



Hamtrix

Volume 54, Issue 7 July, 2009

In this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <i>The President's Shack</i> | 1 |
| <i>Field Day Wrap-Up</i> | 1 |
| <i>Meeting Minutes</i> | 2 |
| <i>Scuttlebutt</i> | 4 |
| <i>Contesting Tidbits</i> | 4 |
| <i>For Sale</i> | 4 |
| <i>Upcoming Programs</i> | 4 |
| <i>Birthdays and Anniversaries</i> | 5 |



The President's Shack

by Howard Smith,
WA9AXQ

We had the best turnout for Field Day 2009, compared to the past several years. The Field Day training session was well attended, and many of those who attended came to Field Day. They had a chance to operate under the guidance of a seasoned operator, really the best way to learn. There were also more members this year during setup and tear down. This meant that we were ready and waiting for the contest to start, rather than

finishing up after the contest had started. The VHF station on 6 meters was not very productive because of spotty band conditions. The HF bands were in better shape, and we did fairly well. Tom, K9BTQ, Field Day Chairman has a Field Day article in this Hamtrix.

There are a number of Thank You's that I want to make. The first one is to Tom, K9BTQ, our Field Day chairman. Tom put forth extra effort this year, organizing and then teaching the Field Day Training course. There are a lot of other behind the scenes activities that he also does to see that Field Day happens the way we need it to. Next is to my XYL, Vicky, for making that big pot of Jim White's legendary chili. She also made a

(Continued on page 5)

Meetings & Events



July 14

Club Meeting

Program:

Volunteer Examiners

by Tom Fuszard, KF9PU
7:00 PM Church Basement

July 28

Board Meeting

7:00 PM Church Office

August 2

Material Due for Next
Hamtrix

August 11

Next Club Meeting

WRAP-UP

FIELD DAY 2009

By Tom Macon, K9BTQ
FD Chairman

Field Day 2009 was different by design because of our emphasis on training. Of course, time spent with training caused our QSO totals to be reduced but this was a small price to pay. I think we had some very good interaction between our "trainees" (for lack of a better term) and "mentors", so it seemed that we accomplished our mission. And I think everyone had just as much fun and enjoyment as in past years in spite of our new focus.

But that's just my opinion. What did you think of Field Day for 2009? In particular, how do *you* think the training effort went? Please forward your comments to me or other Board members.

There were more people there to have

fun this year – about 20 on site at one time or another, thanks to our "trainees". Joining us for the first time this year were Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, Brian Ganiere, KC9LYZ, Frank Humpal, KA9FZR, and Jeff

(Continued on page 3)

| QSO's by Band | | | |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Band | CW | PH | Total |
| 6 | 2 | 62 | 64 |
| 10 | | 38 | 38 |
| 15 | | 92 | 92 |
| 20 | 23 | 174 | 197 |
| 40 | 104 | 145 | 249 |
| 80 | | 107 | 107 |
| Total | 129 | 618 | 747 |



From the Minutes...

By Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR
Secretary

**Minutes of the General Meeting
June 9, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM by President Howard Smith. There were no visitors, so there were no introductions.

Minutes – there was not a quorum present at this point, so no vote was to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was held.

Lynn, K9KR, was not present, so there was no update for WIQP.

Howard asked if anyone had completed the WAS challenge. John, K9IAC, said he had just completed it. No one else reported significant progress.

Howard asked how many people use the club repeater. Bob, KC9AGX, said he uses it nearly every day around 9:00AM. No one else indicated that they used it except for the off-Tuesday evening net that hasn't been well attended of late. Discussion followed as to whether the club should continue to support the repeater. No conclusion was reached.

Howard also asked if Phil, W9NAW, and John, N9LGD, had made arrangement to complete the repeater tower and antenna. Phil said he would not have time until after Field Day, in July.

Program – Howard then turned the meeting over to Tom, K9BTQ, for his presentation on Field Day. Tom began by going through his list of Field Day action items. He discussed a number of planning items in detail.

Upon completing this, he then presented a slide show that showed pictures of past FD's plus informational items about this year's effort. He emphasized the "ground school" operator class to be held on June 23 as part of this years training theme. A review of FD setup as also included.

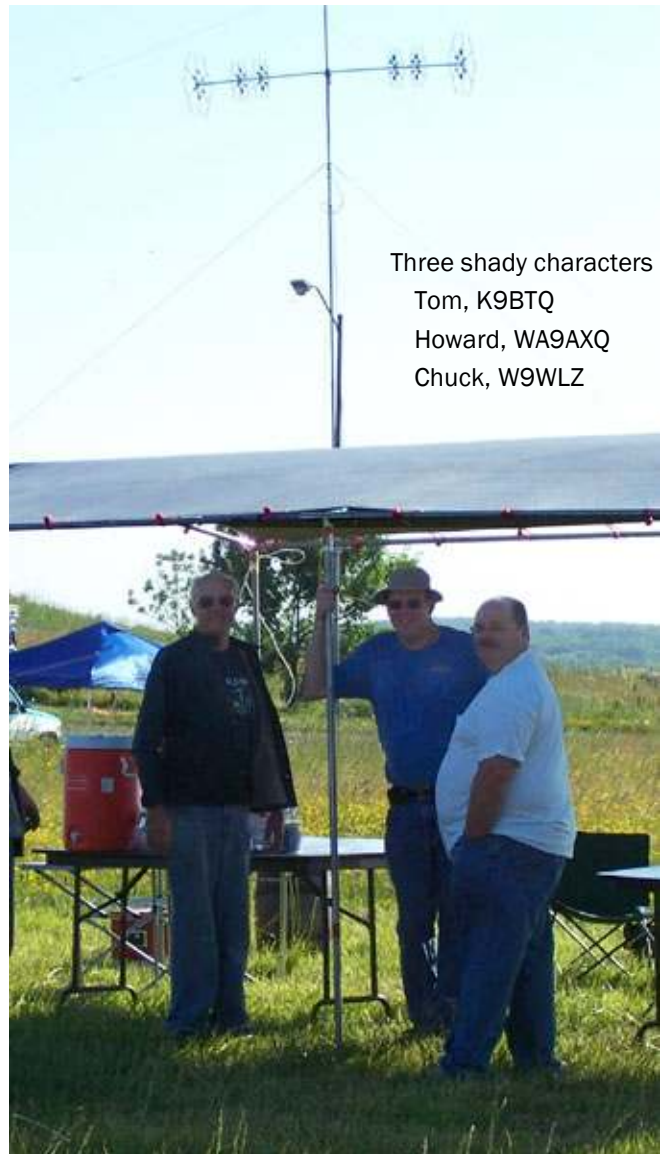
After the slide show, Tom showed a movie clip from WARAC's 1972 Field Day, including the infamous falling

tower disaster.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM, followed by refreshments and eyeball QSO's.

For the Secretary,
Tom Macon, K9BTQ

There was no Board Meeting in June



Three shady characters
Tom, K9BTQ
Howard, WA9AXQ
Chuck, W9WLZ

WARAC Officers and Board

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| President | J. Howard Smith, WA9AXQ | 414.425-5626 |
| Vice President | Thomas W. Macon, K9BTQ | 414.543-3878 |
| Secretary | Lynn C. Tamblyn, K9KR | 262.534-9655 |
| Treasurer | Richard M. Wood, W9JBE | 262.542-5118 |
| Director (2009) | George Dunco, AA9SR | 262.782-6325 |
| Director (2010) | Chuck Craven, WB9PUB | 262.642-7628 |
| Director (1 year) | Robert F Zach, KC9AGX | 414.427-0333 |
| Board Chairperson | J. Howard Smith, WA9AXQ | 414.425-5626 |

Hamtrix – Editor & Publisher

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FIELD DAY 2009 WRAP-UP

(Continued from page 1)

Tamblyn, KC9NPZ. Also, Josh Therrian, WI9JST, who spent time with us on 2006 and 2007 Field Days, joined us again. All five of these fellows attended our Field Day "Ground School" class on June 23.

And the newcomers made a significant contribution to our results. Chuck, W9WLX, did a total of 130 QSO's, 100 of which were on CW! Good work, Chuck! Also, Jeff, KC9NPZ, contributed 80 Q's on 75, 20 and 15m phone.

This year we fielded two HF stations and a VHF station, sticking to the standard WARAC Field Day formula that has been used several years now. The 75/20/15 meter station used the Mosley TA33 Junior triband beam and an inverted V for 75 meters, and was set up in a motor home supplied by Jackie, KC9MJO. The 40 meter station was again located in Mike, N9ESC's camper. Antennas were a 40-meter dipole and a DAP tribander that was used on 10 meters with a bit of 20 CW thrown in.

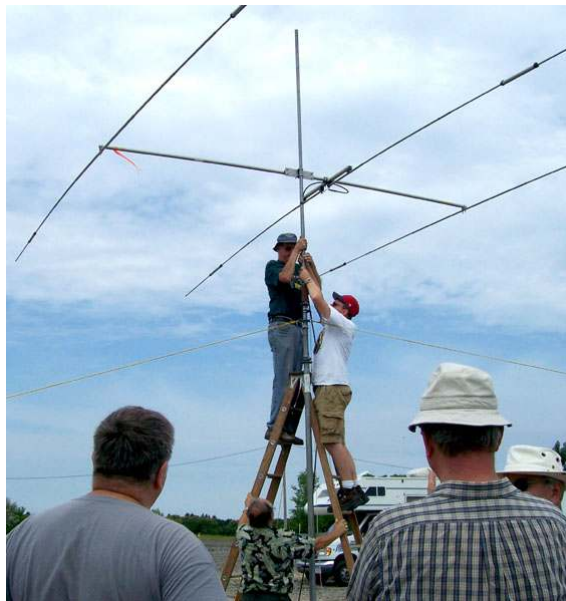
Setup went well considering that we put up four masts and three rotatable antennas. We completed the major setup by around 11:30, in time for lunch. There were, however, a few problems getting details squared away, which resulted in some stations not starting at 1:00 pm.

Besides operating, the food was a focal point of the event. Jim White's now-famous Field Day chili, prepared by Howard, WA9AXQ and XYL Vicki, was as good as usual. Besides the chili, brats rounded out the Saturday evening meal, along with complementary items including Vicki's brownies. Saturday lunch featured sub sandwiches and lunch on Sunday offered a final opportunity to enjoy chili and brats. Phil, W9NAW, provided coffee overnight and donuts on Sunday morning.

The weather could have been worse but could have been better, too. Fortunately, the hot, muggy weather earlier in the week departed on Friday so that Saturday was a comfortable day. The worst part of Saturday evening storms passed north of us but we did get a steady rain for about an hour. Sunday was sunny and dry but very windy and, as a result, the tent Mike, N9ESC, had set up near his camper was demolished. This is the second year in a row that Mike lost a tent on Field Day. Our antennas survived with no problems, although the wind made the takedown process a bit more challenging.

It was no surprise that, with storms in the vicinity, QRN levels were high on 75 meters. In spite of this, it was possible to make Q's, although at a reduced rate. As dawn approached, static levels subsided and there were about two hours of good conditions before the band began to shorten.

Considering our lack of sunspots, both 10-meters and 15-meters were open during much of the weekend. Six meters also helped with 64 QSO's.



Tom, K9BTQ, and Jeff, KC9NPZ, prepare to push up the triband beam as Chuck, WB9PUB, and Bob, KC9AGX look on.

Ham Happenings

Around the area

Ozaukee Radio Club

Wed, July 8
7:30PM

Grafton Senior Center
1665 7th. Ave.
Grafton

CQ3TUE

Tues. July 11
11:15AM

Old Country Buffet
16750 W Bluemound Rd

Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club

Wed. July 29
7:30PM

Germantown Police Dept
Germantown

Milwaukee Radio Amateur Club (MRAC)

Thurs, July 30
7:00PM

Redemption Lutheran Church
4057 N. Mayfair Rd

South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Wed. August 5
7:00PM

Legion Post 434
9327 S Shepard Ave
Oak Creek

Swapfest July 11

Amateur Radio Testing

Saturday, July 25
9:30AM

Amateur Electronic Supply
5720 W Good Hope Rd

NOTE

Please do not contact meeting places for information.

(Continued on page 5)

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**

**Put your name
in this box**



Write an Article

This means

You!

Please??

Scuttlebutt...

- Congratulations to John Zach, K9IAC, for completing his WARAC WAS award. The deadline is the upcoming July club meeting. How are **you** doing? Reminder: 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
- Our repeater was down for a few days in late June because of construction work in Howard's basement. It's back on as of Monday, June 29

CONTESTING TIDBITS

- July represents a bit of a lull in the annual contesting calendar, although there are 19 contests listed in the Contest Corral in July QST. There are no state QSO parties scheduled.
- The ARRL 10 Meter contest results are published in July QST and WARAC earned 13th place in the Local Club category with five members sending in logs for a total of 15,792 points. See page 77.

Here's a tidbit from the ARRL Contest Update, contributed by K5ZD:

- BIC - an abbreviation for the most potent long-contest winning technique ever discovered: **Butt In Chair**. See "How To Sleep Your Way To the Top" - <http://moneywatch.bnet.com/career-advice/feature/sleep-your-way-to-the-top/278865/>.

For Sale

The following items have been donated to WARAC and are for sale:

- 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.

Upcoming Meeting Programs

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.



- July 7 - Dick Barcz, WR9Y
- July 14 - Tom Macon, K9BFL
- July 18 - John Westmayer, N9LGD
- July 27 - Bob Zach, KC9AGX
- August 5 - Greg Hudziak, N9OEH
- August 7 - Mike Wember, W9JWZ
- August 8 - Bob Scrip, WD9ANY

*Wedding
Anniversaries*

- July 19 - Jim and Sharon White
- July 20 - Dick and Lynn Barcz
- August 2 - Phil and Phyllis Tollefson



www.warac.org

President's Shack
(Continued from page 1)

double batch of her famous brownies. I never take any of them home. Then, thank you to all of you who came to learn about contesting, and operating. I hope you had a very good time and I would like to see you join our club. Last, but not least, is all of our club members who always come out for Field Day. Without your efforts, this event just would not happen.

The presentation at the July meeting will be by Tom Fuszard, KF9PU. Tom is a member of the MRAC VEC organization, and is the immediate past chairman of the

National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC). His presentation is about the history of the VEC program and NCVEC in particular. At one time or another we all have to use the VEC services, as they are the organization that administers the tests that we need to pass to qualify for or upgrade a ham license. Our club uses the MRAC VEC organization for the testing that is offered during our Midwinter Swapfest. This should be an interesting presentation.

73,
Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

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Field Day Wrap-up
(Continued from page 3)

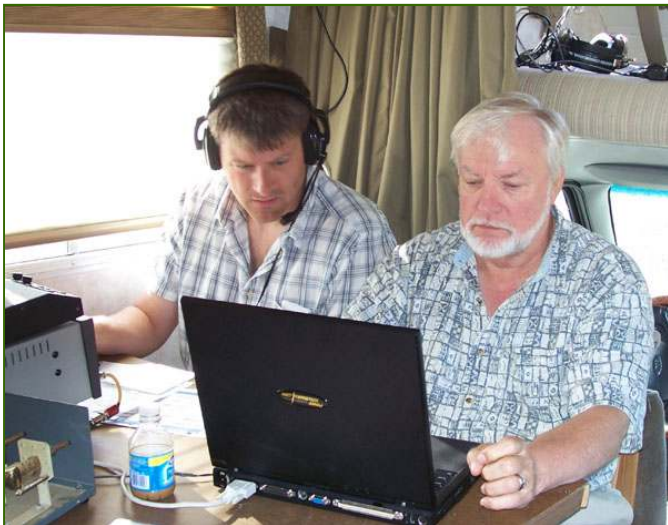
We also had two important visitors, Tom Barnum, KC9ALL, Disaster Action Team Chairman for the Red Cross, and Russ Spahn, N9DXQ, Fire Chief of the City of Greenfield. The presence of these two gentlemen on our site gains us 200 bonus points.

The takedown process went smoothly in spite of the windy conditions, with the last vehicles leaving the site

around 2:45pm.

Again, a great big thank you to everyone who participated and I hope y'all had fun!

.....



Father-son team Jeff, KC9NPZ and Lynn, K9KR on the air.



Sunday morning dawns clear and cool.

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.