



Hamtrix

Volume 53, Issue 5 May, 2008

In this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <i>The President's Shack</i> | 1 |
| <i>14 Members in WIQP</i> | 1 |
| <i>Meeting Minutes</i> | 2 |
| <i>W9EQP, SK</i> | 3 |
| <i>Upcoming Programs</i> | 4 |
| <i>Scuttlebutt</i> | 4 |
| <i>Spotty Forecast</i> | 4 |
| <i>10 Meter Contest Results</i> | 6 |
| <i>Birthdays and Anniversaries</i> | 7 |

Meetings & Events



May 13

Club Meeting

Program:

Remotely Control

Your Radio

by Brian Bieger, KC9HEK

May 27

Board Meeting

June 1

Material Due for Next

Hamtrix

June 10

Next Club Meeting

June 28, 29

Field Day



The President's Shack

*by Howard Smith,
WA9AXQ*

Did you know that WARAC had a club table at the Ozaukee Radio Club's Swapfest this past Saturday? This is one of the places where we sell the donated equipment and the proceeds go to our Scholarship Fund. We usually do quite well at the table, but sometimes the equipment never even gets to the table. That was the case for a Hammarlund SP600 receiver that was recently donated. Somebody noticed it being removed from John's car, and bought it on the spot! I think it went right to the buyer's car. Did somebody say that boat anchor receivers were of no interest? Well, not this one.

Tom, K9BTQ, and I attended the Presi-

dent's Roundtable meeting at this swapfest. It is chaired by Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR. This was the third meeting of this group, and the first time that I have been able to attend. The same group met at our Swapfest in January. The purpose of the group was to exchange ideas about clubs activities, operations, etc, with the idea that this would strengthen all of the radio clubs. A lot of ideas came out of those sessions. We have already been using some of the ideas and will be using more of them in the future.

One of the ideas was to create a survey to ask particular questions of the club members. The board has appointed a committee of three persons to create the survey, to tally the results, and report them to both the board and to the membership. The committee consists of George Dunco, AA9SR, chairman, Wes Anderson, N9YE, and Ron Gorski, N9AU. The survey has been created, and should be approved by the board by the time you read this. You

(Continued on page 7)

FOURTEEN MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN 2008 WISCONSIN QSO PARTY

by Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR, WIQP Chairman

Usually at this time of year I do an article on how club members did in "their club" sponsored Wisconsin QSO Party, as well as how WARAC did in the overall Club Competition. This year I am doing it in two parts - club members this month, and in a future article I will cover how WARAC did since we have not finished the processing of the results. In addition, I am not indicating where in the overall results each member ended up for the same reason. This year, I have done the list alphabetically by last name, rather than by highest to lowest score. So, let's get to it.

Club member Richard Barcz, WR9Y, operated both CW and phone. He made 86 contacts, with 36 on CW and 50 on phone, with 29 WI counties and 6 states, for a grand total of 6,405 points, doing all but two of those Q's on 75/80 meters.

Club member Charles Craven, WB9PUB, made 174 phone Q's, with 32 WI coun-

(Continued on page 5)



From the Minutes...

By Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR
Secretary

**Minutes of the General Meeting
April 8, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by President Howard Smith.

Visitor - Garrett Kaltenbach, KC9LVT, introduced himself. Club members then introduced themselves to our guest.

Minutes - the membership approved the minutes as printed in Hamtrix.

Announcements - Tom Macon announced that there will be a Field Day meeting on April 15 at St. Mary's Parish Office, at 7:30 PM. Details are in the Hamtrix April issue.

PROGRAM

Elmer Night. President Howard Smith led Elmer Night, which basically was a question/answer session and discussions, such as:

- Question about reciprocal agreements with South Korea, including the possibility of taking a radio aboard an airplane during the trip over.
- Question about the life expectancy of flash memory sticks.
- Question about if using 70 cm is different than using 2 meters, with discussion centered on not being successful trying to access the WI Radio Club repeater on 440 Mhz.
- Discussion by Dick Wood installing two more elements on his 2 element quad.
- Discussion about towers and how to make them self-supporting.
- Question about what contest training software is out there and how well it works.
- Question asking if there are any "kid" nets on 2 meters.
- Discussion on an air bag failure light coming on when transmitting.

Discussion on John Westimayer's loop, relating to how to remotely tune it.

Question on how many club members were going to Dayton this year.

Discussion on amateur radio manufactures closing their "amateur" operations in lieu of increasing their commercial radio operations.

Discussion(s) ended at 8:38 PM.

BUSINESS MEETING

A short business meeting then began. Phil Gural and Bob Zach, as representatives of the Awards Committee of 2007, presented Dave Knaus with a plaque for his years and years of WARAC participation.

Phil then mentioned a project he is considering - an ultrasonic electric interference detector. He said he will make it available to others.

Phil then talked about the Jan 3, 2009 Swapfest. He has flyers. He then spoke to the need to try and increase the advance ticket sales, which he asked club members to help with, as Phil thinks our attendance might be down due to the Jan 3 date, thus the need to make sure our expenses are covered.

Dick Wood mentioned that there will be circus parade in 2009. He is working on trying to get a station operational on the circus grounds, as in years past.

Howard then spoke to the need to ok the application for club membership by John "Jackie" Jurek, KC9MJO. A unanimous show of hands approved. Welcome aboard Jackie.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM, followed by refreshments and eyeball QSO's.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR

**Minutes of the Board Meeting
April 22, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM. by Howard

(Continued on page 6)

| 2007 WARAC Officers and Board | | | Hamtrix — Editor & Publisher |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--|
| President | J. Howard Smith, WA9AXQ | 414 425-5626 | Submit newsletter material to: Tom Macon, K9BTQ 3547 S. 95 St Milwaukee, WI 53228 414 543-3878 tmacon@wi.rr.com ■■■■ |
| Vice President | Thomas W. Macon, K9BTQ | 414 543-3878 | |
| Secretary | Lynn C. Tamblyn, K9KR | 262 534-9655 | |
| Treasurer | Richard M. Wood, W9JBE | 262 542-5118 | |
| Director (2008) | Robert F Zach, KC9AGX | 414 328-3691 | |
| Director (2009) | George Dunco, AA9SR | 262.782-6325 | |
| Director (1 year) | Wes Andersen, N9YE | 414.423.0640 | |
| Board Chairperson | J. Howard Smith, WA9AXQ | 414 425-5626 | |

BILL BROSSMANN, W9EQP, SK

by Tom Macon, K9BTQ

An era ended with the passing of Bill Brossmann, W9EQP, on Saturday April 12. Bill was 99 and held a ham license for a remarkable 81 years. He was assigned 9EQP when originally licensed in 1927 and held W9EQP for the entire time. For approximately 30 years, Bill was net control of the Milwaukee-Florida Net, which meets daily at 7:00 AM Central on 14.290.

In his mid-nineties, Bill lost his eyesight but continued to run the Net even though he couldn't take notes. He compensated for this with his remarkable memory, frequently surprising check-ins by remembering their names, spouse's name and often even their pet's name.

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Bill married his wife Evelyn in 1936. He is survived by his brother Fred and his son Bill, K9IUF. Evelyn passed away in 2002.

Bill spent the better part of his working career with the Koehring Company in Milwaukee, where he was the director of purchasing. He retired from there in 1974.

His ham radio activity declined in the late 40's and early 50's as he and his brother built their houses in Brookfield. They did everything but dig the holes. His ham radio activity increased in 1957 when his son Bill became licensed as KN9IUF. He also spent a good deal of radio time running phone patches into Wisconsin from missionaries in Central America and scientific explorations into Antarctica. His South Pole patches were the subject of several Milwaukee Journal



articles.

Bill was also a DX'er with 348 credited DXCC countries plus other accomplishments.

Besides ham radio, he was an avid hunter and fisherman. He took many fishing trips into Canada and hunted for deer in the Goodman area of Wisconsin. His main hunting partner was John, W9UE. He also won many trophies as a trap shooter. In addition, he was a skilled wood carver and enjoyed doing this in his retirement. Birds and Hopi Indian statues were his specialty.

Bill was well known in the Milwaukee area. Although he was not a member of WARAC, many Milwaukee-Florida Net participants are, and WARAC hosts a Milwaukee-Florida Net page on our club web site.

73, Bill. You were special. And watch out for those swingin' doors up there!

.....

Ham Happenings Around the area

Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club

formerly Menomonee Falls
Radio Club

Germantown Police Dept
N112W16877 Mequon Rd
Wed, May 28, 7:30PM

Milwaukee Radio Amateur Club (MRAC)

Redemption Lutheran Church
Hwy 100 & Capitol
Thurs, May 29, 7:00PM

Ozaukee Radio Club

Grafton Senior Center
1665 7th. Ave.
Wed, May 14, 7:30PM

CQ3TUE

Old Country Buffet
16750 W Bluemound Rd
Tues. May 20, 11:15AM

South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Wed. June 4, 7:00PM
Legion Post 434
Shepard Ave
Oak Creek, WI.

Amateur Radio Testing

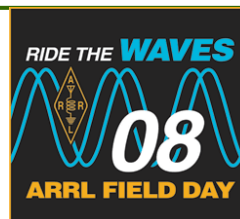
Saturday, May 31
9:30AM
Amateur Electronic Supply
5720 W. Good Hope Rd

NOTE

Please do not contact
meeting places for
information.

Field Day, June 28, 29

Be sure to mark your calendar now! You don't want to miss this weekend of operating, fun and comradery with your fellow club members.



Upcoming Meeting Programs

May 13

Remotely Control Your Radio

Over the Internet

By Brian Bieger, KC9HCX

June 10

Get Ready for Field Day

Tom Macon, K9BTQ

Have an idea for a program? Something you'd like to hear about?

Let us know - Contact a Board member!

Scuttlebutt...

- Have you noticed a stranger at our meetings lately? It's long-time member Chuck Craven, WB9PUB. Chuck worked second shift for a many years but has now retired, so we hope to see him regularly at meetings now.
- Antenna expert L. B. Cebik, W4RNL, has become a silent key. His marvelous web site at www.cebik.com will be maintained by others and will live on as a tribute to L. B. The site now requires a login, but it is free, quick and easy to get signed up for it.
- John Westimayer, N9LGD, now has a better local 20-meter signal, thanks to a new 40m full-wave horizontal loop antenna. John, K9IAC and Tom, K9BTQ, helped out with a little Elmering. How does it work on 40, John?
- Jonathan Jurek, son of new member Jackie, KC9MJO, passed his Technician test in March and became KC9NFO. He also recently graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida. He will soon be starting a new job in California.
- Jackie, KC9MJO, is now the proud owner of a new Icom 706. He also now has a K9IAC motor-tuned antenna for all-band access
- Take note! The South Milwaukee Swapfest is on **Sunday** this year. The date is Sunday, July 6..

SPOTTY FORECAST

Sunspot Activity



Above is an updated graph with the latest smoothed sunspot numbers. As you can see, it's been stuck at less than 10 since dipping to a minimum of about 3 last October. If last October was the true minimum of the cycle, the new cycle seems to be having a hard time gathering steam.

Thanks!



Thanks and a tip of the editor's hat to the following contributors to this month's issue of **Hamtrix**

Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR

Write an Article

This means

You!

Please??



14 Members in WIQP

(Continued from page 1)

ties, 27 states and 2 Canadian provinces. His grand total was 15,921 points. Charlie's Q's were mainly on 75 meters, with a few on 40 meters, a smaller number on 20 meters, and only one 6 meter and one 2 meter Q.

Club member Ron Crown, KA9JCP, made 115 phone contacts, with 32 WI counties, 22 states and one Canadian province, for a grand total of 9,487.5 points. Ron's Q's had much the same distribution as Charlie's, with the exception that Ron made a few more Q's on VHF and UHF.

Club member George Dunco, AA9SR, also operated only phone. He made 48 Q's, with 21 counties, and 11 states. George operated mainly 75 meters, with a few on 40 meters, a few on 20 meters and a few on 15 meters.

Club member Dave Engelmann, WB9GZP, had equipment trouble, but still managed to do 2 CW Q's and 10 phone Q's, with two WI counties and 3 states, for a grand total of 105 points.

Club member Ron Gorski, N9AU, operated both CW and phone. His 197 CW Q's and 132 phone Q's, with 35 WI counties, 45 states and 2 Canadian provinces, gave him a grand total of 64,698 points. Ron spent an almost equal amount of time on 75/80 and 40 meters, and a lesser amount of time on 20 meters.

Club member Phil Gural, W9NAW, operated only phone also. He made 217 phone contacts with 41 WI counties, 37 states and one Canadian province, for a grand total of 25,714.5 points. Phil's main effort was on 75 meters, with a good portion thrown in on 40 meters, and two Q's on 20 meters.

Club member Tom Liebe, WI9TOM, did 103 phone Q's. Tom contacted 32 WI counties, 11 states and one Canadian province. His grand total was 6,798 points. Tom was almost exclusively on 75 meters, with only 6 Q's on 40 meters.

Club member Tom Macon, K9BTQ, also did a phone only effort. He did 207 phone Q's, with 42 WI counties, 19 states and one Canadian province, for a grand total of 19,251 points. Tom's contacts were almost the same as WI9TOM - almost exclusively 75 meters, with a few on 40 meters, a couple on 20 meters and 4 VHF Q's.

Club member Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, likewise did a phone only effort. His 51 phone Q's were with 23 WI counties and 7 states. His grand total was 2,295 points. Howard did all but 3 of his Q's on 75 meters, with those 3 on 40 meters.

Club member Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR, did both a CW

and phone entry. His 42 CW Q's and 62 phone Q's, with 30 WI counties, 16 states and one Canadian province, gave him a grand total of 10,293 points. His effort was mostly on 75/ 80 meters, with some 40 meter contacts, and 3 Q's on 20 meters. Note: I was mainly trying to chase CW mobiles this year, besides my other reason.

Club member John Westimayer, N9LGD, made his 50 phone Q's with 21 WI counties and 8 states, for a grand total of 2,175 points. John did mainly 75-meter contacts, with a few on 40 meters, and a couple on VHF and UHF.

Club member Dick Wood, W9JBE, traveled to Mississippi, or should I say - he was in Mississippi, on his way home from Texas, during WIQP. Due to band conditions from MS to WI being bad, he made his 9 phone contacts on 40 meters only, for a grand total of 157.5 points.

Club member John Zach, K9IAC, who usually travels south during WIQP, stayed home this year to operate (was he afraid to challenge Dick Wood?). Anyhow, John made his 230 phone contacts with 45 WI counties, 30 states and one Canadian province. His grand total was 25,875 points. John's Q's were mainly on 75 meters, with a good number on 40 meters, a few on 20 meters and 4 VHF Q's.

I thank the 14 members who participated. While I believe that is not a record, it is close to our all time high of 17 members if club records are complete. All of the above operators entered the Single Operator Category this year. WARAC thanks you for the participation, too.

Were you one of the 14 club members? Why not?



Problems with intermittent high SWR?

- Photo by Leon, K9GCF

2007 TEN METER CONTEST RESULTS

by Chuck Craven, WB9PUB

Here are our club member scores from last December's ARRL Ten Meter Contest. ARRL

scoring is one point each for Phone QSO and 2 points for each CW QSO. There is a power multiplier of 2.0 for QRP; 1.5 for Low power and 1.0 for High power.

| Place | Category | Name | Call | Contacts | | Club Mbrs | Points |
|-------|----------|----------------|--------|----------|----|-----------|--------|
| | | | | PH | CW | | |
| 1 | Mixed | Lynn Tamblyn | K9KR | 45 | 38 | 9 | 246.0 |
| 2 | Mixed | Dick Barcz | WR9Y | 46 | 41 | 6 | 184.5 |
| 1 | Phone | Charles Craven | WB9PUB | 218 | | 7 | 362.0 |
| 2 | Phone | Tom Macon | K9BTQ | 133 | | 13 | 264.5 |
| 3 | Phone | John Zach | K9IAC | 124 | | 13 | 251.0 |
| 4 | Phone | Phil Gural | W9NAW | 58 | | 13 | 152.0 |
| 5 | Phone | Ron Crown | KA9JCP | 53 | | 6 | 109.5 |
| 6 | Phone | Ken Rogers | W9NUE | 8 | | 5 | 37.0 |
| 7 | Phone | Bob Zach | KC9AGX | 14 | | 2 | 31.0 |

For the WARAC component of the contest, add five points for each club member worked.

Seven months until the 2008 contest! Maybe we'll have a few sunspots by then.

Minutes

(Continued from page 2)

Smith. Board members present: Wes Andersen, George Dunco, Tom Macon, Howard Smith, Lynn Tamblyn, and Dick Wood.

WI QSO Party - Howard mentioned that he had found nothing at the POB on his last trip. He plans on doing one more trip to make sure there are no more paper logs there. We have received 62 paper logs so far. Tom and Howard are still the process of converting them to electronic format, using a program Tom developed for that purpose. Lynn mentioned that he thought there were about 14 club members that had entered. He is continuing processing of the entries and data accumulation. The results should be available by early June as usual.

Survey Committee Report - George reported for the Committee. They put together some questions and were presently finishing up the "completeness" of the survey. Discussion followed on how this is to be distributed to club members:

1. attach to Hamtrix;
2. use email;
3. use USPS mail.

After discussion, the Board asked that they see the survey before it is sent to club members, so they can approve it. There was no conclusion on how the survey will be sent to club members.

Club Repeater - Howard reported the repeater was working great. It is still at his QTH and there is no idea of the status of the relocation project.

Club Manual - Howard indicated he is still thinking about what to put in his outline.

Scholarship Fund - Dick mentioned that we had gotten

some additional equipment to be sold on behalf of the fund.

Programs - the May program will be presented by Brian Bieger, KC9HCX, who will be speaking on Radio Operation via the Internet. The June program will be on Field Day, as usual. Howard reported there is nothing else scheduled for future programs at this time, followed by a discussion on possible programs, such as Telnet, and Weather.

Discussion - at this point, the Board had a lengthy discussion about a number of items relating to WARAC, such as mergers, new members, new hams, programs, etc. No conclusions.

Club Books Audit - Howard asked that the annual audit of the club books be done soon. Dick indicated Wednesday was best for him. A tentative audit was set for Wed the 30th.

W4RNL - Lynn mentioned that antenna expert L.B. Cebik, W4RNL, had just passed away.

Field Day - Chairman Tom talked a bit about whether we want to look at doing a networking operation during FD. It is unknown if this would work, plus there would be a healthy cost associated with this. The Board did not have an opinion, although it was thought that if there was a way to try it without spending money that should be tried first, to see if it would work. The major part of the discussion centered on having a display setup at the food tent, that might help visitors see what was going on.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR



May 27 - Jim White, W9GLH

May 29 - Lynn Barcz, N9JAC



*Wedding
Anniversaries*

May 24 - Jim and Darlene Choroszy

President's Shack
(Continued from page 1)

are a very important part of the survey. When you receive it, I encourage you to answer the questions, and return it. If you don't respond, the survey will not provide a complete picture of the preferences of our members. So, when you get the survey, be sure to reply.

Another short reminder... Field Day is on June 28th and 29th. Be sure these dates are in you calendar. We need all to participate to make Field Day a success. And, a good time for all, too.

Brian, KC9HEK, will be presenting the program at our meeting. The title of his presentation is Software Control for Local and Remote Operation. I have talked to Brian a little about this, and he has operated his station while on business in Florida. Needless to say, the Internet played a part in this. This will be an interesting presentation, so don't miss it.

See you at the meeting.

73..

Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

.....

**Club Happenings
Committee Reports**

Field Day

Permission has been obtained to use Crystal Ridge Ski Hill again this year. We will again operate as 2A + VHF. No major changes to the layout are anticipated, but there likely will be other changes.

John, K9IAC, and others are looking at a different way of raising our 40-foot masts - tilting them up rather than pushing them up. So far there is no conclusion as to which method is better.

Generators and power distribution is also being looked at. Do we stay with central generators and cables or go to smaller generators by each station? All stations will probably run on 12 volts with batteries this year, so generator reliability is not as critical as in the past.

Howard will handle food activities again. He anticipates having sandwiches Saturday noon, the usual Saturday evening feed and donuts and coffee on Sunday morning. A return engagement of Jim, W9GLH's chili has not yet been confirmed.

75/20 Meter Station

The station will be set up in Jackie KC9MJO's RV. Otherwise, the setup will be similar to recent years with Tom, K9BTQ in charge of this station.

It looks very doubtful that we will be able to get

more than one bucket truck this year and we won't know for sure about the one until two weeks before FD. At this point, we are planning as if we will not have any buckets.

40 Meter Station

This station's setup will be much like recent years with Mike, N9ESC in charge. It's likely that this station will use George, AA9SR's small, quiet Honda generator to see how that type of generator works for a FD station.

VHF Station

The VHF station will probably be in a separate tent near the food tent. Phil, W9NAW, is in charge of this station and he plans to do it much the same as last year.

A pickup truck or other suitable vehicle is needed to haul equipment to and from the site. Contact Tom, K9BTQ about this.

Be at the meeting Tuesday, May 13, to hear the latest updates.

Swapfest

Prices for the 2009 'fest have been set. Admission will remain at \$4 advance and \$5 at the door. Tables will be \$19 each for an eight-footer.

Flyers are now available. If you're going to an area swapfest or other ham event, see Phil to get some flyers to distribute.

.....

West Allis Radio Amateur Club, Inc.
Tom Macon, K9BTQ
3547 S. 95 St
Milwaukee, WI 53228



WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC.

PO Box 1072

Milwaukee, WI 53201

W9FK / Repeater 145.170 MHz (-600kHz offset)

<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 7:30 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.