



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

Volume 58, Issue 10 October, 2011

## OCTOBER CLUB HAPPENINGS

### October Club meeting

October 10, 2011

Annual Club Elections

Program: Gary Sutcliff, W9XT, Moonbounce program

**Note: meeting is at the church. Electricity will be on.**

WARAC 2-meter net

Oct 17 & 31 & Nov 7, 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 page six 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 October 2011*

More bad news in that two more of our members became silent keys in September. Phil Noftz, N9FEW, passed away on September 2 and John "Jackie" Jurek, KC9MJO, passed on September 25. This after we lost Les, W9YCV, in August. I sincerely hope there are no more. As the old saying goes, bad news comes in "three's". I hope this is true in our case. Look for more on Phil and Jackie elsewhere in this issue of Hamtrix.

In addition to Chuck Craven's Antenna Challenge program at the September meeting, we had an unexpected meeting place challenge. There was no power in the church - the entire building had been disconnected! We did some scrambling and ended up meeting at Johnny V's Restaurant on 84th St. Four very interesting antenna project presentations were made by Chuck, WB9PUB, Frank KA9FZR, Tom, KC9KEP and Howard, WA9AXQ. The electrical issue has been resolved and we're good to go for the October meeting.

It really is October already and this means two things for our club - election of officers and our annual Awards Dinner.

Last month I noted that all current officers and board members are running for reelection except for Treasurer Chuck Craven. This is still true, but something new has been added in that Howard, WA9AXQ, has thrown his hat in the ring for the Treasurer's job. Since no other Treasurer candidates have surfaced, this is good news. Howard is familiar with our bookkeeping because he has spearheaded the annual audits for the last several years and is well acquainted with

the Quicken software that we use.

If Howard becomes Treasurer, we will then need a new Vice President. The floor is now open for volunteers!

The program for our election night meeting will be about Moon Bounce. Gary is a very well informed and interesting speaker, so this promises to be an excellent program.

Please sign up for our annual Awards Dinner, to be held on Sunday, October 30. This is a great time to get together with your fellow club members and to revisit our club's activities over the last year. Also, the 2011 Member of the Year will be announced. Make use of the sign-up sheet in this Hamtrix!

Tom Nickel, KC9KEP, recently passed his Extra Class exam. Congratulations, Tom!

Have you ordered your WARAC jacket and hat? If not, go to our website at <http://www.warac.org> and click on Gold Medal Ideas.

See you at the meeting!  
- Tom, K9BTQ

## **From the Editor**

There isn't much to report this month. I did try my zepp antenna on a camping trip. I made one discovery. When you are going to string antenna at a camp site it pays to look overhead before choosing the camp site. I picked the one site in the whole camp ground with electrical wires running over it. I never thought to look up or even that there would be any wires. I did string the antenna low and was able to listen but was not able to contact anyone that time. I will add that to my needs next trip,

Because email is not perfect I have started a policy of replying back to any articles that are sent to me. If you don't hear from me. please check and see if I got it.

Hope to add some improvements to my zepp antenna will probably continue to find new ways to use it  
73

Frank KA9FZR

# **WARAC General Meeting Minutes**

September 12, 2011

## **Introduction**

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM by President, Tom Macon, K9BTQ. Overall meeting attendance was 10 with no visitors. An alternate location, Johnny V's restaurant, was chosen because of a lack of power at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

## **Program**

The evening's program was the Antenna Challenge. Four antenna designs were presented along with characteristics and resulting performance.

## **Announcements**

Les Peterson, W9YCV, now silent key.

October meeting is WARAC board elections and candidates are needed for Treasurer. The program for the evening will be Moonbounce, by Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT.

Swapfest flyers are being handed out. The search for a battery vendor with a good sized product assortment continues. It would be desirable to push the date out by one week and Phil Gural continues to work with the Expo Center should the date become available.

Reminder for all members to order your WARAC jackets and hats. Information is on the website at <http://www.warac.org>, click on Gold Medal Ideas.

Tom Nickel, KC9KEP, recently passed his Extra Class exam. Congratulations!

## **Discussion**

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

Questions were brought up about the recent changes in the scholarship administration. Tom Macon and Howard Smith addressed the questions and clarified the rationale for electing the ARRL foundation to administer the award.

Motion was made and accepted to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX  
Secretary WARAC

# WARAC Board Meeting

## September 26, 2011

Howard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Present:** Tom Macon, K9BTQ, Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, Chuck Craven, WB9PUB, Jim Wilkins, KC9KEQ, Frank Humpal, WA9FZR.

### **2012 WI QSO Party**

Chuck Dellis will reach out to Lynn Tamblyn and invite him to the October board meeting to present his plan for the 2012 WI QSO Party.

### **Budget**

2012 budget is now due. Chuck Craven has started putting the budget together and needs to complete. All of the 2008 data is now in Quicken. There are minor mismatches due to expenses and income spanning 2008 and 2009.

### **Scholarship**

Howard Smith has the action to review the status of the ARRL acceptance of the David Knaus Memorial Scholarship. Once accepted, Tom Macon will update the WARAC website to reflect the new management.

### **Club Elections**

Howard Smith expressed a desire to run for Treasurer. If nominated and elected, the Vice President position will need a candidate.

### **Website**

The search for a different website service provider has been suspended. At this time, the current provider is able to satisfy the club's needs.

### **Club Operations Manual**

There needs to be a re-focus on completing the club Operations Manual. It was proposed to give the subject matter experts one month to write their pieces and use the following board meeting to review. Dates will be determined.

### **Club Awards**

Various plaque and certificate styles have been used for the club's annual awards. It was suggested that the club standardize. The Awards Committee to adopt a standard for recognition plaques and certificates.

### **Programs**

October: Gary Sutcliff, W9XT, Moonbounce program.

November: Investigate Ground Controlled Approach

December: Elmer night and Amateur Radio related video, if time allows.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX  
Secretary WARAC

**Phil Noftz, N9FEW**, passed away on September 2, 2011, at the age of 91. He was active in WARAC in the late 1980's and 1990's, serving as Vice President in 1992 and 1993 and President in 1994 and 1995. He also received our Member of the Year award in 1994. Phil was a WWII Army Air Force veteran and a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason. Sadly, I don't believe anyone from WARAC attended Phil's funeral on September 7 since word of his passing was not received in time.



The picture on the right shows Phil with CQ Magazine photographer Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI, on a WARAC Field Day in the 1990's. As a result of Larry's visit, a picture of our Field Day appeared in a CQ Magazine calendar the following year.



Tom, K9BTQ

**John "Jackie" Jurek, KC9MJO**, passed away peacefully on Sunday, September 25, 2011 at his home in Naples, Florida. A Milwaukee Memorial Service was held on October 8. Jackie joined our club as a brand new General Class ham in February 2008. He had been interested in ham radio for years but never got a license until he retired. To get started, he bought a Heathkit SB303 HF receiver and an SB-401 transmitter on Ebay. He soon found that the older gear left something to be desired so he invested in an Icom 706. With help from John, K9IAC and other club members, he put up several wire antennas and became active on the Milwaukee-Florida Net. He soon found that there were too many guys named John on that net, so he dusted off his old childhood nickname of "Jackie". He was also a member of MRAC and was active on 2-meters.



Jackie participated on Field Day with our club and his camper was used for the 75/20-meter station in 2008 and 2009. He was no stranger to electronics. He received a BSEE in 1968 from MSOE and did analog and digital design during his career. Also, in earlier days he built Heathkit and Knight audio and test equipment, and designed some HiFi amplifiers from old TV tubes.

Jackie and his wife Andrea bought a place in Naples, Florida and had plans to move there permanently. They also had a boat named Andrea Lauren.



Our sympathy goes to his wife Andrea, his daughter Sarah and son Jonathan. Jackie was 65.

# 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>

## TIDBITS

Tom Nickel AKA KC9KEP has earned his 'Extra' ticket this past September at the Belvedere IL Swapfest :-)

Also, proud to report that KC9KEP has authored a feature article that is to be published in the fall 2011 issue of the quarterly publication "QRP Magazine".

The feature is named; "QRP 1941 Style" and is all about homebrewing 1941 era equipment and using it to make a QRP contact.

### **Edited from story on**

<http://www.hamradioresources.com/blog/great-ham-radio-stories/>

This weekend I attended the northeastern Wisconsin "YoYo Net" annual picnic and met some of the locals that check into the net. It makes a nice Saturday afternoon, but how many great ham radio stories would you hear at such a local event? Not many I thought. WRONG!

I met a newer local ham that had a decided southern accent. And what a story he had to tell. He explained how he got into ham radio – I forget exactly how many years ago – let's just say "back in the day...". Great story – here it is:

This gent was sitting in church one Sunday listening to the sermon and was picking at some sort of wart or other skin issue he had on his finger. He explained that the person sitting next to him told him to stop picking at it and that he would cure his skin problem after the service. The story goes that this stranger explained that he was a ham radio operator. He advised my new friend to place his finger near, but not on, his car's ham radio antenna. "After it gets warm, move it away from the antenna...". So after the stranger started the car – he did. And he said you could see the arc and that it did in fact burn the wart or whatever off his finger. Says he still has the scar. And THAT is why he got interested in ham radio...

Good story??? Wait – it gets better... Seems this stranger in church was one of the original "spooks". Seems he was French-Canadian and served in WWII as a paratrooper and was "employed" by the OSS – the fore-runner of the CIA. He was a spy!

So there's the story.

Stay radio active!

Jon E. Kreski, AB9NN

## **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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Milwaukee, WI 53201  
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.