



Hamtrix

Volume 53, Issue 9 September, 2008

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Meetings & Events



September 9

Club Meeting

see *Upcoming Meeting Programs* for details

September 23

Board Meeting

September 28

Material Due for Next
Hamtrix

October 14

Election of Officers
see *Upcoming Meeting Programs* for details

November 9

Annual Awards Dinner
see page 5 to sign up



The President's Shack

by Howard Smith,
WA9AXQ

I am saddened to report that Wes, N9YE, has resigned as a WARAC Board Member. My thanks to Wes for his work on the Survey Committee and as a board member. The WARAC Constitution does address this issue in Article II, Section 5, which states "All Board vacancies occurring between elections must be filled by special ballot, at the next regular meeting, provided a quorum is present." So, there will be a special election for a single board member to fill the remainder of Wes's one year term.

And, while we are talking about elections, the October meeting is the yearly election of Officers and of one Board member. This makes the October meeting the most important meeting of the year and

the one meeting that you do not want to miss. There is a second reason not to miss the October meeting. The presentation that night will be by Dave, KA9WXN, about Digital Television and the February 17, 2009 changeover to all digital transmission. Dave will also be demonstrating a converter box using the club's television set. Do you need any more reasons?

Looking ahead to the election, there are four officers, President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer, and one board member to be elected. The term for an officer is one year, and two years for the board position. If you have a desire to serve in one of these positions and have questions, any officer or board member will be happy to answer your questions. It is important to have new people in these positions. It brings in new ideas, and keeps the club fresh.

The Awards Dinner Committee has reported to the Board that the Awards Dinner will be on November 9, 2008, beginning at 5:00pm, at the Machine Shed Res-

(Continued on page 7)

UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS

September 9

Learn about the intricacies of weather forecasting

Weather Forecasting Models

by Michael Falk, AA9RK
Former Research Meteorologist

October 14

Television as we've known it for 60 years will disappear on February 17, 2009.

Get the details! This meeting is also Election of Officers.

Digital Television

by Dave Schank, KA9WXN
Automated Systems Engineer, Ch 10/36



From the Minutes...

By Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR
Secretary

**Minutes of the General Meeting
August 12, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by President Howard Smith.

Visitor - Lou Schulz, N9LOU, introduced himself. Club members then introduced themselves to our guest.

Minutes - the membership approved the minutes as printed in Hamtrix.

Announcements - after some discussion, it was decided that the Awards Committee - John Zach, Bob Zach and Lynn Tamblyn - would be meeting soon to begin setting up the annual club dinner. They will report the status to the Board on August 26.

Program One - Monster Quad

Dick Wood, W9JBE, talked about his current antenna project - converting his two-element quad into a four-element quad. He has had the original two-element Gem Quad since 1985, and it has worked well. It began life as a 10, 15 and 20-meter antenna. About five years later, he added a 17-meter element. Sometime later, he decided he would like to add two more elements, which he then ordered. Since then, the additional two elements have been sitting in the basement. Fast forward to 2008. Dick is now into adding the additional two elements. His program included some pictures of the present quad at the top of his tower, the two additional elements awaiting installation, and then a lengthy discussion about the mechanics of getting the additional elements installed. Dick indicated he may need to sponsor an antenna party in the near future.

Program Two - Tom Macon, K9BTQ, did a quick presentation on his visit to the GBT in Green Bank, WV, where the world's largest fully steerable dish is located. The GBT (which does not stand for Great Big Telescope but instead stands for the Green Bank Telescope) is part of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory. Tom mentioned some interesting facts, the most memorable being

that digital cameras are prohibited - visitors may only use a film type camera.

Discussion(s) ended at 8:45 PM, followed by refreshments and eyeball QSO's.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR

**Minutes of the Board Meeting
August 26, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM. by Howard Smith. Board members present: George Dunco, Tom Macon, Howard Smith, and Lynn Tamblyn. Guests present: Chuck Craven and Phil Gural.

Program Request - Chuck Craven had discussions with the Board about a program he wishes to present. It would be a contesting program, basically a "hints and kinks" type, wherein several club members would give information on how they do contesting, along with pictures. He believes this should help club members by showing them some tricks for operating. He is working on an outline for the presenters, and will further inform the Board as he gets it all in place. It was suggested that January 2009, would be a good time to do, since it fits in nicely with the upcoming 2009 WIQP that happens in March.

Resignation - Wes Anderson has submitted his resignation from the Board. Per the club by-laws, there is a need to have a special election. After discussion, the Board decided it would hold a special election at the September 9 regular club meeting to fill that opening.

Awards Dinner - As the only Awards Dinner Committee member available, Lynn reported the status to the Board. As of this meeting, only the menu is known, with a speaker and dates still unknown. After a lengthy discussion, the Board asked Lynn if he would look for a speaker, pick a date and make sure the restaurant would be available, pending the speaker availability.

Annual Awards Standardization - Phil presented his proposal for future membership awards that are normally handed out at the Awards Dinner. It basically relates to the awards given for 30 years of club membership and

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2007 WARAC Officers and Board			Hamtrix — Editor & Publisher	
President	J. Howard Smith, WA9AXQ	414 425-5626	Submit newsletter material to:	
Vice President	Thomas W. Macon, K9BTQ	414 543-3878	Tom Macon, K9BTQ	
Secretary	Lynn C. Tamblyn, K9KR	262 534-9655	3547 S. 95 St	
Treasurer	Richard M. Wood, W9JBE	262 542-5118	Milwaukee, WI 53228	
Director (2008)	Robert F Zach, KC9AGX	414 328-3691	414 543-3878	
Director (2009)	George Dunco, AA9SR	262.782-6325	tmacon@wi.rr.com	
Director (1 year)	Wes Andersen, N9YE	414.423.0640	-----	
Board Chairperson	J. Howard Smith, WA9AXQ	414 425-5626		

WARAC SURVEY RESULTS

Data from George Dunco, AA9SR; Comments by Tom Macon, K9BTQ

The results are in! Twenty members responded to our club survey. Here's a question-by-question summary.

Q1. *Would you be more likely to attend monthly meetings if they were held on a different day and time?*

YES: 3; **NO:** 16

- One person requested a meeting location without stairs.
- Another person requested that the meeting time be moved up to 7:00PM.
- No one indicated an alternative day of the week on the blanks provided.

Q2. *Would you prefer meetings bi-monthly (every other month)?*

YES: 2; **NO:** 17

Q3. *Please describe your interest regarding subjects for discussion at monthly meetings.*

Antennas	17
Lo Band	12
APRS	4
Home brewing	3
Other	2
Operating techniques	2
Ham radio software	1
ATTV	1
Internet resources	0

"Other" items entered were: *GPS, VHF, and UHF Test Equipment*

Q4. *Please describe how you feel about topics presented at the meetings you have attended:*

Unsatisfied	0
Somewhat satisfied	2
Satisfied	11
Very satisfied	2
Extremely satisfied	2

Q5. *Do you currently have a working home station?*

YES: 17; **NO:** 1

Q5.1. *If yes, indicate all operating activities that interest you:*

DX	14
Ragchew	14
Contests	11
FM / repeaters	9
QRP	6
Digital	5
Weak signal	5
Satellite	3
Moon Bounce	3
Awards	2
Grid square collector	2
Other: NTS Operations	1

Q5.2. *If No, please indicate reason:*

Antenna restrictions	2
XYL objections	1
Cost	0
Need help from an "Elmer" (one-on-one help from an experienced ham)	0

Q6. *How can WARAC help you to maximize your amateur radio experience?*

The following comments were entered.

- How to add more members-
- Continue as you are doing-I think you are doing a great job, meeting and news letter are great!
- Continue to improve service to members.
- Better Elmering.
- Get more members on air!

The Board will be looking at the survey results in depth to determine what changes can be made based on what has been learned. Stay tuned!

A big thank you to all the members who participated in the survey!

Ham Happenings

Around the area

Ozaukee Radio Club

Grafton Senior Center
1665 7th. Ave.
Wed, September 10, 7:30PM

CQ3TUE

Old Country Buffet
16750 W Bluemound Rd
Tues. September 16, 11:15AM

Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club

formerly Menomonee Falls
Radio Club

Germantown Police Dept
N112W16877 Mequon Rd
Wed, September 24, 7:30PM

Milwaukee Radio Amateur Club (MRAC)

Redemption Lutheran Church
Hwy 100 & Capitol
Thurs, September 25, 7:00PM

South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Wed. October 1, 7:00PM
Legion Post 434
Shepard Ave
Oak Creek, WI.

Amateur Radio Testing

Saturday, September 27
9:30AM
Amateur Electronic Supply
5720 W. Good Hope Rd

NOTE

Please do not contact meeting places for information.

WISCONSIN QSO PARTY NEWS

This email was received from Chris Gay, KU4A, of Lexington, Kentucky in July.

Lynn:
 It was a pleasure to work your contest, and see the high level of participation. The Kentucky QSO Party has a mere fraction of this activity, and you are lucky if the contest sponsor doesn't lose your logs.
 I operated QRP and was impressed with the large number of CW ops that you have that easily heard my signals.
 Last but not least, that is a nice looking certificate which will look great on my wall.
 73
 Chris, KU4A

Near right, Lynn presents a plaque to Todd Fonstad, N9NE, Single Operator winner in the 2008 WIQP.



Far right, Steve Smith, W9GPI, accepts the First Place Club plaque on behalf of the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club.



The presentations were made at the July FDLARC meeting

Thanks!



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

George Dunco, AA9SR



Write an Article
This means
You!
Please??

Scuttlebutt...

- Jackie, KC9MJO, has relocated his 40/20m trap dipole and is sounding better as a result. Also, Jackie plans to bring his home-brew antenna tuner to the upcoming club meeting.
- Some antenna work took place at Howard, WA9AXQ's QTH recently. A new support was installed on his all-band wire antenna and some major tree-trimming was done by Phil, W9NAW.
- Members of our club did a lot of traveling in August.
 - Bob, KC9AGX and Dick, W9JBE, did some trout fishing in Montana recently. They were heard in Milwaukee most days on their 1PM schedule from Dick's mobile.
 - John, N9LGD, also visited Montana for ten days in August and operated mobile.
 - John, K9IAC, has been operating portable at his cottage in northern Wisconsin, including one day when he checked into the Milwaukee-Florida net from his pontoon boat in the middle of the lake.
 - Phil, W9NAW, is in Oregon as this issue goes to press, preparing to help his son and family move permanently from Oregon to the Madison area.

WARAC ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2008

5:00PM QSO TIME — 6:00PM DINNER



THE MACHINE SHED RESTAURANT
N14 W24145 TOWER PL
(I-94 & HWY J, EXIT 294)



<p>WARAC Activities <i>the year in review</i></p> <p>Swapfest WIQP</p> <p>Field Day <i>more</i></p>	<p>Presentation of:</p> <p>2008 Scholarship Certificate</p> <p>Years of Membership Awards</p> <p>Contest Awards</p> <p>2008 Member of the Year Award</p>
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Program

Experiences of the Old Ham

By Denny Rybicke, K9LGU

Denny has served as a small town mayor, has been a teacher for many years and manages a Bed and Breakfast. He has lots of interesting stories to tell.

Contact Phil Gural or Tom Macon if you need transportation

Sign-Up sheet below— Fill out and bring to the Club meeting!



AWARDS DINNER

RESERVATION FORM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2008

5:00PM QSO TIME — 6:00PM DINNER

Name _____	Call _____
Number of people attending _____	Amount (\$15 each) _____

Sign-Up Deadline: November 3, 2008

Bring form and money to club meeting or mail to:

Make checks payable to:
W.A.R.A.C, Inc.

Dick Wood, W9JBE
S46 W22328 Tansdale Rd
Waukesha, WI 53189

A NEW INCENTIVE

By Tom Macon, K9BTQ

Recently I learned from my son, Bob, that he plans to get his ham license. But not for the traditional reasons. He wants to become a ham because he is a private pilot.

When I visited Bob in July, he showed me an article in the August issue of *Kitplanes* magazine about using APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System) in a small airplane. The article describes how APRS can be used to allow anyone to track the progress of your flight on their computer. It goes into some detail on how to purchase and install a working APRS system for less than the cost of a fill-up of aviation fuel. It also explains that a Technician class license is needed and outlines the process for getting one.

Kitplanes is an aviation publication aimed at pilots that are interested in building their own airplanes. The author of the article is Sam Buchanan, KJ4CKK, and reprints of his article are available from the *Kitplanes* web site but they are not free. There is a similar article by Sam called *Getting Started with APRS* on line at:

<http://www.vansairforce.com/community/showthread.php?t=27773>

The *Kitplanes* magazine article was not the first time I had heard of people getting a ham license primarily to use APRS. Back in 2004, I attended the EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh with Bob and his friend Noah, an avid balloonist and pilot who now lives in Rhode Island. Knowing I was a ham, Noah asked me a bunch of questions about APRS, which I was unable to answer because I knew very little about APRS at that time (I still don't). Despite this, Noah went on to get his Tech ticket and is now KB1LQP.

Last June Noah took a trip to Colorado in his Cessna 182 and had his APRS unit running the whole way. At the time, Bob told me about this and I was able to track Noah back and forth across the country, including a stop to see Bob in Bridgeport, WV on his return trip. One of the web sites for viewing APRS tracks, <http://aprs.fi>, retains data for six months, so Noah's June flights can still be viewed. Simply enter KB1LQP and then select which day you want to see.

The current issue of QST (September) has two APRS-

related articles. One, by the father of APRS, Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, describes the many features of APRS beyond position reporting. Another article introduces a new product by Byonics called the TinyTrack4, a software defined APRS position encoder.

Sam Buchanan's *Kitplanes* article discusses the Byonics Micro-Trak 300, a miniature APRS encoder with a transmitter that runs 300 milliwatts. According to the article, good results are obtained from an aircraft with 300mw but this would probably not be enough power for ground-bound vehicles. According to their web site, www.byonics.com, there is also an 8-watt model, but it appears that the Byonics product offerings are in a state of flux with a number of models currently out of stock or being replaced by other models.

There are two aspects of all this that are of interest to me. One is to help son Bob get his ticket and get set up to do what he wants with APRS. This will obviously include learning more about APRS.

The other aspect is to wonder how many people will join our hobby primarily because they want to do APRS. There are a lot of private pilots and others out there that might be attracted by this, so it could become a significant recruiting tool for new hams.

Sam, in his article, warns his readers that, "with the Technician license in hand, you may be tempted to delve into the entire fascinating realm of ham radio!" In another part of his article he says, "I'm considering studying for the General license so that my frequency privileges can be expanded even further."

It sounds like at least one guy has gotten hooked.

KB1LQP approaches Bridgeport, WV on June 27.





September 7 - Ken Rogers, W9NUE
 September 7 - Dick Schank, WA9AKV
 September 16 - Louie Golembiewski, W9GSV

*Wedding
 Anniversaries*

September 15 - Bob and Stacy Scrip
 September 17 - Mike and Courtney Falk
 September 25 - Ken and Betty Rogers
 September 29 - Wes and Shirley Andersen
 October 7 - Greg and Therese Hudziak



**2008 WIQP
 Results
 Available Now!**

President's Shack
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restaurant in Pewaukee. The speaker for the evening will be Dennis Rybicki, K9LGU. There is a sign-up form as part of this Hamtrix. Please fill it out and bring your money to the meeting. Besides Denny's presentation, we will review the past year, give out membership awards, and finally the Member of the Year Award. And, don't forget the door prizes! It will be a good time for all. Be sure to mark your calendars.

The program for the September meeting will be about weather topics, and will be presented by Mike Falk, AA9RK. Mike recently worked at UWM creating weather forecasting models. This will be an interesting presentation.

See you at the meeting.
 73,
 Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

Minutes
 (Continued from page 2)

above. The Board accepted his proposal. This will be discussed in future Board meetings, as there needs to be further discussion when all Board members are available, since this involves looking at the costs, as well as making it a part of the club's annual budget. Lynn asked for a Board decision on the 2008 Committee's plans. The Board decided that for the present, it will be up to the Committee to have the freedom to determine how to handle these awards.

Survey Committee Report - George reported for the Committee. They had received three additional responses, which now total 21. There is still nothing that would change the results that the Board previously discussed. After discussion, the Board asked George to give a report to the membership at the September 9 regular club meeting. Hopefully a synopsis could be printed in the upcoming Hamtrix. This will be done after the program, and before coffee and donuts.

Club Books Audit - Lynn mentioned he is redoing the WARAC Quicken file into individual files, to reflect one year's worth of club records, instead of one large file covering all club years that has caused problems for the Board when they do the annual budgets. Lynn hopes to have that done by the time Dick returns from his vaca-

tion. Then the Audit Committee can proceed with the 2007 club audit.

Programs - the September program will be a presentation by Mike Falk, on Weather Modeling and possibly Severe Weather Prediction. The October program is to be on Digital Television, by Dave Schank, who works at Channels 10/36. This should give club members the inside on the February 17, 2009 changeover from analog to digital television. Chuck Craven will present the November program on the December ARRL 10 meter contest, the internal WARAC club competition for that event, and possible discussions on the logging program by N3FJP. December is still open. For January 2009, Chuck will return to do a contesting tips program. For February, the program will center on the Wisconsin QSO Party.

Club Repeater - Howard informed the Board that John Westmayer believes he will have his tower up by the end of September 2008, that should allow for installation of the club repeater at John's QTH. There was discussion on a possible squelch problem that might be affecting the repeater now. Howard will check that out.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
 Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR

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 7:30 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.