



Hamtrix

Volume 53, Issue 11 November, 2008

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Meetings & Events



November 9

Annual Awards Dinner

November 11

Club Meeting

Starts at 7:00 PM

November 25

Board Meeting

November 30

Material Due for Next
Hamtrix

December 9

Next Club Meeting
Starts at 7:00 PM



The President's Shack

by Howard Smith,
WA9AXQ

I want to thank all of you who came to the October meeting, and participated in the annual elections. I also want to thank you for giving me the privilege of serving as you President for one more year. The Club Officers were all re-elected. The Board position was filled by Chuck Craven, WB9PUB, and the past president position was filled by Bob Zach, KC9AGX.

This is your final reminder to come to the Annual Awards Dinner. It will be a nice evening with a good, home cooked dinner, a presentation by Dennis Rybickie, K9LGU, along with membership awards and door prizes. It's this coming Sunday,

November 9th, 5:00pm at the Machine Shed restaurant in Pewaukee. I hope to see you there.

Our Midwinter Swapfest is coming up soon. This year it is very early; Saturday, January 3rd. That's only two days after New Year's! I have a concern that many people will forget about it while celebrating the New Year. You can help by talking about our Swapfest, and reminding people that it is very early this year. If you remember last years Swapfest, we handed out appointment cards hoping that they would help people remember the early date. Phil, W9NAW, is encouraging members to help sell advanced tickets. This also helps make people aware of the early date. Have all of you marked your calendars with January 3rd, 2009? We need you help that day to insure that our Swapfest is a big success. Thanks!

For the November program, Chuck, WB9PUB, will talk about our club com-

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Starting in November

Club Meetings Now Start at 7:00PM

Meeting Room Opens at 6:30.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

10 Meter Contest

by **Chuck Craven, WB9PUB**

Chairman, WARAC 10 Meter Contest

Contest is December 12, 13, 14

Rules: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/10-meters.html>

Don't Miss Our

Annual Awards Dinner

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

For last-minute reservations, contact Dick Wood, W9JBE



From the Minutes...

By Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR
Secretary

Minutes of the General Meeting

October 14, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by President Howard Smith.

Visitors - Floyd Urbanski, AB9EX, Dwain Runnells, KC9MJJ, James Wilkins, KC9KEQ, Leroy Hass, KC9NST, Paul Hass, KC9JET and Robert Fetterly, N9HWB, were introduced.

Club members then introduced themselves to our guests.

Minutes - the membership approved the minutes as printed in Hamtrix.

Special Announcements - Howard mentioned that he hoped all club members would be present for: 1) our annual club awards dinner, scheduled for November 9; and 2) for our annual major fund raising event, our swapfest, scheduled for January 3, 2009.

Election - at this time, our annual election of officers was held: for President, Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, was re-elected by motion; for Vice-President Tom Macon, K9BTQ, was re-elected by motion; for Secretary Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR, was re-elected by motion; for Treasurer Dick Wood, W9JBE, was re-elected by motion; Chuck Craven, WA9PUB, was elected as Board Member at Large, for a two year term; and Bob Zach, KC9AGX, was elected to the "Past President" position, for a one year term.

Meeting Start Time - the membership voted to approve a 7 PM starting time for club meetings, to begin with the November 11, 2008 meeting.

Program - Digital Television. Dave Schank, KA9WXN, who works at channels 10/36, presented a comprehensive program on the new digital format that will become the norm as of February 17, 2009, at which time all analog TV broadcasts will cease. This was required by the Deficit Reduction Act. This act basically gives the right to sell off some of the former analog channels. Almost all channel numbers will be changed, with

UHF frequencies being the main location of the new channels. Presently there are some 1631 full power stations already working on their new assignments. Dave indicated that if you receive your TV signals via an antenna, you will need to buy a digital-ready television set or purchase a digital-to-analog converter box. The government is providing \$40 coupons to help defray the cost of these boxes, which sell for \$50 to

\$60 without the coupon. He believes there are some 70 million analog sets that are at risk. Dave mentioned that cable companies will be carrying the converted signals for only three years, so those that receive their TV from cable will have some time to buy a digital TV. He did not know what the cable companies will be doing after the 3 years are up. He then talked about antennas that will be needed. He mentioned a web site of www.antennaweb.org that can be used to determine what antenna you would need for "antenna" reception, once you plugged in the needed information. Rabbit ears will probably not work. He further indicated that for channels 7 to 52, you would need to use RG6 coax, and no preamp. Dave brought along a digital converter box, which he then spoke to - how to hook it up, and do a channel scan. He showed us live TV signals on the club TV as to how the new channels look and how they are numbered - channel 36 has 8 signals, with the channels being 36.1, 36.2, 36.3, 36.4, 36.5, 36.6, 36.7 and 36.8. TV signals will still be 6 Mhz wide, just as present. He showed us some examples of possible problems that will occur with digital TV, the most probable problem being no reception for those on the fringes (those that presently see "snow" for pictures).

Swapfest Ticket Announcement - Chairman Phil Gural took the floor at the conclusion of the program to mention that with the 2009 Swapfest occurring January 3, right after the holidays, he felt it VERY IMPORTANT that the club make a concerted effort to sell as many tickets in advance as possible. He has plenty of them and asked that all members take a number along and sell them. We need to cover our costs in advance if possible, as attendance might be down due to the closeness of the holidays.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM, followed by refreshments and eyeball QSO's.

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2007 WARAC Officers and Board			Hamtrix — Editor & Publisher	
President	J. Howard Smith, WA9AXQ	414.425-5626	Submit newsletter material to: Tom Macon, K9BTQ 3547 S. 95 St Milwaukee, WI 53228 414 543-3878 tmacon@wi.rr.com	
Vice President	Thomas W. Macon, K9BTQ	414.543-3878		
Secretary	Lynn C. Tamblyn, K9KR	262.534-9655		
Treasurer	Richard M. Wood, W9JBE	262.542-5118		
Director (2009)	George Dunco, AA9SR	262.782-6325		
Director (2010)	Chuck Craven, WB9PUB	262.642-7628		
Director (1 year)	Robert F Zach, KC9AGX	414.427-0333		
Board Chairperson	J. Howard Smith, WA9AXQ	414.425-5626		
				- - - -

WARAC TEN METER CONTEST

DECEMBER 12-14, 2008

By Chuck Craven, WB9PUB

Each year around mid-December, the ARRL sponsors a contest for 10-meters only. Along with the League contest, WARAC members have the opportunity to join an additional contest just for our club members.

To participate in the Club contest, enter the ARRL contest as you would otherwise, but while operating, keep an ear open for club members. For every club member worked you get bonus points in the WARAC contest. Follow the ARRL contest rules when operating the contest. They may be found in November QST, or at the ARRL web site:
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/10-meters.html>.

The ARRL Ten Meter Contest begins at 6:00 PM CST local

time on Friday, December 12, and runs for 48 hours. You may only operate a maximum of 36 hours during the 48 hour contest time. Note that in Universal time the contest runs from 0000Z December 13, to 2400Z December 14.

For the Club contest you may operate CW only, phone only, or both. CW contacts get a multiplier of two per contact. There are three power levels that apply multipliers to your score, QRP (5 watts or less), low power (5 watts to 150 watts) and high power (150 watts or more). The power multipliers are listed on the Sum-

mary Sheet below.

Calculate your Club score consists of three steps that are included on the summary sheet. First, multiply your CW QSO's by two and then add your phone QSO's to get your Contact Points. Second: multiply your Contact Points by your power multiplier to get Total QSO points. Third: multiply the number of club members worked by five. Add this number to your Total QSO points to get your Final Score for WARAC.

It is recommended that you submit an entry in the ARRL contest, but it is not required for the WARAC contest. Note that the League submission rules require either an electronic log in Cabrillo format

or a hand-written log – no computer printouts. See ARRL rules

for details. N3FJP has a 10-Meter Contest program for \$6.00. It's specifically for this contest and it outputs directly in Cabrillo. You can't go wrong for six bucks!

To submit your entry for the Club contest, send a copy of your ARRL log and a filled-out Club Summary Sheet (below) before January 15, 2009 to Chuck Craven at the address listed at the bottom. Certificates for winners will be given out at next year's Club Awards Dinner.

Have fun!

The Summary Sheet for the WARAC 10m Contest will be published in next month's Hamtrix. It will also be made available on the web site.

Ham Happenings

Around the area

Ozaukee Radio Club

Grafton Senior Center

1665 7th. Ave.

Wed, November 12, 7:30PM

CQ3TUE

Old Country Buffet

16750 W Bluemound Rd

Tues. November 18, 11:15AM

Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club

formerly Menomonee Falls Radio Club

Germantown Police Dept

N112W16877 Mequon Rd

Wed, November 26, 7:30PM

Milwaukee Radio Amateur Club (MRAC)

Redemption Lutheran Church

Hwy 100 & Capitol

Thurs, November 20, 7:00PM

South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Wed. December 3, 7:00PM

Legion Post 434

Shepard Ave

Oak Creek, WI.

Amateur Radio Testing

Saturday, November 29

9:30AM

Amateur Electronic Supply

5720 W Good Hope Road

NOTE

Please do not contact meeting places for information.

Swapfest 2009

TICKETS...TICKETS...TICKETS

Sell advance tickets to your friends before the 'fest!

See Phil, W9NAW, for tickets to sell

*** **January 3** ***

2 Days After New Years

2008 FIELD DAY RESULTS

By Tom Macon, K9BTQ

This year's Field Day results have been published on the ARRL website and will also be in December QST.

Our W9FK's 1485 QSO's and 5300 points was good for third in Wisconsin in the 2A class and fourth in Wisconsin overall, up from seventh in 2007. Top Wisconsin 2A station was W9EBV, the Fond du Lac ARC, with 2126 QSO's and 7892 points, followed by N9AW, the W/K ARC of Greater Milwaukee with 1618 Q's and 6088 points. Fourth in WI - not bad!

The 2A class that we operated in is the most competitive, as can be seen by the nationwide number of entries in the small table below.

Category	No. of Entries
1A	166
2A	487
3A	338
4A	122
5A	82

Also noteworthy is the performance of our friends to the north, the Ozaukee Club, who clearly did not live up to their well-known phonetics, Whiskey Nine Lousy Operator. With 35 people participating, they turned in 12816 points, good for first in Wisconsin, second in the ninth call area and 17th in the whole contest. Congratulations to the ORC!

Thanks again to everyone who made our WARAC Field Day a success! Just eight more months to 2009!

Call	Score	Category	QSOs	Club
W9LO	12,816	5A	3,985	Ozaukee RC
W9EBV	7,892	2A	2,126	Fond Du Lac ARC
N9AW	6,088	2A	1,618	W/K ARC of Greater Milwaukee
W9FK	5,300	2A	1,485	West Allis RAC
KB9S	4,370	3A	1,061	Eau Claire ARC
WI9MRC	3,636	3A	906	Milwaukee Repeater Club
W9JZ	3,620	9A	804	Four Lakes ARC
W9ZL	3,442	2A	792	Fox Cities ARC
W9BJ	3,366	4A	833	Beloit ARC
W9RH	3,098	6AC	789	Milwaukee RA Club
W9UP	2,572	3A	512	Riverland ARC
W9VBQ	2,376	2A	559	LeFrog
K9RHH	2,210	5AC	547	Wisconsin ARC
KZ9B	2,202	4A	542	
K9UW	2,174	1A	732	Central WI Radio Amateurs UWSP

Overall ranking of top 15 Wisconsin Field Day entries. -----

Thanks!



Thanks and a tip of the editor's hat to the following contributors to this month's issue of *Hamtrix*

Chuck Craven, WB9PUB



Write an Article
This means
You!
Please??

Scuttlebutt...

- Sadly, Bob Fetterly, N9HWB, (Hot Water Bottle) became a Silent Key on Friday, October 24. Bob was not a WARAC member but had just applied for membership at our October meeting. He was a member of several local clubs and was active in the Milwaukee-Florida Net for the last couple of years. I regret not being able to welcome him as a member of our club.
- After being properly aged for several years, Dick, W9JBE, has his expanded four-band quad antenna flying high. This is the antenna Dick talked about in his program at the August club meeting. Like a fine wine, a well-aged antenna should perform very smoothly. Dick reports excellent results so far.
- Jackie, KC9MJO, has a new Ameritron 600w amp along with his new G5RV antenna. It is installed inverted V fashion with the peak at nearly 50 feet. Does Jackie have a stronger signal now? And then some!



CHECK OUT YOUR LCR

By Tom Macon, K9BTQ

Anyone who has electronically submitted a log for an ARRL contest in recent years has dealt with the League's contest "robot". The robot checks for major errors or omissions and sends you a return email indicating that your log is accepted or, if not, it tries to help you fix it.

During the next few months, the accepted logs are examined in much greater detail and finally the contest results are published. The process of detailed examination is now done with custom software developed by the ARRL for this purpose. A by-product of this process is a very detailed report called a Log Check Report (LCR) for each log. Your LCR's can be accessed on the ARRL web site, but only if you are an ARRL member.

If you're an ARRL member, go to <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/contests/lcr.html> to see what LCR's are available for your callsign. Your LCR's for all contests will be listed there.

In 2007, K9BTQ participated in two ARRL contests; Sweepstakes and the 10-Meter contest. Let's take a look at my 2007 10-Meter contest LCR.

My submitted log claimed 5054 points with 133 Q's and 19 multipliers, but after log checking I was credited with only 4080 points. Somehow I had lost 974 points! What happened? The LCR explains it in almost painful detail.

Four things happened that reduced my score. First, my log listed four QSO's that were not in the other guy's log, therefore they were removed from my log. This is called a NIL (Not In Log) error. In addition to the Q's being removed, a penalty of one "equivalent QSO" is assessed for each NIL, so I actually lost the points for eight QSO's, not four.

Secondly, I had two "busted calls". Busted calls are ones that are in both logs but they don't quite match. For example, one call was KI4AOQ, but I had logged it as KI4AOC. Busts are treated the same as NIL's - the bad calls are removed and equivalent points are deducted.

The third item was that I had one "busted exchange". As you might guess, a busted exchange is where my exchange information doesn't match what the sender sent. Busted exchanges are considered a less serious error so no penalty points are deducted, but the QSO is still removed from the log.

So I had seven Q's removed from my log plus equivalent points for six more, a total of 13 out of 133, or about

10%. So why did I lose 974 points, almost 20% of my score?

Because I lost multipliers. It so happens that two of the Q's that were removed from my log were the only ones worked in a particular state. As a result, I also lost two multipliers and now had only 17 instead of 19. When the score is recalculated, the remaining 126 good Q's in my log are multiplied by 17 instead of 19, resulting in the loss of another 504 points. (Note that there is also a two-point multiplier for power in this contest.)

The end result is that a few fairly simple mistakes cost me a lot of points. So what's the moral of this story? There are a lot of things that you can do to improve your contesting score, but don't overlook the accuracy of your log. If you bust a call or piece of exchange information, today's log checking software will find it and your score will be reduced accordingly. In order to maximize your score, you obviously need to keep errors to a minimum.

SCORE SUMMARY

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          Raw QSOs = 133
            Errors =  0
              Dupes =  0
          Busted QSOs =  3
Not-In-Log QSOs =  4
          Valid QSOs = 126
    Penalty Points = -12
          QSO Points = 240
          Multipliers = 17
-----
          Final Score = 4080
  
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The final summary in K9BTQ's 2007 10 Meter LCR.

One final note. Deductions and penalties on your LCR do not mean that the ARRL thinks you cheated. As with most competitions, if a mistake is made during play there is some sort of penalty. If points are deducted, it simply acknowledges that a mistake was made.

The primary purpose of LCR's is to help you analyze your operating practices, look for ways to reduce errors and improve accuracy. Make use of them!

Have fun contesting!

Motor Wanted -

Will trade a 1HP 120VAC single phase 3600RPM motor for a 1750RPM motor with the same electrical ratings.

- Contact Lou, W9GSV



November 9 - George Schlessinger, K9JLV
 December 4 - Annette Hooker, KB9CPZ
 December 7 - Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR
 December 7 - Chuck Craven, WB9PUB



What do you think of our club's web site? What would you like to see changed or added?
 - Forward your comments to Tom, K9BTQ

*Wedding
Anniversaries*

<None to report>

President's Shack
 (Continued from page 1)

petition during the ARRL 10 Meter contest on December 13 and 14. The 10-meter band is kind of interesting right now. You just never know if it will be open, and if it is, which direction, and how far the skip reaches. This just makes the contest more challenging.

Please remember that the meeting times have been

changed to 7:00pm, and the meeting room will be available at 6:30pm. So come a little early for a couple of eyeball QSO's, then enjoy the presentation.

See you at the meeting.

73,
 Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

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Minutes
 (Continued from page 2)

Respectfully submitted,
 Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR

**Minutes of the Board Meeting
 October 28, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM. by Howard Smith. Board members present: Chuck Craven, George Dunco, Tom Macon, Howard Smith, and Bob Zach. No guests were present.

Elections - Howard stated that he plans to form a nomination committee well in advance of next year's elections to attempt to find additional candidates who will run for office.

Awards Dinner - Bob Zach, on behalf of the Dinner committee, said that, based on conversations with brother John and emails from Lynn, everything was ready. Tom mentioned that someone needs to organize details like nametags, prize drawing tickets, a projection screen, etc. Bob said he'd look into this.

Club Books Audit - Howard expressed a desire to get the audit completed. He said he would talk to Lynn and Dick about the process of restructuring the computer records. The plan is to complete this before proceeding with the 2007 audit.

Swapfest - Tom said that Swapfest planning was pro-

ceeding normally per a recent conversation with Phil. There was a discussion of possible ways to raise awareness that the Swapfest is just two days after New Years. Perhaps other clubs would mention it in their newsletters. Also, request Don, the ARRL SM, to include it in his newsletter and investigate if we could use the AES Superfest email list to send out promotional material.

- Programs - Upcoming programs are:
- Nov. 10-Meter Contest by Chuck Craven
 - Dec. 2009 Swapfest by Phil Gural
 - Jan. program needed
 - Feb. Contesting Hints and Tricks by Chuck Craven
 - Mar. Wisconsin QSO Party by Lynn Tamblyn

A program is needed for January. Possible antenna topics were discussed but no decision was made.

Club Repeater - The tower for the repeater antenna is nearing completion as is electrical service to John Westmayer's outbuilding where the repeater will be located. Howard expressed a desire to complete the move of the repeater as soon as possible. He also said he has a request to update the coordination information that is due soon. Tom and George said they would pass on the word to John and ask him for a timetable.

Board Meeting time - a motion was made and passed that the Board meeting time be changed to 7:00PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

For the Secretary,
 Tom Macon, K9BTQ

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