



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 71, Issue 10 October, 2022

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

Meeting
October 11, 2022 7pm
New Berlin Community Center
14750 W. Cleveland Ave.
New Berlin, WI
Between Moorland and Sunnyslope
Presentations
To be announced

Trunk to Trunk swapfest at 6:00pm
Community center parking lot



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Editor's Corner

Don't forget the trunk to trunk swap fest. I'll have to dig through my junk and see what I can part with. Easier not to think about it than do it. That's why it builds up. HI HI

The Illinois QSO party is coming up October 16, 2022

. Mike WO9B and me did a mobile route last year and had a ball doing it. It was a good test of my screwdriver antenna set up. Worked well. We kept it to daylight hours. It was fun This year we are adding a second CW operator. Mike AA9RK. We have found that doing CW in a car while moving is a challenge. The movement which you correct for is tiring, like being on a moving boat.

We are looking forward to it. It will be a nice way to get out on the road.

Mike WO9B had successful parks activations this summer. I made most of them even though when I tried to contact anyone on the radio with my CW skills, no luck this year. Will have to keep practicing.

We have elections this meeting. At this time we are looking for a Secretary. Think about it, especially if you are looking to get more involved in the club. Your writing and English skills don't have to be perfect. We will check your work.

So I'm recovering from my pacemaker upgrade. More time for other work

See you at the trunk to trunk and meeting.

Frank KA9FZR



WARAC

Find Us On The Air

VHF Simplex 146.55 Mhz

Looking for a Club Member to chat with? Fire up the VHF rig and give a shout out on the VHF Simplex Frequency 146.55. You'll be surprised how often someone is listening. Hit the PTT and say "Hello"

DMR - BM TG 3155 WI State

The WI State 3155 TG is available on all the local DMR Repeaters AND via your HotSpot. Put yourself monitoring and come find a Club Member

Nut Net - Mon to Sat on 3.985 Mhz @ 8:15 AM

Join The Nut Net on 80 Mtr SSB from 8:15 to 9:00 AM Mondays thru Saturdays. Check-ins are from all over WI. You'll be a Nut Netter regular in no time. This is a general discussion net that gets your day started out right.

Milw - Florida Net - Mon to Sat 14.290 Mhz 7:00 AM

Join Tom, K9BTQ, for this early morning Check In Net, Mon thru Sat on 20M from 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM. Get the news to get your day started out just right.

6 Meter Chat - Wed, Fri 50.160 Mhz @ 9:30 AM

Paul, W9PCS, hosts this informal 6m online get together on Wed and Fri starting at 9:30 AM. This is a round table discussion and everyone is welcome to drop by and join in.

WARAC Club Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2022

Club meeting was called to order by Feroz Ghose WU9N at 7:01 pm.

Attendance was 14 club members with 1 visitor Carl Pluckhan W9MPF.

Last months club minutes published in Hamtrix were accepted “as published” (“We brought pizza and ate pizza”) and was seconded.

Treasurers Report, by Bill N9KPH. “Recent Sendiks brat and hamburger sale yielded about \$200 for the club... Very little finance activity to report, we have about \$10,000 in the checking account.”

October program will be a “Swapfest out of the trunk of your car.”

Election of club officers will take place at October meeting.

There will be a future Board Meeting to discuss this topic.

Erwin Von-de-Ehe WI9EV has volunteered to audit the clubs financial records for the past calendar year.

Thank you Erwin!

SDRplay Demonstration by Mike Johnson WO9B.

Very good presentations was given by Mike, here are web links to the said topics.

<https://www.qsl.net/4nec2/>

http://www.ae6ty.com/smith_charts.html

Memorable quote of the evening. “I enjoy the technology but the meeting of people, the interpersonal, is more important to me.”

Slow speed CW net is still meeting Monday night at 8pm. WB0AFB repeater 147.045 is being used for net coordination frequency. All are welcome.

Meeting ended @ 8:20pm and coffee and donuts followed.

Respectfully Transcribed and Submitted

David Garnier WB9OWN

Secretary WARAC, October 2, 2022

• —• —••

2022 Challenge for our membership. Have someone you meet, Ham or Ham wannabe come to a meeting this year!

WARAC Quarterly Board Meeting – October 4, 2022

A quarterly board meeting was called by Feroz, this was a Jitsi meeting
<https://meet.jit.si/WARACHamRadioClubVirtualMeeting>

Board Members Present

Feroz Ghouse, WU9N, Dave Garnier, WB9OWN, Tom Macon, K9BTQ, Bill Reed, N9KPH, Phil Tollefson, WA9AQL Frank Humpal KA9FZR, Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, was a guest.

1. Call To Order @ 7:05 pm

2. Approved Minutes of the last board meeting “as is.”

3. Treasurers Report(s) by Bill, N9KPH. Income & Expense report of 11/1/2021 to 9/30/2022 and Proposed Budget for 2022 to 2023. WARAC checking account balance of \$10,144.78, Scholarship savings account of \$4,842.73, Scholarship CD of \$7,338.16, for Grand Total of \$22,325.67 (as of 9/30/2022.) Note, the \$12,000 check to the ARRL Foundation was acknowledge by ARRL letter of thanks dated 3/17/2022.

4. Proposed Election of Officers

President - Feroz

Vice President - Mike Johnson

Secretary - position is open

Treasurer - Bill Reed

Auditor – Erwin Von de Ehe

5. Committee Members – (2 members at 2 year cycle)

Phil, WA9AQL

Tom, K9BTQ

6. At Large Members

Frank, KA9FZR

7. Club Activities

Brat-fry(s) - Two events are being planned. May 19-21 blacked out for Dayton

Field Day - Yes. Committee planning later. Site choice begins Jan 1st.

Pizza - Yes

Small Swapfest - “Truck 2 Trunk” parking lot.

Technical Discussions and Demos at Meetings. Yes, discussions on going.

Meeting end @ 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Transcribed and Submitted

David Garnier, WB9OWN

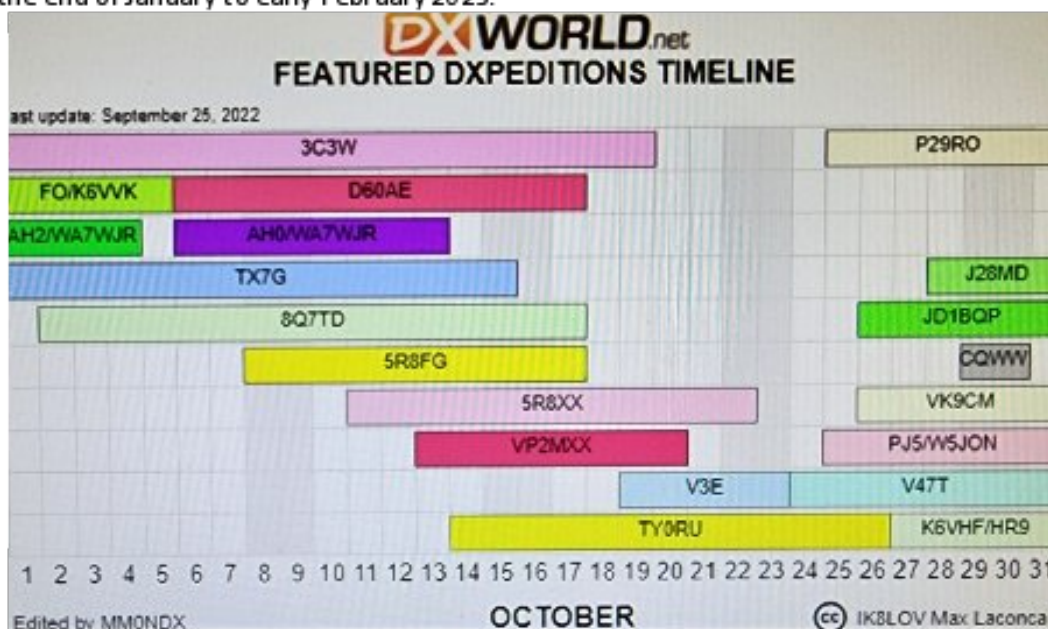
Secretary, WARAC

October 5, 2022



DX UPDATE:

Unfortunately I was not able to attend W9DXCC as I indicated last month so no report from me on that. Check the DX World chart below for DX Activity. Some good IOTA's are in operation th month of October. The much anticipated 3Y0J expedition to Bouvet in January has almost met its budget of \$705,000. Look for them on the air the end of January to early February 2023.



DXPEDITION TIMELINE

Propagation:

Propagation has been excellent lately on 10 M and 12 M, especially early morning. One of the biggest sunspots in years is emerging over the sun's northeast limb as I write this.

Contesting:

New York	New York QSO Party	1400Z, Oct 15 to 0200Z, Oct 16, 2022
Illinois	Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 16 to 0100Z, Oct 17, 2022

Check page 70 in the October's 2022 QST for more contests.

For more contests check out: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

Special Event Stations:

For special event station listings (there are many) check out:

<https://www.425dxn.org/index.php?op=wca>

If you have further ideas or suggestions for this page please let WA9BZW (Al) know. wa9bzw@arri.net



2022 Oct Notes

On a wonderful Wednesday last week, Sept 28th, we held the final “Official” Wednesday Park Ops for 2022. Greenfield Park was the venue of choice. They have a nice shelter and close by parking lot. That was the final event for the year.

All in all it was a very good year. Seems we had a rainout or two along the way, but generally we had good weather and what’s more, decent temperatures. Never got hit with the “too hot to go” temps this season.

As October rolls into November we will most likely get a couple more park days on the dance card. I’ll continue to make the notifications via Facebook, but they will be very short notice. Most likely day of events.

For the parks visited this year, they were mostly rewinds from the past year. The emphasis is on southwest suburban Milwaukee, which works well for most of us. We did do Grant Park and Col Haig in Wind Lake, but the others were easy driving distances.

On a personal note, I want to thank all the regulars who showed up week after week. I never do a headcount but I’d guess the most we had was 15 or so. A typical week I’d guess to be 8 to 10. It is a lot of fun and very much a social as well as radio event.

This will be the last column until next season. I was kidding about doing winter events in local coffee shops....but that might not turn out to be loose talk. Thank you very much everyone. You have made the Wed Park Ops fun and a real treat.

Join our mailing list to receive the weekly announcement direct to your inbox. To join, send a note to mike@palomonet.com



Nut Net Breakfast to start, AGAIN

Several years ago there was talk among Nut Net members that we should get to meet each other. A breakfast get together idea was started. It was open to all hams, XYL/partners and anyone who wanted to learn about amateur radio. Even visiting OM/XYL couples joined us.

So, on the fourth Tuesday each month at 8:30 am we will once again meet at Gensis Restaurant, corner of HWY 100 and Beloit Road, Greenfield, WI. Looking forward to seeing you, mark your calendar.

Phil, W9NAW

Sunday October 16, 2022 we will be on the road Drop by and say hello. Will be using 20 and 40 meters.

Again this year, the KA9FZR team will be dipping our WI toes into the ILQP pond with another mobile operation. Last year's event was a total gas and we have high expectations again this year. The 2022 Team will consist of KA9FZR, WO9B and new addition AA9RK. It will be a CW only operation for us. Last year we had such a wonderful time and the bands were literally awash with signals, it just makes sense to put the band back together for Round 2.

The route will be the same as last year covering (in order) LAKE, COOK, KANE, DEKALB, OGLE, WINNEBAGO, BOONE, MCHENRY and then back to LAKE.

We expect to commence ops at 1800 UTC and wrap up by 2200 UTC, so we are in it for a quick afternoon touring the northern IL counties.

Looking forward to filling the logbook and taking in the fall colors!!!

Vy 73,

MJ, WO9B



ILLINOIS QSO PARTY 2021

OPERATING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

FOURTH PLACE ILLINOIS MOBILE STATION

KA9FZR

SPONSORED BY THE

WESTERN ILLINOIS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



The Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club (W9ZL)

An ARRL Special Service Club

2022 SWAPFEST

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6th, 2022



Starlite Club

W2091 County Rd JJ
Kaukauna, WI



The FCARC Swapfest is an inclusive event for enthusiasts of amateur radio, computers, electronics, and other related curiosities and miscellanea. Everyone is welcome to attend!

- **Buy, sell, and trade** electronics, computers, computer games, test & scientific equipment
- **On site VE testing** – Walk-ins for testing are welcome from 9:00AM until 9:30AM: Bring your current license and CSCEs (if applicable) and two forms of ID (one must be a picture ID) – cost is \$15 for the testing
- **Enter the raffle for great prizes.** Additional raffle tickets are only \$2 each or 3 for \$5. You need not be present to win the top prizes. One raffle ticket is included with each admission!
- **Great food and refreshments available all day!**
- **Talk-in** on the wide area 146.76 pl 100 repeater – Need directions or just want to say “HI”?
- Admission is \$5 in advance or \$6 at the door. Children 12 and under are **FREE!**

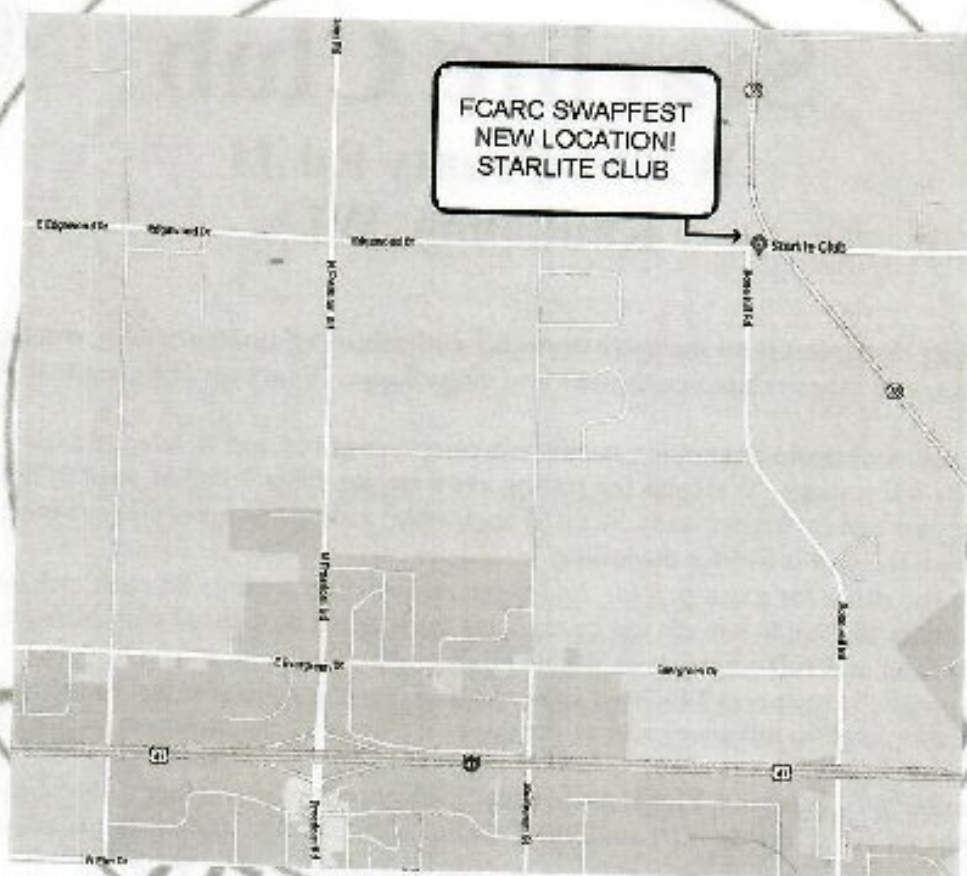
Each admission includes one **FREE** raffle ticket! Advance purchase 8-foot swap tables are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door (if available). Setup starts at 6 AM and general admission starts at 8 AM. Tables and admission tickets can be ordered by mail:

FCARC Swapfest
Anthony L. Mach, AB9IO
773 Yorkshire Rd.
Neenah, WI 54956

DON'T FORGET! PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE AND PAY WITH PAYPAL!
VISIT <http://www.fcarc.club/hamfest.php> AND ORDER ONLINE!

GPS Coordinates: N 44.315178 °, W 88.292282°

Directions: US Hwy 41 Toward Little Chute, WI
Take Exit 146 Toward Hwy N / Freedom Rd.
Drive North on Hwy N / Freedom Rd. for approx. 1.3 miles.
Take a Right onto Hwy JJ / Edgewood Dr.
Drive East on Hwy JJ / Edgewood Dr. for approx. 1.0 mile.
The Starlite Club is on the Righthand Side of the street.



©2022 Map Data Courtesy of Google

<http://www.fcarc.club/hamfest.php>
<http://www.starliteclub.com>

FCARC Swapfest Website
The Starlite Club

Come spend some time with us!
For more information, contact Anthony Mach, AB9IO at: 920.858.6300
or e-mail: hamfest@fcarc.club

What is FT8 & WSJT-X & how do I get started?

by Kyle K7KE Posted on November 3, 2020

I am guessing that most of you reading this have either heard about FT8 from fellow Hams or heard it on air as that strange repetitive buzzing sound between the CW and SSB portions of the bands. A lack of sunspots has turned HF CW and SSB into a dead zone for many of us who don't operate super stations. As one of the fastest growing modes of Amateur Radio it has been hard to miss, but you may be wondering how to get started and why you would want to.

First, what is it? FT8 is one of the many digital modes often referred to as sound card modes (SCM) because they utilize a computer's sound card to bring in audio from your radio to be processed by software to decode the information embedded in the signal. Conversely, when you want to transmit, the software encodes your message into audio tones that are sent out via your sound card to your radio's audio or Mic input.

For years there have been a variety of these new software modes including Phase-shift keying (PSK31 & PSK 65), Hellschreiber, Olivia, Pactor, etc. and even older hardware-based modes such as RTTY that we now use our computers to encode and decode. FT8 is one of a group of Multiple Frequency-Shift Keying (MFSK) modes that include JT9, JT65 and MSK144 created by Joe Taylor, K1JT and co-developers.

Why would I want to operate FT8?

FT8 is designed to maximize communication even when signals are very weak (as low as -24dB). This means that even low-powered stations and stations with sub-optimal antennas can make contacts worldwide. THIS IS MAGICAL. A well equipped FT8 station only requires 25-50 watts and a modest antenna. Power amps are unnecessary and unwanted on the FT8 band segments. With its popularity quickly working DXCC or WAS with FT8 is easily within reach of almost any station. With FT8, activity is limited to a narrow band of frequencies, so it is ideal for use with loop antennas that require retuning when changing frequency, such as CHAMELEON ANTENNA F-Loop 2.0 Portable HF Antenna (CHA-F-LOOP-2-0). FT8 is also extremely popular on the 6 meter band, so there are many opportunities for long-distance communication even with a Technician Class License.

Getting started with FT8

To use FT8 you need four things:

- An HF transceiver with data or SSB capability

- An audio interface, a way to get receive audio from the radio into a computer and audio output of the computer into the radio, typically a sound card interface

- A computer capable of running the FT8 software and time synchronization

- FT8 software

Radios

Although you can operate FT8 with older transceivers, the best experience will come by using a transceiver capable of both computer control and dedicated data mode. Fortunately, most modern radios have both of these. The extra feature that many of today's radios have is a built-in sound card, eliminating the need for the extra sound card interface. Many reasonably priced popular radios have this feature, including the ICOM 7300 (ICO-IC-7300), Yaesu Ft-991A (YSU-FT-991A) and Kenwood TS-590SG (KWD-TS-590SG). If you are looking for a mobile/base radio, the ICOM IC-7100 HF/VHF/UHF (ICO-7100) also has these features at a bargain price.

Audio Interface

If your current radio does not have a built-in sound card interface, there are a few easy to use commercial devices available. West Mountain Radio's RIGblaster Blue is very popular.

Tigertronics line of Signalink digital interface devices are popular as well. Personally I prefer West Mountain Radio's devices because of its superior tech support if you ever need help.

Another option is the MFJ 1204 Series USB Digital Mode Interfaces. Again, choose one of five part numbers for interface and cable combos from DX Engineering to match your rig, connect to the radio, connect a single USB cable to your computer, and you are ready to go. Personal note: I have NOT had good luck with MFJ gear in the past. Your mileage may vary.

Computer and Software

WSJT-X is the most popular software for FT8. This great program is not only free but versions are available for Windows-based PCs and Macintosh OS, Linux (with pre-compiled Debian, Fedora and Raspbian distros). For details on installing and configuring the software, follow the online WSJT-X User Guide. Do not ignore the information on making sure your computer's time is synchronized as this is vital to making contacts! After you install the software, you may also need to configure your radio's settings.

Go to <https://k7ke.com/what-is-ft8-wsjt-x-how-do-i-get-started/> for more info



My CDE rotor control unit blew a bulb that lit the meter. Did a search for a led replacement. Bought one that had 6 small white LED's on a strip ready to solder across the old bulb socket. A little work and it ended up looking like a new piece of equipment. HI HI

DON'T KEY LIKE A PHONE MAN



SLOW SPEED CW QSO NET

Monday's - 8:00 PM - WB0AFB Repeater 147.045 + 127.3 Tone

CW Practice

One of the best and maybe the only way to get better at CW is practice. Having someone else who also wants to practice also helps. Just makes it more fun.

The West Allis Radio Club is going to try to help. We are running a CW practice net on Monday at 8pm The repeater is 147.045+ 127.3 the CW portion is on HF

Mike WO9B has been joining me and setting up some practice but we are open for suggestions on where to go with this. Come join us.

Officers and Board
President

Vice President
Feeroz Ghose WU9N

Secretary
Dave Garnier WB9OWN

Treasurer
Bill Reed N9KPH

Directors
Tom Macon K9BTQ

Phil Tollefson, WA9AQL

Newsletter Editor
Frank Humpal, KA9FZR
fhump@milwpc.com

past president
Frank Humpal KA9FZR

West Allis Radio Amateur Club
P. O. box 511381
New Berlin, WI 53151-1381

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PO Box 511381
New Berlin, WI 53151-1381