



Hamtrix

Volume 54, Issue 9 September, 2009

In this issue:

<i>The President's Shack</i>	1
<i>Repeater Shutdown</i>	1
<i>Meeting Minutes</i>	2
<i>WB9YDU, SK</i>	3
<i>Meeting with a Bang</i>	3
<i>Scuttlebutt</i>	4
<i>Upcoming Programs</i>	4
<i>For Sale</i>	5
<i>Birthdays and Anniversaries</i>	6



The President's Shack

by Howard Smith,
WA9AXQ

At the last club meeting, there was a motion to abandon the club repeater because of lack of use and lack of volunteers to be control operators. After much discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed. Following this, there was a second motion to keep the repeater active until a second vote could be taken at the September club meeting. The main reason for this second motion was to al-

low a notice to be published in Hamtrix so any club members who were not present would have a chance to vote. This motion also passed.

So, please read the formal notice on the front page of this Hamtrix about the club repeater. If you have concerns, then you need to be at this meeting and express them.

I am pleased to announce the 2009 winner of the *West Allis Radio Amateur Club Dave Knaus, N9QA, Memorial Scholarship*. He is James Markstrom, KB9MMA, and he is from Racine. Please see the sidebar with more information. Congratulations, James.

As promised last month, the results of
(Continued on page 5)

Meetings & Events



September 8

Club Meeting

Program:

The Buddipole

Antenna System

by Dick Wood, W9JBE
7:00 PM Church Basement

September 22

Board Meeting

7:00 PM Church Office

October 4

Material Due for Next

Hamtrix

October 13

Next Club Meeting

WARAC REPEATER SHUTDOWN

By Chuck Craven, WB9PUB

If you were at the August club meeting, you know that there was discussion and a vote to permanently shut down our club repeater. If you weren't there, please read the minutes of that meeting in this Hamtrix.

Since there were only a few club members at the meeting, a second motion was passed, stating that the shutdown of the club repeater be delayed until a notice of this action can be printed in Hamtrix. This will give the entire membership a chance to give comments. Any member can contact a board member for his or her comments if they can't make the September club meeting.

If you want the repeater to continue operating, you need to let your voice be heard now! To keep the repeater on the

air in a fully legal manner, control operators are needed to monitor the repeater at all times it is in operation (if not 24/7) and a suitable control system must be installed so that it can be reliably shut down in case of malfunction.

Due to a lack of volunteers for control operators at the last meeting and the low usage of the repeater, a vote was taken that the club repeater be dismantled and its parts sold off.

Once this is done, it's DONE! If you use the repeater and want to help save it, or are willing to be a control operator, this is the time to get involved.

A final vote on the repeater will be taken at the September general club meeting. So what do you want to do?



From the Minutes...

By Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR
Secretary

**Minutes of the General Meeting
August 11, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by President Howard Smith.

Visitor – Brian Cieslak, K9WIS, was present. Members introduced themselves to him.

Minutes – the membership approved the minutes as printed in Hamtrix for the last two months.

New Member – the membership approved Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, as a new WARAC member. Welcome aboard Chuck.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

W9JBE Trip – Dick Wood announced he was heading for Montana, taking his usual fishing trip, along with Bob Zach, KC9AGX. They will be leaving August 20th, and will be gone until about the first week of September. Dick mentioned that he will monitor and/or check-into both the YL Net(s) and the Prestigious Net (1 PM on 14.305) for member contacts.

Jackets – Lynn was not been able to obtain a sample of a jacket he plans to buy in time for this club meeting. Once he gets his jacket, or a sample, his plan is to bring it to a meeting to see if other club members might be interested.

Nominating Committee – Howard talked about the need for a Nominating Committee for our upcoming elections October 13. He would like to see some new people involved in running the club, either by becoming Board members or becoming Officers of WARAC.

PROGRAM

Log Book Of The World (LoTW) – Brian Cieslak, K9WIS, presented a very complete overview of this ARRL service. This is a service that allows for electronic exchange of log information between amateurs, i.e. electronic QSL card type of information that can be used for

ARRL awards. Brian used the ARRL website, and a live hookup using the internet, so that he could show in detail what everything looked like, and how to enroll. Basically he went thru: the search window; what electronic QSL cards look like; how to check worked not confirmed and confirmed contacts; criteria needed to set up QSL information exchanged; the database that goes back to 1945; and the various awards available. He then went thru the detail of getting started, by using TQSL to create an electronic signature needed to process the electronic QSLs. Lastly, he went thru the actual process of uploading a log, so club members could understand how that part is done too.

CLUB BUSINESS

WAS Challenge – Howard asked if there were any other entries.

Repeater – Howard asked if there were any members who would be willing to serve as control operators, indicating that if the repeater were to use the club call sign, there would need to be 24/7 coverage. A discussion followed. After discussion, a motion to abandon the repeater was made and seconded. Further discussion followed asking:

1. if it was not being used, do we need it;
2. if it is not going to be controlled, can we really operate the repeater legally; and
3. does the equipment have some monetary value that might be sold and its value added to the Scholarship Fund?

The question was called. A hand vote showed a majority in favor of the motion to abandon the repeater, and no opposed hands. A second motion was made, and passed with one member opposed, to have this information printed in the next issue of Hamtrix so the membership is aware of possible repeater abandonment, to allow them time to express their views before any action is actually taken - and - at the September regular club meeting, there would another motion made, which would be the final vote, to abandon the club repeater. Chuck Craven volunteered to do a write up for Hamtrix explaining the situation in detail.

(Continued on page 6)

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
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	

DON ROHLEDER, WB9YDU, SK

by Tom Macon, K9BTQ

Don was a Citizens Bander who became interested in ham radio in the mid-1970's and was attracted to our club's Technician class. He got his ticket and was active in WARAC, especially with our Swapfest, for a number of years. He also served on the Board of Directors in 1981 and 1982.

He continued to be involved in CB activities with REACT (Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams) and a local group called *Alert*. Since the mid-1990's he has supported a GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) repeater at his residence in West Allis, which has been used to provide communications for Alert and some local events.

Don is survived by his wife Lois and a son and daughter. He was 66.



Don in his ham shack in 1981.

Ham Happenings

Around the area

Ozaukee Radio Club

Wed, September 9
7:30PM
Grafton Senior Center
1665 7th. Ave.
Grafton

CQ3TUE

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

Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club

Wed. September 30
7:30PM
Germantown Police Dept
Germantown

Milwaukee Radio Amateur Club (MRAC)

Thurs, September 24
7:00PM
Redemption Lutheran Church
4057 N. Mayfair Rd

South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Wed. October 7
7:00PM
Legion Post 434
9327 S Shepard Ave
Oak Creek

Amateur Radio Testing

Saturday, September 26
9:30AM
Amateur Electronic Supply
5720 W Good Hope Rd

NOTE

Please do not contact meeting places for information.

BOARD MEETING WITH A BANG

by Tom Macon, K9BTQ

The first hour or so of the August 25th Board Meeting consisted of five guys sitting around a table in the church basement – normal stuff. We were the only ones in the building, so it was pretty quiet. That suddenly changed with a very loud bang accompanied by a blue flash.

Earlier in the meeting we heard some thunder rumbles, but nothing that seemed threatening. We figured that the loud bang was a very close lightning strike but, since the lights stayed on and there was no other indication of trouble, we finished our meeting. But as we were about to leave the building, a fellow named Chris came down the stairs and said that he



St Peter's Senior Warden Steve Elliott being interviewed by Channel 58 News. Note the blue tarp covering the damaged area at the base of the steeple.

(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, 2010.

Visit the [FAR website](#) for additional information and application forms.

Congratulations

to our 2009

**WARAC Dave Knaus, N9QA,
Memorial Scholarship
Winner!**

**James Markstrom
KB9MMA**

of Racine, who is in the Masters of Education program at the University of Phoenix.

**More information next
month!**

Thanks!



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

Chuck Craven, WB9PUB



Write an Article
This means
You!
Please??

Scuttlebutt...

- Two logs were submitted (one after the deadline) for our in-club **WAS contest** that ran from April to July. George, AA9SR, and John, K9IAC, submitted logs. Do you have ideas for a in-club contest that will be exciting and will attract more participation?
- **Dick, W9JBE**, and Bob, **KC9AGX**, have just returned from about 10 days fishing in the wilds of Montana. They report great weather, great fishing and great food at the lodge where they stayed. Radio communication back to Milwaukee was successful the day before they headed back when they had a nice chat with Tom, K9BTQ.
- **Gene, W9RYT**, moved into a different apartment at Layton Terrace and is putting out a better signal. John, K9IAC, and Tom, K9BTQ, moved his antenna to the new apartment in late August. His K9IAC mobile antenna, mounted on his third floor porch, is more in the clear at the new location
- Have you tried **Logbook of The World (LoTW)** since the very informative program by Brian, K9WIS at the August meeting? Tom, K9BTQ, uploaded about 1270 contest Q's that resulted in about 450 QSL matches. An additional 2700 Q's, mostly Milwaukee-Florida net logs, yielded a few additional QSL's.
- **Ron Crown, KA9JCP**, is going back to work after recovering from his biking accident in June. Did you enjoy having the summer off, Ron?

"THE MORSE CODE"

When you rearrange the letters:

HERE COME DOTS

Upcoming Meeting Programs

September 8

The Buddipole Antenna System

by Dick Wood, W9JBE

Find out more about this portable antenna system and Buddipole Antennas, the company that makes it.

October 13

[To be determined]

We're looking for a top notch program for this, the Election Meeting!

November 10

Robotics Presentation

by MORE Community Robotics Team

The Thomas More Community Robotics is a group of young people who engage in robotics competition. More info next month.

Program suggestions?

Let us know - Contact a Board member!

For Sale

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

- Coax cable, RG-213, 50 ft with PL-259 connectors, new \$25.
- Cushcraft A4S triband beam, very good condition, with manual, \$275 (price reduced).

Please contact Phil, W9NAW, for additional information and availability. Proceeds go to the WARAC scholarship fund.

2009 WARAC Awards Dinner

Arrangements are being made for our dinner to be held on a Sunday in October or November. As soon as the date is set, a sign-up sheet will be available to the membership. Stay tuned!

Board Bang

(Continued from page 3)

could see flames on the roof of the church at the base of the steeple. We immediately called the fire department.

Within a few minutes, four or five West Allis fire trucks arrived along with several squads. They made short work of the visible part of the fire, which could be seen under a portion of the steeple that had apparently been blown open by the force of the lightning strike. They spent the next hour and a half making sure the fire was completely out and managing water damage in the church office, which is directly under the steeple.

The following day Channel 58 had coverage of the event on their 5:00PM newscast. They interviewed Steve Elliott, the church warden, and Chris Warnok, the fellow who spotted the fire. The news video was on the Channel 58 website for a few days but is no longer available.



Chris lives across 80th St from the church and spotted the fire.

It'll be tough to top this Board meeting for excitement!

.....

President's Shack

(Continued from page 1)

the WAS Challenge will be announced at the September meeting. There were just two logs submitted, so I don't think this activity accomplished what I had hoped it would. The committee has some other thoughts and would like your suggestions, too.

The Annual Awards Dinner is being planned. Selection of a speaker will determine the date, which will be a Sunday afternoon between the middle of October and the first week of December. When the speaker and the date have been set, it will be announced at the club meeting. We are planning to be at the Machine Shed restaurant again this year. More to follow...

The Nominating Committee is in place and will be talking to the membership about their interest in holding an elected position of board member or officer. If you

are interested, a board member position would be a good way to start. Many board members become officers after a couple of years of service.

My plea, again, is for more members to become involved in the management of our club by holding a position of a board member or an officer. These positions require an additional meeting on the 4th Tuesday of each month (December is usually canceled) at the same time and place of a regular meeting.

For the program this month, Dick, W9JBE, will present a short video from Buddipole antennas, and then talk about his experiences in using the antenna. Be sure to ask Dick how the fishing was in Montana. He and Bob, KC9AGX, just returned from their vacation there.

See you at the meeting.

Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

.....



September 7 - Ken Rogers, W9NUE
 September 7 - Dick Schank, WA9AKV
 September 13 - Leroy Hass, KC9NSJ
 September 16 - Louie Golembiewski, W9GSV
 October 5 - Chuck Dellis, W9WZX

*Wedding
 Anniversaries*

September 15 - Bob and Stacy Scrip
 September 25 - Ken and Betty Rogers
 October 7 - Greg and Therese Hudziak



www.warac.org

(Continued from page 2)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM, followed by refreshments and eyeball QSO's.

*Respectfully submitted,
 Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR*

Minutes of the Board Meeting August 25, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM. by Chairman Howard Smith.

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

Audit Of Club Books – Nothing has been done to date. The Board expects this to commence in September at the earliest. 2007 needs to be finalized, 2008 then needs to be done. Discussion on doing 2009 at the same time, as October 31 is the end of the club year, which will probably happen before the committee has completed its work on 2008.

Election – Howard indicated his Nomination Committee presently consisted of Bob Zach and Chuck Dellis. He would still like to see a third member. He will discuss this again with the membership at the September 8 club meeting. Election night is October 13. The Board asks that all members plan to attend this important meeting.

Programs – Discussion was held about a program for the October 13 Election Night club meeting. The September program will be a program on the Buddipole system by Dick Wood. There is no scheduled program for October or November. The December program will consist of “snippets” from our contesting CD, to help prepare members for the upcoming December 10 meter contest, since the club has an internal competition for the 10M test.

WAS Challenge – The Board discussed the response. There were two entries. It was decided that we declare

both entries as co-winners. It was mentioned that Brian, K9WIS, had suggested an “alphabet” contest for the next attempt. This is a contest where you contact someone who has letter “a” after the number in the call sign, then move to letter “b,” etc. The Board discussed whether it wanted to redo the rules. It was decided that this will be discussed with the membership at the next club meeting, with additional suggestions to be also taken, and then be discussed at the next Board meeting in September.

Repeater – Howard mentioned he had turned off the repeater during his vacation. He had just turned it back on today, Aug 25. There will be an article in September Hamtrix about abandoning the repeater. It will be highlighted so the membership will be sure to see it. At the September meeting there will be further discussion and a second vote taken. Presuming there is no interest in keeping the repeater, the Board then discussed whether there was any value in any of the equipment. The antenna and the cans have considerable value. The controller has some value. The radios might not have much value, if any. Lynn will try to determine what the value (s) might be.

Wisconsin QSO Party – Lynn mentioned there were some changes coming for WIQP – mainly using more current abbreviations for 13 Canadian Provinces. He is also working on finding an easier way for participants to get to the cabrillo log, renaming the Novice category to a “Beginner” category, and possible merging of the summary sheet into the header of the cabrillo log.

Jacket – Lynn informed the Board that he was still in the process of doing a club jacket to replace his old one. He had nothing further to report at this time.

Scholarship – Howard had a letter from FAR, naming James Markstrom, KB9MMA, as our next \$ 1500 Scholarship winner.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
 Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR*
