



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 66, Issue 5 May, 2019

MAY CLUB HAPPENINGS

Club Meeting

St. Peter's Episcopal Church,
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis
May 14, 2019 6:30 pm
Annual Pizza and Auction Meeting
Bring money to Buy and Stuff to Sell
Remember no Premeeting dinner



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.
Contact her: 414-529-3536 or
barbsewsblue@gmail.com.

At the Greenfield Sendik's June 8, 2019
11am to 4pm
Grill up brats and burgers for a Club fund
raiser
More info page 7

2019 ARRL Field Day is June 22-23
More info next months Hamtrix

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

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The President's Shack May 2019

As I'm writing this monthly note, I am listening to 40 meter CW action. OMG it is a house afire. If I can copy European stations at 59+ that qualifies as a legitimate band opening. To make matters better I even managed a quick QSO with S53A in Slovenia. I've worked him before, but it is always gratifying to get a 599 TU from a DX station. It makes the 100 Watts and a Wire gig all the more worth while.

And that leads me to look at the calendar and remember that despite the snow, cold temperatures, rain and generally miserable spring weather that the seasonal change is upon us. And that means all sorts of good stuff: VHF Sporadic E openings, DAYTON, VHF Tropo ducting, 80 meters going to 20 over as the sun goes down....all the good stuff. But the big deal, of course, is the annual spring Auction / Pizza Meeting. That's right. PIZZA. Who doesn't like that?

So let's get this out of the way early: The meeting starts early this month. 6:30, not 7:00. The Johnny V's pre-meeting dinner is off this month. So get on down to St Pete's AT 6:30!!! No guarantee's if you are late!! Tom, K9BTQ is ordering up the magic Italian goodies from Ned's. Come on down and get your share.

The second part of the meeting is the annual club auction. We need your donations to make it work. Gather up those treasures, semi-valuables, the pile of "what the heck was I thinking" stuff and bring it on down to the meeting. Steve, NO9B, will be in top form again, stewarding the auction action. What more can you ask for? Don't forget to stuff a few Jackson's into your wallet...you never know.

The other big news is we are fresh out of the Field Day planning meeting a week or so ago. Thanks to those that made the meeting. The effort again this year will be very similar to last years event. We will again gather at the New Berlin site. We

will have all manner of options to operate this year: Two HF stations for 80 thru 10 SSB / CW, dedicated VHF 6 meter station, GOTA station hosted by the Garniers and finally a dedicated digital station with an FT8 focus. This is a big deal for the club. Make sure this is on your calendar this year. Plan on taking a spin in the operators seat. You will have a great time. Guaranteed!!

Finally, we are in need of your help for the June 8th Sendik's Brat Stand fund raiser. This will be the last club meeting before the Sendik's date, so I am hoping you can help on Saturday, June 8th from 11:00 to 4:00. You don't need to stay the whole time, but if you can stop by for an hour or two, that will be wonderful.

So that's that for this edition. We are kicking it into high gear for the summer action. Hey, give a club member a call and go out and make a few Q's in the park for lunch. Or catch a Brewer game. Did someone say Fish Fry??

Did you pick up the new 2019 WARAC Directory? We got one for you at the meeting.

See you Tuesday!!

73's

MJ,W09B

Check out our Facebook page!!! Start Posting!!!!

<https://www.facebook.com/WestAllisRAC/>... ..

From the editor

Judy and me are between vacations. We went with a tour group over to Germany (Black Forest) and ended up in Venice. Was a good trip. The only irritation was having a small bus so we could navigate some of the small towns and mountain roads. The seats were small also. Might also be that I hadn't been taking any long trips for a while so my seat padding wasn't use to it!

Not much on the ham radio front. Didn't even take a radio overseas. Didn't see any antenna farms while over there!

Friday we head down to Chile for a nephews wedding. While we are down there we added some days to see the sites. I'm sure it will be fun but I may need a vacation when I get done with all this traveling.

I'll keep this short. More about my travels next month.

WARAC Meeting Agenda April 9, 2019

Meeting called to order 7:05 pm

Members: 15 Guests: 5

Get acquainted: Recognize visitors, introduction of members and new members

Club stuff:

- March minutes approved
- Next Board meeting is April 23, 2019 at 7:00 pm
- No more mail distribution of Hamtrix
- Search for a different location for meetings in progress which will have better acoustics and accessibility
- Tom, K9BTQ gave WIQP update. Weather issues and sunspot cycle resulted in lower participation.
- Chuck, W9WLX announced Field Day planning meeting for April 30th at St. Mary's in Hales Corners at 7:00 pm.
- Mid-week park lunch will take place once wather improves.
- Sendik's Brat Sale fund raiser set for June 8th on 78th and Layton. Spread the word!

Programs:

- Paul, KK1FF presented his Arduino remote car starter device.
- Paul, W9PCS presented his 15 aH LiFePOS4 battery.
- Tom, W9TJK presented information on Team Based Volunteer Support for the NWS Milwaukee Forecast office. Skyward traing schedule was revised due to government shutdown in April.

Operating and Activities:

- Hamfest at Dayton Xenia discussed.
- Swapfests: Stoughton 4/13, Ozaukee 5/4
- Phil, W9NAW currently has nothing for sale.

Next Meeting is May 14 at 6:30 pm. Annual Pizza Party and Auction. Bring your stuff to sell and money to buy other stuff!

Meeting adjourned 8:48 pm, refreshments and eyeballing followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Garnier

KD9HPS

WARAC Board Meeting Minutes April 23, 2019

Present: Mike Johnson, WO9B, Steve Dryja, NO9B, Bill Reed, N9KPH, Barb Garnier, KD9HPS, Tom Macon, K9BTQ, Phil Tollefson, WA9AQL, David Garnier, WB9OWN

Meeting Agenda:

1. Swapfest 2020 update presented by Mike. Erwin, WI9EV, would like 3-4 assistants to help with the many tasks that he has been coordinating. Volunteers to be on board by July 1st. Facebook and club website to be updated by Tom. Bill will provide updated insurance certificate.
2. Bill, N9KPH, gave treasurer's update. We will soon have a CD rolling over. IRS and State of Wisconsin annual filings will now be done by Treasurer instead of Secretary. Manual to be updated.
3. Sendik's fundraiser will be held June 8th. All are encouraged to spread the word among family and friends. Mike will share final schedule when received from Sendik's. We will need bodies to help staff event.
4. Barb, KD9HPS, will get photos of current club property in the trailer at Field Day and cabinet contents at May club meeting. Inventory will be posted with club manual.
5. We are awaiting the ARRL announcement of the scholarship award recipient.
6. Steve, NO9B, reported \$69 in sales at the Jefferson Swapfest. He has about 6 boxes of miscellaneous items to sell at the Ozaukee Swapfest.
7. Tom, K9BTQ, gave a brief synopsis of WIQP information.
8. Program Committee schedule was presented and updated.
9. The Board discussed summer park activations and other activities. Steve, NO9B, will pick a date and time for club members to get together for a Fish Fry. David, WB9OWN, will choose a state park and a date for a POTA activation.
10. Three Board goals for 2019 were discussed. 1. A new meeting location on the west side of the metro area (?New Berlin?) is a possibility. Changing our post office box from downtown Milwaukee to New Berlin was favored by all present. 2. Incorporating PayPal with our website, especially for Swapfest vendors to make life easier for our Swapfest Chairman was also favored. 3. Updated presentation schedule presented by MJ.
11. Ken Kegley has volunteered to update Swapfest Table Farkles. All present agreed.
12. SEWARC (SouthEast Wisconsin Amateur Radio Clubs) event was held and the name chosen by

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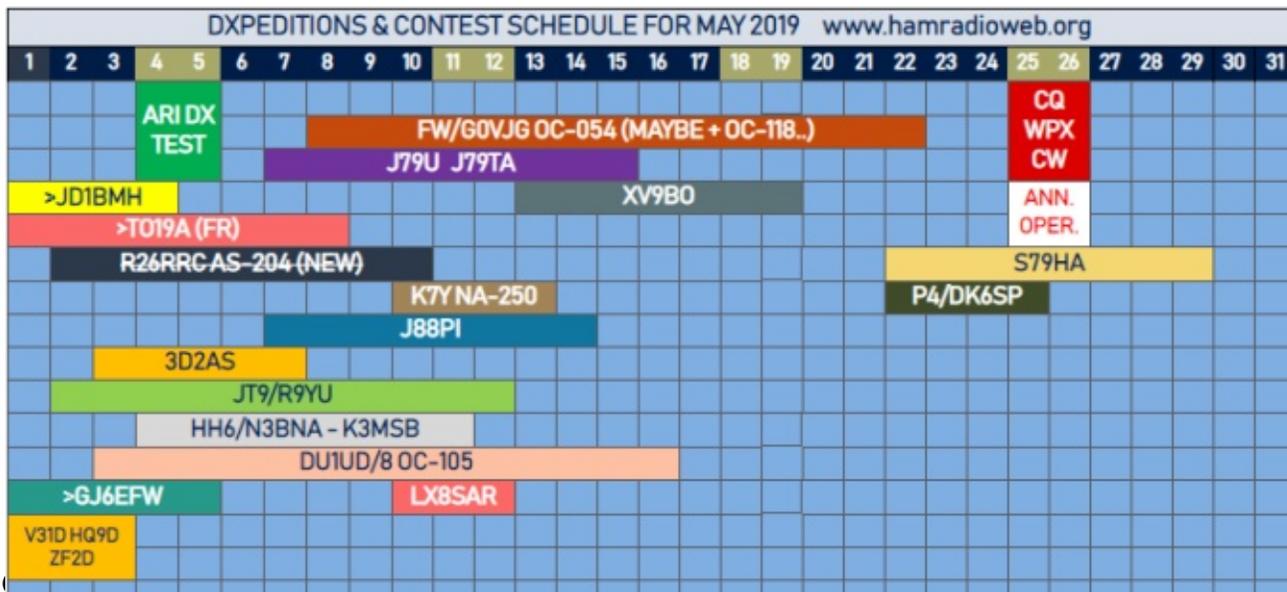
participating clubs. Purpose still to be better defined, but currently is just a cooperative group for sharing ideas and concerns. Mike and Steve plan to participate to protect our concerns. Quarterly meetings planned at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Garnier
KD9HPS • —• —••

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

DX: The bands have been poor of late. Poor but not dead. You can indeed dig them out if you are looking. 40 remains vibrant in the evening hours. Particularly CW and FT8. 20 is the money band during the day. I can't say enough about FT8 for grabbing the DX joy. They are definitely on and active. Openings to JA and VK land are available in the very late afternoon. Being in the Midwest is a bit of a problem. We don't get first crack at either EU or Asia, but keep looking and trying. You'll land a few.

Nothing really jumps out at me for the planned events on the calendar. It's summer. Go activate a park!!!



May 4th and 5th. It can be fun. Still, there is a QSO party just about every weekend. Jump in. For major contests, the CQ WW WPX CW contest is May 25th and that will definitely be well attended. I've been busy on Wednesday's with the CWops weekly sprints. They seem a little daunting at first, but once you get the hang of it, they are really fun.

CQ WW WPX, CW:

Full Contest Schedule check: <http://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html>

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Special Event Corner

May, 2019

By Bill Reed/N9KPH

Here's a summary of some of the events that may be of interest during the rest of May and early June. During this time, there are quite a few other events going on during this period. See this ARRL web page for more information, including operating frequencies, QSL and/or Certificate availability: http://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:1/model:Event

Many Special Event stations offer very nice QSL cards and/or Certificates. Again, the ARRL link can provide you with details.

State QSO Parties

Kentucky – 6/1 to 6/2

West Virginia – 6/15 to 6/16

General Interest Events:

05/18/2019 | American Airpower Museum Armed Forces Day

May 18-May 19, 1430Z-1900Z, W2GSB, Farmingdale, NY. Great South Bay Amateur Radio Armed Forces Weekend celebration at American Airpower Museum at Republic Airport in Farmingdale, NY

05/20/2019 | The Indianapolis 500

May 20-May 27, 0400Z-0400Z, W9IMS The Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club. Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 30954, Indianapolis, IN 46230.

05/21/2019 | Lindbergh Flies Across the Atlantic

May 21, 1330Z-2030Z, K2CAM, Garden City, NY. Cradle of Aviation Museum. Charles Lindbergh left Garden City, NY on May 20th, 1927. He arrived in Paris, France, late in the day on May 21st.

05/22/2019 | Memorial Day

May 22-May 28, 0000Z-0000Z, K1A, Cleburne, TX. CLUB KC5NXclub KC5NX is back on the air to help remember those who have given their lives in the service of the of the US Military. All QSLs, notes,

letters answered.

06/01/2019 | W2W D-Day Commemoration

Jun 1-Jun 9, 1300Z-2200Z, W2W, Baltimore, MD. The Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum (K3NEM Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum will operate W2W in commemoration of the anniversary of D-Day and the role of electronics in WWII. Primary operation will be June 1-June 2 with additional operation possible during the June 3-9 period, as operator availability permits.

06/05/2019 | Elvis Presley Festival Special Event

Jun 5-Jun 9, 1500Z-2359Z, K5TUP, Tupelo, MS. Tupelo Amateur Radio Club.. Operating from hometown Tupelo where Elvis's mother bought his first guitar.

06/06/2019 | 75th Anniversary D-Day Invasion

Jun 6-Jun 9, 1200Z-1700Z, WW2DDM, Bedford, VA. Old Dominion Chapter 202 QCWA. 3880 KHz AM, LSB 3585 KHz CW 7285 KHz AM, LSB 14.245 MHz USB. QSL. WW2DDM c/o H. A. Boaz, Jr., 1389 Budd Lane, Montvale, VA 24122. Bedford, VA is the location of The National D-Day Memorial. Bedford was the home of the "Bedford Boys". These were the nineteen young men from Bedford that died that day and four others died during the rest of the Normandy campaign. The town of Bedford had proportionately suffered the greatest losses that day. That is why the US Congress established the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA.

Frank, this one's for you!!

06/01/2019 | First Nuclear Submarine USS Nautilus SSN 571; Museum Ships Weekend Participant.

Jun 1-Jun 2, 0000Z-2359Z, N1S, Groton, CT. Generations Amateur Radio Club. See www.ussnautilus.org for more information • —• —•



WARAC is GRILLING UP SOME BRATS and BURGERS!!!

Come Join us on Saturday, June 8th from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Where: Sendik's Greenfield Store
7901 W. Layton Ave
Greenfield, WI 53220

This is the first time WARAC will be trying to do a community fund raiser in this fashion. We NEED your help!! Come join us for an hour, two hours or stay the whole day!! Every little bit helps.

Sign Up Sheet will be at the next club meeting, Tuesday, May 14th. OR contact Mike Johnson by phone 262-923-6194 or email mike@palomonet.com

See you then!!!

This article was originally published on the popular website eHamnet.com. You can read the original, including comments that have been posted about it, at <https://www.eham.net/articles/42673>.

THE ATTRACTION OF CW

BY HOWARD, WB2UZE

What's the attraction in today's high tech world and how does one learn it?

Before I can answer the question why CW would be of interest to any ham in today's high tech world, let's spend some time first on how it all got started back in the day of the telegraph.

The telegraph was developed in the 1830s-1840s by Samuel Morse (1791-1872) and other inventors. It was a revolutionary long distance communication done by transmitting electrical signals over wires between stations. Morse invented a code (Morse Code) that assigned a set of dots and dashes to each letter of the English alphabet, which gave an understandable format to the electrical signals.

The first telegraph transmission in 1844 was between Washington DC and Baltimore and by 1866 an oceanic line had linked the USA and Europe. By the end of the 19th century telegraph communication became the backbone of our country. Yet with the invention of the telephone, telegraph lines became of less importance in the early part of the 20th century. However Morse Code (CW or continuous wave) continued to be used with newly developed radio transmitters of that era. Even with the advent of AM transmission and later SSB, CW was the preferred mode for ship to shore, commercial and military applications through the 1950s due to its effectiveness to get through in poor atmospheric conditions and with compromised equipment. With the coming of microwave, fax and satellites, CW use waned but maintained its major use amongst the amateur radio community.

So is there value in CW today or is it a lost art of the past? Let's take look back to what it was like when I first got my license in 1965 when CW was still required by the FCC. The FCC required all entry level Novices to be able to copy 5 words per minute. Back then there were no computers, INTERNET or software for learning CW so an aspiring Novice had to seek out a local ham to help with learning CW and theory. That local ham would also give the Novice exam and code test. There were no repeaters so most all hams were HF active and imparted these skills to their eager students. So there was a direct connection between aspiring Novices and established HF operators. Seeing the experienced operators handling CW at high speeds was fascinating and motivating. There was also something very engaging about hearing CW over what we now call Boat Anchor radios. When one tuned one of those vintage radio and saw the glow of tubes, it felt like real solid equipment which we developed admiration and respect for. For some older hams today, the need to own those very rigs is due to this same connection made years ago.

Once we became Novices, we were not allowed to have VFO privileges and we worked off crystals. This meant we were stuck with a handful of individual frequencies. Our first receivers were not the best and we had to learn to receive CW with drifting receivers, poor sensitivity and no selectivity, the very things we take for granted in modern radios. These challenges made us excellent listeners and with that our speeds and CW skills increased as we progressed in the hobby. Back then to get a General license 13 words per minute was required and 20 for the Extra. As we became more proficient to reach these required speeds we developed head copy and CW became a language and not a series of dots and dashes. This is why many of the older hams are still preferring CW to voice and digital as they have developed a strong connection to the CW mode.

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To me there is nothing more satisfying in the ham radio hobby than having a CW QSO at a rapid speed with the challenge of copying in poor conditions, making few sending mistakes

So getting back to the original purpose of this article: why should we be interested in CW today? I can list a host of reasons as follows:

- CW can get out better when the ham has a compromised antenna or low power. CW is ideal for QRP and portable operations. With weak signals it's harder to comprehend SSB than it is CW so CW has a clear advantage.

- CW can be copied easier in today's poor atmospheric conditions

- Sometimes it's nice to operate your radio and not have to physically talk

- CW bands are less crowded than the SSB portions so there is less competition to make a contact

- The challenge to send CW well is always there. We call that 'having a good fist'

- CW is like a language and it's no doubt good exercise for one's cognitive health and hearing

- Knowing CW requires a good knowledge of operating techniques and protocols which will challenge the individual ham

So one might ask, why CW if we have FT8 or other digital modes which can also get out in poor conditions. The digital modes leave most of the skill to a computer where CW is 100% the skill of the operator. To me it is truly more rewarding to make a CW QSO than sit idly by a computer and have it done for you, yet this is for any ham a personal choice.

Since CW was eliminated from the FCC license requirements in 1991, exams have been issued by Voluntary Examiners. In many cases after the exam, there is no longer any connection between the examiner and the new licensee. Most new hams think that our hobby all revolves around an HT and repeaters. Some have no idea of the thrill of operating on the HF bands or the attraction of CW. Unfortunately a lot of these new hams become inactive as they are not engaged. And with this deficit of active hams, when it comes to contests like Field Day and other special events, the demand for CW operators far exceeds what is available today.

So what is there to do about this? I myself along with my friend Rich K2UPS decided to make a difference. In 2018 we established the Long Island CW Club (longislandcwclub.org). We teach CW via an internet video conference platform at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Students get actual QSO training also by video conference for honing technique and increasing skill. We have found the interest very high from the students and everyone is having a lot of fun. The retro-ness of CW is very appealing in today's fast moving world and it's nice to make a connection to the bands with art and skill. It does take some dedication to learn CW and this commitment, like learning any language is not for everyone. So how does one learn CW?

- Using a combination of what is called the Koch and Farnsworth method, we send the CW at 20 words per minute character speed but the spacing between letters is 5 words per minute. This will acclimate the

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student to higher speeds from the beginning and prevent the counting of the dots and dashes which will only slow the learning curve•

We teach 11 classes of 1 hour per week at various levels. For the beginners, the student is needing to practice 15-20 minutes daily using G4FON cw software and 4 letters and or numbers are taught per week.

- Sending skills are honed along the way

- QSO skills are taught live as soon as a student can send their call sign and 599. We feel it's important to get students on the air quickly to help mitigate any fears and to see the value of their studies.

Like the learning of any language, I must admit there is a dropout rate as some students find out they don't have the time or commitment. However for those who stick it out, they are rewarded by carrying on a skill and tradition that is most enjoyable and unique.

I hope after reading this article, hams that were considering to learn CW or had it on the 'back burner', will now spring into action. See you on the lower part of the HF bands! • _• _••



Morse code receiver, recording on paper tape



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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.