



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

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Volume 71, Issue 5 May, 2022

## MAY CLUB HAPPENINGS

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Meeting

**May 10, 2022 7pm**

New Berlin Community Center

14750 W. Cleveland Ave.

New Berlin, WI

Between Moorland and Sunnyslope

**QSO Party Chuck Dellis W9WLX**

**Part 1: "POTA Prep: How to get ready for a Parks On The Air Activation" by Michael Falk, AA9RK, at the WARAC Meeting on Tuesday, May 10th, 2022**

**Part 2: "POTA in Practice: Activating Havenwoods" by Michael Falk, AA9RK, at Havenwoods State Forest in Milwaukee, on Saturday, May 14th, 2022 from 11:00 AM-noon**

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/havenwoods>

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

**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](mailto:barbsewsblue@gmail.com).

**Sendik's fundraiser May 21, 2022  
11am to 4pm**

new location

**New Berlin Sendik's  
3600 South Moorland Road  
New Berlin, WI 53151**

### Index

President's shack .....2

Meeting Minutes .....3

Wed park act.....4

DX/contest update.....5

Net Breakfast.....7

Digital Digest.....8

Swapfest.....9

Slow Speed CW net..11

## Editor's Corner

Our Wednesday park operation is well underway. Had a good turnout last Wednesday. Lots of different operation modes.

This month we are trying something different we are going to have a two part "Parks on the Air" Demo. The meeting will have Mike AA9RK telling us how to prepare for the activation and then Saturday we will meet at a park and activate it.

Think this will be fun join us if you can.

Not much else is going on. We are having a Sendik's fundraiser Saturday May 21, 2022 from 11 am to 4 pm. We will have sign up at the meeting. Even if you can't work stop by, say hi, buy your lunch.

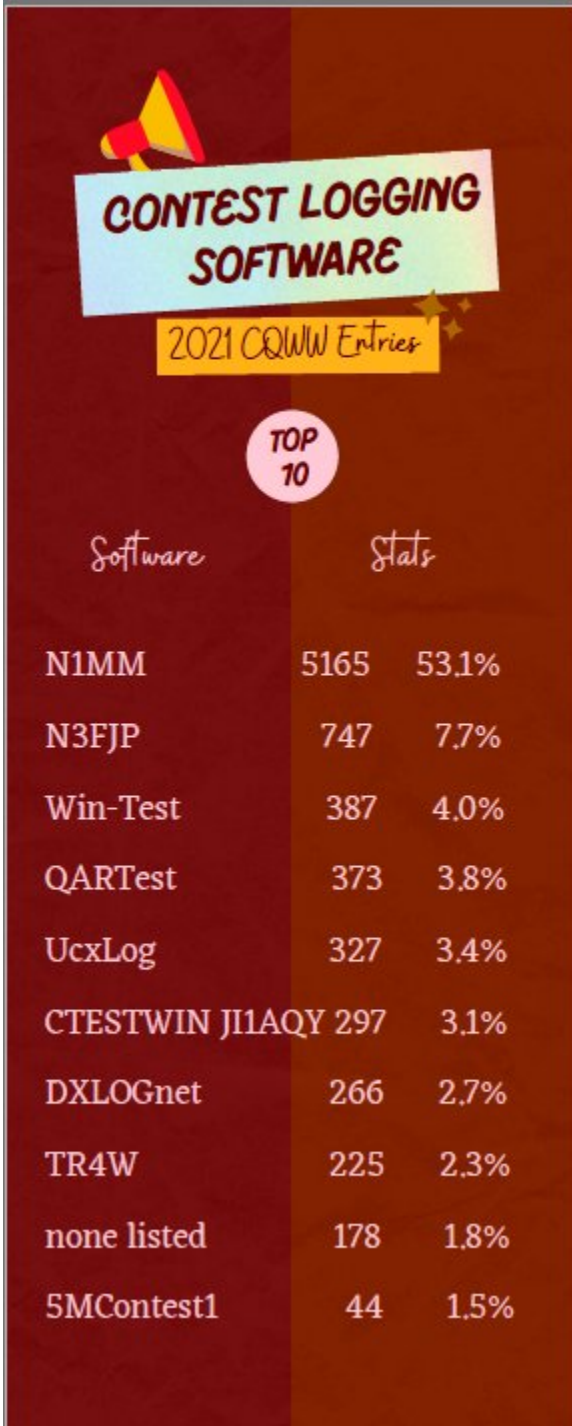
This year we will be holding both fundraisers at the New Berlin Sendik's 3600 South Moorland Road  
New Berlin, WI 53151

Hope all is well. Enjoy the change of weather.

73

Frank KA9FZR

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**CONTEST LOGGING SOFTWARE**  
2021 CQWW Entries

**TOP 10**

Software	Stats
N1MM	5165 53.1%
N3FJP	747 7.7%
Win-Test	387 4.0%
QARTest	373 3.8%
UcxLog	327 3.4%
CTESTWIN JI1AQY	297 3.1%
DXLOGnet	266 2.7%
TR4W	225 2.3%
none listed	178 1.8%
5MContest1	44 1.5%

**The Club election of Officers will be held at this meeting.  
We have NO candidates for President  
The Club needs YOU!**



## WARAC Club Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2022

Club meeting was called to order by Feroz Ghose WU9N at 7:02 pm.

Attendance was 22 club members. There was one visitor Dave Ingold WB9SXG.

Minutes of from March 8th 2022 club meeting were not approved due to a reported error in the new **ARRL Scholarship endowment increase**. The corrected number is 3K tuition grant not 2K grant. A motion was made “To amend the secretary minutes as 3K tuition grant” and it was accepted. A motion was then made “To accept the minutes as amended” and it was accepted.

**Treasurers Report**, “Nothing to report” by Bill N9KPH

**WI-QSO party** results by Chuck Dellis W9WLX. 450 Logs this year, down from last years by 100 Q’s, lost out of state logs! COVID fatigue? 35,000 Q’s were logged, no Clean Sweep winner this year. Vilas County was missing, missed the Minnesota mobiles because of the WX. VHF activity was dramatically down, 100 Q’s versus last years 654 Q’s!

Thank you for excellent wrap up presentation Chuck.

Big Thank you to Chuck, Howard and Tom for running the WI QSO party!!!

**Field Day Status** by Dave WB9OWN. Michael Falk AA9RK and Max have volunteered to run the digital station, PSK31. No further club members has contacted me concerning FD activities. Discussion came up whether battery operation would be preferable to 120 Vac power: we need to study the revised ARRL rules. Further discussion to follow at next club meeting.

**Note.** The DJ Mackie Picnic Area is located in Southern Kettle Moraine Unit nearby HW 67 & County Rd ZZ. Click on the below Google link for the Field Day location.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=42.942569,-88.452753>

**MSOE Report** by Dave WB9OWN. Met with Rich Phillips AA9L for lunch time radio club meeting. This was a small informal club that meets weekly to discuss projects. Rich demo’ed 2 meter fox hunting rig Baofeng with Ardenno CW ID’er controller to drum up interest. I explained who WARAC was, its long history, Mid-Winter Swapfest, WI QSO Party and WARAC scholarship grants... They were interested if we were doing any SDR work or Ardenno projects... (Rich is looking for some antenna work to be done, do we know a qualified individual to help him out?) I offered a ride and dinner to anyone who wants to attend our monthly meeting, there’s still a possibility that someone will take up my offer.

**Club Presentation** First Initial impression of Elecraft K4 by Paul Sperbeck W9PCS. There was a long wait time for K4, COVID, California fires were some of reasons. K4 interfaced flawlessly with other Elecraft K3 accessories. There are many menu settings but the User Manual is accessible from the front panel! Adding accessory PC keyboard and mouse allows the user to keyword search the user manual. Being an SDR radio - listening to noisy signals isn’t fatiguing on the ears. Has built-in CW decoder thats “pretty good.” You can also send CW via the keyboard. The over the air audio is reported to be excellent.

**Potential Club money maker**, (building traps for Mike’s NO9B spark plug antennas) was not discussed due to time constraints, discussion tabled for next club meeting.

**Don’t forget the WARAC Sendik’s Fundraising Dates**, New Berlin Store, May 21th and September 10th.

Slow speed CW net is meeting Mondays at 8pm. WB0AFB repeater 147.045 is being used for net coordination frequency. All are welcomed.

Election of club President Nobody has stepped forward to assume the position. ;-)

Meeting ended @ 8:30pm, coffee and donuts followed.

Respectfully Submitted

David Garnier WB9OWN

Secretary WARAC, May 2, 2022 • —• —••

**2022 Challenge for our membership. Have someone you meet, Ham or Ham wannabe come to a meeting this year!**



## 2022 May Notes

Had our first May Wednesday park Ops in Lions Park in New Berlin. A good turn out and sunny weather.

A good turn out SSB CW and FT-8 used also a DMR set up was used to talk over seas.

Frank KA9FZR

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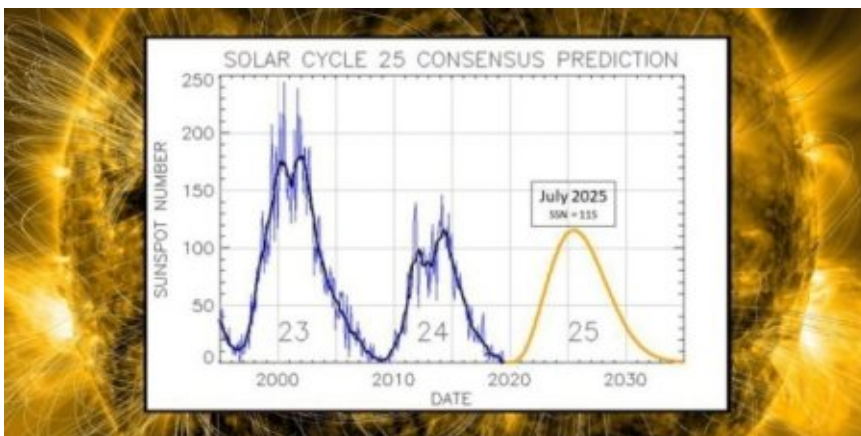


## DX UPDATE:

If you haven't been on the upper bands you are missing some choice DX. 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters have been open well into the evening. Also very good in the morning. Lots of band slots can be filled in. Look for 9N7CI and 9N7WE until May 19. Also, A25WR, DU3/W6QT, and P29LL.



## Solar Cycle 25 Prediction:



## Contesting:

7th Call Area QSO Party

1300Z, May 7 to 0700Z, May 8, 2022

Indiana QSO Party

1500Z, May 7 to 0300Z, May 8, 2022

Delaware QSO Party

1700Z, May 7 to 2359Z, May 8, 2022

New England QSO Party



2000Z, May 7 to 0500Z, May 8, 2022 and

1300Z-2400Z, May 8, 2022

Canadian Prairies QSO Party

1700Z, May 14 to 0300Z, May 15, 2022

Arkansas QSO Party

1400Z, May 21 to 0200Z, May 22, 2022

There are MANY more contests in May. QSO parties slow down in the summer. Check out the link below.

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

### Special Event Station that might interest you:

**TM15SOTA: special call sign (France)** Celebrating the 15th anniversary of SOTA (Summits On The Air) will be activated for fifteen days between April 15 and May 29.

**OH0100AX: special call sign (Aland Islands)** Until June 9

For more special event station listings check out: <https://www.425dxn.org/index.php?op=wcal>



If you have further ideas or suggestions for this page please let WA9BZW (Al) know.

[wa9bzw@arrl.net](mailto:wa9bzw@arrl.net) . \_ . \_ .

# Radio is Magic

- If you aren't impressed by the fact that you can wobble a few electrons in a wire and thereby wobble a few electrons in a wire half way around the world, you have no soul.



## Nut Net Breakfast to start, AGAIN

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 will once again meet at Gensis Restaurant, corner of HWY 100 and Beloit Road, Greenfield, WI. Looking forward to seeing you, mark your calendar.

Phil, W9NAW



May 2022

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Hamtrix

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By Michael Johnson, WO9B

## FreeDMR

As a companion to last month's article regarding alternative DMR networks I thought to highlight another network you may not have heard about. FreeDMR (<http://www.freedmr.uk/>) is a UK based network that offers its services to the worldwide DMR/Digital community. It's operation is slightly different than BrandMeister or TGIF but it also offers a bit of flexibility to the end user who is looking to have or operate with their own identified TalkGroup (TG). That's right, you can break free of the existing TG structures which are primarily geographically organized and secondarily subject oriented. You can have your own!! Well, sort off. I should point out that there are no FreeDMR repeaters, at least not in our region, so access will be via hotspots only.

The operation of FreeDMR is very similar to the DMR+ network. You basically engage a TG via a private call and then switch to TG 9 to converse on that TG. As with TGIF, you can only open one TG at a time so you can't stack them up like you can with BrandMeister. Switching TG's is just a matter of entering another one. No disconnect is required. Naturally, they offer the standard list of geographically designated TG's and don't you know that Wisconsin is labeled with the familiar 3155. That's a tip of the hat to us well trained BM guys. To access the network you can either engage FreeDMR on your pi-star network list or you can setup rewrite rules via DMRGateway. As with DMR+, there is really no reason to engage code plug changes, as you can just manually enter the TG you want to go to. Bada Bing, Bada Boom.

Nothing above is crazy exotic and is frankly de rigueur for all our familiar DMR network haunts. But the FreeDMR folks allow a little bit of TG flexibility to the end user that the other networks typically do not. Follow me on this one: The BM network allows for sub-talk groups to be created from the main channel. So for Wisconsin 3155, on BM there are sub Wisconsin TG's like 31550 and 31555 for instance. Well on FreeDMR, the user can just key up and activate any non-listed sub TG exactly as if it were listed. So for FreeDMR Wisconsin TG 3155, you can activate 315501, 315502 ... just by placing a Private Call to that TG. Oh and by the way, you can do exactly the same thing with your DMR ID#. Just activate it via a Private Call and switch to TG 9 to converse.

So why do this? Well, maybe you want to have a weekly net or some other organized get together for your group, club or organization. It is a capability that just maybe you might find useful. Who knows. BTW there are some limitations to this feature. The TG you create will not be permanent and will deactivate after a short time if it is unused. The created TG will also not show up as active on any of the lists of websites that track the network activity.

Give FreeDMR a try. If nothing else it is another avenue to explore. The FreeDMR website has a number of howto's and FAQ's to help you out. I found them to be very useful and friendly to the average DMR user.

**Next Month: Local Repeater Update**



## HAMFEST/CONVENTION

### **05/07/2022 - ARAC Hamfest**

Location: Superior, WI      Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: A.R.A.C.  
Website: <http://THEARAC.ORG>

### **06/11/2022 - Lyons Annual "Freefest"**

Location: Lyons, WI      Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Lakes Area Amateur Radio Club Inc.

### **06/18/2022 - Sunshine Swapfest**

Location: Kaukauna, WI      Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
Website: <http://www.fcarc.club/sunshineswap.php>

### **07/09/2022 - WI9SM South Milwaukee ARC Hamfest**

Location: Oak Creek, WI      Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: South Milwaukee ARC  
Website: [http:// www.wi9sm.org](http://www.wi9sm.org)

### **07/22/2022 - 07/23/2022**

#### **Central States VHF Society Conference**

Location: La Crosse, WI      Type: ARRL Convention  
Sponsor: Central States VHF Society  
Website: <https://2022.csvhfs.org>

### **08/27/2022 - Circus City Swapfest**

Location: Baraboo, WI      Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://yellowthunder.org>

### **08/28/2022 - Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club HamFest**

Location: Chippewa Falls, WI      Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: CVARC - Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://w9cva.org/hamfest>

### **09/10/2022 - Ozaukee Radio Club Regional Fall Swapfest**

Location: Cedarburg, WI      Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club (ORC)  
Website: <https://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org/>



# Green Bay Hamfest!!

Saturday June 4, 2022

from 9 'til Noon

At the Our Saviour Lutheran Church

120 South Henry St

On Green Bay's East Side, just off Deckner Ave and Main Street

Entrance tickets \$5 per person



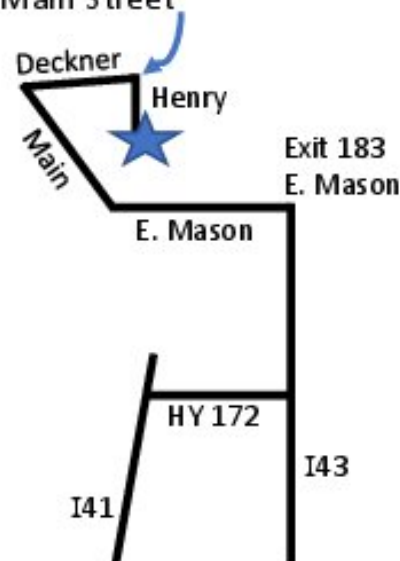
## Featuring Tower Electronics

The Ham's dime store & wholesaler to the world since 1978! Specializing in Meters, Insulators, Coax Switches, Duplexers, MFJ Products & Coaxial Jumpers & Cables.

Huge parking lot for trunk sales/tailgating, PLUS plenty of space indoors with tables available for only \$5 a piece!

### Be part of the fun!

- ✓ Food available on site
- ✓ 50/50 Raffle
- ✓ Door Prizes
- ✓ Meet our ARRL Section Manager
- ✓ Tower Electronics
- ✓ Trunk Sales/Tailgating
- ✓ FCC License Testing (Contact [ks9wi@new.rr.com](mailto:ks9wi@new.rr.com) to schedule NLT June 1)



**TALK-IN: 147.120 PL 107.2**

- *Visit with Wisconsin ARRL Section Manager Patrick Moretti, KA1RB and get the latest from the league.*
- *This is a great opportunity to see old friends and find lots of electronics bargains.*

**Don't miss out!**

For more information and to reserve a table or parking lot sales space, contact Paul Racine, [KB0P@yahoo.com](mailto:KB0P@yahoo.com)

Sponsored by the Green Bay Mike & Key Club



**New Repeater**

**SLOW SPEED CW QSO NET**

*Monday's - 8:00 PM - WB0AFB 147.045 Repeater*

## 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 147.135+ 141.35 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.

Officers and Board  
President

Vice President  
Feeroz Ghose WU9N

Secretary  
Dave Garnier WB9OWN

Treasurer  
Bill Reed N9KPH

Directors  
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