



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 69, Issue 9 September, 2020

SEPTEMBER CLUB HAPPENINGS



NUT NET
3.985mhz
Monday-Saturday
8:15am CT
NUT NET
Breakfast
8:30am fourth
Tuesday
of the month

Milwaukee-Florida Net
Every Day on 14.290 Mhz
7:00AM - 9:15AM ET
6:00AM - 8:00AM CT

Sunshine Committee

If you know of a member who could use a bit of cheer or support,
Barb Garnier (KD9HPS) is now the Sunshine Committee Chair.
Contact her: 414-529-3536 or barbsewsblue@gmail.com.

Club Meeting
Tuesday September 8, 2020 7:pm

Presenter Dave Garnier WB9OWN
Dave's 230 meter odyssey

Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91522512382?pwd=Z0pZS0toMHJ6Zis5Z1VKckxzenlBQT09>

Meeting ID: 915 2251 2382

Passcode: warac

The club spent \$325.00 on a new computer for the Wisconsin QSO party team

In October we will have our annual election for the board of the WARC. Anyone interested in running please contact me. Frank KA9FZR president

WARAC 2-meter net

Every Wednesday at 8pm

SEWFARS W9TJK Repeater 146.820
standard (-) offset 127.3 Hz CTCSS
if repeater down try 146.55 simplex

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The President's Shack

Hi

Depending on what definition one uses we are in fall or just about in fall. The club has had a very different summer.

September will be another ZOOM meeting. Dave Garnier WB9OWN will be talking about his experimenting on the 230 meter band. We had our pizza meeting and our picnic meeting. This time it was at the same time! We had field day at home. Mike WO9B ran his Wednesday afternoon park activations with surprisingly good weather. Our Wednesday 2 meter net is well attended.

Looks like our club has remained active. If anyone would like to see something different or added as club activities let me know. Don't worry if the idea sounds crazy! Some interesting things have come about because someone made what "at the time" sounded like a crazy suggestion!

October we will be having our normal officer

elections. At this time the present officers have all agreed to stay on another year. But if you are interested in getting to know how the club works and want to run against any of them, me included, feel free to do so.

That's it for now, I hope everyone is safe and sound!

73

Frank KA9FZR • —• —••



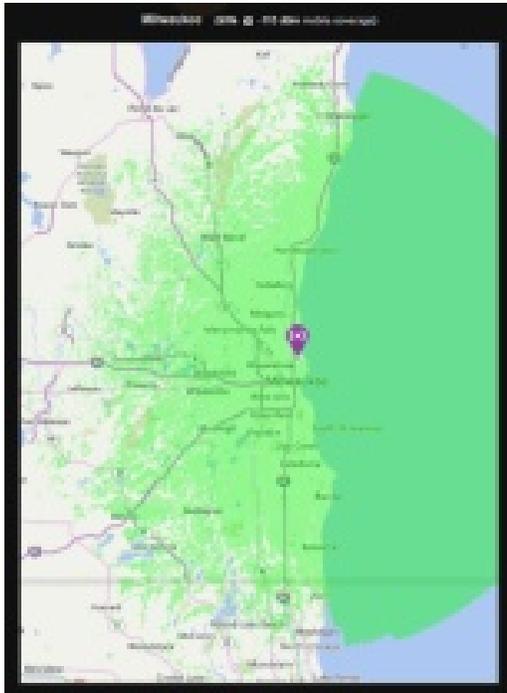
From the Editor

No editorial due to being occupied by the President's Shack

No minutes from August picnic meeting. Tom Macom K9BTQ was giving a thank you Certificate for heading the Wisconsin QSO party.

MKE DMR Repeater Gets a New HOME

For the DMR users in the club here is some great news, hot off the press. Ron Henry, KB9ZB, is the new owner of the 442.20625 MHz Milwaukee area DMR repeater. This is a very popular machine that provides DMR service in the Milwaukee Metro area. For those not familiar with the DMR repeater system in the Milwaukee metro area, the former N9OIG and now the KB9ZB repeater is the Milwaukee coverage area machine for the Chicagoland DMR system. WAR (Wisconsin Association of Repeaters) made it possible to



keep the same frequency pair so no new codeplug required. The Chicagoland system is a series of linked DMR repeaters offering coverage in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and beyond. You can learn more about DMR and the very active Chicagoland system here: <http://chicagoland-cc.org/chicagoland-repeaters.html>

On Saturday, August 29th, the repeater was moved to its new location on the Channel 10 tower near Capitol Drive. In addition to system upgrades, the new site places the antennas at 700' which will result in vastly improved DMR repeater coverage. I've been using the repeater for several years and thought the coverage was good, so this move will turn good into great. Ron reports that the move went very well, though naturally it was a long, long day. The upgrade team consisted of Ron (KB9ZB), Dave Shank (KA9WXN), Mike Waschbisch (W2WAY). Munger Technical Services

provided cables and equipment and Cory Lardoisal (KB9BNA) provided IT services to connect the system together.

If you are active in DMR, then odds are you've talked with Ron on the WI State Talkgroup. For the past several weeks, he has been planning the move and looking to enhance the DMR experience locally. Nice work Ron. In just the few short days since the big move, I've noticed a huge change in the repeater performance. Ron has indicated that the move is only the first phase. Additional work includes receive site optimizations and of course system tweaking. Remote sites coming in the near future as well, expanding the HT coverage area.

For those thinking about DMR, now is a great time to jump in. Southeastern Wisconsin has a very robust DMR infrastructure. So jump in and give the KB9ZB MKE repeater some activity. It is a lot of fun. • —• —••

WARAC Field Day 2020 Results

Chuck Dellis W9WLX

The results for WARAC Field Day 2020 have been compiled. Be sure to check the December, 2020, QST for the ARRL club aggregate scores. We had 10 entries in the club activity, 12 entries with the ARRL, and 9 entries in both.

Club	ARRL	Both
AA9RK	AA9RK	AA9RK
KA9JCP	K9BTQ	KA9JCP
NO9B	KA9JCP	NO9B
W9JSP	KF9K	W9JSP
W9NAW	NO9B	W9NAW
W9WLX	W9JSP	W9WLX
WA9AXQ	W9NAW	WA9AXQ
WB9GZP	W9WLX	WB9GZP
WB9OWN	WA9AXQ	WO9B
WO9B	WB9GZP	
	WB9EV	
	WO9B	

Here is a look at how the club members operated. All entry classes were 1D except WO9B was 1B1B and KF9K was 1C. All club entries were low power.

	W9WLX	KA9JCP	AA9RK	NO9B	W9JSP	W9NAW	WA9AXQ	WB9GZP	WB9OWN	WO9B
QSO Score	1904	256	430	432	202	376	162	60	528	1170
CW Q's	156	0	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	117
Phone Q's	184	128	21	0	1	94	81	30	0	0
Dig Q's	228	0	54	108	50	0	0	0	132	0
80M Q's	98	20	0	0	0	1	3	15	24	0
40M Q's	240	23	40	15	0	92	22	5	27	40
20M Q's	82	17	16	4	0	0	20	10	0	77
15M Q's	105	61	0	24	0	0	28	0	16	0
10M Q's	43	7	1	6	0	0	8	0	14	0
6M Q's	0	0	50	59	51	0	0	0	41	0
2M Q's	0	0	8	0	0	1	0	0	10	0
70cm Q's	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Q's	568	128	118	108	51	94	81	30	132	117

Call	Ranking	Score
WB9GZP	10	60
WA9AXQ	9	162
W9JSP	8	202
KA9JCP	7	256
W9NAW	6	376
AA9RK	5	430
NO9B	4	432
WB9OWN	3	528
WO9B	2	1170
W9WLX	1	1904

Thanks to all who operated in a unique Field Day!

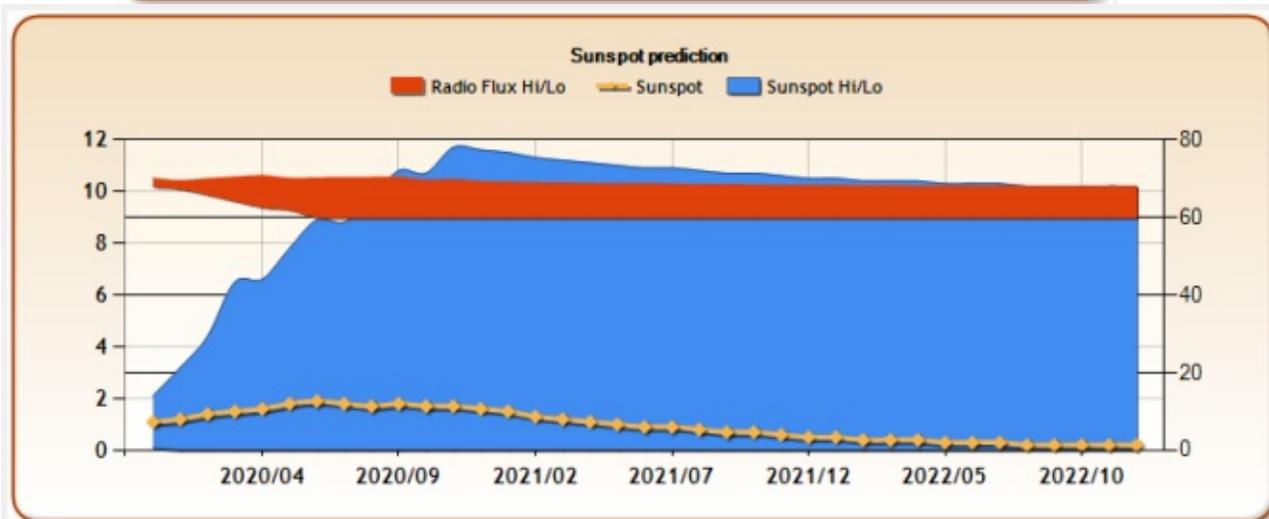
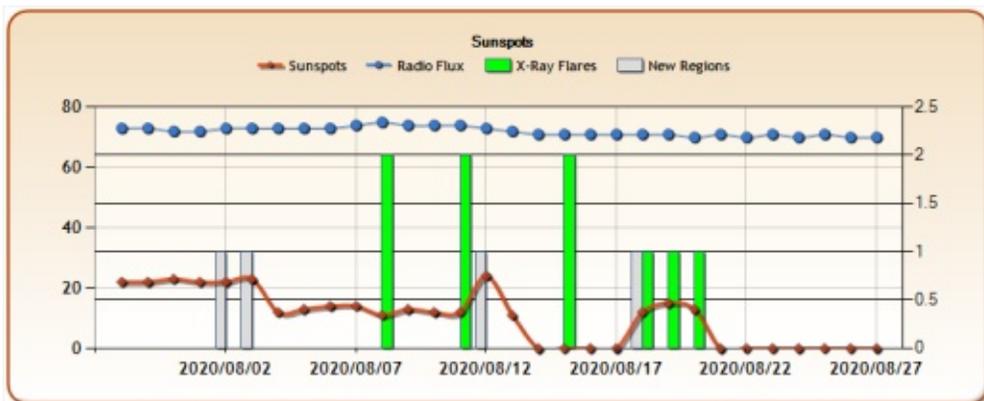
73, Chuck
W9WLX • — • — •

DX UPDATE:

HF: Major DX ops remain a wish and a prayer. There are tons of little operations, PLUS the bands have solid openings to EUR and VK/NL quite frequently. Openings on 10, 15 and 17 are common. You just need to check. FT8 can be both a beacon and source for bagging contacts on those bands. DX World Weekly Bulletin, <https://www.dx-world.net> catalogues much of the activity. In particular IOTA operations are common and very workable.

VHF: VHF season is winding to a halt. Lots of 2 Mtr openings are still being reported.

Sunspots: The activity last month has wound down. Still there remains clear indications that Cycle 25 is underway. HF band behavior is hinting, and only hinting, at some more normal behavior. 20 meters is staying open well past sundown. 40 meter daytime skip is remaining in it's traditional medium distance mode. We're making progress.



CONTEST UPDATE:

Lets GO!!! Decent contest activity. OH QSO Party was great. Some great activities to get involved with. QSO Party season is off and running. Time to warm up for the Oct/Nov big contest period.

- CWops CW Open: Sept 5th
- Colorado QSO Party: Sept 6th
- Tennessee QSO Party: Sept 7th
- WAE DX Contest, SSB: Sept 13th
- Ohio State Parks on the Air: Sep 12th
- Texas QSO Party: Sept 13th
- Alabama QSO Party: Sept 13th

- Iowa QSO Party: Sept 19th
- Wisconsin Parks on the Air: Sept 19th
- New Jersey QSO Party: Sept 19th
- New Hampshire QSO Party: Sept 19th
- Wash State Salmon Run: Sept 20th
- Maine QSO Party: Sept 27th

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Hamtrix Sale Corner

Good day fellow hams, I hope this finds you well and your able to get some radio time in.

I haven't been on the radio for a couple months for a few reasons, with being so busy at work I feel guilty playing radio in the background when I should be working and I am re-doing my antenna setup getting ready to put up my roof tower.

One of the drawbacks from working from home is is so easy to be tempted to turn on the radio and tune around a bit.

The reason for writing is to let you know that we have some tower sections available for sale and many other goodies in the club trailer.

The tower sections are **Racine Tower with a home brew top** section, there are 5 good sections and one bent section that could be buried in concrete.

Phil has a **40ft Rohn 25 tower with a rotor plate \$100**. Please contact **Phil with questions 414-617-7029**.

My **home made 5 element 6M beam** will be for sale.

Tektronix Desktop scope 7704A with 4 plgins, great shapes and has been tested as working.(three Pictures below)



There are many good swap fest type items in the trailer.

Everything is a "make offer" situation.

I also wanted to mention since we really can't do any swap festing either going or selling, so if you would like to come over a rummage through the trailer, let me know.

The only requirement, is it has to be put back the way you found it!

Once I get my roof tower up and know how much **LMR-600** I will use there will be rolls of LMR-600 which are around 80 feet long, the have N connectors on the ends.

There is one roll of **LMR-600** that is about 140ft long with one N connector. The other rolls are around 80ft long and have N connectors on both ends.

In case you want the cliff notes of LMR-600, it has half the db loss of LMR-400!

We also have 3 various lengths of coax that look to be in good shape.

There is a **Telrex triband beam** parts for sale also, this is a 1960's beam where the elements go through the center of the boom!

The parts look to be in pretty good shape, I think someone could make a rotatable dipole out of the driven element which is insulated from the boom! (4 pictures next page)



There is another element without traps that might be used for a single band rotatable dipole, it too is insulated from the boom.(2 Pictures below)



There are two other elements that are not insulated from the boom. (2 Pictures to left)

We also have two mobile antennas, a Teaxs bug catcher (Picture below left) and another unit that looks like it's tunable with 12vdc(Picture below right).



If you want to come look through the trailer, please call, text or email me to make an appointment.
no9b@arrl.net and 262-993-9470

73

Steve

NO9B • — • — •



SDR in the Shack Ideas

By Michael Johnson, WO9B

I've had an SDRPlay RSP1 in my shack for a bit less than a year now. It's one of those things that you start out thinking about it in one way, only to discover that there are a bunch more capabilities. My initial approach was to add a pan adaptor view to the shack, which it does very well. Having a goal is a great place to start. But I have to tell you these things open up a whole lot more of the radio spectrum. Well, that's a big topic and I won't try to cover that in this short article. What I thought to do was to share some recent discoveries/implementations. Maybe you'll find them helpful.

TX/RX Switch Options: TX/RX switches used to be the de rigor setup. With transceivers, they have gone the way of tubes. In my case, my HF radio does not have the option of feeding an IF signal into the SDR so I have to use an antenna of sorts. I picked up an MFJ-1708-SDR TX/RX switch, but that is back in MS getting fixed. Rather than go without, I set up a separate receive antenna. Literally about 60' of wire tossed in a tree. I have to say I am really impressed. I use the SDRConsole V3 Software to control the SDRPlay and it has an auto-mute feature which acts as an automatic attenuator when I transmit. I may not hook up the MFJ switch when and if it makes it back to WI.



Cheap TX/RX Switch: The MFJ product listed about costs about \$110 +/- . I recently stumbled on an much cheaper option from QRPKits: The EASY TR Switch, <https://www.qrpkits.com/ez-series.html#eztrsw>. Costs about \$25. Have not used it, but it certainly looks workable.

NW7US Articles: I stumbled on a couple of articles written by Tomas Hood, NW7US. He has some good things to share:

SDRPlay, try it before you buy it: SDR websites are pretty common. WebSDR, KiwiSDR, LimeSDR...lots of options. They typically offer a browser based interface, which I have always found to be lacking. NW7US is suggesting that new users (or existing users wishing to add remote receivers) take advantage of other users who, via the free software SDRConsole, have made their SDR's available on the internet. There is a little bit of mucking around to set it up, but the user interface and operation is exactly the same as if you are running your own personal SDR. Check out the article here: <https://www.amateurradio.com/software-defined-radio-try-before-you-buy-you->

SDR in the Shack Ideas

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[might-like-it/](#)

BTW, this is not a situation of just a web interface. Connecting to other SDR's via the SDRConsole server brings the full functionality of that SDR into your shack. That includes CAT control of your radio or trunking or digital work. A side from its location, it is the same as if you had the SDR sitting in your shack. This is an exceptional technique to play, configure and incorporate the real product. The list of available SDR's to connect to is impressive. You can select worldwide QTH's and all different brands of SDR's. Here is a partial list:

Name	Location	Call Sign	Radio
gndkrf			SDRPlay RSP1A
UTS	GREECE Corfu		SDRPlay RSP1A
jackrhone			hackRF
HR4CHQ	Lugano, TI Switzerland		Airspy HF+, NaisDR
HR30NT	Bosonia, Switzerland		CloudQ, NetSDR, RSPduo
US9UR K7H-1.0612	Metzweien JN4ML		WLLRL-SDR-Net/Audio, Airspy HF+, CloudQ, NooJec KILL-SDR 1, FutabaR
HR70DF Q 1001	TV17M		Ham-SDR, Ham-SDR USB, MultiSDR F44444
eme Day			SDRPlay RSP1A
rsActu			RTL Dongle - R820T
Multi-Monitored 10300K	10300K		Generic RTL-DRS011-00M
12/6-HDM			SDRPlay RSP1A
10000			USB-Dongle, hackRF
117005	Norw? (only)		RTL Dongle - R820T, SDRPlay RSP1A
Jack's Creek, TX			RTL Dongle USB - R820T
Jefferson WI			R/L Dongle - R820T
Tom	Regentville		RTL Dongle USB - R820T
Jordan's Home KK	Armagh, Northern Ireland		SDRPlay RSP1A
667CP			SDRPlay RSP1
CA1C711 @ PGAYC	Concord, NH		Airspy HF+ Discovery on 200 Tracked1 - MultiPower Hlib, SDR TO #2 on 200
CA1GJU Super Station #1	Rensington, NH R42	Guest	SDR-HQ on new 230' Inverted L (C-JOM to Only)
CA1C711 Super Station #1	Rensington, NH R42	Guest	Airspy HF Discovery on new 210' Tracked1
CA1GJU Super Station #2	Rensington, NH R42mw		Airspy HF Discovery (2), SDR-1Q, SDRPlay RSP1A
CA1GJU Super Station #3	Rensington, NH R42		Airspy HF+ SDR-HQ

AM Broadcast Filter: NW7US referenced an inline AM Broadcast Filter. What a great idea especially if you live in the shadow of several stations. It was cheap and easy...and it works.

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B079CMB44V/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o00_s00?ie=UTF-8&psc=1

NOTE: Another option (might be even better) <https://www.rtl-sdr.com/rtl-sdr-com-broadcast-block-high-pass-filter-now-sale/>

SDRConsole Screen Layout: NW7US had a screen layout that I found attractive, but I couldn't figure out how the heck he did it. Tom was nice enough to put together a video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=YLBLHi441Zg&feature=emb_logo

In this case, I have the entire 20 meter band monitored. The top window is a zoomed in portion where I happen to have the SDR tuned. You can zoom in and

SDR in the Shack Ideas

By Michael Johnson, WO9B

out on just that window. The middle and bottom windows are the traditional bandscope and waterfall windows showing activity across the entire band. You can literally click anywhere to change frequencies or use the mouse roller to fine tune the signal. When I use this with my radio, the SDR window controls the radio via a CAT interface. It is all very convenient.



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In Brief...

Derecho Takes Down 1,200 Feet of Tower and 35 Yagis The popular contest station of Tony Radebaugh, N0NI, in Rippey, Iowa, lost some 1,200 feet of tower and 35 Yagis in the August 10 derecho event. Winds of 140 MPH or greater caused extensive property damage in some areas. "Trees falling on guy wires is what did me in," Radebaugh said. "Everything outside of the trees stayed up, including a three-element full-size 40-meter Yagi at 196 feet. A two-element 40-meter XM240 on the same tower snapped." The violent, fast-moving storm complex raked a 700-mile path from Nebraska to Indiana. Winds of more than 70 MPH hit Chicago, and more than 300,000 lost power. Iowa was the hardest-hit state, with some 10 million acres of corn and soybean crops wiped out. Residents had little or no warning before the so-called "land hurricane" struck.

From: The ARRL Letter for August 27, 2020



Mini Vacation

Frank KA9FZR

A few weeks ago Judy, me and the greyhound Lulu took a trip to hide from the world HI HI. We drove up to Manitowoc for a three day mini vacation. We stayed at the Baymont next to the submarine museum on Lake Michigan.

For the ham radio part of the story: the Baymont has a large park like grass area with trees. Thus I was able to hang a wire antenna. The first morning I set up a MFJ big ear antenna modified by swapping out the original 40 meter coil with the wolf river coil loaned to me by Mike WO9B

Although the coil allowed me to tune the 17ft whip on 80 meters the morning nut net wasn't able to hear me or me them. I was surprised how little of the coil was needed to get a good match on the SWR meter on my Yaesu FT-817.

The next morning I used my 40 meter end fed zepp antenna with a ZM-2 ATU tuner. I hung it up about 6 ft high. This time I was heard enough to be heard by some of the people on the net. This is using SSB at five watts. Conditions were noisy being summer, still it was fun to sit outside by the lake and be heard and able to listen to the net. The next day was the same.

I thought it was a fun experiment and proved how little equipment one needs to set up a portable station. Would I change some things if I did it again? I'm sure I would! Maybe hang the zepp higher. Maybe make a light weight table to use on my folding chair. Maybe even try operating CW which is the way to go with low power and less than perfect antennas. • —• —••



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