

Official Publication of the West Allis Radio Amateur Club

mtrix

Volume 73, Issue 10 October, 2024

Click here to go to web site OCTOBER CLUB HAPPENINGS



NUT NET 3.985mhz Monday-Saturday 8:15am CT

WARAC 4th Tuesday Breakfast At the Forum Layton & Hyw 100 at 8:30am

The Milwaukee-Florida Net time is:

7:15 – 8:00AM Central 8:15 – 9:00AM Eastern Mon through Sat

Meeting Tuesday October 8, 2024 7pm New Berlin Community Center 14750 W. Cleveland Ave. New Berlin, WI Between Moorland and Sunnyslope

Club Officer Elections

Presentations Chasing DX with FT8 Super Fox Mode Mike Johnson WO9B

> Premeeting dinner New Berlin Ale House 5:15pm 16000 W. Cleveland Ave West of Moorland Rd.

Club Dues do in November

When you see words in red letters with an underline under it that is a link to a web page. WARAC web page

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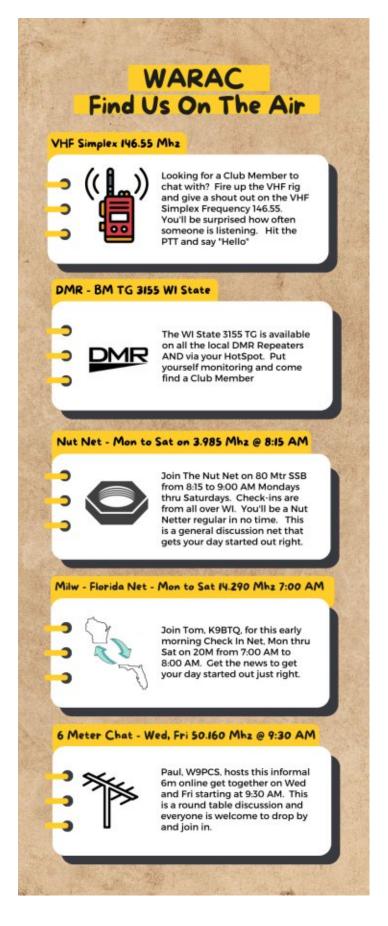


WARAC 4th Tuesday Breakfast

NOTE NEW LOCATION

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 meet at **The Forum Restaurant, corner of HWY 100 and Layton, Greenfield, WI**. Looking forward to seeing you, mark your calendar.



WARAC General Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2024

Called to order by Feroz Ghouse WU9N @ 7:01pm.

Attendance: 17 – 16 Members, 1 Visitor.

Feroz: – Did intro's.

July General Meeting Minutes: - Approved.

Frank KA9FZR: Sendix's grill event brought in \$349.

Scholarship- Howard WA9AXQ: The ARRL named the 2024 scholarship winner. Evan Odya, KD9YYJ. A New Berlin resident and will be attending UW - Madison this fall. Studying engineering.

August: Pizza in the park. We had a Fox hunt, Frank KA9FZR won.

October: Elections. Feroz, Not run for another term as President. Think about running for a position.

November: Dues for 2025.

Dave Garnier WB9OWN: Field day – The day started with rain. And the rain then came later. Colonel Heg Park in the town of Norway, was reasonably close to get to and not a state park. The shelter was nice in size, plenty of room. But open sides. Had to tarp to keep the rain out. Michael, Max & Brayden did the 40M Digital station. Tom & Michael did 20m cw. Dave was on 10m. Donna, Gil, Carla were on 6m. The band pass filters worked. With all the things Dave was doing he was the last to finish setting up his radio and antenna. Dave could use more help during Field day. We left before the weather got really bad. Thoughts for next year. Instead of putting up multiple antennas. Maybe just put up 1 antenna, Fan dipole and use a triplexer.

Mike WO9B: YouTube presentation by Frank Donovan, W3LPL, HF Propagation During Solar Maximum.

W3LPL Propagation talk Aug 21 2024 (youtube.com) - 1:37:46 min.s.

He talks about Solar cycle 25. It looks likes the next 2-3 years should produce the best Dx-propagation in the last 20 years. The Sun has a 27 day rotation. Ionizing radiation, seasonal variations, number of sun spots all effect HF propagation. Solar min. could begin as early as 2029.

Good Tools for checking Band propagation
Reverse Beacon network Welcome! - Reverse Beacon Network
PSK reporter https://www.pskreporter.info/pskmap.html
Ham alert https://hamalert.org/

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Bill Dargis KD9BJZ
Secretary WARAC, September 10, 2024

WARAC Board Meeting Minutes – October 1, 2024

Board meeting called to order by Feroz Ghose WU9N @ 7:00PM.

Present: Feroz Ghose WU9N, Mike Johnson WO9B, Bill Dargis KD9BJZ, Frank Humpal KA9FZR, Pierre Porter KD9SSY, Tom Macon K9BTQ.

July Board Minutes: Approved. Treasurers report: Approved.

Pierre received a letter from the ARRL about, "Grouper providing benefits to eligible ARRL members aged 65+ for staying active in their communities". The board decided to publish the letter in Hamtrix, for the membership to read.

Scholarship: The Board has questions about the ARRL Scholarship Fund status, with the ARRL finance situation. The Board will ask Howard to contact the ARRL Scholarship group to try and get information and report back to the Board.

October Elections: Feroz is stepping down as President, filling the Ex- President position. Mike is willing to run for President. Bill D, Bill R, Tom M are willing to run for their current positions, The V.P. Position is fully open. If you are interested in running for any of the positions, come join the race.

Mike: Website upgrade. Way behind schedule. Planning to spend more time on the project.

Symposium idea: Feroz found that WCTC has wireless microphones for audience participation. Feroz is planning to spend more time, to create a plan / road map, frame work. To get this project moving forward. Feroz thinks it should be a low risk, reasonably low effort, and good rewards for our club.

Mike: Staying active and connected to the New Berlin community. Mayors can change. We have a good relationship with the current administration. We need a plan to stay connected with the New Berlin community. One idea is. Place an antenna, SDR radio with internet in the library for people to use. Another idea is possibly some type of radio class's.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:58PM.

Respectfully Submitted Bill Dargis KD9BJZ WARAC Secretary, October 1, 2024



October 2024 * Hamtrix * By Michael Johnson, WO9B

AllStarLink v3 and Chasing POTA's

AllStarLink v3

A couple months back, Rich, W9ABE, did a wonderful presentation on the <u>AllStarLink Network</u>. It was timely and helpful for me as I had purchased a <u>SHARI Node</u> kit and was playing around with its configuration and use. It is always nice to have a local resource to bounce issues off of and Rich has tutored me on a couple of occasions. In the digital voice world, AllStarLink is the only one that leverages standard analog radios for the RF component in the system. That was very attractive to me. The downside, and of course there is a downside, is that configuring the AllStarLink node is a bit challenging. The underlying operating code is the open source Asterisk PBX phone system modified for radio use. The code is linux based and the very definition of legacy. Fortunately, the developers and enthusiastic user base recognize this challenge and make downloadable packages available to ease the learning curve. Key word is ease, as some operator talent is required.

In my quest to tinker with the features on my SHARI node, I naturally ended up blowing up the whole node. Not literally, but software-wise it was toast and required a total software reload and configuration setup. It seemed I had little to lose at this juncture and decided to upgrade the device to ASLv3, a new version released in June (?). My experience in ventures of this sort is decidedly mixed and expectations were low. Regardless, the process began under the tutelage of a selected YouTube guru and to my amazement, all went exactly as promised.

ASLv3 is a major upgrade bringing the software into the latest linux version. It cleans up the code and takes advantage of current hardware. My SHARI node uses a Rpi Zero 2W which is being pushed hard by ASLv3. No complaints operationally doing node duty, but software interactions are noticeably slow. A Pi 5 or better brings a ton more processing power which will be a benefit to the user experience. Using the new ASL Dashboard is really nice and convenient, a big improvement over Hamvoip which was my previous version. Finally, I use AllScan as a web interface to control the node and I was pleasantly surprised how trivial the installation of this add-on program was.

So all in all a very positive experience. I am using a standalone node without configuration complications, so a basic setup. It is operating reliably and very much as expected. I can't say how a more complicated setup will work, but at this point, I plan to remain an AllStar tourist so all is good. Thumbs up on ASLv3.

Chasing POTA's

My news feed served up this very interesting video from <u>YouTuber K8MRD</u>. I think a good many of us really enjoy chasing the POTA ops and to do so it is common to use the very nice https://pota.app/#/ site. Like K8MRD, in our computer/radio connected shacks, I found it odd that I couldn't just click on the POTA spots and have my radio jump to the frequency. Well, with the use of the IZ2LSC POTA Cluster, and a suitable logging program, that problem is solved. Take a look at K8MRD's video to see how it works. Good stuff. Here is the POTA cluster info:

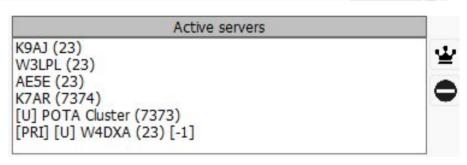
pota-cluster.iz2lsc.eu

port: 7373

I use LOG4OM as my general station logging software. Plugging in the POTA cluster really does work. Additionally, it also automatically enters the POTA Park credentials into my log. What a great deal. Here is what my DX Cluster window looks like. It can be filtered by band and mode as well.



Your logging program may look a bit different, but all of them allow you to customize the DX Cluster (or Clusters) you wish to use. LOG4OM works by collecting spots from a collection of clusters. The ones I use are shown to the right. Multiple DX clusters feeding spots to my logging cluster window really improves the



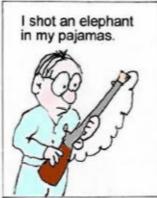
cluster results. I can prioritize the POTA spots, as shown above, by sorting the spot window on the "Note" field

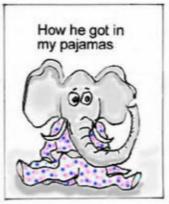
The POTA Cluster is not a good choice for general or DX spotting as it generates spots only from the POTA.app site. With a little trial and error, you can figure out what works best for your software environment. Being able to just click on the spot and having both the radio and logging software automatically adjust is great. It makes the POTA chase like shooting fish in a barrel.

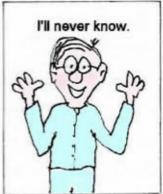
Elmer

by Rich Regent









From the editor

Not much to report this month. It seems to have gone by fast. As a by the way, I will be working on Hamtrix early for next month so don't be surprised to see the request for articles early.

As always working on my Morse code. I still find it a wonder that I can copy it off a radio wave and receive information from it. I would not be surprised that there is a long line of CW operators who experience the same wonder.

Still it has a long history and ways of transmitting code. Remember a Vietnam POW who sent a message by blinking his eyes using morse code. More recently a message was sent to prisoners in the radio music that was being played. My dad and others told me the gunners would use code by making a circle and a straight line with their hand to talk to gunners in other planes and not break radio silence.

The navy at one time, and maybe still, uses it with a shuttered lamps to communicate between ships (also for radio silence). One interesting thing I learned about that is you use different circuits in your brain to use code visually vs audibly I've seen good radio operators stumble along trying to switch.

Enough digging though my trivia on code. I'm sure there is much more.

73 Frank KA9FZR

Swap Corner

If you have something ham related you are looking for or you would like to sell or give away. I would be happy to post them in Hamtrix

Editor

FOR SALE: ASTRON RS-35A







Time to lighten up the shack. I'm in the process of doing an equipment rearrangement and this reliable, traditional linear power supply is looking for a new home. Good condition, no issues. I can bring it to the October Meeting. Questions, Comments, Offers to Mike, WO9B @ 262-923-6194 or mike@palomonet.com

Club Price \$110.00.

FYI, I will list this on QRZ/QTH on Oct 9th if not sold by then.

2024 Challenge for our membership. Have someone you meet, Ham or Ham wannabe come to a meeting this year!

Contest Corner and DX Report Michael Falk, AA9RK

October! The leaves are falling but our contest scores are rising! (I dunno, it sounded good in my head.)

October 5/6 is the weekend of the Collegiate QSO Party, 48 hours of operating. worldwide, and all modes. The exchange is call sign, state/province/DX, and signal report, and multipliers are unique states, provinces, and DX entities. College/University clubs are a 3x multiplier, so it is worth it to find them. There is even a spotting page. All the info is on collegiategsoparty.com. Also the microwaves (902 MHz and above) Fall Sprint, California QSO Party, an international Hellschreiber contest, a Belgian SSB contest, plus a CW/SSB peanut themed ORP event sponsored by the North Georgia QRP Club will be running this weekend - check contestcalendar.com for more info

October 12/13 are great days for state QSO parties. There are events for Nevada, Arizona, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota. There is also the QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party, the Oceania DX contest, and SKCC Weekend Sprintathon (all CW events), the PODXS 160 meter Great Pumpkin Sprint (a PSK31 event) and the SSB Scandinavian Activity Contest and Classic Exchange Contest (both SSB events).

October 19/20, there is the ARRL EME Contest, for those of you interested in moonbounce; the 10-10 International Fall Contest (CW, focusing on 10 meters), the YLRL (Young Ladies' Relay League) Anniversary Contest, the Stew Perry Topband Challenge (160 meters), and two state QSO parties, New York and Illinois. You are especially interested in working the Illinois QSO Party, since I will be mobile with Frank and Mike again, roving through 8 northern Illinois counties, operating as KA9FZR on 20 and 40 meter CW. See you there!

October 26/27, there are very few contests listed on the calendar because one overshadows them

all – the CQ Worldwide DX Contest (SSB) edition. This is one of the marquee events of the contesting year. For 48 hours, stations work others outside their own country's borders. QSOs count for more points based on distance (1 or 2 points for other countries on your continent, and 3 points for stations on other continents), and all countries and CQ zones count as multipliers per band. The DX will be out in force this weekend. Get on the air! Make some QSOs! Even flea-powered stations like mine can work dozens of DX stations on SSB.

Looking ahead to November, well, I have an irrational love for the ARRL Sweepstakes. It's a weird contest. The exchange is long and challenging, multipliers only count once (as opposed to once per band), and it's a strange 30hour long time period, Saturday afternoon through Sunday night. But, none of that is any match for nostalgia. It was one of the few contests for which I really made an effort back when I was a newly licensed teen. When I earned a Sweepstakes pin at the age of 16 in the 1995 SSB Sweepstakes, I thought I was pretty hot stuff. I also thought it was amazing that I won a prize (though I had to pay for it!) for being good at radio. Anyway, as my radio life has changed, as I've contested much more, and as my operating focus has become much more CW than SSB, I've still always loved the Sweepstakes, and I hope to hear you on the bands on November 2/3 on CW, and on November 16/17 on SSB.

. . .

Here are your October Dxpeditions:

3D22 and 3D2V will be on the air from Rotuma, a Fijian island, for most of the month of October. 3D22 is their digital modes call sign, with 3D22 on analog modes. They are using some of the special WSJT modes (SuperFox and MSHV) to make more contacts.

TO2DX on Reunion Island is being activated by Michael OM2DX. He'll be mostly on digital and CW with wire antennas until October 7th.

5H1WX is activating Mafia Island in Tanzania, all modes, on 80-10 meters, until October 6th.

JW5X is on the air from Svalbard, up in the Arctic (during the October 12/13 SSB Scandinavian Activity Contest), and JW6VM, JW7XK, and

JW9DL will operate before and after the contest. ZL7IO will activate Chatham Island, just east of New Zealand, from October 15th through October 31st. ZL7YL will operate in the CQ WW CW contest on November 23/24.

C21MM will activate Nauru with a team of German ops. They will be active starting October 10, with full operations (5 stations!) by October 15, and running through October 29.

Then a number of stations have planned DXpeditions around CQ WW SSB:

5R8CI/5R8WE will be activated by Janusz SP9FIH and Leszek SP6CIK, two Polish gentlemen who'll be spending two weeks in Madagascar from October 23-November 6th. They'll be operating voice, CW, and FT8 in the Superfox mode, on 40-10 meters.

7Q1, in addition to being a cool call sign,indicates that Malawi is being activated by some Portuguese and Spanish ops from October 23 until November 2.

Rodrigues Island will be on the air as 3B9KW (during both CQ WW contests – October 26/27 SSB and November 23/24 CW) and 3B9/M0CFW (for several days before and after each contest). Rodrigues is part of Mauritius, east of Madgascar, in the Indian Ocean.

E6AQ in Niue is another activation for CQ WW SSB. He'll be on the air from October 22 until November 9. Niue is out in the middle of the South Pacific, northeast of New Zealand, east of Fiji, and south or southwest of Hawaii.

See you next month,

-Michael AA9RK

ARRL Announcement

In less than a week, over 275 ARRL members have already taken advantage of a new benefit to help offset their dues and subscriptions. Through a new partnership with Grouper, eligible members who are age 65+ with a participating Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plan can get a paid benefit for being an ARRL member and being active in group activities -- such as attending ARRL Affiliated Club meetings. hamfests. participating in other amateur radio gatherings and events. If you qualify, Grouper will send you an initial payment of \$50. For every three months of recorded activity, you will receive an additional \$20. To check your eligibility, the only information you need to provide Grouper is the name of your health plan and your age. To see if you're eligible, go to www.hellogrouper.com/arrl. Grouper does not have access to ARRL member information (name, call sign, email), unless you provide it to them to take advantage of the paid benefit. And Grouper does not share your information except to service your benefit. ARRL members with additional questions about the benefit can visit the FAQ from Grouper or contact ARRL Member Services.

Having Fun with Frequency Tom Langer KD9FPC

Hello WARAC. The unique antenna contest continues. I am aware of 3 projects complete, and a couple in process. Some interesting stuff. One went out to set up for a POTA and realized he had forgotten things and ended up making up patch lines and all kinds of things. So, there's a month left. Rather than spend a big chunk of this article with the rules, just see the recent prior issues of the WARAC newsletter. Remember, I have some \$5 coffee cards burning holes in my pockets. One could be yours!

Staying with the theme of having fun being radioactive, this month we have a virtual smorgasbord of what will be some interesting, fun and entertaining frequencies to listen to. And, even if you are aware of a few, a good reminder to have a listen again. Either way you are playing radio. And playing radio is a very good thing!

Before I begin, I must give credit to Radio Reference, Stryker Radio and numbers of others. So, let's get going.

Local Milwaukee Repeaters

Frequency	Input	Licens e	Tone	Tone In	Alpha Tag
147.135	147.735	N9FSE		127.3 PL	N9FSE
443.425	448.425	W9 J0 L		127.3 PL	W9J0L
147.105	147.705	K9 IFF	127.3 PL		147.105
147.045	147.645	WB0 AFB	127.3 PL	127.3 PL	MATC
224.52		КАЭЈСР	127.3 PL	127.3 PL	KA9JCP R
443.025	448.025	W9HHX	114.8 PL	114.8 PL	MSOE ARC
443.55	448.55	N9LKH	127.3 PL	127.3 PL	N9LKH 70cm

Wide Area Repeaters

Frequency	Input	Licens e	Tone	Tone In	Alpha Tag
145.13	144.53	N9LKH	127.3 PL	127.3 PL	145.130 R
145.39	144.79	W9RH			145.390 R
147.165	147.765	W9 WK	127.3 PL	127.3 PL	147.165 R
146.91	146.31	WI9MR C	127.3 PL	127.3 PL	146.910 R
443.275	448.275	WI9 WIN		127.3 PL	WIN MKE

443.8	448.8	N9GMT	123.0 PL	123.0 PL	FM38 MKE
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Digital Voice Repeaters

Frequency	Input	Licens e	Tone	Tone In	Alpha Tag
442.20625	447.2063		CC 9 TG *	CC 9 TG *	Chicagola nd DMR
			SL *	SL *	
444.53125	449.5313		CC 1	CC 1	Tri-State
			TG *	TG *	DMR
			SL *	SL *	
1,290.05	1,270.05	W9 MIL			MADOGA
442.46875	447.4688	W9 MIL			MADOGB
145.245	144.645	W9 MIL			MADOGC
146.94	146.34	N9PAY		293 NAC	MKE VHF P25
443.325	449.325	N9PAY		293 NAC	MKE UHF P25
927.5125	902.5125	N9PAY		293 NAC	MKE 900 P25

Sources: Radio Reference and others

In addition you'll find these use specific frequencies...

WARNING - DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TRANSMIT ON ANY GOVERNMENT OR SPECIAL FREQUENCY USED FOR EMERGENCIES, ETC. YOU WILL FIND THAT THE FCC WILL BE VERY UNHAPPY AND MAYBE HUNDREDS OR THOUSANDS OF OTHERS!

Most radios will not allow transmit but some older units may.

Frequency	Use/Who	Notes
162.475, .500, .525, .550	NOAA	WEATHER
27.065	CB CHANNEL 9	LISTENED TO BY STATE PATROL, CB EMERGENCY FREQ.
27.185	CB CHANNEL 19	GENERAL DISCUSSION
462.675	GMRS EMERGENCY FREQ	CHANNEL 20
151.82	COMMON GMRS/FRS	
151.88	GMRS COMMONREPEATER	
121.5	AVIATION EMERGENCY	DO NOT TRANSMIT
123.1	AVIATION SEARCH AND RESCUE	DO NOT TRANSMIT

156.8	MARINE DISTRESS CALLING	DO NOT TRANSMIT
157.1	U.S. COAST GUARD	DO NOT TRANSMIT
161.205	RAILRO AD POLICE	DO NOT TRANSMIT
155.16	LAND SEARCH AND RESCUE	DO NOT TRANSMIT
5.167.5	ALASKA EMERGENCY USE ONLY	DO NOT TRANSMIT
223.5	125CM SIMPLEX	NATIO NALLY
446	70 CM SIMPLEX	NATIO NALLY
906.5	33 CM SIMPLEX	NATIO NALLY
1294.5	23 CM SIMPLEX	NATIO NALLY
146.52	2 M SIMPLEX	NATIO NALLY
7.191	RV SERVICE NET EAST & CENTRAL	EARLY MORNING HOURS
7.184	RV SERVICE ROCKY MTNS	EARLY MORNING HOURS
7.2685	RV SERVICE NET PACIFIC COAST	EARLY MORNING HOURS
14.3	MARITIME SERVICE NET	MONIT ORED 24/7/365 24 HRS
14.325	HURRICANE WATCH	DO NOT TRANSMIT
14.490 TO 14.518	SHIP & SEA WX & WARNINGS	DO NOT TRANSMIT
28.500 TO 27.700	10 M SS B HOT SPOTS	
432.0 TO 432.025	MOONBOUNCE	
148.825	SPACE STATION UP & DOWN	IN 1200 BPS PACKETS

Did you know, according to the US Space Surveillance Network, as of the end of 2022 there were 28,857 pieces of space junk in orbit? Or that as we live our lives today there are 5,465+ operational satellites in orbit above us? Or that space was uncluttered until the 1957 launch of Sputnik? You know of my interest in all things outer space. Next month's article will be a look into the space above us. Be sure to tune in. After all, it's time to get ready to have amazing facts ready for holiday parties.

So, with all of that info, spin the dial and have some fun!







DON'T KEY LIKE A PHONE MAN



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 FEROZ GHOUSE WU9N

Vice President MikeJohnson WO9B

Secretary William Dargis KD9BJZ

Treasurer
Bill Reed N9KPH

Directors
Tom Macon K9BTQ
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