



Hamtrix

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Meetings & Events



June 10
Club Meeting
Program:

**Get Ready for
Field Day**
by Tom Macon, K9BTQ

June 24
Board Meeting

June 26
Material Due for Next
Hamtrix

June 28, 29
Field Day

July 8
Next Club Meeting



The President's Shack

*by Howard Smith,
WA9AXQ*

I am sorry I missed the last meeting. I understand the Brian, KC9HEK, gave an excellent presentation. I had to work evenings that whole week to prepare for a customer acceptance of a leak inspection machine.

The Survey committee has completed the survey and those who were at the May meeting were given a survey to fill out. The rest of you can expect to receive a survey to fill out via the same way you

receive Hamtrix. So, if you get Hamtrix via email, that will be how your survey will arrive. If the US Postal Service delivers your Hamtrix, they will also deliver your survey. Please be sure to answer the survey questions and return it.

For many years Field Day has been done in the same way. This year, several new ideas are being tried in hopes of finding better ways to do Field Day. One area is our power generation. Previously, we used central generators and long cables, but this year we will try a smaller, 1000 watt generator at the 40 meter site. If this works well we may change to using individual generators in the future. The questions are how quiet is this small generator, and if 1000 watts is enough power for a

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DAVE KNAUS, N9QA HONORED

At the April 8 meeting, Dave Knaus, N9QA, received a Distinguished Service award in recognition of his many years of contributions to WARAC. This award was originally to be presented at last fall's Annual Awards Dinner but Dave was unable to be present to receive it at that time.



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From the Minutes...

By Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR
Secretary

**Minutes of the General Meeting
May 13, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 PM by Vice-President Tom Macon.

Visitors – Brian Bieger, KC9HEK, and Susie Hamilton, W4LSD, were introduced. Club members then introduced themselves to our guest.

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

Program – Software Control for Local and Remote Operation, by Brian Bieger, KC9HEK. Brian presented an interesting program on remote control of your radio, from the actual station location and/or any other location using the Internet. He went thru his software package, Ham Radio Deluxe (HRD) that he uses to control his Kenwood TS2000, including detailed setup information. Next he proceeded to discuss the remote control part, also in detail. Lastly he went thru the network basics. During the program, Brian included many slides showing us how it all looks, including numerous views of how the remote location end looks. The operation is controlled by the FCC Rules, 97.213, Telecommunications.

At the end of the program, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM, followed by refreshments and eyeball QSO's.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR

**Minutes of the Board Meeting
May 27, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:28 PM. by Howard Smith. Board members present: Wes Andersen, George Dunco, Tom Macon, Howard Smith, Lynn Tamblyn, Dick Wood and Bob Zach.

WI QSO PARTY - Chairman Lynn discussed the six

problems he was having with this year's entries. He mentioned that in addition to this being a record year for entries, it also looked like we were going to have two new winners, whom had never won a WIQP before. He anticipates having the results put together about a week after he receives the missing information he has requested from the problems areas.

Survey Committee Report – there were fourteen surveys collected at the May 13 club meeting. The remainders are to be sent via email, unless the club member receives their Hamtrix via the US Postal Service, where they will receive their surveys.

Club Audit – the 2007 audit is almost finished. A second audit of the 2006 club books will take place after Dick and Lynn look at Quicken for possible changes to the format.

Programs – some discussion took place about the lack of future programs for July and beyond. The June program is to be a combination of Field Day and review of the Dayton Hamvention by those club members who attended this year.

Club Repeater – there was discussion regarding the sale of the old repeater equipment. The status of the tower installation is unknown.

Operations Manual – Howard mentioned he had attended a President's meeting at the Ozaukee Swapfest, where there was discussion about operating manuals of other clubs. Howard is pursuing copies from other groups, so WARAC can have a starting point, instead of trying to recreate the wheel.

Field Day – Tom spoke to antennas for Field Day.

Scholarship Fund - Dick Wood mentioned that our CD had come due. In the process, Dick took advantage of an opportunity to add some cash to the existing balance, from checking and from the sale of equipment, which was earning a lesser amount of interest than the CD earns.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR

2007 WARAC Officers and Board			Hamtrix — Editor & Publisher	
President	J. Howard Smith, WA9AXQ	414 425-5626	Submit newsletter material to:	
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Treasurer	Richard M. Wood, W9JBE	262 542-5118	Milwaukee, WI 53228	
Director (2008)	Robert F Zach, KC9AGX	414 328-3691	414 543-3878	
Director (2009)	George Dunco, AA9SR	262.782-6325	tmacon@wi.rr.com	
Director (1 year)	Wes Andersen, N9YE	414.423.0640		
Board Chairperson	J. Howard Smith, WA9AXQ	414 425-5626	-----	

WHAT'S NEW AT DAYTON 2008

by Tom Macon, K9BTQ

This is the third consecutive year I've gone to Dayton and, as always, there's way too much going on to comprehend. There are always more nooks and crannies to investigate.

The main thing I've followed is the phenomenal development of Software Defined Radio. In just three year's time it has gone from infancy to adolescence. This year there was plenty of evidence that this technology is entering the mainstream of amateur radio. Here are some examples.

Over 11,000 of Tony, KB9YIG's Softrack SDR kits have been sold since the first receiver kit was released about three years ago. Tony's kits have been joined by several others that have been released more recently. Also, there are now eight or ten SDR software packages available that will work with these kits and most of these packages are free for the downloading.

The High Performance Software Defined Radio (HPSDR) project has moved forward with several boards now available through TAPR. A complete high performance SDR transceiver can now be built for a few hundred bucks. These kits are selling well and more boards are being released that will make the HPSDR useful not only as a radio but also as a piece of test equipment.

It's interesting to note that Tucson Amateur Packet Radio (TAPR) no longer does packet radio and is no longer based in Tucson. Their main activity nowadays is assisting kit developers with pre-

production issues and selling various kits, so watch them as a source of kits and information for getting your hands on the latest technology. Check out www.tapr.org.

At this year's Dayton, I noticed that the Flex Radio Systems booth was larger and more open with several Flex-5000 radios available to play with. In the past, their booth seemed more like a gathering place for SDR gurus rather than a place for the average ham to check out their radios.

Victor, K1LT, presented a paper on a novel "steerable" 160m antenna array using SDR technology in the form of four Softrack receivers connected to an array of eight verticals. Using software he developed himself, he can steer the lobes of the array over about 60 degrees. Of course it's receive only-he's now working on a transmit version. I think this project shows that SDR technology can be applied in many ways and will be surfacing in many aspects of ham radio.

For another application of SDR technology, see the spectrum analyzer article in June QST. The author talks about using a Softrack receiver for this purpose.

SDR technology is now beginning to impact the contest community in a big way. Contest sponsors and log checkers are beginning to use I-Q recordings of contest activity at various locations to verify log entries.

Also, you may have heard about the

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Ham Happenings Around the area

Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club

formerly Menomonee Falls
Radio Club

Germantown Police Dept
N112W16877 Mequon Rd
Wed, June 25, 7:30PM

Milwaukee Radio Amateur Club (MRAC)

Redemption Lutheran Church
Hwy 100 & Capitol
Thurs, June 26, 7:00PM

Ozaukee Radio Club

Grafton Senior Center
1665 7th. Ave.
Wed, June 11, 7:30PM

CQ3TUE

Old Country Buffet
16750 W Bluemound Rd
Tues. June 17, 11:15AM

South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Wed. July 2, 7:00PM
Legion Post 434
Shepard Ave
Oak Creek, WI.

Amateur Radio Testing

Note: No testing in June
Saturday, July 26
9:30AM

Amateur Electronic Supply
5720 W. Good Hope Rd

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.



NOTE

Please do not contact meeting places for information.

Upcoming Meeting Programs

**June 10
Get Ready for Field Day
Tom Macon, K9BTQ**

**No confirmed program for July
Stay Tuned!**

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

Let us know - Contact a Board member!

Scuttlebutt...

- Jackie Jurek, KC9MJO, has been officially accepted as a member. Welcome aboard, Jackie!
- Phil, W9NAW, has not one, but two recently obtained Kenwood TS-570 radios. He's going to have to do a lot of operating to keep those radios busy.
- Dick, W9JBE; John, N9LGD; Ron, KA9JCP and Tom, K9BTQ experienced the Dayton Hamvention 2008.
- John, N9LGD brought back lots of flea market goodies including two Tarheel screwdriver mobile antennas. He also recently acquired a motor home to mount one of them on.
- Louie, W9GSV is taking a trip to Korea later this month. We'll want to hear some good stories when you get back, Louie.

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FIELD DAY STATUS

Masts

Investigation of tilting up our 40 ft masts has found that it works surprisingly well when done correctly. Work is in progress to adapt our four masts. This change will be thoroughly described at the next meeting.

Generators

We now have two Honda 1000i generators available, so both HF stations will run on them. The VHF station and food tent will run on Phil's 2000 watt Coleman generator which is somewhat quieter than the old club generators.

Food

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.

- Tom, K9BTQ, FD chairman

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Thanks!



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

Put Your Name in this Box!



**Write an Article
This means
You!
Please??**

Service Award
(Continued from page 1)

Many of the activities that we take for granted today are the results of Dave's efforts. He and Roy Hawkins, WA9KEC (SK), were the prime movers in launching our Swapfest in 1973. He organized our Scholarship program in the 1980's and was largely responsible for obtaining our 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, which allows contributors to be able to deduct contributions to our club.

He was a key player in our club's involvement in the Circus Train and

Circus grounds stations. As editor, he took Hamtrix from a few ditto sheets to a professionally printed newsletter.

More recently, he started our club web site. Over a thirty-year period, he served four terms as president, five terms as secretary and two terms as treasurer plus many years on the Board. He was selected as Member of the Year three times. The list goes on.

Thanks, Dave!

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Dayton 2008*(Continued from page 3)*

CW Skimmer controversy surrounding the program released about six months ago by Alex, VE3NEA, author of several other SDR software packages. Basically, *CW Skimmer* is an SDR receiver waterfall display with CW decoding added. The decoder constantly scans and decodes all signals on the band and, with a suitable logging program interface, it will allow you to quickly jump to and work each station.

It's no surprise that this is controversial since it will give the user a big advantage. Contest sponsors are scrambling to come up with rules for allowing the use of this technology while being fair to those not using it. *CW Skimmer* is free and is available at www.dxatlas.com/CwSkimmer/.

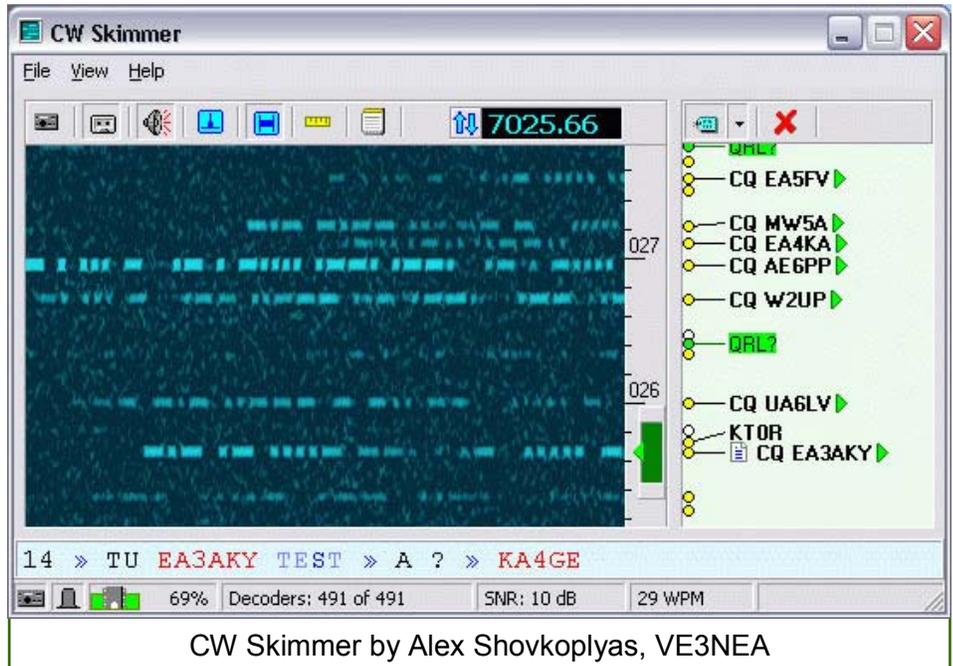
One of the interesting things about the Dayton weekend is that it's much bigger than the Hamvention itself. There are a number of other locations around the city where ham radio forums, dinners, etc. are taking place. Examples involve TAPR, QRP, DX and Contesting. DX and Contesting activities are centered on the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Dayton. In the evening there are hospitality suites hosted by various contest and DX groups that provide an excellent opportunity to meet interesting people.

This year I found my way to a Crowne Plaza suite hosted by the Kansas City DX Club where their annual CW Pileup Competition is held. When I arrived, the suite was wall-to-wall people with the contest in full



Lynn, K9KR, mentors Doug Smith on WARAC Field Day in 1973.

swing in an adjacent room. The overflow crowd was lined up and down the outside hallway. I immediately recognized a face from the past, in the person of onetime WARAC member Doug Smith, W9WI, who had just finished his competition. Doug was a member of an all-ham family that belonged to our club in the mid-1970's. He was then barely a teenager and was licensed as WB9NME.



Doug is now a television engineer in the Nashville, Tennessee area and has a web site with a lot of commercial broadcast info at www.w9wi.com/. His father, Carlton, WB9QAE, became a silent key some years ago and his mother, Lorraine, was WB9PTY but no longer holds a license. Doug's brother Phil, WB9PTX, lives in the Milwaukee area and was a visitor to our Field Day last year.

When we met, Doug told me he had just scored 52 in the competition but final results were not yet in when I left the suite. As I began to put this article together, I looked up the final results on the Internet and found that Doug's 52 was the winning score of 112 entries! Upon further investigation, I found that he has won several times previously and has almost always placed in the top few over the last 10 years.

Personally, I had heard of the Pileup competition before but knew little about it, and I was also aware that Doug was an avid contester in Tennessee. But it was really interesting to meet him under these circumstances at Dayton and fill in the gaps. Find out more about the CW Pileup Competition at kcdxclub.com/, (then press

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June 16 - Keith Hooker, N9LYV

June 19 - Ron Gorski, N9AU

June 22 - Mike Bauer, NS9J

June 25 - Eddie Smith, W9DYC

July 7 - Dick Barcz, WR9Y

*Wedding
Anniversaries*

June 11 - Dick and Sharon Wood

June 29 - Howard and Vicky Smith



President's Shack

(Continued from page 1)

single station. Unfortunately, 1000 watts will not run the station and the coffee pot!

Another experiment will be using a wireless connection between the logging computers along with the network version of the N3FJP software. The question here is whether the presence of high power RF will mess up the wireless connections. This will be only an experiment done with separate computers- all of the real logging will still be done as before with individual computers.

Finally, raising the various masts will be done using a 'tilt-up' method where the masts are fully extended, and are raised using one or more of the guy ropes and a winch. This suggestion was by John, K9IAC, and has been tried successfully. Tom, K9BTQ, will talk about this at the next meeting.

The contest aspect of Field Day contest lasts for 24 consecutive hours. To operate our two HF stations and two VHF stations for the full duration of the contest, we

need a total of 96 operator hours. Actually, this number is somewhat less because the VHF station generally does not operate through the night. We are always looking for operators. Even if you have not operated a contest at this level, you can still be there to help and to see how a seasoned contester runs the station. And maybe there will be a time for you to try out what you have learned. Are you CW op? We have wanted to do some 80M CW in the late evenings, but have not found an operator. Maybe this is your opportunity!

The Field Day event itself remains the same and so does the fun of doing the event. I have reminded you several time before, but June 28 and 29th are the dates. Come and have some fun!

The program for June has two parts. First, there will be a short discussion by the club members that attended the Dayton Hamfest, and then Tom, K9BTQ, will provide the final details for Field Day.

See you at the meeting.

73,

Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

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Dayton 2008

(Continued from page 5)

the *CW Pileup Competition* button.)

By the way, CW Skimmer was one of the 112 entrants in the Pileup competition this year. It scored 31, tied for 67th place. Now Alex has a further challenge.

Another communications technology on the move is digital voice. A new entry in this area called Frequency Division Multiplexed Digital Voice (FDMDV) is now available. A free program from Cesco, HB9TLM, the developer of the WinDRM program that came out a few years ago. But FDMDV is a different, simplified digital voice system that occupies only 1.1kHz of bandwidth. The software is free and requires only a connection be-

tween your transceiver and sound card. More info at n1su.com/fdmdv/.

The first time you go to Dayton, you'll quickly realize there's no way to cover it all. It takes the better part of a day just to go through the flea market. There are over 200 inside exhibitors occupying more than 600 booths- that's another day. And there are more than 40 forums over the three days with about five going on at any one time.

In the Islamic religion, the *hajj* is an obligation to make a pilgrimage to Mecca that must be carried out at least once during a lifetime. I think the same goes for Dayton. Every ham should make the pilgrimage at least once.

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