



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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APRIL CLUB HAPPENINGS

Club Meeting
May 10, 2011 7:00pm
Program: Weather Spotting, Skip Voros, WD9HAS

WARAC 2-meter net
May 17 & May 31, 2011 7:00pm
MATC repeater 147.045 standard offset
127.3 Hz CTCSS

UPCOMING CLUB HAPPENINGS



2011 Field Day Information By Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, FD Chairman

Field Day 2011 is just 6 short weeks away. The planning meeting has already taken place so we are well underway for this year's event. As it has been in the past, our focus this year will be training. I will be sending a mailing around the Memorial Day timeframe to Hams licensed in the area licensed since 2008. Hopefully this will help generate some additional activity this year. If you know of a Ham that is interested, please direct them to me.

Our site selection is not confirmed yet. Phil is investigating a New Berlin site that may hold some advantages over Crystal Ridge. There may not be enough time to secure the site this year, but if it looks good, it may be a venue for next year. If the

Field Day June 25-26, 2011

deadline for the New Berlin site is missed, we will be at Crystal Ridge.

The station layout is similar to last year. Mike, N9ESC, will provide his camper and radio as he has in the past. Antenna selection will most likely be a dipole and DAP, with concentration on 40 and 15 meters. The 75/20 meter station will be hosted in John, N9LGD's, RV. Tom, K9BTQ will set this station up with the final configuration and team still being determined. Phil, W9NAW, and Chuck, W9WLX, will work the VHF station. Phil will run 6m and Chuck will try to hunt down some 2m SSB & CW contacts. Generators and batteries will be used for power.

I will be contacting you to find out when you can be at Field Day and what team(s) you care to work on as well as your operating wishes. Please feel free to send me an email if you already have a strong preference.

Thank you!

Chuck

cjd@wi.rr.com



The President's Shack May 2011

The program at our upcoming meeting will be **Weather Spotting** by Skip Voros, WD9HAS, who is very active with Skywarn. As we all know, this is severe weather season – come and hear this program to improve your weather awareness. See <http://www.mke-skywarn.org/> for more information. Lynn K9KR has been hard at work checking logs since our WIQP contest on March 13. He has completed processing most of the electronic logs and is now working on paper logs. He hopes to finish the checking process by the end of May, so the final report will be available some time after that. Field Day is now less than two months away – June 25 and 26! Be sure to reserve that weekend to participate in our club's 2011 FD effort. At the FD meeting on April 19 it was announced that Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, has agreed to be this year's Field Day chairman. He will be providing an update at the upcoming club meeting.

At the FD meeting it was decided that we will focus on training again this year. Also, although we have Crystal Ridge reserved again this year, Phil, W9NAW, has been scouting for other sites. His findings will be part of the Field Day discussion at the upcoming club meeting. Have you thought about your club Antenna Challenge project yet? You have until the September club meeting to complete your antenna project. It's easy to think that you have plenty of time, but you know how fast the summer goes! So, get busy! Talk to Chuck, WB9PUB, to let him know what your project will be, or if you have questions. Don't forget the Ozaukee club's annual indoor Swapfest this Saturday, May 7. Also, there's plenty of QSO Party activity this weekend with two larger, regional parties, New England

(NEQP) and 7th Call Area (7QP), plus the Indiana QP.

Did you get a copy of the new WARAC club roster? If not, they will be available at the upcoming meeting.

See you at the meeting!

- Tom, K9BTQ

Letter From the Editor

I'll try something different this month. For 44 years I have made a living repairing various electronics. Here are some ideas on repairing electronics. If anyone has other thoughts to add, feel free to send them in and I will share yours in the future.

As hams, we have the opportunity to be able to fix our equipment and put it back on the air. Not many other services using radios have that privilege.

One way to begin troubleshooting is to learn to see the big system and then break it down. Our big system starts at our mike or key and goes to whomever we are trying to talk to's speaker or headphones and back the other way. That is a big system but how many of us have had a passing thought that our antenna or receiver had gone bad when the band was dead.

Remember to look at all the information available to you. The more info you gather the better your understanding of the problem. Try not to decide what the problem is, just gather info. For some reason an electronic tech's mind seems to be able to twist any info to fit a problem that they think they have. This can happen on repeat problems that look almost a like.

Double check your work. Connections can come undone or feel "ON" when they are not. Settings on radios get more complicated as they gain features. Its easy for me to think I pushed the right button but miss the right button. Maybe that only happens when I'm working on the small Yaesu ft-817 I own.

Try alternatives! Keying a radio in cw tells you a lot when USB or LSB isn't working. When our brains are working on all cylinders , we remember that no

audio into SSB signal means no power out. But for some of us those nice facts can get lost in the middle of a problem.

If you aren't making progress, consider stepping back. Take a break it's surprising how often a flash of insight will come if you get your mind off the problem. It also helps to talk to someone. If they know the equipment that's a plus. Your trying to explain a problem to someone else loud can jar loose solutions!

Now some cautions. If all this leads you to the point of opening the equipment case remember (especially with high power equipment) there are things that can harm you / the equipment. Tubes and Capacitors can have high voltages that can be quite dangerous. A lot of the new equipment is built like a puzzle. Take lots of pictures and notes when taking things apart. Be especially cautious if you have to force it.

If you want to experiment find things that are broken and take them apart. Learn from them.

Find an experienced tech to point out safety tips: how to discharge caps is one, measuring voltage's, looking for components with the smoke let out; bad solder joints; cracks in circuit boards. Even if you don't fix them learning to look and find them is good practice.

Other short thoughts

Fuses do wear out. Replace them once before you consider its a big problem.

If you find a small problem (lamp out or knob loose) while trouble shooting fix it while you are there. Something unrelated may actually be the issue. Why leave little problems that will come back to haunt you!

I leave you with one superstition all professional techs will joke about but are also careful about. Don't ever let the equipment hear you say how well it is running! That's when it decides to break Hi Hi

73

Frank KA9FZR

WRL-Print

KN5LAD

"Big" Jim Pickett—671 N. Main Ave., Sand Springs, Okla.

MY QTH

RADIO _____
CONF. QSO OF _____ 195____
AT _____ A.M. _____
P.M. _____ ST _____
UR _____ CW _____
MC. FONE SIGS RST _____
XMTR: _____ RECVR _____
REMARKS: _____

See tidbits on last page

clip art from <http://www.dxzone.com/cgi-bin/dir/jump2.cgi?ID=12381>



WARAC General Meeting Minutes April 12, 2011

Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President, Tom Macon K9BTQ.

There were 3 visitors. Overall meeting attendance was 17.

Program

HD Broadcast Radio was presented by Chris Tarr, W9JOL. Chris discussed the implementation of HD Broadcast Radio.

Examples of poor operation, interference generated, and corrections needed were highlighted. Key differences between FM

and AM efficacy were reviewed. The program concluded with a demonstration of local HD radio stations.

Announcements

Field Day is June 25 & 26. The FD meeting is April 19, at 7:00 PM, St. Mary School, 9520 W. Forest Home Avenue.

May program will be Weather Service, presented by Skip Voros, WD9HAS.

Chuck Craven, WB9PUB, will be leading a future program, Hombrew Antennas/Antenna Accessories.

Discussion

Motion to accept the March meetings minutes as published in Hamtrix.

Several members shared their experience during the Michigan QSO Party. 20m was open, but mostly hearing other stations working Michigan. 40m was a very good performer while 75/80m proved not to be as good as prior years.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX
Secretary WARAC



WARAC in 2011 Wisconsin QSO Party

Each year I try to give the membership some idea of how WARAC did in the WIQP Club Competition arena. However, being as early in the process as this is, I can only provide a “sneak peek” into a portion of that information. Once I get all the data entered and processed, I will be able to provide WARAC’s position in the overall Club Competition standings. I will provide that in the next issue of Hamtrix.

I can provide two items of information right now though. First, I can say at this point that WARAC had 20 entries this year, which is more than our all time entry number of 17, done back in 1996. Secondly, and more important, based on the raw scores in the table below, it appears WARAC has achieved a new record total Club Competition score of 399,724 points. Best ever prior was in 2009, when 10 members did 214,368 points.

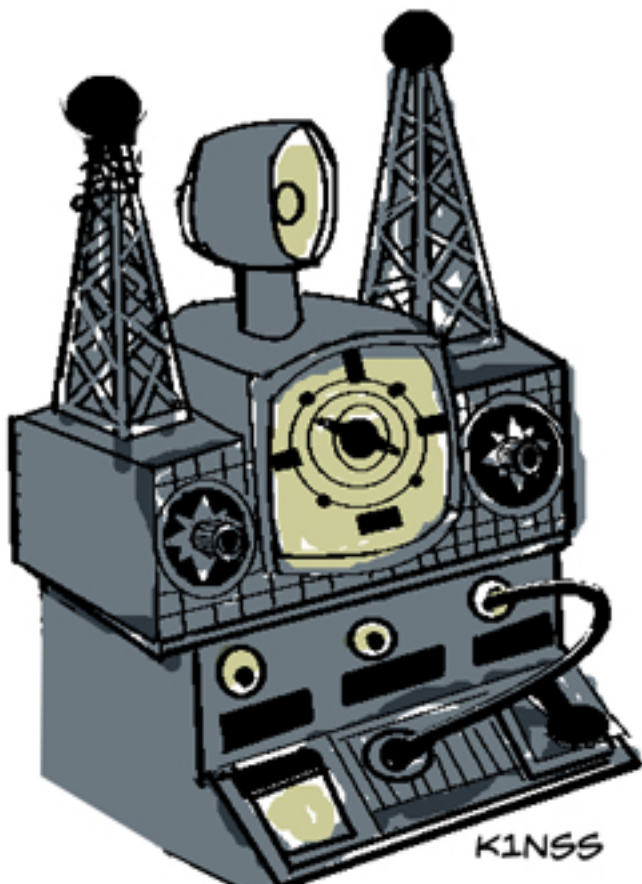
My “sneak peek” is in the form of a table this year, which I think provides a decent picture of how those who are participating with WARAC did. It is simply a list by call sign of the 20 entries.

CALL	ENTERED	CW Qs	PH Qs	PWR	CTY	STE	PROV	SCORE
K9BTP	SOM	0	100	L	26	10	1	7550
K9BTQ	SOF	37	533	H	53	46	2	61307
K9FI	SOF	0	105	L	43	6	0	7717
K9IAC	SOF	0	289	L	44	36	5	36847
K9KR	SOF	81	105	L	50	24	2	30438
KA9FZR	SOF	0	37	Q	18	5	0	1702
KA9JCP	SOF	0	44	L	17	8	0	1100
KB9FTI	SOF	0	86	L	26	15	1	5418
KC9AGX	SPF	0	28	L	10	9	0	798
KC9NPZ	SOF	0	54	L	26	3	1	2430
N9AU	SOF	246	240	L	44	45	4	102114
N9LGD	SOF	0	84	L	28	12	0	5040
W9JBE	SOF	0	76	L	30	6	1	7030
W9NAW	SOF	0	376	L	48	42	3	52452
W9WLX	BEG	47	154	L	52	12	1	24180
WA9AXQ	SOF	0	112	L	37	7	1	7560
WA9MXQ	SOF	0	13	L	11	1	0	234
WA9RUX	SOF	35	7	L	20	6	0	3003
WB9PUB	SOF	0	256	L	41	35	2	29952
WI9TOM	SOF	0	153	L	42	13	1	12852

Let me thank each and every one of the above stations for their entries.

Lynn K9KR
Chairman WIQP for WARAC

<http://www.dashtoons.com/dash!clips1.html>



April 26, 2011 Board Meeting

Howard Smith called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm.

Present: Tom Macon K9BTQ, Howard Smith WA9AXQ, Chuck Dellis W9WLX, Chuck Craven WB9PUB, Frank Humpal KA9FZR, and Jim Wilkins KC9KEQ.

Audit

Audit of the 2009 books is complete and 2008 is in progress.

2011 Fiscal Budget

Budget is not ready for review at this time. Review targeted for May Board meeting.

Field Day

Operation will be similar to last year. A

80/20m station, 40m station, and VHF. Emphasis will be on training. Site selection is not final.

Wisconsin QSO Party

Chairman Lynn Tamblyn has nothing to report at this time.

Club Operation Manual

Reviewed Chuck Craven's draft for Treasurer. More detail will be added.

Scholarship

Confirmation was received that F.A.R. has received this year's scholarship funds.

Miscellaneous

Howard Smith provided information from Gold Medal Ideas for hats, patches, jackets, etc. The Board decided to go with Gold Medal Ideas for Club merchandise. Final details pending.

There is a need to expand Web hosting tools to include file sharing and potentially mailing list services.

QTH.com offers a comprehensive package competitively priced. Board made a decision to move web host to QTH.com.

Programs

May – Weather Spotting, Skip Voros, WD9HAS.

June – Field Day, Tom Macon/Chuck Dellis.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX
Secretary WARAC

Tidbits

Two club members recently passed marriage milestones. John (K9IAC) and Carol Zach celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 28. They got together with their kids and families in Isle of Pines, South Carolina during the last week of April. Congratulations Carol and Johnny!

Lynn (K9KR) and Joanne Tamblyn celebrated their 50th on April 8. After renewing their vows, their sons and families hosted a brunch in their honor. Congratulations Joanne and Lynn!

W0GFQ, SK

Hey, old timers... Do you remember World Radio Laboratories? On April 13 an era ended with the passing of Leo Meyerson, W0GFQ, founder of WRL in the 1950's and later, Galaxy Electronics. Leo became a Silent Key less than two months after his 100th birthday. Leo and WRL were well known for their Globe line of transmitters, which included the Globe Scout, Globe Champion and Globe King names.

In the 1950's, WRL was also well known as a source for low-cost QSL cards that featured a map of the U.S. with an arrow pointing to the station's QTH location.

Rest in peace, Leo.

- Tom, K9BTQ

Officers and Board

President

Tom Macon, K9BTQ

Vice President

Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

Secretary

Chuck Dellis, W9WLX

Treasurer

Chuck Craven, WB9PUB

Directors

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR

Dave Schank, KA9WXN

Jim Wilkins, KC9KEQ

Newsletter Editor

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR

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Webmaster

Tom Macon, K9BTQ



Lynn and Joanne - 1961



Johnny and Carol - 1951

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***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.