



Hamtrix

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The President's Shack

by Howard Smith,
WA9AXQ

Now that the weather has finally gotten warm, it is time to think about outside antenna projects. Whether it is a new antenna to be installed, or just

a little maintenance on an old, reliable antenna, this is the time. In my case, it's that 33 ft crank up tower that is still sitting beside my garage. The concrete was poured last year in October and the tower base was painted in January. Phil, W9NAW, is refurbishing the Ham-M rotator and I still have to re-assemble the Hy-Gain TH3 Mk 2 triband beam. While there are a few details to attend to, I hope that the tower will be standing by the next time I am writing this column.

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Field Day - June 26, 27

Meetings & Events



May 11
Club Meeting

Digital Modes

by Chuck Dellis, W9WLX
7:00 PM Church Basement

May 25

Board Meeting

7:00 PM Church Office

May 30

Material Due for Next
Hamtrix

June 8

Next Club Meeting

June 26, 27

Field Day

10-METER CONTEST RESULTS

By Chuck Craven, WB9PUB

Below is a table showing the results of our club's "piggy-back" 10-meter contest. Will next year see higher scores?

Category/ Place	Member	QSO's CW	Phone	Power Mult	Club Mbrs Wkd	Final Score
<u>Mixed Low</u>						
1	Lynn Tamblyn K9KR	81	129	1.5	7	471.5
<u>Phone QRP</u>						
1	Ron Crown KA9JCP		2	2	0	4.0
<u>Phone Low</u>						
1	Chuck Craven WB9PUB		363	1.5	7	579.5
2	John Zach K9IAC		207	1.5	7	345.5
3	Phil Gural W9NAW		100	1.5	6	180.0
4	George Dunco AA9SR		74	1.5	8	151.0
5	Dick Wood W9JBE		45	1.5	6	97.5
6	Phil Tollefson WA9AQL		13	1.5	3	34.5
<u>Digital CW Low</u>						
1	Chuck Dellis W9WLX	86	0	1.5	1	263.0



From the Minutes...

By Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR
Secretary

**Minutes of the General Meeting
April 13, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Howard Smith.

Minutes – the membership approved the March minutes as printed in Hamtrix.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Field Day – Chairman Tom Macon announced that there was to be a meeting on Tuesday, April 20, at 7 PM, at St. Mary’s Church, for those interested.

Alphabet Contest - Howard told the membership that the first person with 26 contacts per the contest rules will be the winner of a \$26 ARRL certificate.

WIQP – Chairman Lynn reported that to date there were 239 electronic log and 40 paper logs submitted. He is processing the data, with results available in early June as usual.

Program – A Simple CW Keyer. Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, presented a program based on an application he had found of how a microcontroller can be used in the ham shack. His application was a CW keyer, which he had previously covered by his article in the April 2010 issue of Hamtrix. For the program, Howard went thru a lot more detail than the article allowed, including discussion on how he used the Arduino Development System for the ATmega328P microprocessor board he had. Howard explained in detail how the processor works, as well as a lot of information on the software, which is available on the Arduino website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM, followed by refreshments and eyeball QSO’s.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR

**Minutes of the Board Meeting
April 27, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM. by Chairman Howard Smith.

Board members present were: Charles Craven, George Dunco, Frank Humpal, Tom Macon, Howard Smith, and Lynn Tamblyn. Guest was Phil Gural.

WI QSO Party – Chairman Lynn had emailed the Board a brief report on the entry situation prior to this meeting, which indicated that to date, he had 250 electronic logs and 46 paper logs. Processing continues, with results expected in early June, as usual. Howard had visited the POB and picked up 6 more, which would make the paper total about 52.

Field Day – Chairman Tom Macon reported on the April 20 meeting. The focus for 2010 will again be on training. New sites were being looked into but nothing was found, so the Crystal Ridge site is going to be the location again this year. Tom mentioned that we might have three stations this year, the third one being digital. The Board then had discussion on doing 3; there needed to be enough operators to do that, as well as there is a need to check out interference between stations to make sure that would not become a problem. Some other basic details were discussed, such as food and shelters for the stations.

Club Roster – the Board discussed the possibility of doing a new club roster. However, there first needs to be an attempt made to update the membership list(s), as there appears to be a number of former members that are in question. Tom will do an email to them, asking if they wish to renew prior to the roster being printed, so they can be included as members.

Programs – May’s program will be about HF Digital Modes by Chuck Dellis. June will be on Field Day. July or August will have a program by Ron Gorski who will be doing his K5D Desecheo Island DXpedition program. July or August, depending on when Ron presents, George Dunco will be doing a program on the RF aspect of metering, such as the electric company uses for their new remote metering. September will be on “Bring in a Home-

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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
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Director (2010)	George Dunco, AA9SR	262.782-6325	
Director (1 year)	Chuck Dellis, W9WLX	414.543-1134	
Board Chairperson	J. Howard Smith, WA9AXQ	414.425-5626	

CW KEYER FOLLOW-UP NOTES

By Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

Here's some web links and other information about the keyer program I presented at the April meeting.

The main link is to the Arduino home page at www.arduino.cc. It is filled with additional links to various topics and suppliers that support the Arduino platform. There are also a link to the place where the free development software can be downloaded. I used version 0018, which is currently the latest version. There are lots of different projects that can be found from the home page.

From www.makershed.com I purchased a kit called *Getting started with Arduino Kit*. This kit included the Arduino Due-milanove (ATmega328) fully assembled board, the *Getting Started with Arduino* book, a 3 ft. USB cable, a breadboard, and various other components. This kit cost \$69.95. Maker Shed has lots of Arduino hardware and other kits available. There are also lots of other suppliers of the Ar-

duino hardware. The links on the Arduino home page make it very easy to check them out.

The ARRL website also includes the QEX website at www.arrl.org/qex. The firmware files are located under the QEX Files location. Look in year 2009, and find *9x09_chapman.zip*. This has "sketches" for both the simple and the Version 2 implementation of the iambic keyer. My simple version was a little different from Chapman's, so if you decide to try this out, I will be happy to provide my version to anybody who asks for it.

I hope you enjoyed the presentation. I had lots of fun investigating the Arduino platform and was very impressed about how easy it was to set up and to use. If you decide to do some experimenting on your own, I would be interested in what you did and how it came out. If you have questions, I will be happy to provide any assistance that you may need.

2010 FIELD DAY STATUS

By Tom Macon, K9BTQ, FD Chairman



Objective

Our focus will be on Training as it was last year

Site selection

Phil has done a lot of scouting for other FD sites but nothing has been found that's good enough to lure us away from Crystal Ridge.

Stations

Mike, N9ESC, will provide his camper and radio again as in recent years. Chuck, W9WLX, and Mike will collaborate on including digital modes at this station. In addition, this station will also concentrate on 40m as in the past.

For the 75/20 station, John, N9LGD, has offered his RV to replace Jackie KC9MJO's camper. Lynn, K9KR, and Tom, K9BTQ, will do this station.

The VHF station will be located near the food tent again and will run 6m and maybe 2m. Frank Humpal's heavy-duty tent will be used for this station.

Generators

Again, small generators and batteries at each station will be used for power. Phil will bring his Coleman unit for the food tent.

Miscellaneous

I will contact each member to find out when you can be at Field Day, your operating preferences, etc. If I haven't already talked to you, it will help if you send me an email with this information. Thanks!

Ham Happenings

Around the area

Ozaukee Radio Club

Wed, May 12
7:30PM

Grafton Senior Center
1665 7th. Ave.
Grafton

CQ3TUE Lunch

Tues. May 18
11:15AM

Old Country Buffet
16750 W Bluemound Rd

Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club

Wed. May 26
7:30PM

Germantown Police Dept
N112 W16877 Mequon Road
Germantown

Milwaukee Radio Amateur Club (MRAC)

Thurs. May 27
7:00PM

Redemption Lutheran Church
4057 N. Mayfair Rd

South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Wed. June 2
7:00PM

Legion Post 434
9327 S Shepard Ave
Oak Creek

Amateur Radio Testing

Saturday, May 29
9:30AM

Amateur Electronic Supply
5720 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

NOTE

Please do not contact meeting places for information.

WARAC David Knaus Memorial Scholarship

Note: The application deadline previously listed in this sidebar was incorrect. The deadline for the 2010 scholarship was March 31, 2010.

Available to licensed Amateurs who are Wisconsin residents pursuing an Associate, Bachelor's or Graduate degree in any course of study. The next application deadline is March 31, 2011.

Visit the [FAR website](#) for additional information and application forms.

WARAC 2-Meter Net

Since we no longer have a repeater, our off-meeting night net has moved to 147.42 simplex. Please make a note of it!

- 7:00 PM
- 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays
- 147.42 simplex

Thanks!



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

Howard Smith, WA9AXQ
Chuck Craven, WB9PUB



Write an Article
This means
You!
Please??

Scuttlebutt...

- Ray Massie, WB9WNA, will remain in long term care at Linden Ridge, so will not be returning to his apartment. It will no longer be possible to reach him by email. Linden Ridge is located in Mukwonago, 841 County Road NN. Pay him a visit!
- It appears that 2010 WIQP log submissions will slightly surpass last year. Although this year's count isn't quite final, it looks to be right around 300, compared with last year's 291.
- Don't forget that our Alphabet Contest continues until June 1. The prize for the first member to report working all 26 letters will be an ARRL website gift certificate for \$26. Use the Log Sheet that was in last month's Hamtrix (April) and see the March issue of Hamtrix for the Rules.
- Tom, K9BTQ, operated a station at Amateur Electronics on Friday morning, April 9. The occasion was a visit by Gus Gnorski and TV 6's "Wake-up News" show to publicize AES Superfest. As Gus conducted interviews, Tom could be seen in the background operating net control for the Milwaukee-Florida Net.
- Does this issue of Hamtrix look a little thin? Good articles are desperately needed. Please write an article or suggest something that you would like to see an article on. And editing help is available if you aren't comfortable with your writing skills.

Do you have news that isn't listed here? It won't be here if ye editor doesn't know about it - call or email Tom, K9BTQ!

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Upcoming Meeting Programs

May 11

Digital Modes
by Chuck Dellis, W9WLX

June 8

Field Day 2010
by Tom Macon, K9BTQ

Coming Soon

K5D Desecheo Island DXpedition
By Ron Gorski, N9AU

RF Aspects of Utility Metering
By George Dunco, AA9SR

Program suggestions?

Let us know - Contact a Board member!

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May 8 - Dave Engelmann, WB9GZP
May 27 - Jim White, W9GLH
May 29 - Lynn Barcz, N9JAO

Wedding
Anniversaries

May 23 - Bob and Victoria Paska
May 24 - Jim and Darlene Choroszny
June 11 - Dick and Sharon Wood



www.warac.org

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brew Project” night.

Ten-Meter Club Contest – Chairman Craven reported on the 2009 results. Lynn Tamblyn won the mixed mode low power category, Ron Crown won the phone only QRP category, Chuck Craven won the phone only low power category, Chuck Dellis won the digital CW only low power category and Tom Macon won the digital mixed mode low power category. After Board discussion, Tom asked that his entry be removed. Craven indicated that these same categories will be used for the 2010 event.

Homebrew Challenge – Chuck Craven presented the Board with an outline of his second challenge event – a challenge for club members to build something related to ham radio. There will be rules established. Basically, the challenge would run from September 2010 to February 2011, at which time there will be show and tell at the regular February club meeting. More details will be forthcoming once the Board has a chance to finalize the details, which should be available by the July 2010 issue of Hamtrix.

2011 Swapfest – Chairman Phil spoke to the Board. He mentioned having had a meeting with Expo people about some items, such as tables and electricity. Phil

was told that Expo is buying new tables. Phil then presented the Board with his summation of 2010 results, and his proposed pricing for the January 8, 2011 event. Facility rent and table prices are increasing. The Board then had a lengthy discussion on methodology of prices, as Phil was looking for a way to keep prices reasonable, while trying to get more advance monies to cover our costs in case of bad weather. By motion, the board approved the 2011 prices as follows: thru November 1, 2010, the table price will be at \$18; from November 2 thru December 31, the table price will be at \$20, and January 1 thru the January 8 swapfest date, table prices will be at \$22. Entry ticket prices will remain at \$4 for advance tickets and \$5 at the door. Electricity will be priced at the going rate Expo charges.

Repeater – Chairman Lynn asked the Board for approval to notify the Wisconsin Area Repeater group in writing that WARAC wished to give up the 145.17 frequency it has used in the past for the WARAC repeater.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
 Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR

President's Shack

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Do you have June 26 and 27 highlighted on your calendar? Those dates are for the ARRL Field Day event. Once again, we will be at the Crystal Ridge Ski Area. We have been looking for a new site, but did not find one for this year. If you have a suggestion for an alternate site, please let Tom, K9BTQ, the Field Day chairman, know. The Field Day plans are to highlight training again year. So, if you have not done a major contest, or just want to hone your skills a little, this is your event.

This Field Day will be similar to those in the past years. Setup is at 8:00am on Saturday. Operating times are from 1:00pm Saturday to 1:00pm Sunday. Teardown will begin after that. I hope all of you can be there to both help, and to have a great time. CQ FD!

The program for May will be about HF Digital Modes and will be presented by Chuck W9WLX.

See you at the meeting.
 Howard, WA9AXQ

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



WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC.

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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.