



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

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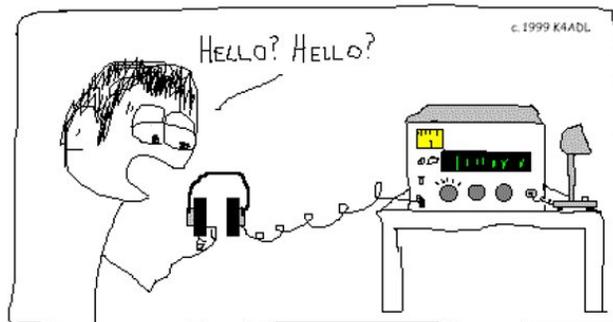
Volume 60, Issue 7 July, 2013

## JULY CLUB HAPPENINGS

**Club Meeting**  
**July, 9th 2013**  
**Program**

New Ham getting started  
Program and discussion

**Join us for a pre-meeting dinner**  
**at Johnny V's Classic Cafe**  
**1650 S 84th St at 5:00pm**



THE TRANSITION FROM SHORT-WAVE-LISTENER TO HAM OPERATOR  
WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT FOR EDMUND.

<http://www.qsl.net/k4adl/swl.html>



WARAC 2-meter net  
Every Wednesday at 8pm  
MATC repeater 147.045 standard offset  
127.3 Hz CTCSS

**NEW** club jackets and hats!  
Go to club Web site and click on  
The GOLD MEDAL IDEAS block  
[For more info or click here](#)



# *The President's Shack July 2013*

Thanks to Steve Dryja, NO9B, we now have a Vice President! Steve volunteered to take the job and was elected at a special election at the June club meeting.

Field Day 2013 started out a bit damp but things dried out and a good time was had by all. Thanks to Chuck, W9WLX, for putting the event together - see Chuck's Field Day wrap-up article in this issue. Also, thanks to all who participated, especially our newer members and soon-to-be members.

The results of the 2013 Wisconsin QSO Party have been published on our website at <http://www.warac.org/wqp/2013/13results.pdf>.

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone who participated! Plaques and certificates will be awarded in July. The WIQP committee will meet on Monday, July 8 at the K9BTQ QTH (3547 S 95th St) at 7:00PM to begin planning the 2014 event. Anyone interested in the inner workings of WIQP is invited to attend.

We have recently welcomed several new members into our club who are also new hams. We want to encourage them and help them as much as we can, and this will be the focus of our July club meeting. All new hams and prospective hams are invited to attend, and bring your questions! Call it mentoring or elmering, this is what we do to help the newcomers.

Possible topics for future meeting programs include use of Spotting, Official Observer and RF Exposure. Stay tuned for details.

Saturday, July 6 is the South Milwaukee Club's Swapfest (Oak Creek) and we have a lot of donated

items that will be for sale there. Contact Phil, W9NAW, or John, K9IAC for details.

Don't forget our before-meeting dinner at Johnny V's Classic Café, 1650 S. 84th St. at 5:00PM.

See you at the meeting! Bring a friend!  
Tom, K9BTQ

## **From the Editor**

This summer has been much cooler than last summer. That means the lawn mower is getting much more use! I'm not doing much ham radio, but am keeping busy. The middle of the month I will be out in Summit, West Virginia helping the Boy Scouts run their Jamboree.

The site is a new site and was recently donated to the scouts. I have nicked named it a Boy Scout disneyland: there will be zip lines, shooting, extreme sports, climbing and even Ham Radio. K2BSA will be operating during the whole Jamboree.

My job doesn't involve the radio station but I might bring the FT-817 along and if time permits go over to the station and see what is happening. I did buy a solar charger for my batteries and will see how that works in the real world. It still should be fun to play with. They are only allowing about a sea bag of gear, clothes etc. So I will have to see how much stuff I have room for and how much I want to carry to the site.

Not much else to report. I didn't make it to the field day site this year. As always with trying to be in two places at once it doesn't take much to change the plans. I was running dogs at a coursing event of a club I belong to. With equipment problems it went way over the expected time. By the time I got home it was too late to stop by and still get up early to run the dogs Sunday. The funny thing was while we thought we were really doing a poor job with the problems we had, someone who was visiting us mentioned how glad she was that we kept things running well. You can never tell!

73 Frank KA9FZR

# **WARAC General Meeting Minutes**

## **June 11, 2013**

### **Introduction**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by President, Tom Macon, K9BTQ. Overall meeting attendance was 19 with one visitor.

### **Program**

The evening's program, Field Day Plans, was given by Chuck Dellis, W9WLX and Wisconsin QSO Party Results was given by Tom Macon, K9BTQ.

### **Business**

Call was made for VP nominations. Steve Dryja, NO9B was nominated and elected.

The WARAC scholarship winner this year is Kathryn Swenson, KC9OYG from Viroqua, Wisconsin.

Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, gave an update regarding the scholarship funding. Under consideration is endowing the funds for maximum return on investment. Endowment would mean securing additional funding; donations and fund raisers were proposed.

Motion was made and accepted to approve the May meeting minutes as published in Hamtrix.

The club has miscellaneous items for sale. See Phil, W9NAW for first dibs. Items will be offered for sale at the South Milwaukee ARC's swapfest on July 6.

### **Announcements**

Steve Dryja presented an idea for dual 24 hour clocks. If interested, let Steve know. The movements are \$8 a piece.

Matt Slavik upgraded to extra and has a call sign change; he is now AC9EP.

2 meter net every Wednesday at 8:00 pm on 147.045, + offset, PL 127.3. Join in!

CQ Tuesday, 1:00 pm 3rd Tuesday at Country Buffet

The Nut Net breakfast is at Genesis Restaurant, 8:30 am, 4th Tuesday of the month.

Johnny V's is the place for the WARAC pre-meeting dinner. The dinner starts at 5:00 and everyone is encouraged to participate.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX  
Secretary WARAC

# **WARAC Board Meeting**

## **June 25, 2013**

Howard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Tom Macon, K9BTQ, Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, Dave Schank, KA9WXN, Steve Dryja, NO9B, and Frank Humpal, KA9FZR.

### **Field Day Review**

Chuck Dellis gave an update on the status of Field Day. All planning is on track. Howard and Vicky Smith will provide the food again this year however we will need an alternate plan for storing and heating the food for Sunday. Chuck will provide a contingent plan.

### **Wisconsin QSO Party**

WIQP winners have been notified. Plaques and certs need to be completed and potential changes are up for discussion. The QSO party committee will meet on July 8 at 7:00 pm.

### **WAWC**

No update. Question submitted regarding use of WIQP log for QSL confirmation in WAWC. This will be referred to Lynn Tamblyn as WAWC Chairman. Tom Macon will follow-up with Lynn.

### **Programs**

An Elmering program is scheduled for the July meeting. Howard will collect data from the board that will be used to facilitate the program.

August & September, TBD.

October, ARRL, new Section Manager (tentative).

### **2013 Budget**

No further actions at this time.

### **Miscellaneous**

Howard is continuing to investigate our options for a new club banner. Options include a 3'x6' replacement. Pricing the banner with several vendors is underway.

The July board meeting has been cancelled due to several board members' availability. Frank Humpal will publish the announcement in Hamtrix.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX  
Secretary WARAC

# Field Day 2013

By Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, Field Day Chairman



Thanks to everyone who participated in Field Day this year. It was great to see many of the new WARAC members at Field Day this year. The club had a very successful event and everyone is to be commended. West Allis Radio Amateur Club ran in the 2A class, with station configurations similar to last year.

It is fortunate that Mother Nature cooperated because it was not looking good on Saturday morning. With the equipment and antenna gear loaded, the crew was off to the site to set up. While en route through rain, a quick QSO on 14.290 (Milwaukee/Florida Net) proved equally disturbing--the band was barely open. The only Q5 stations heard were locals, George, AA9SR and Gene, W9RYT. Was this going to be a good radio weekend?

As the crew arrived at the site, the weather broke and allowed us to get in the field. The field was very wet from heavy rain the night before and a few arrived with waders; good planning on their part! Setup was completed in record time this year, clearly a benefit from our ongoing simplification efforts. By 1600z, two hours ahead of schedule, the two HF stations were on the air and had made a few test QSOs. Field Day was coming together; a break in the weather, improved propagation, and an uncomplicated setup were just what we needed to make it a good radio weekend!

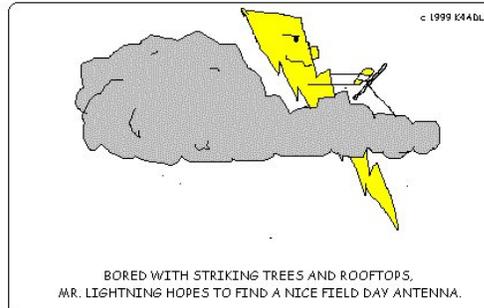
Antennas this year consisted of two dipoles and two Yagis. The 80/20/10 meter station ran all three bands on an 80 meter flat top dipole fed with ladder line. Support for the antenna was mast less, using trees on each end with a nominal height of about 50 feet. The 40/15 meter station used an Alpha Delta DXCC multi-band dipole in a flat top configuration with a single 40 foot mast and a tree as supports. The VHF station ran Yagis for 6 and 2 meters on a single rotatable mast.

Last year's experiment with the N1MM logging program continues to evolve with both HF stations using N1MM this year. Initially employed to take advantage of its robustness with digital Qs, N1MM may be adopted solely in the future.

Total contacts were 875 this year, down 9% over last year. 80 meters did not prove to be a good Field Day band due to significant regional thunderstorms. There were challenging conditions on Saturday night and Sunday morning, making Qs difficult amongst the QRN. Had 80 meters been in better shape, we would have likely surpassed last year's total. 6 meters proved to be slightly stronger this year, up to 85 Qs from last year's 39. This is still a very different band from 2011, where 245 Qs were logged, making it the strongest contributor that year.

40 meters was the strongest band this year. Conditions were very good with most of the search and pounce QSOs requiring a single call. Though the band was just as busy as last year, it seemed a bit easier to pull out the desired stations. 20 meters performed well and was right on the heels of 40, with 6 and 15 meters contributing modestly. 80 and 10 meters were disappointing and we had just one honorary 2 meter contact. Our Phone/CW split remains about the same as last year, 55% Phone to 45% CW. Due to the excellent conditions on 40 meters, there was a change in plan, abandoning any digital efforts. The QSO rates remained very good on 40, so it made better sense to continue to work the Phone and CW Qs.

Band	CW	Phone	Total
80	19	7	26
40	162	224	386
20	185	125	310
15	24	36	60
10	0	7	7
6	0	85	85
2	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>875</b>



Howard Smith, WA9AXQ and XYL Vicky prepared the food this year. The fare was excellent and included hamburgers, brats, brownies, and Jim White's famous chili. Adjustments were made to handle the food for Sunday at the site, which worked very well. Howard and Vicky—thank you! Special thanks to Tom Macon, K9BTQ, Phil Gural, W9NAW, and Howard Smith for taking the lead on site pre-planning and to Phil Gural for securing campers for two stations. Thanks to Jim Kehoss, KC9RNY, for the use of his camper, and generator at the third station, John Westimayer, N9LGD, for the use of his tent, as well as George Dunco, AA9SR, for his generator. Is it too early to start planning Field Day 2014?

73, Chuck W9WLX



Clip art from Jeff's K1NSS web site  
<http://www.dashtoons.com>



# Field Day 2013 Pictures





## Tornado safty tips

Tornadoes are one of nature's most powerful and destructive forces. Here's some advice on how to prepare for a tornado and what to do if you're caught in a twister's path.

### Safety Tips

- Prepare for tornadoes by gathering emergency supplies including food, water, medications, batteries, flashlights, important documents, road maps, and a full tank of gasoline.
- When a tornado approaches, anyone in its path should take shelter indoors—preferably in a basement or an interior first-floor room or hallway.
- Avoid windows and seek additional protection by getting underneath large, solid pieces of furniture.
- Avoid automobiles and mobile homes, which provide almost no protection from tornadoes.
- Those caught outside should lie flat in a depression or on other low ground and wait for the storm to pass.

#### Officers and Board President

Tom Macon, K9BTQ

#### Vice President

Steve Dryja, NO9B

#### Secretary

Chuck Dellis, W9WLX

#### Treasurer

Howard Smith WA9AXO

#### Directors

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR

Dave Schank, KA9WXN

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W9FK  
<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.