

OCTOBER 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. You can get hold of her at 414-529-3536 or barbsewsblue@gmail.com.

Club Meeting

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis October 9, 2018 7:00 PM Elections Jim WB9IXS discussing remote operations of his station A Look at FT8Call operating mode. Premeeting dinner Johnny V's Classic Café, 1650 S. 84th St. at 5:00PM.

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

> 2018 Awards Dinner October 21, 2018 at 5:00pm See Page 7 for signup sheet Bring to meeting or send

The President's Shack October 2018

Hello, Hello...wow it seems like the October Hamtrix came up fast this month. And it is true as our esteemed editor has decided to put personal business ahead of his club responsibilities and is taking a quick fall vacation. Geez. We certainly hope to hear all the details at the club meeting, so have a great time and take a few pictures!!

The big deal this month is the annual elections. Positions up for grabs are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and one Board Member at Large (2 year term). As in the past, I really encourage you to jump in and help out. All the existing board members are absolutely willing to step aside for new comers. We welcome new members joining the board bringing new ideas, enthusiasm and spirit to the mix. That makes for a great club. No downside there.

The work of the board is actually something a bit unique to our club. As I understand the history, the idea behind the board was to push all the back room nits and lice tasks to a separate meeting, thus allowing the general meeting to focus on programs, operating discussions and the all important eye-ball QSO's. That's why we spend so little time at the monthly meetings talking budgets and back room business and rather, focus on the social aspects of our club. We always publish the meeting notes in Hamtrix so you the members can keep up with the current issues. Also, everyone is absolutely invited to attend board meetings. We rarely get visitors, but the door is always open.

So take a look at the meeting notes and strongly consider throwing your name in the hat. We welcome your participation. The next year promises to be a lot of fun. Current issues include, a) Proposal to reduce the frequency of board meetings b) 2019 budget review c) Fund raising ideas d) Web page hosting changes. We also always talk about the big annual club activities: Swapfest and Field Day. That's what

the board does. Your interest and willingness to participate is all that is needed. So if you are at all interested, please consider running. You'll have a great time.

Enough about elections. Other program topics will be Jim, WB9IXS discussing remote operations of his station this past month. He has quite a story to tell. Also we will take a quick look at the new FT8Call operating mode. Did I mention coffee and donuts? Those are always a given.

Finally, October is the month for the Awards Dinner. Sign up and join the party on Sunday, October 21st at the New Berlin Hills Golf Club.

Don't forget the pre-meeting dinner at Johnny V's See you all on Tuesday.

73's MJ,WO9B

Check out our Facebook page!!! Start Posting!!!! https://www.facebook.com/WestAllisRAC/

From the editor

Being with a healing broken elbow this may be a short editorial. I'm not the best at typing with one hand. Maybe I should've set up voice recognition. Hi Hi I have taken the first step to the digital world by picking up a used Signalink SL-1 and hooking it up to my FT-817. I was able to get it working and made a few FT-8 contacts as time permitted. Interesting but I wonder where it will go. It does extend the ability to contact stations but contact them to do what?

Of course FT-8Call allows short messages to be exchanged. It is in the testing stage. Shows some possibilities especially for the younger hams who seem to favor text for rag chewing. Of course with the Sun being dead (propagation wise) there are few other games in town.

Judy and me are going to the Niagara Falls area on a week tour. I don't think I'll take any radios. I haven't had the best of luck with finding space to operate in or around hotels. Of course this may be the time.

Frank KA9FZR

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WARAC General Meeting Minutes

September 11th, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President Mike, WO9B.

There were two guests, Judy Humpal, Frank's Wife, and Greg, the son of Ferd Wesolowski.

Mike wanted to present a 3 minute video about the 911 Terrorist Attack in 2001. Unfortunately, it did not work on his notebook. Don, K9AQ, was in New York City during the attack, and told us about his experience that day.

Mike talked about several club related items.

- Talked about the cartoon in the Sept. Hamtrix.

- Talked about the last membership meeting at the Pro Healthcare park in New Berlin. More than

10 members from the Miller Valley ARC were there.

- The club as 2 pieces of equipment to sell: an Icom IC741 Xcvr for \$200 obo, and a Drake L4 Linear amplifier for \$450..

- Reminded us that the Awards Dinner is coming up on Oct. 21st, and we should be purchasing our tickets. There is a form in this month's Hamtrix.

- Erwin, WI9EV, talked about the swapfest, and how we could encourage companies to become sponsors for the swapfest.

- HRO is having their Superfest 2018 on September 28th and 29th. We will have a table there, and need members to visit HRO, and spend a little time manning the table.

- Mike discussed some of the activities and responsibilities of the WARAC Board. The elections are next month, and there is a need for at least one new board member.

The main presentation was on Digital Modes by did sell the L4B Linear Amp at Belvedere. W9WLX. Chuck's presentation Chuck, provided by Icom, Kenwood, and Flex Radio. DMR developed was by

Telecommunications (ETSI). Standards Institute System Fusion was developed by Yaesu, and they provide the equipment. Chuck highlighted the pros and cons for each digital mode, and then provided demonstrations for both D-Star and DMR.

The meeting was adjourned about 9:20pm.

Coffee, dounuts, and eyeball QSOs followed the demonstations.

Respectfully submitted, Howard Smith, WA9AXQ WARAC Secretary September 26th, 2018

WARAC Board Meeting September 25th, 2018

The Board Meeting was held at The Bosch in Hales Corners. President Mike, WO9B, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Tom, K9BTQ, and Dave, WB9OWN were absent.

Treasurer Bill, N9KPH, had sent the financial reports to the board members by email. He commented that there was not much activity during September.

Secretary Howard, WA9AXQ, reported that the club's membership database had been updated, and he was working on providing the updated text data for the member handbook. He expected to have this file to Bill before the weekend. Bill had provided a preliminary copy of the member handbook that he and XYL Barb had put together using Microsoft Publisher.

Steve, NO9B, reported on the Ozaukee swapfest, and the Belvedere swapfest that he attended. He

presented the three digital mode, D-Star, DMR, Frank, KA9FZR, asked that the Hamtrix material and Fusion. D-Star was developed by the Japan be available on Wed, Sept. 26th, so he could Amateur Radio League, and equipment is complete the Hamtrix before he left on vacation.

European While Tom, K9BTQ, was not there, a discussion

was held about a meeting of the WIQP committee which needs to be scheduled to resolve any issues for the 2019 WIQP. Tom will need to schedule this when he returns from his trip to Oregon.

Programs for the October meeting are set, but the November meeting is undecided.

The board discussed the need of having monthly board meetings, and thought that perhaps quarterly meetings would work just as well. This will be discussed at the next membership meeting. This change does need a change to the constitution.

The upcoming election was also discussed, and Mike is hopeful that some members will decide to come forward and volunteer for both Officer and Board Member positions.

Field Day was discussed, and different ideas about the event were explored. While there have been plenty of members present for the setup, the

teardown had about half that number of members. Finding operators has been difficult, especially those willing to work the 11:00 pm to 7:00 am times. The New Berlin site has been really great, and so has the support from New Berlin. There was no discussion about finding a different site.

The final discussion was about the WARAC website, how it is implemented, and the ease that it can be updated. This is made more complex because QTH.net, who hosts the website, also provides for the email services, and email reflectors that the club has. If a different website provider is chosen, then a different provider for the email services would also be needed.

The meeting adjourned about 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Howard Smith, WA9AXQ Secretary, WARAC September 26th, 2018

Mni Park Activation

On 18Sept18 Mike WO9B and me did a snap park activation. Even though weather said rain it looked like we could do a couple of hours so we went out to Valley view park on Sunny Slope Rd, south of Hwy 43. The park has two pavilions. The one in the woods seemed to be having a mosquito convention going on so we decided to not disturb them and went to the pavilion in the open.

Original plan was to use my FT-817 and signal link to Mikes laptop. There was a cable problem so we used Mikes Flex radio. Set up his portable vertical whip and off we went.

FT-8 on 20 meter was our choise 25 watts our power. Managed to get answered by five stations in less than a hour not too bad. Two from Texas, one from Mississippi and one dx from Belgium.

Still find FT-8 a little spooky but it is a part of amateur radio. Fun in it's own way.

18 Sep 18	18:31:45	14.07538	20M	FT8	+01	-03	N5KDV
18 Sep 18	18:48:30	14.07515	20M	FT8	-18	-15	ON8BB
18 Sep 18	18:56:30	14.07515	20M	FT8	-05	-04	KG5HTH
18 Sep 18	19:32:30	14.07577	20M	FT8	-12	-16	K5SMD

Frank KA9FZR

DX / CONTEST UPDATE http://www.iz5cml.it/dxschedule

<u>DX:</u> Due to the early publication of Hamtrix, the calendar is not yet updated for October. Oooopppss. And what a time we are in, propagation wise. According to NW7US's latest report, "From 24 Sept to 20 Oct, solar activity is expected to be at very low levels throughout the period." Ouch. This sure does feel like a solar minimum, but I'll leave that to the scientists to determine. But all is certainly not lost for those chasing DX. 20 and 17 meters seems to be providing almost daily openings to Europe. Also 40 and 80 meters provides consist DX openings to Europe and the Caribbean/South American areas. As always, FT8 is a viable method, seemingly, at most times of day or night. Go get 'em.



<u>Contests:</u> The contest season is upon us. Have fun in any of these operating events. California QSO Party: Oct 6th

Nevada, Arizona, Pennsylvania, South Dakota QSO Parties: Oct 13th Illinois QSO Party: Oct 21st

Full Contest Schedule check: http://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html

Special Event Corner October, 2018

By Bill Reed/N9KPH

Here's a summary of a few events that might prove interesting during October As always, a much more complete listing ove events can be found at:

http://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:1 /model:Event

State QSO Parties

California: 10/6 to 10/7 Nevada: 10/12 to 10/14 Arizona: 10/13 to 10/14 Pennsylvania: 10/13 to 10/14 South Dakota: 10/13 to 10/14 New York: 10/20 to 10/21 Illinois: 10/21 to 10/22 It's been my experience that the CA QSO party is

a active event. If you're a wine drinker, note that the top 20 non-CA single ops will receive a personalized bottle of a Private Reserve wine. Give it a try! If you win, I'll be happy to help you drink it!.

Other than these seven events, note that there are no other QSO parties for the remainder of 2018.

General Interest Events:

10/05/2018 | 30th Annual Oliver Hardy Festival, Harlem, GA

Oct 5-Oct 6, 1200Z-2300Z, W4O. Inquiring minds want to know just who the heck Oliver Hardy is! 10/13/2018 | Mallows Bay Ghost Fleet

Oct 13, 1400Z-2000Z Mallows Bay is the ship graveyard of over 200 ships scuttled and burned. Club member price is \$20 Nearly 90 were steamships constructed for use in WWI the picture in this column.

but were never pressed into service. www.k3smd.net

10/14/2018 | Get Your Park ON!

Oct 14-Oct 20, 0000Z-2359Z, Global. World Wide Flora and Fauna-North America. All authorized amateur bands and modes. Goal is to activate as many World Wide Flora and Fauna (WWFF) parks as possible throughout North America and have callers to these parks from throughout the world. We are cooperating with Earth Science Week to promote the protected natures areas of the world.

10/27/2018 | Shootout at the OK Corral

Oct 27, 1700Z-2300Z, K7T, Tombstone, AZ. Oro Valley Amateur Radio Club.



So who do you know wants to buy an antenna? Ah, a very BIG Antenna? We have on the ground and disassembled a KLM KT34-XA tri-band beam antenna. It is currently at Betty Junek's QTH and ready to be moved to a new location. It appears to be in good condition. Comments from other owners indicate that it can be used on other ham bands. Club member price is \$200. Manual included. See the picture in this column.

Also available are the following antennas:

Cushcraft R7 vertical (10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, 40 meters)

Good condition, includes manual, asking \$100. See the picture in this column.

Two Comet vertical UHF antennas, good condition, asking \$50 each.

"Thank you" to George, AA9SR; Rich, KC9PEL; Bill, W9ASA and Beaver Tree Service (Bill, WQ9A; Patrick, KC9WJI and Mitchell) for their assistance in getting all of the antennas removed. It was a very big job!

For additional information please contact Phil, W9NAW, 414-617-7029.

Phil,W9NAW 26 Sept 2018





WARAC Annual Awards Dinner

Sunday, October 21, 2018 5:00 PM QSO Time – 6:00 PM Dinner

New Berlin Hills Golf Course 13175 W. Graham St., New Berlin, WI 43.004824°, -88.077598°

WARAC Activities

the year in review

- Swapfest WIQP
- Field Day
 IOm Contest

more

Presentation of:

- 2017 Scholarship
- Years of Membership Awards
- Contest Awards
- 2017 Member of the Year

Dinner Menu

Tenderloin tips w/Gravy, Marinated Baked Chicken Breasts

Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans w/Almonds, Salad, and Dinner Rolls. Tax and gratuity included. Cash bar.

Program

TBA

Awards Dinner Reservation Form Sunday, October 21, 2017 5:00 PM QSO Time – 6:00 PM Dinner					
Name	Call				
Number attending	Amount (\$18 Each)				
Sign up Deadline: October 23	Bring form and money to club meeting or mail to:				
Make checks payable to: W.A.R.A.C, Inc.	Bill Reed 3380 S Russel Road New Berlin, WI 53151				

A spark gap story

This story is from the 1950 book "The Nymph and the Lamp" by Thomas H Raddall. The scene is on a sandbar island about 80 miles north east of Halifax in the turn of the century where spark gap transmitters are still king. The Island has two light houses, several life boat stations and a major relay radio station.

I'll try to put some of this story and one other I copied from the book in the coming months. Both are concerned with radio so seem to fit in with Ham Radio.

First Watch

When you put on the phones it was as if your inner self stepped out of the bored and weary flesh and left it sitting in the chair in that barren room. For a space you were part of another world, the real, the actual living world of men and ships and ports, in which Marina was nothing but a sandbar and a trio of call letters in the signal books. Whistling, growling, squealing, moaning, here were the voices of men transmuted through their finger tips, issuing in dots and dashes, speaking twenty languages in one clear universal code, flinging what they had to say across: the enormous spaces of the sea.

Here were the Americans with their quenched-spark sets, their high flute notes; and British tramps with their synchronous-rotaries, their hoarse baritone whose tune was halfway down. the scale; the Canadians and their high wailing rotaries; the curious musical pop-poppopping of the Germans with their Telefunkens; the French tramps and trawlers bleating like small sheep lost in the green wet pastures: of the sea, and their liners, crying out in a quick precise tenor to the shore; the harsh scream: of the occasional Japs, whose names were all something-Maru,jamming, the six-hundredmeter wave with their internal five-kilowatt sparks for an hour at a time, oblivious of international regulations; the quick, jerky piping of the Italians; the ringing manly bosun-tones of the Norwegians, the Swedes and Danes.. All these sparks bellowed, cried, muttered or whispered together on the six-hundred-meter wave, the main channel for ship traffic. At night when the darkness increased their range by' three, four or five times the uproar was terrific, the sound of a vast swamp on a spring night filled with vociferous frogs. By day the range and the Babel subsided; but there was seldom quiet. Ships talked to each other, or they demanded notice from the shore, crying the attention of New York or Boston or Caper Race or Marina, that outpost which could pluck messages far" out of the ocean air and fling them on to the landline at Halifax

To wireless operators on the North Atlantic run these stations, known indifferently by name but intimately by their call signals ———NAH, WBF, VCE, VCT—these were the tongues and ears of North America, the listening posts, the speaking trumpets of the continent.

The great liners with their tall masts and powerful transmitters best rode the ocean, hurling messages now to one side, now the other. These were the prima donnas of the Show, it with strong clear voices sheering through the boom and trill of the chorus, uttering a few clipped notes here and there, and then bursting forth in long arias addressed to London, Paris or New York. Their voices rang about the wide sea spaces and all . the others shrank to a murmur. But when the last cadenza died in a final dot or dash the chorus rose once more, the vast tramp navy, the rabble of the sea, insistent and tumultuous, demanding the notice of each other or of some distant station on the land.

In all this medley there were certain sounds that had special meaning. Your own call signal first; but that was burned into your mind with letters of fire so that, waking or dozing in a dull watch, or reading or writing or pottering with the dials, its merest whisper brought you erect and alert in the chair, reaching out for pencil and message pad. There was CQ, the anonymous call that might mean anybody, the constant "Hey, Mac!" of the groping tramps. There was QST, the general call to all stations, ship and shore, which usually had to do with navigation warnings, icebergs or derelicts in the lanes, and suchlike matters. But most significant was a simple group of dots and dashes that for convenience were written SOS, although it could have been VTB or any combination of letters involving three dots, three dashes and three dots, all run together without pause. This was the magic symbol by which all the frogs in the great sea—swamp , could be hushed in a minute. For every operator, even for cynics like Skane and old hands like Carney, that sound never lost its thrill, its quick clutch at the heart.

Usually the cry came from some foundering tramp, one still small voice in the uproar, barely heard by one or two ships on the edge of its range. But those ships spoke quickly, urgently, and were heard by the nearest shore station, the traffic policeman whose voice was law. Then a lonely man at the key of some outpost like Marina sent a trumpet call ringing through Babel like the voice of God, calling QST—"All Stations"--and demanding silence, adding in a swift flicker of dots and dashes "STD BI FOR SOS." Silence fell within his range, and on the edge of it other shore stations took up the cry, and it went up and down the coast. Here and there a small ship-voice, uncomprehending, uttered a call or went on with some petty business; but then a shore station or a nearby ship cut in with a savage QRT---"Shut up!"

When this took place at night, with its enlarged range, the great silence spread like an infection all the way from Labrador to Florida, and you felt in that enormous emptiness hundreds of alert men on the coast and in the ships, listening, waiting, straining to catch the voice of distress. It was magnificent—all the traffic, all the urgent business of that vast reach of sea and sea~board held up and silenced because, somewhere in the darkness, a few men were in peril.

Then out of the void that still small voice again,

uttering dots and dashes on a small auxiliary set because the engine room was flooded and the main dynamo dead, crying faintly the name of a ship, sinking, latitude so-and-so, longitude so-and-so. Silence again. Then the shore trumpet ringing out, repeating, flinging over the wet wilderness that brief appeal. And again silence. You could imagine, yes, you could see the operators in the ships, talking to the bridge by telephone, or running up there with the figures jotted on a message form; and you could see the officers of the watch, the smart liner-officers in blue and brass, the unkempt mates of tramps, the grim skippers aroused from their berths, the heads together under the chartroom lamps, the stalking legs of brass dividers, the slither of black parallel—rulers, the pencil calculations and jottings; and you could hear the rumbling voices-"Sparks? Here's our position and speed"---"Five hours"---"Twelve hours"---"Sorry, we can't do him any good, we're four hundred miles to the east"-'Heavy sea from the nor'ard here, anyone nearer?"---- "Make it by daylight, weather holding"-- "What's their wind, can you get their wind? If they take to the boats they'll drift."

Dots-and-dashes in the phones again. Ships reporting position. A stride to the chart on the station wall. Nearest? This one. But he's only a tramp doing seven knots—poor coal, probably. Next one's a tanker doing close to twelve—~says he's got a heavy, cross—sea on that bearing but can make it. But here's a liner doing twenty, farther off than the others of course, but he could be there in less time. So many hours. Um! Chances are the ship'll be down before that. Case of looking for boats. Head all three of 'em for it, then. That other chap, too, and the Yankee trawler. We can turn 'em back again if the liner does the trick.

Back to the key. The trumpet blaring. Situation thusand—so. Suggest this, suggest that. ("Never command," Carney would say. "Remember, you control all wireless traffic in your area but you can't command the skippers. By Jingo, nobody commands a skipper but his owners and his conscience—and you've got no time to contact owners when a ship's going under.") From there on you sat silent, hearing the cross-talk of the rescuing ships. When all was working properly you notified the rest of the coast that traffic could be resumed. At once the swamp came back to life, but with one conspicuous spot of calm in the area of the ship in distress. There nobody talked but the ships concerned, and you stood by ready to snap at any ham-handed fool who interfered.

Oh yes, it was wonderful. It was exciting. The blood in your veins, gone sluggish in so much monotony, went tingling through them then. You were alive in every nerve. Whenever you put on the phones you felt the importance of the whole complex system of which your lonely outpost was a part; but when a ship cried distress in your area you became a god seeing the sparrow's fall. You saw. The pictures came on some sort of screen in your mind. Imagination? Part of it, perhaps. It was hard to explain, and Carney and Sargent and Skane had tried to explain it and had failed; it was not until Isabel had spent many hours beside them at the phones that she began to see, dimly, what they meant. The pictures came into your mind with the far thin fluting of the distant spark; it was an induced effect, conveyed by the invisible operator's hand on the key precisely as the motions of a pen across paper convey in a way subtle but very real the writer's personality and character and the emotions of the moment.

This eerie sixth sense came to every operator in a degree that varied with his experience and with the sensitiveness of his own mind and emotions. On the coastal stations, where there was a good deal of interstation traffic, each operator became known to the others by his "hand," his style, the color of his personality flung on the mind-screens of the others by the mere contact of his fingers on the transmitting key.

As the forms of her three men dwindled and disappeared over the dunes towards the west, Isabel thought upon these things and wondered if she could ever fully acquire that occult art. At all events, she reflected, adjusting the crystal point, for the ,- next four hours I've got "something to do." As if to prove the matter a bugle sounded in the phones calling Marina. With the ease of practice, almost of habit, she threw the big transmitting switch with her left hand and slipped her right to the key._ Stentor in the engine room awakened at her touch and snarled obediently. She smiled, and wondered why she had ever feared , the thing. She made her dots and dashes neatly, with that rhythm on which Skane had been so insistent.

She reversed the switch, gave the crystal an expert tap, and , picked up a pencil. The small bugle sang in the phones again. She watched the pencil move across the blue message form. It ' was as Matthew had assured her. "Once you've got the feel of it, you're simply part of the machine. The stuff comes in on the aerials and runs right down to your fingertips." It was a routine message; an Italian tramp inward bound for Halifax, informing the agents of its estimated arrival date and time, the bunkers and water required; asking about pratique.

She gave a receipt and called Halifax. The spark screamed through the station and over the dunes. ditdit-dit-da, da-dz't-da- dit, dit-dz't-dit, the dots cracking out like musketry, the dashes blaring, an immense aleowerful sound. She exultediin it now. The sensation was marvelous. And when the deep drone of Halifax answered, buzzing a peremptory "K," she rattled off that humdrum message swiftly and expertly like an old hand at the game. Halifax droned "R," and there was a momentary pause. Then, "W0?" A smile played over Isabel's lips. She had half expected that. In the gray building at the harbor month, which she had seen blurred in the dusk as the Lord Elgin carried her to sea, the operator had detected a strange hand at Marina and he was curious. She answered crisply, "C's wife." Another pause. Then the drone again. "Well done." That was music

What a FCC action looks like https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-18-801A1.pdf

Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club, is hosting the Wisconsin Parks on the Air event this September. We also have a website, http://wipota.com/ with information. The event will take place on September 15th 2018 from 11 am local to 6 pm local. Please go to the web site for more information!

Archive of Radio Constructor magazine, a UK mag that ran from from 1947 to 1981.

https://www.americanradiohistory.com/Radio_Constructor_Magazine.htm

Officers and Board President Mike Johnson WO9B

Vice President Steve Dryja, NO9B

Secretary Howard Smith WA9AXQ

Treasurer Bill Reed N9KPH

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