



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

Volume 58, Issue 9 September, 2011

## SEPTEMBER CLUB HAPPENINGS

### September Club meeting

September 13, 2011

Program: Antenna Challenge

WARAC 2-meter net  
Aug 16 & 30 & Sept 6, 2011 7:00pm  
MATC repeater 147.045 standard offset  
127.3 Hz CTCSS

### Club Happenings

#### Reminder

The snack kitty provides funds for our after meeting refreshments.

Help us keep the fund going for all our enjoyment!

Sunday October 30, 2011 5:00pm

Awards Dinner

at the Machine shed

See inside for more details



**NEW** club jackets and hats!

Go to club Web site and click on  
The GOLD MEDAL IDEAS block

For more info



# *The President's Shack September 2011*

Our 2011 David Knaus Scholarship winner has been announced and he is John Moder II, N9MXX of Hales Corners. John is seeking a degree in Technical Management in Business Information Systems at DeVry University. Look for more information about him in a future Hamtrix.

The time has come! The wrap-up of our club's Antenna Challenge will be at this upcoming meeting, so finish off your project and put together a simple show-and-tell for the meeting. It should be interesting to see and hear about these projects.

The October meeting is election night. All current officers and board members are running for reelection except for Treasurer Chuck Craven. So we need a new treasurer – who is interested? The program that night will be Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT, telling us about his moonbounce adventures.

The auction at the August meeting was a good time and we even made some money for our scholarship fund! George Dunco, AA9SR, did a fine job as auctioneer, getting the best bids and keeping us entertained in the process. If you weren't there, you missed a good one! Have you ordered your new club jacket and hat? If not, go to the main page on our WARAC website and click on the Gold Medal logo. This will take you directly to the WARAC jacket and hat items. Thanks again to Howard for working with Gold Medal to set this up. And, if you haven't already done so, please put Sunday, October 30 on your calendar. That's the date of our WARAC Awards Dinner! Look for a sign-up sheet elsewhere in this issue of Hamtrix.. See you at the meeting!

- Tom, K9BTQ

## **Letter From the Editor**

I hope everyone had a great summer and have worked on their antenna project for the antenna challenge. As I write this my project has the hardware phase done. It been used to talk to at least one HAM. Now comes the hard part coming up with a presentation and completing my data gathering.

Not much else on the ham front at this end. I am still practicing my CW skills and seeing some improvement. I have had good luck increasing my speed by listening to the Prince Of Mars in Morse code. You can find it at <http://www.hotpeppersoftware.com/downloads/downloads.html>. I like it because each character is sent a speed of 25 wpm but the overall speed starts at 12 wpm and goes up as you go though the book to 25 wpm. Each part is about 15 minutes or so. It has improved my speed. One of these days I will have to get brave and get on the air HI HI

As always if you want to submit an article for the Hamtrix send it to me I'm always looking for stories to put in. I do ask that any pieces sent in be received by the Tuesday before the meeting to give me time compile the news letter.

Hope to see you at the meeting

73

Frank KA9FZR

# **WARAC General Meeting Minutes**

August 9, 2011

## **Introduction**

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by President, Tom Macon, K9BTQ. There were 5 visitors. Overall meeting attendance was 22.

## **Program**

The evening's program was Elmer Night and Auction. Questions were asked in an open forum and various subject matter experts responded. This was followed by an auction of donated items.

## **Announcements**

Swapfest tickets are available for sale. Selling advanced tickets makes a big difference!

The Antenna Challenge program is one month away. Everyone is encouraged to participate. A presentation with pictures and SWR charts should be included. See Chuck Craven if you need help.

The 2011 WI QSO party results are published on the WARAC website.

A Club jacket and hat sample was available for inspection. The order link is live on the website, jackets \$44, Hats \$14. Jacket sizes run Small to 6X and web site has a sizing chart.

## **Discussion**

Motion was made and accepted to approve the July meetings minutes as published in Hamtrix.

The September meeting is the Antenna Challenge.

Motion was made and accepted to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX  
Secretary WARAC

# **WARAC Board Meeting**

August 23, 2011

Howard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Present: Tom Macon, K9BTQ, Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, Chuck Craven, WB9PUB, Jim Wilkins, KC9KEQ.

## **Budget**

2011 budget is complete, 2012 budget is now due. The audit of the 2008 books is near complete. All entries are made, some splits on checks and deposits need to be finished.

## **Scholarship**

The scholarship winner this year is John Moder, N9MXX, from Hales Corners, Wisconsin. John is working on a BS degree in Technical Management at DeVry University.

An updated form for next year's scholarship was sent to the ARRL Foundation. The scholarship was renamed slightly to Dave Knaus Memorial Scholarship sponsored by West Allis Radio Amateur Club. Motion was made and accepted to transfer the scholarship to the ARRL Foundation.

## **Club Elections**

There will be no nominating committee this year. The positions of Treasurer, Board Member, and Past President will need to be filled.

## **Website**

Tom Macon updated the administrator for the WARAC domain name. The info@warac.org email address was updated to forward to Tom Macon and Chuck Dellis.

## **Club Operations Manual**

The Treasurer responsibilities and 10 meter contest procedure write-ups are due to the board. Chuck Craven will write them.

## **Programs**

September – Antenna Challenge

October: Gary Sutcliff, W9XT, Moonbounce program.

## **Action Requests**

Tom Macon and Dave Schank to determine future web site requirements.

Howard Smith to complete outstanding audits.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX  
Secretary WARAC

# FUN

## Found on the internet

Dit- a diddle dot dit.

A friend forwarded this interesting story. Source unknown. de Tom N4KG

Back when the telegraph was the fastest method of long-distance communication, a young man applied for a job as a Morse Code operator. Answering an ad in the newspaper, he went to the office address that was listed. When he arrived, he entered a large, busy office filled with noise and clatter, including the sound of the telegraph in the background. A sign on the receptionist's counter instructed job applicants to fill out a form and wait until they were summoned to enter the inner office.

The young man filled out his form and sat down with the seven other applicants in the waiting area. After a few minutes, the young man stood up, crossed the room to the door of the inner office, and walked right in. Naturally the other applicants perked up, wondering what was going on. They muttered among themselves that they hadn't heard any summons yet.

They assumed that the young man who went into the office made a mistake and would be disqualified. Within a few minutes, however, the employer escorted the young man out of the office and said to the other applicants, "Gentlemen, thank you very much for coming, but the job has just been filled." The other applicants began grumbling to each other, and one spoke up saying, "Wait a minute, I don't understand. He was the last to come in, and we never even got a chance to be interviewed. Yet he got the job. That's not fair!"

The employer said, "I'm sorry, but the last several minutes while you've been sitting here, the telegraph has been ticking out the following message in Morse Code: 'If you understand this message, then come right in. The job is yours.'" None of you heard it or understood it. This young man did. The job is his.

CW IS!

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, recently issued this bulletin: In light of the rising frequency of human/grizzly bear conflicts, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is advising hikers, hunters, and fishermen to take extra precautions and keep alert of bears while in the field. "We advise outdoorsmen to wear noisy little bells on their clothing so as not to startle bears that aren't expecting them.

We also advise outdoorsmen to carry pepper spray with them in case of an encounter with a bear. It is also a good idea to watch out for fresh signs of bear activity. Outdoorsmen should recognize the difference between black bear and grizzly bear manure: Black bear manure is smaller and contains lots of berries and squirrel fur. Grizzly bear manure has little bells in it and smells like pepper."

# WARAC ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

*Sunday October 30, 2011  
5:00pm QSO time 6:00pm dinner*

## Address

N14 W24145 Tower Place  
(I-94 & WIS 164 / Exit 294)  
Pewaukee, Wisconsin 53188  
Ph: 262.523.1322



## Dinner Menu

Country Fried Chicken and Ol' Fashion Pot Roast

Served family style with potatoes, vegetables, cole slaw, cottage cheese, bread, beverage and desert. Tax and gratuity included in \$16.00 price

## WARAC Activities for the year including Swapfest, WIQP, Field Day will be reviewed

Presentations of 2011 Scholarship Certificate, years of Membership Awards, Contest Awards and 2011 Member of the year Award will be given

## Program

### "Sampson Remembered"

Sam LaMalfa, retired Milwaukee County Zoo keeper, will present the history of Sampson, Milwaukee Zoo's famous lowland gorilla. The presentation will be on slides, a short DVD, and will also include time for questions. LaMalfa will also bring several items, including Sampson's death mask, his hand prints and foot prints, and various other photographs. If you ever wondered about the behind the scenes activities about Sampson, you will find it in this presentation.

Contact Phil Gural or Tom Macon if you need transportation

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



<b>AWARDS DINNER</b>	
<b>RESERVATION FORM</b>	
<b>SUNDAY, October 30, 2011</b>	
<b>5:00PM QSO TIME — 6:00PM DINNER</b>	
Name _____	Call _____
Number of people attending _____	Amount (\$16 each) _____
Sign-Up Deadline: <b>October 26</b>	Bring form and money to club meeting or mail to:
Make checks payable to: W.A.R.A.C. Inc.	<b>Chuck Craven, WB9PUB</b> <b>W2292 Beulah Hgts Rd</b> <b>East Troy, WI 53120</b>





## **Les Peterson, W9YCV, Silent Key**

by Tom Macon, K9BTQ

Les Peterson passed away on Tuesday, August 23 at age 94. He held a ham license for a remarkable 75 years and was a member of our club for 35 years.

Les was born and raised in Eau Claire and graduated from Eau Claire Senior High.

Shortly after, he took his ham test was

licensed as W9YCV in 1936 at the age 20. With the onset of WWII, he joined the Army and was assigned to the Signal Corps as a radio operator and served in the South Pacific and other places. In 1951 he was again called to active duty during the Korean Conflict where he served at the Pentagon and in Alaska. After returning from active duty, he remained in the Army Reserve until he retired as a Lt. Colonel in 1976.

In 1946, Les married Grace, his XYL of 54 years. He is survived by a daughter, Cindy, and a son, Bruce.

After his WWII Army duty, he went to school at Milwaukee School of Engineering received a BSEE degree in 1950. After this, he held a number of civilian positions, including Bendix Corporation in Maryland, where he worked with large radar systems. In 1962, he and his family relocated back to Milwaukee where he worked in medical electronics.

From the time he originally joined WARAC in 1976, Les was always a very active member, serving as President in 1988 and 1993, and many terms in various other offices. He received our Member of Year award in 1983 and 1992. He also was editor of Hamtrix for ten years from 1991 until 2001.

Through the years, Les has been involved in many facets of ham radio. His first love is traffic handling, on phone and especially on CW. He has also done plenty of DX-ing and has 274 confirmed DXCC countries and has been an active contester. He also served as a volunteer examiner for a number of years. If it exists somewhere in the world of Ham Radio, Les has probably done it at one time or another.

In later years, health problems greatly curtailed Les's activity. He was in a care home for about five years was able to get on the air a bit with his Icom 706. Over most of this time, he maintained a sked with an old friend, Bill Sell, W0BPP, in Missouri.

73, Les! You will live on in our memories.

## **Officers and Board**

### **President**

Tom Macon, K9BTQ

### **Vice President**

Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

### **Secretary**

Chuck Dellis, W9WLX

### **Treasurer**

Chuck Craven, WB9PUB

### **Directors**

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR

Dave Schank, KA9WXN

Jim Wilkins, KC9KEQ

### **Newsletter Editor**

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR

[fhump@milwpc.com](mailto:fhump@milwpc.com)

### **Webmaster**

Tom Macon, K9BTQ



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## WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC.

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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.