



# Hamtrix

Volume 54, Issue 6 June, 2009

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## Meetings & Events



**June 9**

Club Meeting

Program:

**Field Day**

**Past and Present**

by Tom Macon, K9BTQ

**June 23**

**Contesting Class**

7:00 PM Church Basement

No Board Meeting

**June 27, 28**

**Field Day**

**July 5**

Material Due for Next

**Hamtrix**

**July 14**

Next Club Meeting



## The President's Shack

by Howard Smith,  
WA9AXQ

After holding my ham license for 48 years, I finally made it to the Dayton Hamvention this year. Tom, K9BTQ, and I drove together and shared a room at the University of Dayton. We traveled on Thursday and arrived about 2:30pm. Later in the afternoon we spent some time at the U.S. Air Force Museum. If you have not been to this museum, it is one of

those must see places. And we only touched the surface with a couple of hours. At least a whole day, or, better yet, a couple of days is needed to really see everything.

The general consensus was that the Hamvention was a little smaller this year. The outdoor flea market was smaller, too, and the bad weather on Saturday did not help either. While we did not go back on Sunday, the weather was a lot nicer. Unfortunately, lots of sellers left the flea market on Saturday afternoon.

Anybody that sells anything to Hams was there. I did not notice any really new radios announced. The other part of the Hamvention was the forums. Tom and I

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**JUNE 23 (TUE.)**

## FIELD DAY CONTESTING CLASS

7:00PM — Regular Meeting Place

**Non-members Welcome!**

**JUNE 27-28**

## FIELD DAY 2009

By Tom Macon, K9BTQ

In recent years, our pool of Field Day operators has been shrinking and, after a lengthy discussion at our FD meeting in April, it was decided that our 2009 Field Day should focus on operator training. We hope to see two benefits from this. Yes, it should enlarge our FD operator pool. But, more importantly, we hope that the "trainees" will catch the radio contesting "bug" to learn more, improve their skills, and pursue other contests during the year. It's fun!

Field Day is an excellent opportunity to learn about contesting for several reasons. The rules are simple and there are no mul-

tipliers, so trainees can concentrate on basic skills. There are lots of other people learning contesting on Field Day plus plenty of experienced hams to teach, so trainees will be in good company. Probably most importantly, Field Day is a fun, laid-back atmosphere.

Plans call for our Field Day training to take place in two steps. First will be a class at 7:00PM on the Tuesday before Field Day (June 23) at our regular club

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**From the Minutes...**

By Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR  
Secretary

**Minutes of the General Meeting  
May 12, 2009**

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

*Visitors* – Gerald Riedel, K9FI, and Tom Wensch, N9HR. Members then introduced themselves.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Silent Key* – Howard mentioned the nice article in Hamtrix. He asked for any membership comments. Ron Gorski, N9AU, mentioned that he was there when the picture published in HT, with George overlooking the students, was taken. He remembers those sessions being up to 40 kids at one time. George would hang around until all the questions were answered.

*WAS Contest* – Howard asked for progress reports. John, K9IAC, said he was two short, while George, AA9SR, said he had two. Tom Macon told the membership that the forms needed to participate were on a table at this meeting.

*WIQP* – Lynn mentioned that he was just finishing up with data entry for the electronic logs. The projected total today, including paper logs, is about 290, which is a new record. He plans to finish entry soon, get the results assembled, and report to the Board at the May Board meeting. Results should be on our website by early June or before. He indicated that at this point, it looked like we might have two new winners that had never won before.

**PROGRAM**

*RF Exposure Calculations* - Tom Wensch, N9HR, went thru his PowerPoint presentation on how to determine your RF Exposure Compliance, as required by the FCC. Five points were covered –

1. Recording the station operating parameters;

2. Exclusion based on power output;
3. Exclusion based on mode(s) of operation;
4. Exclusion based on exposure distances; and
5. Recording methods to achieve compliance.

He went thru actual numbers, based on his specific station and antennas. Tom presented the club with a CD copy of the presentation, for the club to put on the club website, or make available to members. Tom also handed out paper copies of the presentation, for those who wanted them.

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  
May 26, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM. by Chairman Howard Smith.

Board members present were: Charles Craven, George Dunco, Tom Macon, Howard Smith, Lynn Tamblyn and Dick Wood.

*Audit Of Club Books* – Some issues still remain before the 2007 audit can be completed. An additional meeting of the Committee will be scheduled.

*Wisconsin QSO Party* - Lynn reported that he has completed data entry, and is going to start the assembly work, once he completes work on his final double and triple checks. He then went thru a number of items for the Board., including how WARAC did overall. Lastly, he handed out a copy of the Soapbox Comments, to give the Board a flavor of the event. He is aware of two records being broken. 290 logs have been entered, which is a gain of 8 percent over last year, which he attributes to the ARRL Year of the QSO Party event happening this year. He hopes to have the final results completed by mid June.

*Field Day* – Tom led a lengthy discussion regarding “training.” The Board was not sure if they should do training just for Field Day or if the training should be more complete, such as training for those interested in

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WARAC Officers and Board			<b>Hamtrix</b> – 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 (1 year)	Robert F Zach, KC9AGX	414.427-0333	
Board Chairperson	J. Howard Smith, WA9AXQ	414.425-5626	

# WARAC IN WIQP 2009

by Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR  
 WIQP Chairman

So how did we do? In a nutshell, we set a new record for the best WARAC total score ever, and we matched our best ever position amongst standings in the Wisconsin Club Competition. This was done with ten members participating, with all ten entering the Single Operator Fixed (SOF) category, the most popular category in WIQP each year.

Our best previous high score was in 2005, achieving 207,604.5 points, scored by nine club members. This year, with ten members entering, we achieved 214,368 points, which is about 3 percent better than 2005. The ten are: Ron Gorski, N9AU; Phil Gural, W9NAW; Tom Macon, K9BTQ; Charles Craven, WB9PUB; John Zach, K9IAC; Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR; Howard Smith, WA9AXQ; John Westimayer, N9LGD; George Dunco, AA9SR; and Ron Crown, KA9JCP.

This year WARAC achieved sixth position, out of 29 clubs that entered in the competition. You have to go way back to 1997 to equal that sixth place position, when 24 clubs entered, so in reality, we actually did better in the club competition, too, than in 1997. However, sixth is still sixth.

As I said before, Single Operator Fixed is our most popular entry category. This year we had 107 total entries. As a point of information, the top scoring SOF entry this year scored 129,060 points.

Below I have listed the specific information for each of them, to give you a better flavor of their effort, with the *Place* being how they ended up related to the 107 total entries.

Callsign	QSO's		Multipliers			Score	Place
	CW	Phone	Counties	States	Provinces		
N9AU	236	186	35	44	4	81921.0	11
W9NAW	0	301	42	36	3	36571.5	23
K9BTQ	0	237	48	33	1	29151.0	26
WB9PUB	0	194	34	32	1	19497.0	39
K9IAC	0	191	38	29	1	19482.0	40
K9KR	42	104	43	23	1	18894.0	41
WA9AXQ	0	74	26	12	0	4218.0	75
N9LGD	0	61	26	9	0	3202.5	83
AA9SR	0	34	11	14	1	1326.0	94
KA9JCP	0	10	3	4	0	105.0	104
						214368.0	

Thanks to the club members that participated. I hope all that did participate sent in logs. Hopefully next year we will have even more members participate. -----

## CONTESTING TIDBITS

- June QST mag has a couple of items that are "must reads" for new contesters. On page 72, six-month licensee Larry, N4LEC, tells how he took the plunge and participated in last November's ARRL Sweepstakes contest. On page 79, Sean, KX9X, ARRL Contest Branch manager gives tells why Field Day is *A Great Training Ground*. Required reading for our Field Day trainees!

(Continued on page 6)

## Ham Happenings

Around the area

### Ozaukee Radio Club

Wed, June 10  
 7:30PM

Grafton Senior Center  
 1665 7th. Ave.  
 Grafton

### CQ3TUE

Tues. June 16  
 11:15AM

Old Country Buffet  
 16750 W Bluemound Rd

### Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club

Wed. June 24  
 7:30PM

Germantown Police Dept  
 Germantown

### Milwaukee Radio Amateur Club (MRAC)

Thurs, June 25  
 7:00PM

Redemption Lutheran Church  
 4057 N. Mayfair Rd

### South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Wed. July 1  
 7:00PM

Legion Post 434  
 9327 S Shepard Ave  
 Oak Creek

### Amateur Radio Testing

Saturday, July 25  
 9:30AM

*No testing in June*  
 Amateur Electronic Supply  
 5720 W Good Hope Rd

### NOTE

*Please do not contact meeting places for information.*

Don't forget . . .

**Club Meetings**

**Now Start at  
7:00 PM**

Meeting Room Opens at 6:30 -  
Come Early!

**WARAC David Knaus  
Memorial Scholarship**

Available to licensed Amateurs who are Wisconsin residents pursuing an Associate, Bachelor's or Graduate degree in any course of study. The application deadline is May 1, 2009.

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

Join in on the  
**WARAC**

**Repeater Net**

On the

**"Off-Tuesdays"**

(1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays)

**7:00PM**

On the WARAC Repeater  
145.17 MHz

**Thanks!**



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

**Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR**



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

**Scuttlebutt...**

- Ray Massie, WB9WNA, spent a week in the hospital in early May. He's feeling much better now.
- How are you doing on the WARAC WAS contest? The only progress report received is from John, K9IAC, who has 2 states remaining to complete his WAS. One month to go. How are **you** doing?
- Log sheets and a map for tracking your WAS contest progress are available on the club web site at [www.warac.org/events/was/waslogsheet.pdf](http://www.warac.org/events/was/waslogsheet.pdf)
- The spreadsheet for Tom Wrensch's excellent RF Exposure program are on the club website at [www.warac.org/events/rfexp/](http://www.warac.org/events/rfexp/)
- Name badges for Don, KC9ISS, Jackie, KC9MJO and Phil, WA9AQL have not yet been picked up. They'll be at the upcoming meeting.
- Our repeater has been having some problems lately. If you hear it misbehaving, contact Howard, WA9AXQ; John, K9IAC or John, N9LGD.

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**For Sale**

The following items have been donated to WARAC:

- Spi-Ro MD-80 center fed 1/2 wave 80M dipole antenna. New with balun and instructions, \$10.
- Ameritron RCS-8V remote coax switch. New, no manual, \$75.
- Coax cable, RG-213, 50 ft with PL-259 connectors, new \$25.
- Yaesu G800 rotor with G800SDX control and 100 ft cable with connectors. This is a medium duty rotator in very good condition, no manual, \$200.
- Cushcraft A4S triband beam, very good condition, with manual, \$300.

Please contact Phil, W9NAW, for additional information and availability. Proceeds go to the WARAC scholarship fund.

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**Upcoming Meeting Programs**

**June 9**

**Get Ready for Field Day**

by Tom Macon, K9BTQ

Discussion to finalize Field Day plans plus pictures and anecdotes of previous Field Days

**July 14**

**National Conference of  
Volunteer Examiner Coordinators**

by Tom Fuszard, KF9PU

Learning about the history of the VEC program and NCVEC in particular. NCVEC prepares the question pools.

**August 11**

**Logbook of The World (LoTW)**

by Brian Cieslak, K9WIS

The LoTW is a repository of log records submitted by users from around the world that can be used to verify QSO's. Find out how it works.

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## DAYTON 2009—SOME HIGHLIGHTS

By Tom Macon, K9BTQ

Paul Bittner, W0AIH, became the 2009 inductee into the *CQ Contest Hall of Fame* at this year's Dayton Hamvention. Paul's 120 acre farm near Eau Claire has grown a huge variety of towers and antennas over the last 20-plus years. Perhaps you've seen it off to the east as you approach Eau Claire from the south on I-90. Paul has also been actively seeking out and training new testers and is well known around the world. In the Wisconsin QSO Party and other contests, his station is often heard as W9EAU.



In the picture above, Paul and XYL Mary do their American Gothic impression. Check out his “crop” in the background. Paul was the guest speaker at one of our Awards Dinners in the 1980's where he put on a very interesting program. As I recall, he said he had 54 towers at that time.

Shown at above right is Paul with Sean Kutzko, KX9X, ARRL Contest Branch Manager at Dayton. Here are Sean's comments from his Dayton blog on the ARRL website.

“Of course, the highlight of the [Contest Banquet] was seeing Reverend Paul Bittner, W0AIH, get inducted into

the *CQ Contest Hall Of Fame*. W0AIH's Wisconsin antenna farm is legendary, and at 75, Paul is still adding more towers. He is one of contesting's elder statesmen, a modest gentleman, and has given back a lot to the contesting community over the years. He is deserving of such a great honor. Congratulations, Paul.”



Congratulations to Paul from WARAC as well.

On another Dayton note, the Kansas City DX Club's CW Pileup contest again attracted 111 participants and plenty of attention. Former WARAC member Doug Smith, W9WI, came in with 49 calls copied, second to VE3DZ's 51. Noteworthy also is that Alex, VE3NEA's improved CW Skimmer program copied 61 calls, 10 ahead of the top human. Skimmer copied 31 calls last year. See last June's Hamtrix article about Dayton 2008, Skimmer and W9WI.

The sponsoring Kansas City DX Club has a web page with Doug's tips for competing in the CW Pileup contest. [www.kcdxclub.com/w9wi.html](http://www.kcdxclub.com/w9wi.html). In addition to some good serious tips, he comments on the effect of blood alcohol level on his performance, “I have a gut feeling (but no statistics) to suggest a modest correlation between blood alcohol and Pileup Competition score. Over the years, I've done it 100% sober; I've done it with enough in the system to get a state trooper's attention; and I've done it with just one beer. I seem to do best in the latter case. I might guess that one beer relaxes the inhibition against guessing when logging calls. Might there be a similar correlation between blood alcohol and UBN (logging error) rate?”

“I don't think there's any correlation between score and brand of beer. However, as a loyal Milwaukeean who has yet to forgive the Cardinals for winning the 7th game of the 1984 World Series, I believe any entrant found to be drinking a Budweiser should be disqualified.”

Note that the Pileup contest is conducted in the evening in a hotel hospitality suite where a certain amount of alcohol consumption no doubt takes place.

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**Contesting Tidbits**

*(Continued from page 3)*

- Many times you've wondered about those really loud stations in a contest, right? The ones that are on a frequency for the whole contest, regardless of conditions? Now you can find out what equipment they are running - check out the World Contest Station Database [www.conteststations.com](http://www.conteststations.com).
- Here are some of the upcoming contests in June. In QST, check the Contest Corral, page 80 in the June issue. Two Internet locations for complete contest calendars are [www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/](http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/) or [www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html](http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html) If you're reading this online, simply click the website name.

Contest	Dates	Website for Details
Alabama QSO Party	June 6, 7	<a href="http://www.AlabamaQSOParty.org">www.AlabamaQSOParty.org</a>
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	June 13 - 15	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/contests">www.arrl.org/contests</a>
West Virginia QSO Party	June 21	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc">www.qsl.net/wvsarc</a>
ARRL Field Day	June 27, 28	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/contests">www.arrl.org/contests</a>

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**Field Day 2009**

*(Continued from page 1)*

meeting place. The class will last no more than 1½ hours and will cover contesting fundamentals and some contesting strategy. Be sure to put this date and time on your calendar.

The class will not be limited to Field Day contesting – it will cover contesting basics that can be used in any contest. Even if you can't make Field Day itself, you're more than welcome to attend the class.

The second training phase, of course, is to put what was learned in the Tuesday class into practice during Field Day. Trainees will be paired with “mentors” to guide them and further their learning experience, OJT style (On the Job Training). If the 6-meter band is open, trainees will spend some time at the VHF station. At the HF stations, trainees will begin by logging for another operator. This provides excellent practice with the N3FJP logging program plus experience listening to the mentor/operator and logging his QSO's.

The final step is to take the mike. At this point, it's normal for most new ops to have some butterflies, but there's no need to be nervous. You really can't embarrass yourself and you can't break anything. Nobody will be upset if you goof up, either on the air or in the shack. There's nothing to worry about – just take your time and wade in.

In order to make the one-on-one pairing of mentors with trainees work, we will need some kind of schedule, but this will be tricky. Variables such as weather, band conditions and when individuals can be on-site make scheduling difficult. I will be asking trainees and men-

tors when they can be on-site and lay out a schedule based on that information, then hope that we don't need to make too many changes on the fly.

Practice is essential to develop contesting skills so, in order to get maximum benefit from the Field Day opportunity, trainees should plan to spend several hours operating.

If you are interested in knowing more about contesting, here's your chance. It's challenging and fun (nobody would do it if it weren't) so get on board! Please contact me (Tom, K9BTQ) if you want to participate and haven't already let me know. See the masthead at the bottom of page 2 for contact information. And please note that **our FD training is open to anyone** – not just WARAC members.

This year's Field Day setup will look similar to recent years - two HF stations plus the “free” VHF station. Mike Wagner, N9ESC, will set up his camper and station and primarily handle 40-meter phone and CW. His antenna will be a dipole or G5RV supported by two of the club's masts.

The 75/20 station will use a rotatable antenna, probably the DAP rotary dipole for 20m, 15m and 10m plus a 75-meter broadbanded dipole based on an article in July 1995 QST magazine. This station will be housed in Jackie Jurek's motor home as it was last year.

Be sure to attend the upcoming meeting on Tuesday to learn the details of the FD training and also to get in on the final planning of the whole event. Also, there will be pictures and videos of Field Days past. CU there!

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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



June 11 - Dick and Sharon Wood  
 June 29 - Dave and Karen Engelmenn  
 June 29 - Howard and Vicky Smith



[www.warac.org](http://www.warac.org)

**President's Shack**

*(Continued from page 1)*

attended the ones on Software Defined Radios and Contesting. The SDR one was most interesting to me and the Elecraft presentation was very interesting because the presenter compared the three types of SDR radios, and then discussed the tradeoffs that Elecraft made for the K3 model. Flex-Radio also had an interesting presentation.

I had a really good time and I wish I had made the trip much earlier in my ham career.

Field Day, June 27 and 28, is approaching rapidly. Our emphasis on Field Day this year will be training of new operators. The discussion and program at the June meeting will set the stage for this. We will be at Crystal Ridge Ski Area again this year and setup will begin about 8:00am on Saturday. We need to be ready for the first QSO's at 1:00pm.

We will also have a basic Field Day contesting class on Tuesday, June 23rd at our regular meeting place at 7:00pm. See Tom, K9BTQ's article on the front page. The Board meeting, normally held that night, will be re-

placed by the class. The class will discuss general contesting strategies of how to operate, manage the logging activity, and other related issues.

Then, during Field Day itself, each trainee will be matched with a seasoned operator, and they will operate one of the stations. The goal here is to get more people interested in contesting in general while having a bunch of fun during Field Day. While I know you already have the Field Day dates on your calendar, you now need to add Tuesday, June 23rd to your calendar.

Lynn, K9KR, has been working hard on the WIQP results. Be sure to read his article in this Hamtrix about how our club members did in the club competition.

The program for the June meeting will a review of the Field Day preparations presented by Tom, K9BTQ.

See you at the meeting.

73,  
 Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

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**Minutes**

*(Continued from page 2)*

learning how to participate in contests. Discussions were held on how many "students" there would be, trainers and mentors, and what the process of training should be – i.e. a classroom type of training and then "on the job" training (such as during FD) OR training spread over a longer period of time. The general conclusion(s) of the Board was to do longer term training, for those interest in learning contesting, which the Board feels would help provide additional contesting members, both for future Field Day operations and Wisconsin QSO Party participation, as well as other contests the club membership would participate in, such as the Worked All States challenge that the club is presently doing.

*Programs* - The June program will be about Field Day. July will bring a program on the national VEC by Tom Fuszard, KF9PU. Logbook of the World (LOTW), by

Brian Cieslak, K9WIS, will be presented for our August meeting. A program on the Buddipole system was suggested.

*Repeater* – Howard told the Board that the repeater is experiencing problems, and that he had shut it off. He will investigate the problem as soon as possible. Discussion then began on the concern about how long it is taking to move the system to another location, OR, as to whether the club needs a repeater. The Board decided the membership should speak to the repeater. Howard will discuss this with the membership at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
 Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR

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



## WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC.

PO Box 1072

Milwaukee, WI 53201

W9FK / Repeater 145.170 MHz (-600kHz offset)

<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.