Have someone you meet, Ham or Ham wannabe come to a meeting this year!

Swap Corner

If you have something ham related you are looking for or you would like to sell or give away. I would be happy to post them in Hamtrix

Editor

It is time to thin the herd. I have acquired too much radio stuff. I am ready to sell:

Ten Tec Omni D : All solid state, 160-10m (no WARC bands), 100 W transceiver. It has a couple of small quirks (PTO needs to be greased; SWR meter isn't accurate), and it still has all the original filter caps. If you're going to use this rig hard, it might need a little work to update it. But I made POTA CW and CQ WPX SSB contacts with it recently, and got good signal reports. I have the matching power supply and an Astatic Microphone for it. \$400 or best offer for radio, power supply, and mic. I'm inclined to make a good deal for a club member. I also have the matching CW keyer and a Signalink USB which is wired for this radio, if you are interested.

Ten Tec Argo 556 : This is a QRP rig with 10 watts of output power. It works on CW, SSB, and digital (if you have a Signalink or similar). This radio has band modules; to change bands, you pop a piece out of the radio and pop a new piece in. That system works very well. I have nine band modules (160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters). The modules go for upwards of \$70 apiece on eBay. I'm asking \$500 for the radio, microphone, and all nine band modules. It works like a dream on CW with an internal keyer and fast QSK. It is a power miser and gives me a lot of hours of operation on one battery. (I have installed Powerpoles on the power cable.) Recently this rig saw some use on 20 meters FT8 with the Signalink, and it has been my Winter Field Day rig twice. Again, let me know if you are interested in the Signalink to go with it.

UT5JCW Transverter : This is a 144/28 transverter, meaning you transmit on (for example) 28.390 MHz and it will come out on 144.390 MHz. This is a Ukranian transverter which I bought in 2020. It needs 5 watts of drive on 10 meters for 15 watts out on 2 meters. It has some frequency stability issues as it changes temperature, which is a known issue with these transverters. It is fine on FM, pretty good on SSB, and usable on CW, but difficult to use on FT8 without modifications. When I got my FT-991, which is an all mode radio on VHF, I didn't need this transverter anymore. I paid something like \$120 new for this, but I will sell it for \$50. It is installed in the aluminum housing, and comes with a power cable onto which I've installed Powerpoles.

Contact Michael AA9RK: (414) 254-5619 or aa9rk@e-falk.com

Continued next page

National TRM 56MHz transceiver - Needs a New Home

FINAL CALL for this Item:

This is a club donated item and the last piece of WARAC gear I have. It has been listed on and off for several years on QRZ, QTH, et al. On April 15th it is getting tossed in the bin, so if you have any interest now is the time!!

Attention National Radio Company Vintage Collectors: This item was listed some years back, so once more For Sale is a rare National TR 56 MC Transceiver Model TRM dating from +/- 1934. The product is in collector's condition. The National TRM model was based on an August 1933 QST article (Downloadable from QST Archives) for a portable "Tool-Box 56 Mc Regenerative Transceiver". They were available in two models: TRW which had a wood case and the TRM, this unit, which has a metal case. The wood case variety was much larger due to battery storage within the case. The TRM is approximately 8"x6"x6" and is designed to work with an exterior battery.

No operational tests have been conducted, nor have the tubes been tested.

This is a one of a kind product looking for a new home. Price? Make an offer and lets figure something out. Disposition to an appreciative new home is paramount.

I am all ears!! I prefer email inquiries to: mike@palomonet.com



It All Began in 1935 **Tom Langer, KD9FPC**

In 1935 we saw the introduction of the beer can, men's briefs, Hoover Dam started, the first car over 300 MPH, and Social Security. It was also the year AJ Foyt was born. And in Western Europe the beginnings of WWII were stirring.

At the same time a British guy described a future machine of limitless memory, it could scan and read back and forth. His name was Turing, the guy who described what would be known as the Turing Machine. He was also one of the scientists of Bletchley Park fame that broke the Nazi codes.

Along comes 1943 when Turing discussed a "machine that could learn from experience... letting the machine learn from experience"... and become an amazing new technology to help mankind. He called it Intelligent Machinery.

Now after all of these years we know his Intelligent Machinery as generative Artificial Intelligence, or AI. We went through the history in order to make the biggest point. AI is not a new concept and is nothing more than a machine that is loaded with newspapers, videos, you name it, all from this moment back. Then, it looks to create what seems to be an "intelligent machine" that does many things.

We must look at AI in that light. It really is an old idea that takes the information and history it is fed to provide many useful tools. However, in this crazy time we must be very careful. As a business application it generally works fine. Used with social media, election campaigns, disasters and the rest it may be very dangerous. Whoever controls AI controls what goes in it. If they wish to create social media for example they are able to slant the AI output by slanting the AI input. Garbage in = garbage out.

By now you are asking yourself what has all of this have to do with ham radio? A lot, really. When you consider that every picture you see on the internet is likely altered from the original. That may be Photoshop. But today it is more likely AI. Or, a letter may be altered. Or a so-called experts report may not be all that expert. Communications may be altered. Or your kid or grandchild may write a dandy thesis and never crack a book. At the heart of AI is the ability to alter communication to suit the developer's whims.

In order to avoid the issues of AI and communication there needs to be some type of unfettered, open and reliable form available. This is why the future of ham radio is so very important. Our "hobby" is quickly becoming the most important medicine against control of social media, government and industry by the few with the tech and money. Only real people describing real situations and real issues will beat the altering of communication with AI.

As I write this it is not lost on me that this all sounds pretty grim. But ham radio is an answer to the problem of warped AI. Remember, AI can only create by referencing the past. A bit like trying to drive ahead using only the rearview mirror. And it has already proven quite helpful in streamlining industrial processes, developing new medicines and more. The greatest risk of misuse is communication. We have the secret antibiotic. AI cannot replace the human being when it comes to communication. Oh, no doubt they will try. But machines aren't developers, thinkers, creatives.

There are just a few AI companies. They run the main systems, all of which take a lot of people, money and electrical power along with very sophisticated software and coding. We're talking in the many billions of dollars. One of the first, ChatGPT (Open AI) introduced in 2022. Then there is Microsoft Bing, Meta, Google (Gemini), Deepmind, Amazon, GitHub, Perplexity, Claude, A121 Labs, Stability, Jasper, Midjourney, and with an estimate of this market growing into the trillions of dollars, more to follow. At this point you may as well add Tesla/Elon Musk to the list.

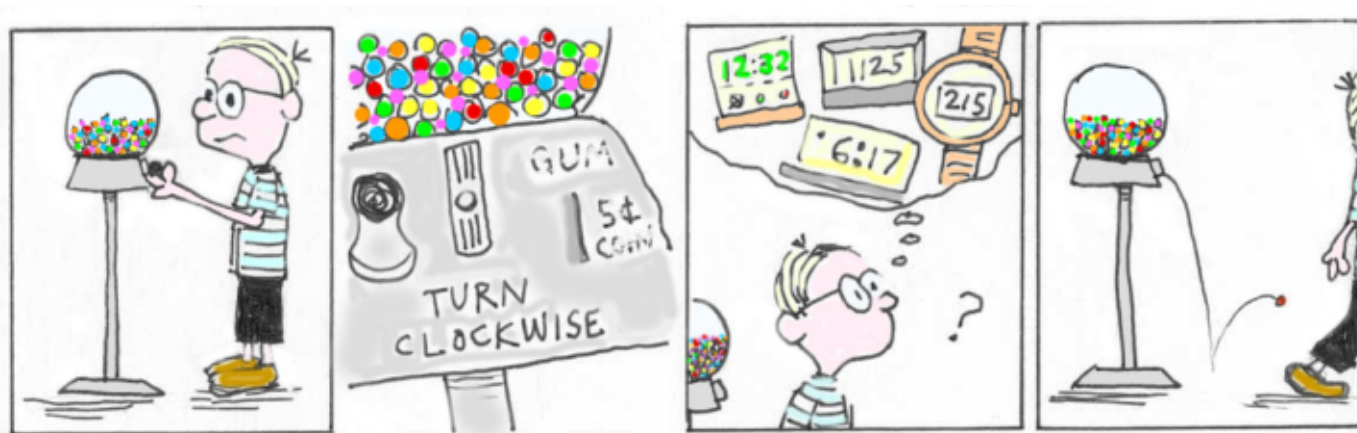
So, what does this mean for all of us? Here are a few thoughts of mine;

- 1 The need to bring in younger people and involve youth.
- 2 Efforts renewed in bringing a very reliable form of communication back to where it has been lost. MARS radio would not be consolidating if the airways were packed with operators.
- 3 Enhancing our emergency services. Connect with police, fire, National Guards, EMS and more. Support community activities along with them. One way to really show our support is if we all get certified for CPR and basic first aid. After all, depending on the day, we may be the first responder.
- 4 Not doing a field day just twice a year. Rather, local clubs could augment that with their own "field days", fox runs, poker runs and the like all year.
- 5 There are plenty of swap meets. Offer training at them in regards to emergency power, digital tech and more. The EMT/fire/police meeting on the south side is a perfect example.
- 6 Lose our "old guy and a radio" image. Yes, I am an old guy and a radio, but that doesn't define me. Use our events and club meetings to keep communication alive. Really keep the club secretary busy making notes!
- 7 Commit to bringing at least one new ham into the fold this year.

In 2024 we must lose our "hobby" and all it something else. Call it for what it is and will mean for the future. Instead, we could call it Amateur Radio Communication maybe. Whatever. AI is an old technology that was looking for the equipment and money to thrive. It is here now. Realize that one of the few things that separate people from a future of possible lies, proven manipulation and more is Amateur Radio Communication and what we do with it right now. • _ • _ • •

ELMER

by Rich Regent, K9GDF



From the Editor

After reading Tom Langer's excellent article on AI and talking to Mike WO9B about it I decided to let Chatgpt at <https://chat.openai.com/> do my editorial this month. Below you can see the result. . . .

AMAZING!!

Frank KA9FZR

Computer "Hello! How can I assist you today?"

Me "Make a 4 paragraph editorial on ham Radio"

Title: Embracing the Timeless Resilience of Ham Radio

In an era dominated by digital communication platforms and high-speed internet, the enduring charm and resilience of amateur radio, affectionately known as ham radio, continue to captivate enthusiasts worldwide. Ham radio, with its roots stretching back over a century, represents a unique intersection of technology, community, and adventure. Unlike its modern counterparts, ham radio operates independently of terrestrial infrastructure, making it a vital communication lifeline during emergencies and natural disasters when conventional means of communication falter. Its reliability in times of crisis underscores its enduring relevance in an increasingly interconnected yet fragile world.

Beyond its utilitarian role, ham radio fosters a vibrant global community bonded by a shared passion for exploration and experimentation. Enthusiasts, young and old, converge on the airwaves to exchange ideas, forge friendships, and push the boundaries of communication technology. The amateur radio spectrum serves as a playground for innovation, where operators experiment with antennas, radio circuits, and propagation techniques, constantly pushing the envelope of what is possible. This spirit of innovation not only enriches the hobby but also contributes to advancements in telecommunications and radio engineering.

Moreover, ham radio transcends geographical and cultural barriers, offering a platform for cultural exchange and mutual understanding. Through on-air conversations, operators bridge divides, sharing experiences, traditions, and perspectives across continents. In an age characterized by polarization and division, the inclusive and collaborative ethos of the ham radio community serves as a beacon of unity and cooperation. It exemplifies the power of technology to bring people together, fostering connections that transcend borders and ideologies.

As society hurtles towards an increasingly digital future, the enduring appeal of ham radio serves as a poignant reminder of the value of simplicity, self-reliance, and human connection. Amidst the noise of modern life, the crackle of the radio and the thrill of making contact with distant lands offer a welcome respite, grounding us in a tradition that predates the internet age. Ham radio enthusiasts embody the spirit of exploration and resilience, preserving a time-honored tradition while embracing the possibilities of tomorrow. In an ever-changing world, the timeless allure of ham radio endures, reminding us of the enduring power of human ingenuity and connection.

DON'T KEY LIKE A PHONE MAN



SLOW SPEED CW QSO NET

Monday's - 8:00 PM - WBOAFB 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.

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Vice President
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