



Hamtrix

Volume 55, Issue 8 August, 2010

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Chuck WB9PUB needs your help with the program for the September club meeting. See page 4

Meetings & Events

**August 10
Club Meeting**

K5D DXpedition

by Ron Gorski, N9AU
7:00 PM Church Basement

August 24

Board Meeting

7:00 PM Church Basement

September 5

Material Due for Next
Hamtrix

September 14

Next Club Meeting



The President's Shack

by Howard Smith,
WA9AXQ

I guess one could say that July was rained out. I hope you all had dry basements. My daughter Tina, KB9TPA, had one of her two sump pumps fail, so she had water in her basement. Fortunately, she lives in Menomonee Falls, so it was just rainwater but she now has basement repairs to be done to keep the water out, and some landscape work to route the

water from her neighbor's back yard away from her house. Weren't hundred year floods supposed to happen once in a hundred years, not every two years?

At the board meeting, Chuck, W9WLX, volunteered for the nominating committee. He was also on this committee last year. I did not have any club member volunteer at the last meeting, so I am asking again. I need one club member to volunteer to be on this committee. The job is pretty simple: contact club members and encourage them to consider being nominated for one of the four officer positions or a board position. The board meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month and officers and board

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We're Invited!

To the annual Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club Picnic

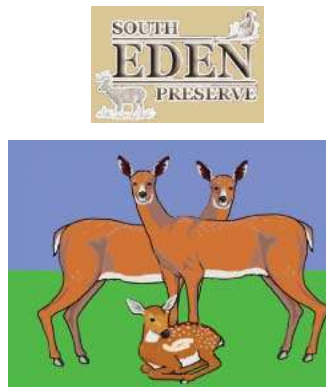
Besides getting together with great bunch of hams, you can tour Phil Majerus's South Eden Preserve and Hunting Lodge, plus Phil's extensive John Deere tractor collection.

For more info on South Eden Preserve, see www.southeden.com/

Saturday, August 14 • 3 p.m. to ?
at Phil Majerus' South Eden Preserve
N2701 Hilltop Road, Town of Eden

Brats, Hamburgers,
and Hot Dogs.
Sodas & Water provided.
No alcoholic beverages.
Please bring a dish to
share or a \$5 contribution
per family to help with
expenses. Thanks!

Open to all hams & Clubs
RSVP Required!
Please RSVP to
"KD9ZP@fdlhams.org"
so we know how much
food to have on hand!



Talk in on 145.430 Tone 97.4





From the Minutes...

By Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR
Secretary

**Minutes of the General Meeting
July 13, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by President Howard Smith.

Visitors– Jim Kehoss, KC9RNY, and Terry Schima, KC9SMT, spoke. Members then introduced themselves.

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

New Member – Terry Schima, KC9SMT, was voted into club membership by those present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wisconsin QSO Party – Chairman Lynn Tamblyn verbally presented some results to those in attendance, indicating that the full results were on our website.

Field Day – Chairman Tom Macon indicated that the previous article in Hamtrix basically covered his report.

Alphabet Contest – Howard presented Charles Craven with his certificate for having won the contest.

JOTA – Lynn questioned whether there was any interest in participating in 2010. After discussion, it was determined this will be discussed at the Board meeting.

September Homebrew Night – Charles Craven indicated his proposed “homebrew challenge” will begin with our September regular meeting, as the night when club members should bring in homebrew projects. He explained the “challenge,” and also indicated he will be doing articles about the challenge for Hamtrix.

Tower – Annette Hooker mentioned that her tower had come down during the tornado that went thru Big Bend in the past several weeks. She asked for help. Lynn indicated he would stop by and report to the Board.

Band Activity – Dick Wood indicated that 20 meters seems to be opening more and more. He referenced it be-

ing open to Europe and Russia.

Program – Remote Meter Reading – George Dunco, AA9SR, talked about how Wisconsin Electric Power does their meter reading. After some humor, he provided background as to how and why this is being done. Thru various steps, meter reading went from a person viewing each meter each month, marking down the reading(s), to using hand held devices, to a radio being used to gather the readings by driving around during the gathering, to the present system where no people are needed, as it is all done via a packet like system with the meter transmitting the readings automatically. Most meters have now been replaced by these radio units, which contain a small transmitter and some storage. The readings are gathered by a cellular network point to point, and sent to a central storage area for processing. There is also a standard phone line backup. The data itself is kept in several places, as a backup, in case one storage area is wiped out, like during a tornado.

Model Airplane Flight – Tom Macon then presented a short video of a flight of his son’s model airplane, using an electric motor as the power, along with a camera mounted on the plane pointed down, to record the video.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM, followed by refreshments and eyeball QSO’s.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR

**Minutes of the Board Meeting
July 27, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:24 PM. by Chairman Howard Smith.

Board members present were: Chuck Dellis, George Dunco, Tom Macon, Howard Smith, and Lynn Tamblyn.

WI QSO Party - Chairman Lynn advised that 2010 WIQP was basically done, with the exception of the electronic certificates being sent to the respective winners.

Audit Of Club Books – Howard said he wants to get this done. Discussion on setting a date was held.

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WARAC Officers and Board			Hamtrix – 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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Treasurer	Chuck Craven, WB9PUB	262.642-7628	
Director (2011)	Frank Humpal, KA9FZR	414.425-0794	
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	

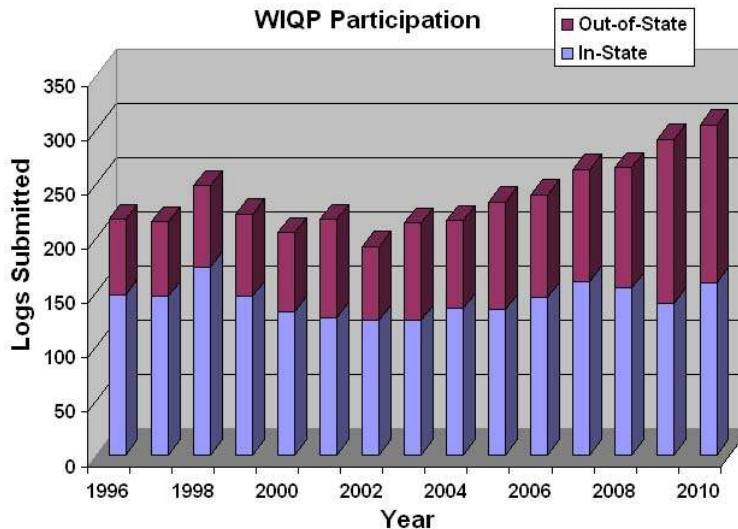
THE IN'S AND OUT'S OF WIQP

Here's a graphical look at WIQP log submission numbers for the last 15 years, showing a steady increase over the last nine years. This year's 304 submitted logs is the most ever.

It's interesting to note that, although there are year-to-year fluctuations, the number of in-state submissions (blue bars on the graph) has not changed a lot over the 15 years. 1998 still holds the record of 173 in-state entries.

Out-of-state participation, on the other hand, has doubled in the last 10 years. 2009 was significant in that out-of-state submissions exceeded in-state submissions for the first time – 52% to 48%. As Lynn pointed out in the 2010 Results, this is possibly because of the ARRL *Year of the State QSO Party* promotion. This year, 2010, the in-state percentage rose to 52% due to a slight drop in out-of-state submissions.

If you haven't done so, you need to check out Lynn's excellent report of the [2010 Results](#) on our club's website. Also, you can access the results of previous years by clicking on [WIQP History](#) and [All-time Standings](#).



2010 Wisconsin QSO Party Results Are Available

On our WARAC Website

www.warac.org/wqp/2010/10results.pdf

Thanks to Lynn, K9KR, WIQP Chairman

Harold Burt, W9HB, operated from the back seat of his car in the 2010 WIQP Single Operator Mobile category, logging 770 Q's, all on CW. He traveled 395 miles through 17 counties. His efforts earned him a fifth place finish with 165580 points.



Ham Happenings

Around the area

Ozaukee Radio Club

Wed, August 11

7:30PM

Grafton Senior Center

1665 7th. Ave.

Grafton

CQ3TUE Lunch

Tues. August 17

11:15AM

Old Country Buffet

16750 W Bluemound Rd

Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club

Wed. August 25

7:30PM

Germantown Police Dept

N112 W16877 Mequon Road

Germantown

Milwaukee Radio Amateur Club (MRAC)

Thurs. August 26

7:00PM

Redemption Lutheran Church

4057 N. Mayfair Rd

South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Wed. September 1

7:00PM

Legion Post 434

9327 S Shepard Ave

Oak Creek

Amateur Radio Testing

Saturday, September 25

9:30AM

Amateur Electronic Supply

5720 W. Good Hope Rd.

Milwaukee, WI

www.w9rh.org/testing.htm

NOTE

Please do not contact meeting places for information.

WARAC David Knaus Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is 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

Articles Needed!

This newsletter cannot exist without material to publish. Please write an article - the topic is your choice. If you aren't comfortable with writing, that's not a problem.

Or if you see something of interest on the Internet or in another publication, please suggest it to ye editor!

Contact Tom, K9BTQ, Editor



Write an Article

This means You!

Please??

Upcoming Meeting Programs

August 10

K5D Desecheo Island DXpedition

By Ron Gorski, N9AU

September 14

Home Brew Show and Tell

by Chuck Craven, WB9PUB

Program suggestions?

Let us know - Contact a Board member!

I need your help with the September program!

Please bring in one or more of your home built projects and give a short description of it – that's all. You can talk about why you did the project, where you got it from and how you use it. If it's too large to bring in, bring pictures on a USB thumb drive (JPEG format). Or bring your own Power Point presentation (2007 or older format). I will have my laptop computer there to show the pictures/presentation. All projects are welcome as long as they are ham radio related.

- Chuck Craven, WB9PUB

Scuttlebutt...

- Louie, W9GSV, reports that to his knowledge, there are only four early members of WARAC that are still alive. They are
Ken Rogers, W9NUE
Fred Wendt, W9ZAG
Edgar Smith, W9DYO
Louie Golembiewski, W9GSV
Fred lives in northern Wisconsin. The other three live in the Milwaukee area and are current club members. WARAC was founded in 1954, 56 years ago.
- The 2010-2011 QSO party season is beginning with five state parties this month, beginning on August 14. They are Maryland-DC, New Jersey, Hawaii, Kansas and Ohio. For details, see the listing of state QSO parties on our website (www.warac.org/qp-list.htm) with links to their respective web pages.
- Another great contest is the North American QSO Party; (CW on Aug 7, 8; PH on Aug 21, 22). This is a fun contest with lots of activity. See ncjweb.com/naqprules.php.

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

THE NUT NET

By Tom Macon, K9BTQ



If you're tuning around on the upper end of 75 meters in the morning, you need to visit the Nut Net. It meets every morning except Sunday at around 8:15AM on 3982 kHz (weekdays) or 3985 kHz (Saturdays) for no particular purpose other than to ragchew.

Thinking back, I'm not sure how it began, but I believe it grew out of a weekly schedule between myself and Bill, K9BTP, an old high school buddy in Rhinelander. We did that sked right after the Milwaukee-Florida Net on 20-meters and, after a short time, other Milwaukee-Florida guys began to join in. Since some of the guys on the north end of the Milwaukee-Florida Net are outside of Milwaukee, it's hard to hear them on 20, so getting together on 75 was great for rehashing the day's happenings on the M-F Net. It became a daily ritual.

Soon, it got too big for a ragchew roundtable format and evolved into a loosely directed net. I began to refer to it as the Milwaukee-Florida Refugees Net, for lack of a better name. One day Tom, W9VBQ, said, "We could call it the Nut Net". That was a better name, and it stuck.

This was followed by some discussion about a logo that, at first, centered on squirrels, acorns and such things. Then someone (it may have been Tom again) suggested a mechanical nut. Again, that seemed like a better idea and it stuck.

The logo led to name badges and around 20 have been made. Since there is no official membership list, this is a good estimate of the number of members.

A couple of years ago, shortly before the Nut Net

started, Phil, W9NAW, instigated a monthly breakfast that included mostly WARAC members plus a few guys from the M-F Net. When the Nut Net happened, it quickly became the monthly Nut breakfast and attendance grew.

Now there are typically 10-12 attendees at the breakfast, which is the 4th Tuesday of the month at Genesis Restaurant, Hwy 100 and Beloit Road. Everyone is welcome. Join us, either on 75-meters or for breakfast – or both!

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Coming Next Month -

HOME BREW CHALLENGE

Here's something to look at in advance of the WARAC Homebrew Challenge to be announced in next month's Hamtrix.

Take a look at Ward Silver's *Hands-On Radio* column on page 57 of July 2010 QST. He discusses *Construction Techniques* for homebrew circuitry.

And in the Hints and Kinks column in the same issue (page 59) there is a bit on *Easier Perfboard Layouts* submitted by Bryant Julstrom, KC0ZNG.

Check out these articles and get ready for the WARAC Home Brew Challenge II!

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Here's the rig used by Brian Long, KB9LRD, in the 2010 Wisconsin QSO Party. Brian took first place in the Single Operator Technician category for the fifth consecutive year! He accomplished this by making 232 Q's, all on VHF and UHF, as he traveled through 15 counties.



August 5 - Greg Hudziak, N9CEH
 August 8 - Bob Scrip, WD9ANV
 August 18 - Jim Choroszy, NQ9X
 September 7 - Ken Rogers, W9NUE
 September 13 - Leroy Hass, KC9NST



www.warac.org

*Wedding
Anniversaries*

<None to report>

Minutes

(Continued from page 2)

Programs – August’s program will be by Ron Gorski, N9AU, who will be doing a Desecheo Island DX-pedition program. September’s program will be “Bring in a Homebrew Project” night. The Board discussed a number of possibilities for a program for October, as that is our annual election of officers meeting.

Club Jacket – George Dunco questioned the Board about doing a jacket proposal. George will contact Geiger for further information.

Fond du Lac Club Picnic – Lynn mentioned that the annual FDLARC picnic was going to happen August 14 at the farm. He will send an announcement for Hamtrix.

Elections – Howard mentioned that a Nominating Committee was needed. Chuck Dellis volunteered to be the Board representative. Howard will ask for a volunteer from the general membership to fill out that committee at the regular August meeting. The Board then discussed open Officer and Board positions,

which spilled over to including the Hamtrix editor position.

Club Dinner – Howard reported that the club dinner will be held November 14, 2010. The committee was still working on a speaker, the location and the member of the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR*

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Pun-atively Speaking . . .

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.
 She was engaged to a boyfriend with a wooden leg but broke it off.
 A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
 Dijon vu -- the same mustard as before.
 A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
 If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.

President's Shack

(Continued from page 1)

members are expected to attend this meeting. Please consider volunteering. The club needs you!

At the last club meeting Chuck, WB9PUB, announced his homebrew (no, not beer) project. The September meeting is the kickoff. It is also a chance for you to show off one or more of your homebrew projects. This is really simple to do. Bring your project with you, and tell the club members about it. It only takes 5 minutes to present it and answer a few questions. I am looking forward to seeing some great homebrew projects.

Have you noticed that Hamtrix has been a little thin the last few months? You can really do something about that. Tom, K9BTQ, is always looking for articles to use

in Hamtrix. If you would write an article about a subject that interests you, Tom can help polish what you wrote. It usually isn't too hard to write about something that you are involved in, so how about giving it a try? If several of you do this, then Hamtrix will be back to its normal size again. Thanks.

One of the many interesting activities in Ham Radio is the DXpedition. Traveling to some distant place to set up a ham station, and then making QSO's with the rest of the world is certainly an interesting adventure. At the upcoming meeting Ron, N9AU, will be presenting a video plus commentary about the K5D Desecheo Island DXpedition.

See you at the meeting,
Howard, WA9AXQ

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