



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

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Volume 60, Issue 7 August, 2013

## AUGUST CLUB HAPPENINGS



**Club Meeting  
July, 9th 2013**

**Program**

**Steve NO9B will talk  
on his W5GI Mystery antenna  
Join us for a pre-meeting dinner  
at Johnny V's Classic Cafe  
1650 S 84th St at 5:00pm**

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



Patrick Moretti KA1RB  
Will be holding Amateur Radio classes  
for tech and general Class Licenses  
at AES starting September 7, 2013 from  
9:30 to 2:30 for further info contact  
Patrick at KA1RB@ARRL.net

**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 August 2013

I hope your summer's not going as fast as mine. Wow, here it is August already. I must be having fun.

The program topic for the upcoming meeting will be the W5GI Mystery antenna by Steve, NO9B. Steve has put up this highly touted antenna and has done some serious evaluation. Come hear about it!

Our September program will be by Pat Moretti, KA1RB. Pat is an ARRL Official Observer Coordinator and will fill us in on his activities. At our October meeting, you will get to meet our new Wisconsin Section Manager, Gary Sorenson, W9ULK.

For your information  Pat Moretti, KA1RB, will be holding Ham Classes at AES on Saturdays 9:30 to 2:30 beginning September 7th. Classes will be for both Tech and General Class. Please contact Pat at [KA1RB@ARRL.net](mailto:KA1RB@ARRL.net) if you need further information.

At the July meeting we had good interaction with two new hams regarding the setup of equipment, antennas, etc. New members and new hams are welcome to bring up questions at any meeting or to contact members for help at any time.

Thanks to Chuck, W9WLX, for a great job as Field Day chairman and for last month's wrap-up program. Also, thanks to all who participated!

Saturday, July 6 was the South Milwaukee Swapfest and our sales of donated items went well but we still have a number of smaller items remaining. Contact Phil, W9NAW, or John, K9IAC for details.

Our club's Annual Dinner is coming up in

November. Stay tuned for details that will be published as soon as they're available.

And, as always, 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

In another article in the Hamtrix you can see that most of my time this month was spent getting ready and being at the Boy Scout Jamboree. It was interesting to say the least. It took me more than a couple days to get back into my routine when I got home. One of my sons is returning from Alabama having accepted a job here in Milwaukee. So the rest of the month has been spent checking out flats and apartments for them to live in when they get back here. They are pregnant with our first grandchild so we are excited about the whole thing!

Not much else to report this month. Have a good rest of the summer

Frank KA9FZR

# **WARAC General Meeting Minutes**

## **July 9, 2013**

### **Introduction**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by President, Tom Macon, K9BTQ. Overall meeting attendance was 16 with two visitors.

### **Program**

The evening's program was presented by Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, Field Day, 2013, Wrap-up. The second part of the program was Elmering, lead by Tom Macon. Everyone was encouraged to participate in the discussion.

### **Business**

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

Donated equipment and miscellaneous items were sold at the South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club's swapfest on July 6. \$600 in sales went to the WARAC scholarship fund.

Flyers for the January 2014, WARAC swapfest are available. See Phil Gural, W9NAW. Please help to get the word out early.

### **Announcements**

Tentative programs for future meetings include Spotting, RF Safety, and Meet Your ARRL Section Manager, Gary Sorensen, W9ULK.

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 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX  
Secretary WARAC



## The Boy Scout Jamboree

I was at the Boy Scout Jamboree held in Summit, WV from July 15 to the 24. I left home July 10 and returned home July 25 because I was on the staff. My job (commissioner) was to serve as the go between the troops and the administration of the camp.

While the boys were there we had somewhere between 30 to 40 thousand people on site. This number made it the third or fourth largest city in West Virginia. Also remember this was all done in tents. Even the staff mess hall (a tent) was two footballs field long, but still a tent! When you look at the numbers and you factor in that this was a brand new site things went very well but I'm sure the Boy Scouts also learned a lot.

I will jot down my thoughts on it including my attempt at ham radio operation.

Being away from a home, living in a tent, without your usual power grid to support your toys requires some changes. The camp was not fully prepared for the technology. AT&T had done a good job of having WIFI and cell tower access. I had an app on my Kindle Fire that showed what was available to hook up to. There were more than enough points to hook up to. Except my Kindle Fire didn't like any of them! I was able to borrow other devices to keep my e-mail count down.

The down side of all this connectivity was that there were many units that needed charging. You can gas up your car and be on your way in minutes, but it's not as easy when charging electrical equipment in your house you can leave it charge while you go about your day. At a charging station you have to babysit it while it charges taking time away from other fun stuff. The charging station at our base camp headquarters was originally solar powered but that

could not keep up with the demand. We ended up running a extension from one of our power panels to run it.

I heard of at least one kid saying the heck with it. I don't have to be calling all the time so he didn't worry about charging his phone and just enjoyed the camp. The world has changed. When I took troops to camp you had to almost threaten to pull teeth to get the kids to call home. Now they do it at the drop of a hat and some parents feel every problem should be rectified immediately. I'm sure some only refrained from calling the god responsible for the rain because he/she has an unlisted number.

I did bring my FT817 along with a solar panel and battery. Also I had my homemade zepp antenna along. Didn't get more than a few contacts. They were all with K2BSA the demo station at the Jamboree, I contacted them on their 2 meter repeater and 440 repeater. I also proved to my self that you can really abuse an antenna and still get out a little. I unrolled the zepp antenna on to the ground since I there was no supports near my tent, and was able to talk to K2BSA over a hill, a half mile or more way using five watts sideband received 59 signal report for my effort. The solar panel did do a good job of keeping the battery charged I also found the FT817 good for listening to the aircraft and helicopters flying around. I did try some CQ's on various bands but even the big guns were weak into my antenna so it didn't surprise me that I did not make contacts.

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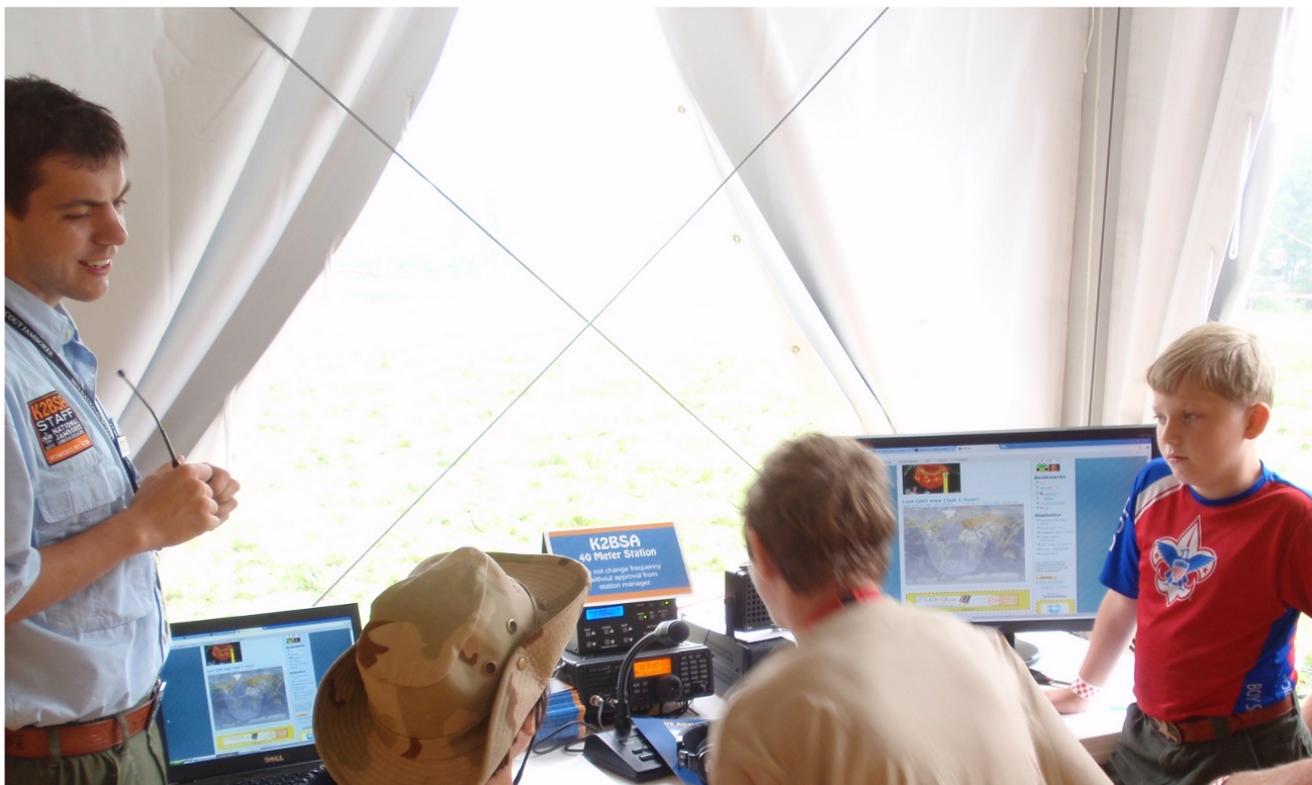
I did go up to K2BSA a couple times just to see what was happening. They had separate stations for most bands along with computers for logging. The antennas could have been better. Most were multiband verticals or horizontals and at least the operators I talked to felt the monoband ones in the past had been better. Also it was thought propagation was not too good at that site. There were a lot of hills around the area. Most of the operation was centered on the kids getting their radio merit badge and taking their ham radio test if they wanted. They also had fox hunts for the kids. I'm sure like many other sites at camp they were understaffed which was a continual problem at camp, along with many thunder storms running through. One of the base camp cell towers did take a lightning hit. Our base camp was treated to the sight of blue flames jumping out of the fan in the headquarters tent even though we were more than a half a mile away. It is no wonder they were shutting down events when lightning got close.

It was still interesting to see an attempt to merge technology and camping. I think we would all be surprised how quickly a disaster would be compounded by the lack of a power grid.

Frank KA9FZR



cell tower wifi antennas and load speaker tower



Teaching and operating with the scouts



K2BSA satalite antenna  
and a horizontal dipole in  
back ground



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***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.