



# Hamtrix

Volume 55, Issue 6 June, 2010

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## The President's Shack

by Howard Smith,  
WA9AXQ

One of the interesting things about Ham Radio is that the hobby has many different aspects. Two, in particular, come to mind now.

One is contesting. Our club is very involved in this one, because we sponsor the Wisconsin QSO Party each March. And another event is Field Day, coming up soon. While it tests our ability to be able to provide communications in an emergency setting, it, too, is being done in a contest format. By the way, I hope you did reserve June 26 and June 27 so you can participate in our Field Day activities.

The other is homebrewing. This has a  
*(Continued on page 6)*

## Contesting Class - Tuesday, June 22

Visitors Welcome

## Field Day - June 26, 27

## Meetings & Events



June 8

Club Meeting

**Field Day**

by Chuck Dellis, W9WLX  
7:00 PM Church Basement

June 22

**Contesting Class**

No Board Meeting

7:00 PM Church Basement

June 26, 27

**Field Day**

July 4

Material Due for Next  
**Hamtrix**

July 13

Next Club Meeting

## 2010 FIELD DAY STATUS

By Tom Macon, K9BTQ, FD Chairman

Last year we made a change in our approach to Field Day in that we shifted our primary focus to operator training. It worked well. We had just as much fun (maybe more) and had the satisfaction of mentoring less experienced hams. We even gained some new club members. So, as I'm sure you've heard, we're focusing on training again this year.

We hope to see two benefits from our training. It should enlarge our FD operator pool and, 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.

For several reasons, Field Day is an excellent opportunity to learn about contesting. The rules are simple and there are no multipliers. 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.

As last year, our Field Day training will take place in two steps. First will be a Contesting Class at 7:00PM on the Tuesday before Field Day (June 22) at our regular club 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 on your calendar!



*(Continued on page 5)*



**From the Minutes...**

By Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR  
Secretary

**Minutes of the General Meeting  
May 11, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Secretary Lynn Tamblyn, as both President Howard Smith and Vice-President Tom Macon were unavailable for this meeting.

*Minutes* – By motion, minutes were approved as published in the latest issue of Hamtrix.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Alphabet Contest* – Lynn questioned as to the status on any entries. So far, one member had 3 contacts.

*Field Day* – Lynn mentioned the June 26 and 27 dates for this year’s event, to be held at Crystal Ridge again. Setup would be on Saturday morning beginning at 8 AM. He indicated that Chairman Tom will be doing his annual program at the WARAC regular June club meeting.

*CW Keyer* – Chuck Craven spoke about a book he bought thru ARRL, that is called PIC Programming for Beginners, an introductory guide to PIC design and development. It uses a building block approach, which ends up as a CW keyer as the final result. Parts to complete the keyer are obtained separate of using the book.

*Program* – Digital Modes. Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, did a presentation covering a lot of the digital modes available. Not much equipment or a lot of power is needed, basically just a radio, and personal computer with a sound card. He talked about radio to computer interface equipment that could be used. Then he spoke to: sound card settings; transceiver power and audio settings; macros; and software available, with specific examples given in all these areas. His favorite software is HRD/DM780, which he explained in detail. Lastly, he went through the modes PSK31, RTTY, Olivia, SSTV, D-SSTV (Easy Pal), WSJT and WSPR.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM, followed by

refreshments and eyeball QSO’s.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR

**Minutes of the Board Meeting  
May 25, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. by Chairman Howard Smith. Board members present were: Charles Craven, Chuck Dellis, George Dunco, Tom Macon, Howard Smith, and Lynn Tamblyn.

*Wisconsin QSO Party* - Chairman Lynn gave the Board a detailed report on present status of the results, including WARAC’s showing in the Club Competition area. He suggested that for 2011, the starting time should be moved to noon local time, as he is starting to see more DX involvement. He feels that moving the time would give DX stations more time to make contacts, as well as giving WI stations the availability of using the higher bands more, which might increase their total contact counts.

He then spoke to the use of computer copy of CW. After a lengthy discussion on the subject, the consensus of the Board was that a rules adjustment could handle this, OR it might be handled by having a new category for those stations to enter. As to 2010 results, stations that copied CW by computer, will not be listed separately. The WIQP Committee and the Board will discuss this in the next several months and make changes for 2011 WIQP.

*Worked All Wisconsin Counties (WAWC)* – Chairman Lynn shared emails with the Board that talked to some confusion by possible applicants as to the rules. It was decided that the Board will discuss this at the next several Board meetings, to try and improve the “rules” on the website.

*Alphabet Contest* – The Board discussed this. There does not seem to be much interest. The Board thought that maybe some of the limits should be removed, which might help gather more participants, and try doing this again.

*(Continued on page 6)*

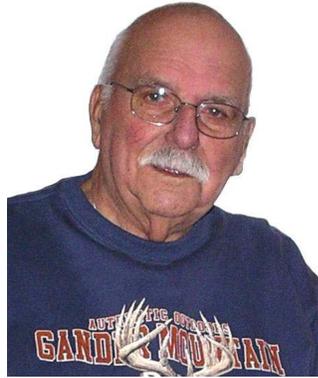
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Director (2010)	George Dunco, AA9SR	262.782-6325	
Director (1 year)	Chuck Dellis, W9WLX	414.543-1134	
Board Chairperson	J. Howard Smith, WA9AXQ	414.425-5626	

# RAY MASSIE, WB9WNA, SK

By Tom Macon, K9BTQ

Longtime club member Ray Massie, WB9WNA, became a Silent Key on May 12. He has been a WARAC member since 1976 and was awarded a life membership in 2001.

Ray was born and raised in the Houghton, Michigan area. He came to the Milwaukee area as a young man and worked for the City of West Allis Water Department for over 30 years. After retirement from West Allis, he was manager of the Rome Riverside Campground in Rome, Wisconsin for 14 years.



CB radio was hot in the mid-1970's and Ray was one of a number of CB'ers that moved into ham radio by taking classes offered by our club at that time. Among other on-the-air activities, he was involved in the Badger Weather Net for many years. BWN meets early every day and collects weather observation data from across the state. The collected data is used for a number of purposes including local media use and various research projects.

A couple of years ago, Ray moved to an assisted living facility in Mukwonago and was on 75m, 20m and 2m with a mobile antenna setup installed by John, K9IAC, and Tom, K9BTQ.



Ray in his station in 1982. He lived on 84th St. just south of National Av.

He participated in numerous activities during his life, including membership in the Sullivan Snowmobile Club and the Milwaukee Metro Clown Club, where he was known as Rinkles the Clown. He also participated in the St. Luke's Dartball Team.

Ray was preceded in death by his wife, Marion, about 10 years ago. Ray and Marion were married for nearly 50 years. He is survived by three daughters and a son.

Services were held on Saturday, May 22. Ray was 81.

## Ham Happenings

### Around the area

#### Ozaukee Radio Club

Wed, June 9  
7:30PM

Grafton Senior Center  
1665 7th. Ave.  
Grafton

#### CQ3TUE Lunch

Tues. June 15  
11:15AM

Old Country Buffet  
16750 W Bluemound Rd

#### Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club

Wed. June 30  
7:30PM

Germantown Police Dept  
N112 W16877 Mequon Road  
Germantown

#### Milwaukee Radio Amateur Club (MRAC)

Thurs. June 24  
7:00PM

Redemption Lutheran Church  
4057 N. Mayfair Rd

#### South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Wed. July 7  
7:00PM

Legion Post 434  
9327 S Shepard Ave  
Oak Creek

#### Amateur Radio Testing

Saturday, July 31  
9:30AM

Amateur Electronic Supply  
5720 W. Good Hope Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI

#### NOTE

Please do not contact meeting places for information.

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**WARAC David Knaus Memorial Scholarship**

**Note: The application deadline previously listed in this sidebar was incorrect. The deadline for the 2010 scholarship was March 31, 2010.**

Available to licensed Amateurs who are Wisconsin residents pursuing an Associate, Bachelor's or Graduate degree in any course of study. The next application deadline is March 31, 2011.

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

**WARAC 2-Meter Net**

Since we no longer have a repeater, our off-meeting night net has moved to 147.42 simplex. Please make a note of it!

- 7:00 PM
- 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays
- 147.42 simplex

**Thanks!**



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

**Howard Smith, WA9AXQ**



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

**HISTORY OF CURTIS KEYERS**

*Suggested by Howard Smith, WA9AXQ  
Adapted from The ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 18, May 9, 2008*

Jack Curtis, K6KU, when studying for his Amateur Extra ticket back in 1969, "decided to get a feel for the requirements of the Extra Class test by undertaking a circuit design project", in the words of a friend. He went on to do this and the resulting keyer worked so well that Curtis's ham friends told him he should market it. Curtis followed their advice, announcing the Curtis Electronic Devices EK-38 in Ham Radio Magazine. The -38 and its follow-up, the -39, became so successful that Curtis quit his day job and formed Curtis Electro Devices.

Utilizing connections in the semiconductor industry, he pursued implementation of his keyer designs in integrated circuits. He started with two designs, called the 8043 and the 8044. The 8043 chip was limited to dit memory, and sold for \$7.95 in quantities of 50 or more in 1973. The 8044 offered dah memory in addition and sold for \$24.95 in 1975. Later, in 1980, the 8044M was introduced. M stood for "meter" - a meter could be connected to a pin of the 8044M to indicate sending speed.

In 1981 Curtis added mode B keying characteristics to his keyers with the release of the 8044B. Mode B simply added an extra dit or dah when the operator stopped sending, depending on which was sent last. If a dit was sent last,

*(Continued on page 5)*

**Scuttlebutt...**

- Lynn, K9KR, reports that he received 253 electronic logs and 51 paper logs for 2010 WIQP. This total of 304 compares with 291 last year.
- Our Alphabet Contest ended June 1. The prize for the first member to report working all 26 letters will be an ARRL website gift certificate for \$26. Bring your log to the upcoming meeting! Use the Log Sheet that was in April Hamtrix and see the March issue for the Rules.
- The Zach brothers, John, K9IAC, and Bob, KC9AGX, made their first trip to Dayton this year, and didn't spend quite all of their money.
- Les Peterson, W9YCV, continues his 40m sked with long-time friend W0BPP in Missouri. Phil, W9NAW and Tom, K9BTQ, usually join in. The sked is around 7225 kHz at 10AM on alternate Wednesdays.
- Does this issue of Hamtrix look a little thin? Articles are desperately needed! Please write an article or suggest something that you would like to see an article on. And editing help is available if you aren't comfortable with your writing skills.

**Do you have news that isn't listed here? It won't be here if ye editor doesn't know about it - call or email Tom, K9BTQ!**

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**Field Day***(Continued from page 1)*

The class will not be limited to Field Day contesting – it will cover 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 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. In most cases, 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 do it! At this point, it's normal for most new ops to have some butterflies, but there's no need to be nervous. Nobody, either on the air or in the shack, will be upset if you goof up. There's nothing to worry about – just take your time and wade in.

Practice and repetition 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.

In order to make the one-on-one pairing of mentors with trainees work, we will need some kind of schedule. I will be asking trainees and mentors when they can be on-site, then lay out a schedule based on that information. Variables such as weather, band conditions and when individuals can be on-site may make it difficult for

detailed schedule work, but we'll do the best we can. We'll make changes on the fly if necessary.

So, 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! If you want to participate, either as a "trainee" or mentor, please contact me (Tom, K9BTQ) to get on the list. See the masthead at the bottom of page 2 for contact information. **Our FD training is open to anyone** – not just WARAC members. And, **help us promote it by mentioning it to your ham friends!**

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. Also, we are seriously considering putting up the club's 4-element 15-meter beam, now that that band is opening with some regularity.

The 75/20 station will use a rotatable antenna, probably the DAP rotary dipole for 20m, 15m and 10m plus a 75-meter inverted V. This station will be housed in John Westimayer's motor home.

Be sure to attend the upcoming club 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.

Unfortunately, I will be out of town and won't be attending this meeting. Howard, WA9AXQ, and Chuck, W9WLX, will be handling the Field Day discussions.

**K6KU Keyers***(Continued from page 4)*

an extra dah would be sent. If a dah were sent last, a dit followed. Curtis also introduced a fully integrated key-board chip called the 8045.

Meantime, he introduced several keyers incorporating his ICs. The first was the EK430 incorporating the 8043 chip. In June 1982, Curtis Electro Devices produced its last keyer, the Lil' Bugger. Offered as the K5 or K5B, it incorporated the 8044 or the 8044B chip, respectively. Both models sold for \$39.95 and were quite popular.

In spring of 1986, Curtis introduced the 8044ABM chip. It incorporated selectable A or B modes and the speed meter, becoming an industry standard. In the 1980s, however, microcontrollers were making serious headway and Curtis chips were no longer in demand. MFJ took over part of the line and Curtis Electro Devices ceased operations in April 2000.

**Upcoming Meeting Programs***June 8***Field Day 2010**

by Chuck Dellis, W9WLX

*July 13***RF Aspects of Utility Metering**

By George Dunco, AA9SR

*August 10***K5D Desecheo Island DXpedition**

By Ron Gorski, N9AU

**Program suggestions?****Let us know - Contact a Board member!**



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



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

*Wedding  
 Anniversaries*

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

*(Continued from page 2)*

**Field Day** – Chairman Tom Macon reported that plans are still in the air - such as how many stations, what bands and what antennas are to be used. He did say that the focus for 2010 will again be on training, and the Crystal Ridge site is going to be the location again this year. He discussed a training session, possibly to be held instead of the June Board meeting, June 22, which is just before Field Day, which happens June 26 and 27. Tom mentioned he might be gone for his usual Field Day program at the June 8 regular club meeting. He is looking for a spokesperson to do that for him. Chuck Dellis indicated he might be able to handle that program.

**Contacting Members** – Tom said that two former members to renewed as a result of emails he sent out asking whether former members wanted to renew.

**Audit Of Club Books** – Howard said he had nothing to

report. He just needed to get his “task” done so the audit could proceed.

**Programs** – June’s program will be about Field Day, either by Tom Macon, or by Chuck Dellis. July will be on Using RF to Read Utility Meters, by George Dunco. August will be a program by Ron Gorski who will be doing his K5D Desecheo Island DX-pedition program. September will be “Bring in a Homebrew Project” night. October is election night.

**Homebrew Challenge** – Chuck Craven told the Board he would be doing several articles on his “challenge,” with the challenge running from September 2010 to February 2011. A show and tell will happen at the regular February club meeting, to end the “challenge.”

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR

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**One-time Adjustment of Tower Polarization**

Here’s a video of a 1350 foot Loran tower being taken down in about 12 seconds. This took place in Port Clarence, Alaska in late April. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zqj1hy9NS8>

Our video of the falling Field Day tower doesn’t quite compete.

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**President’s Shack**

*(Continued from page 1)*

long and interesting history. Unfortunately, homebrewing has become harder to do today because of the miniaturization of electronics that has occurred over the years. But we hams still homebrew items. Look at QST over the last several issues. The May issue talked about the ARRL Homebrew Challenge II to build a 50 Watt linear amplifier. The article recognized the winners and two designs had a cost of less than \$30.00! The June QST describes the challenge’s winning design, which was built for \$28.36. Looking ahead to our September meet-

ing, the program will feature homebrew items that you have done. So, think about what you could bring to the meeting and show to us. There will also be a club homebrew challenge presented at the meeting. More on that next month.

The program for the June meeting will be the presentation of the final plans for our Field Day event. This will be presented by Chuck, W9WLX, because Tom, K9BTQ, the Field Day chairman, will be out of town.

See you at the meeting.  
 Howard, WA9AXQ

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