



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

[click here to go to web site](#)

Volume 63, Issue 11 November, 2016

NOVEMBER CLUB HAPPENINGS



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

Club Meeting

St. Peter's Episcopal Church,
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis
November 8, 2017
Antenna Topics

Join us for a pre-meeting dinner
at Johnny V's Classic Café
1650 S 84th St at 5:00pm

West Allis Radio Club Swapfest January 7, 2016

More info at the December meeting

Milwaukee-Florida Net
Every Day on 14.290 Mhz
7:00AM - 9:15AM ET
6:00AM - 8:15AM CT

**New Repeater: N9BMH Repeater 146.625 (-)
PL 127.3**

WARAC 2-meter net
Every Wednesday at 8pm
MATC repeater 146.625 standard (-)offset
127.3 Hz CTCSS
if repeater down try 146.55 simplex

Club jackets and hats!
Go to club Web site and click on
The GOLD MEDAL IDEAS block
[For more info or click here](#)





The President's Shack November 2016

Unlike our national elections, our club elections are over. Or should I call them re-elections? With one exception, all of our officer-holders were reelected. The exception is that Mike Johnson, WO9B, was elected to a two-year term replacing Al Hovey, WA9BZW, on our Board of Directors. Thanks to Al for serving on the Board for the last two years. And welcome a-Board, Mike!

If you weren't at our club's **Annual Awards Dinner** on Sunday, October 23, you missed a good time and good food with your fellow club members and spouses. The main program was on the Wisconsin Interstate Network, a system of linked repeaters in Wisconsin and Minnesota, presented by Len Kreyer, N9QIP. More information on the Wisconsin Interstate Network is available at <http://www.winetwork.org/>. Thirty-some members and spouses attended our dinner

WARAC's 2016 **Member of the Year** is **Mike Johnson, WO9B**. Mike was secretary of the club until a year ago and, more recently, has spearheaded our National Parks On The Air activity. He also handles our Worked All Wisconsin Counties award. Congratulations, Mike!

We were also pleased to have Vince Bensch, KC9JVN, our 2016 **David Knaus Memorial Scholarship** recipient, in attendance along with his parents. Vince's mom, Jacqueline, is KC9NXL and his dad is Ingo, KC9TS.

Thanks to the Awards Dinner committee – Paul Hass, Steve Dryja and Erwin von der Ehe – for putting together this year's event. Next year, Mike Johnson will replace Paul on the committee.

The program for the upcoming meeting will be **Antenna Topics**. We will have presentations by

various members on various antenna and feedline topics. If you have an antenna project or other antenna-related information you'd like to present, please contact me.

We still plan to have the previously-listed programs on the history of Amateur Electronics and on the FM-38 repeater system, but the presenters of these programs have asked for delays because of medical and other personal reasons.

The December meeting will focus on our **January 7 Swapfest**. This is an enjoyable event and is also our major fund-raising event, so please plan on helping out. Put the date on your calendar – it comes up very quickly after the holidays are over. Steve Dryja NO9B and Erwin von der Ehe WI9EV are the co-chairmen of this event. Phil W9NAW is still involved but is phasing out.

The **ARRL 10 meter contest** is coming up on the weekend of December 9 - 11, 2016. To participate in our WARAC "piggy-back" contest, all you need to do is to submit your log to the ARRL as usual and also submit your log to Chuck, W9WLX. During the contest, work as many club members as possible for points in the club competition.

And, as always, please come to the before-meeting dinner at **Johnny V's Classic Café**, 1650 S. 84th St. at 5:00PM.

See you at the meeting! **Bring a friend!**
Tom, K9BTQ

From the Editor

There's not much to report from this end. It looks like the weather will start becoming more fall like then I'm sure more winter like, it always does.

I'm starting to look at the Ham shack/ basement and noticing that I have lots of old computer stuff laying around. I guess it's time to start looking for the nearest place that will take them without question.

Most of it was mine and I used it at one time. But as technology changes it is important for me to remember that probably anything I have will not work in a new computer anyway, so I might as well get rid of it.

Goto pg 12

WARAC General Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2016

Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 19:03 by President, Tom Macon (K9BTQ). Overall meeting attendance was 20 members, plus 01 visitor.

Future Programs:

- November, 2016: FM-38 Repeater System
- November, 2016: History of Amateur Electronic Supply with Ray (K9KHW)
- December, 2016:

Tonight's Program:

- Election of officers for 2017. Y2017 officers are:
President: Tom Macon (K9BTQ)
Vice President: Steve Dryja (NO9B)
Treasurer: Howard Smith (WA9AXQ)
Secretary: Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV)
Director, 2-Yr: Frank Humpal (KA9FZR) (Mid-term – no election this year)
Director, 2-Yr: Mike Johnson (WO9B)
Director, 1-Yr, Past President: Dave Garnier (WB9OWN)
- Buying & Selling Ham Gear on the Internet - Mike Johnson (WO9B)
- Magnetic loop antenna demonstration - Paul Hass (KC9JET)

Announcements

- Awards Dinner is at Carl's Catering on October 23rd.

Business

- A 50% raffle was conducted.
- Motion was made and accepted to approve the September general meeting minutes as published in Hamtrix.

Group Discussion

The meeting was adjourned at 21:09.

Respectfully submitted,
Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV)
Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.
2016-10-11

W.A.R.A.C. Board Meeting

October 25, 2016

Howard Smith (WA9AXQ) called the meeting to order at 19:10.

Present: Tom Macon (K9BTQ), Howard Smith (WA9AXQ), Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV), Dave Garnier (WB9OWN), Steve Dryja (NO9B), Frank Humpal (KA9FZR).

Howard Smith (WA9AXQ) presented the monthly Treasurer's report.

2016 Awards Dinner wrap-up. Suggestions were offered for updating the Awards Dinner Committee manual.

Steve gave an update regarding the N9BMH repeater. Details are in process of discovery.

Club manuals were reviewed. Statuses and responsibilities were reviewed.

Programs

November, 2016: 10-meter contest

December, 2016: Swapfest plans

January, 2017: History of Amateur Electronic Supply

Future Program Ideas

Kermit, ARRL

Logger 32 logging software

SO2R Contest operating

WE Energies or Time-Warner Cable noise tracking

FM38 Repeater System

Youtube downloads

Discussion regarding transferring Club files from ftp to DropBox or another application with synchronization capabilities was discussed. DropBox has security issues. Consider Coffeecup FTP or A-drive or Cobian.

Other Items

2-meter net is meeting on repeater 147.045 PL 127.3 on Wednesday evenings at 20:00.

Replacement of the club video projector was discussed. Dave Garnier (WB9OWN) made a spreadsheet detailing data for several projectors for our use in evaluation.

Meeting was adjourned at 22:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV)
Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.
2016-10-25

WARAC's Final NPOTA Activation

Mike Johnson, WO9B

Lapham Peak State Park has been so welcoming this year. WARAC members have participated in a total of seven NPOTA activations throughout the year, all from Lapham Peak. Throughout, we have had only one semi-bad weather event. The rest have been so nice.

Saturday, October 22nd was true to form. Sunny. No wind. Nice temperature. Pretty hard to believe as the event was scheduled almost two weeks in advance. I was really hoping to catch all the club members who wanted in, but just could not swing the trip earlier in the year. I have to say, it was a really good turn out on a spectacular day.

The group consisted of Bill N9KPH who supplied the SSB station, as he has done all year long; Tom K9BTQ, and myself, Mike WO9B which rounded out the "regulars". New comers to join in were Erwin, WI9EV and Chuck W9WLX. That was not all, Jim WB9IXS and Paul WB9HCO found their way to the station all on their own. By the way, Jim was packing a really nice generator....had we only known.

As planned, we set up two operating station, one for SSB and the other to run PSK31. Chuck, W9WLX provided the entire digital setup and it worked like a charm. Both stations were set up within easy walking distance near the famous Lapham Peak Tower. We had the usual equipment gremlins visit, but this was a well experienced crew, not to be denied. Both stations used Buddi-Poles and had plenty of battery power to make contacts a-plenty.

	Call sign	Worked	Date/Time	Band	Mode	Freq	QSL	Next
Details	W9FK	KD3LK	2016-10-22 16:29:31	20M	PSK31	14.06996		
Details	W9FK	W2BJN	2016-10-22 16:22:20	20M	PSK31	14.06996	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W9FK	KI4KWR	2016-10-22 16:20:23	20M	PSK31	14.06996	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W9FK	VE2OCH	2016-10-22 16:16:19	20M	PSK31	14.06996		
Details	W9FK	AG4CG	2016-10-22 16:14:28	20M	PSK31	14.06996	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W9FK	KO4FD	2016-10-22 16:10:33	20M	PSK31	14.06996	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W9FK	KD7JKR	2016-10-22 16:01:46	20M	PSK31	14.06996		
Details	W9FK	K5SP	2016-10-22 15:58:59	20M	PSK31	14.06996	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W9FK	W7JKO	2016-10-22 15:43:32	20M	SSB	14.34000		
Details	W9FK	AB9XI	2016-10-22 15:42:26	20M	SSB	14.34000	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W9FK	KI7BP	2016-10-22 15:41:20	20M	SSB	14.34000		
Details	W9FK	AD7L	2016-10-22 15:39:15	20M	SSB	14.34000		
Details	W9FK	KQ9H	2016-10-22 15:38:09	20M	SSB	14.34000	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W9FK	K2RYD	2016-10-22 15:36:02	20M	SSB	14.34000		
Details	W9FK	W1FM	2016-10-22 15:35:56	20M	SSB	14.34000		
Details	W9FK	KF8UR	2016-10-22 15:33:51	20M	SSB	14.34000		
Details	W9FK	W3MLK	2016-10-22 15:31:44	20M	SSB	14.34000	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W9FK	N7DQ	2016-10-22 15:31:35	20M	SSB	14.34000	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W9FK	W1VT	2016-10-22 15:30:40	20M	SSB	14.34000	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W9FK	K5KJ	2016-10-22 15:30:25	20M	SSB	14.34000	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	



Between both stations, we ended up generating 20 QSO's in about an hour. The PSK31 was a really nice surprise. It turned out to be a good mode to generate consistent contacts. This was Chuck's idea and it was a really good one. The SSB contacts were just as we had experienced all year long. They kind of ran in spurts and spotting really helped out.

On a personal note, a big thanks to all who participated this year. NPOTA turned out to be a great deal of fun. A great way to spend a morning outside making a few QSO's. A sweet deal.



Slick Logbook

Mike Johnson, WO9B

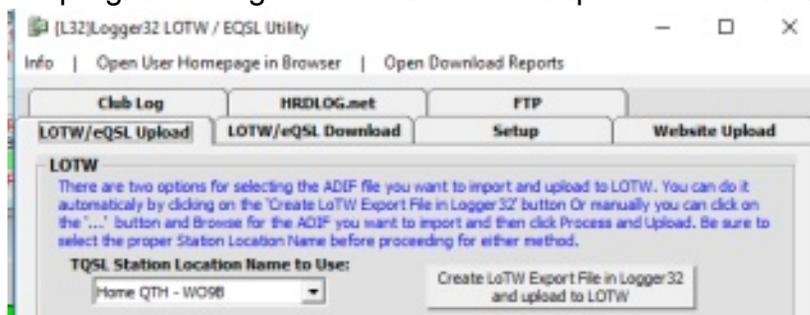
A couple of things have happened to make my ham life a bit challenged of late. First, my main HF radio went “kaput” effectively putting me back to the stone age. Secondly, contest season has arrived and here I am without my station in order. Ugh. My first thought was, ah well, there is always next year. That’s not quite true. My first thought was actually a crude variation on the theme of “Why me?”. You get the idea. So while I wait for the return notification from the service department, I finally have the time to actually work on those “if only I had the time” projects.

First up is my logging software. Are you using a software package? I’ve been using the Logger32 (<http://www.logger32.net/>) freeware for a couple of years. I’ve got 3000+ QSO’s entered and it has been trouble free the whole time. As with any complex software package, it has a ton of bells and whistles under the hood, where most of those features stay happily unused. They seem kind of complicated to set up, and then there is the lack of time issue. It is just easier to ignore those adjustments. Besides it works great, why mess with it? So this past weekend, while wishing I could do a little CQ WW SSB, instead I chased NPOTA stations and slicked up the logging program. I chased features, not multipliers. Go figure.

One point to note: Though I’m using Logger32, these features exist on all the full featured logging software packages. Hey, its taken me 2+ years to get around to figuring them out, so obviously you can operate these programs on a very basic level, for as long as you wish, with no harm or foul. In fact the main reason for the software, for me, was logging and computer control of my radio. Happy, happy.

So these are the slicked up mods I implemented:

LoTW Upload/Download: I’ve used the upload to LoTW feature for some time. It is a small add on program that generates a one click upload feature. I never downloaded from LoTW however.



I’m embarrassed to say, it too is a one click feature. The reason for the download is to synchronize Logger32 with LoTW. You will be surprised how many typo’s I found that needed correction. Of course I was parsing 3000 QSO’s. Subsequent download/sync’s are much faster and easier involving just

a handful of Q’s. Now, my logging software is in agreement with the ARRL’s tallies for DXCC, WAS and NPOTA stations.

Club Log: I’ve been fooling around with Club Log. It seems to be the defacto go-to place for DXpedition QSLing these days. By checking a single box, I now upload my Q’s directly to Club Log in real time.

Awards Tracking: I don’t really track or collect awards all that much. I am, however, interested in

WAS and DXCC. I also get involved in those little special event chases like the 13 Colonies. Oh, and of course NPOTA. By syncing the log with LoTW, I now get on screen tracking of those awards. And it is pretty darn accurate. Not perfect, but very very close.

DX Cluster / RBN Taming: If you are chasing DX or playing in a contest I'm sure you use some kind of cluster device. The cluster feature has been active forever on my Logger32 software.

Similar to the internet clusters (i.e. DX Watch) I had only used it with the basic filters activated. It worked fine, but the information was not finely tuned enough to be really useful. And I could never implement the RBN (Reverse Beacon Network) feature as it would flood the window causing spots to scroll off the screen to fast to be useful. With so much information, I would miss the really useful stuff.

?	DX Spot	Pfx	Freq	Comment	Time	Origin
X	WU5M	W	14060.0	CQ IS QRP Denton	16:58:00	N6GP
	ANNOUNCE			CLUSTER: GB7UJS telnet 217.41	17:00:00	GB7UJS
	WCY				17:00:00	
	E88/JA5C	EA8	14033.0		17:21:00	N7RD
	TK4LS	TK	7018.0		17:19:00	VO1MP
	VE3MPQ	VE	7050.0	CVW 04 dB 21 WPM CQ	17:28:00	N9YKE-#
	W1TEF	W	7035.0	Npota np12. Wwff KFF 0017	17:47:00	N3EWW
X	KF0UR	W	14047.0	Need you on 40 please El Paso	18:40:00	KS5Z
	WCY				18:00:00	
	WWV					
	WWV					
	W3TB	W	7034.0	NPOTA TR23 James City	18:12:00	K8RAT
	VE3NE	VE	7015.1	CVW 06 dB 26 WPM CQ	18:20:00	WE9V-#
	E88/JA5C	EA8	14010.0		18:22:00	W2EJG
	W3TB	W	7033.0	NPOTA TR23 James City	18:22:00	W4JAM
	K4JYS	W	14040.0	CQ CQ Johnston	18:45:00	N6GP
X	KA4RRU	W	7045.5	NPOTA MP02 Fauquier	18:52:00	KA4RRU
	ANNOUNCE			DXSPIDER CLUSTER W9FDD-6	18:55:00	IT9DIX
	ANNOUNCE			W9FDD-6 DXSPIDER CLUSTER I	18:55:00	IT9DIX

Without going through all the steps and setup, and referencing the picture of the Cluster Window above, here is what I implemented:

- New Country Color Bands:** The green and red background colors indicate new countries needed for DXCC. Really helpful.
- Red or Black Text:** For the most part, red text is US spots and black text is DX.
- Previous Contact:** The X in the left hand column indicates a previous contact
- Audio Alerts:** Every time NPOTA shows up in the Comment column, my computer triggers a beeper alert. When I hear it I know there is a new NPOTA spot. BTW, you can also set it up for email alerts, but that's a bit over the top for me.
- RPN Spots:** If you look carefully, you can see a couple of RBN spots. VE3MPQ is one such spot. By using the appropriate filters, the only RBN spots that show up are from DX stations calling CQ which are being picked up by WI monitoring stations (WE9V, N9YKE and K9IMM).

Automatic Database Backups: This is kind of important. I am mentioning it here only because if you are using a computer logging program it must be backed up. In my case I have a home server with off-site real time back capability. Running your logging software without backup is not the best idea.

So now my logging software is really humming along. I have to admit there is more than a little of the RTFM aspect to this, but after using the package for a couple of years, reading the manual actually made sense. So I've put some new life into a familiar software package I use all the time. This little project, while not as much fun as working a big contest, kind of saved the weekend for me. Let's see how I feel about that when I'm not working Sweep Stakes this weekend.

2016 Awards Dinner Pictures



**WARAC 2016 Member of the Year is
Mike Johnson WO9B**



**Vince Bensch KC9JVN Dave Knaus
Memorial Scholarship recipient for
2016 with parents and friends**





FOR SALE

The following items have been donated to WARAC. Contact Phil, W9NAW, for further information/prices. All proceeds are for the scholarship fund.

Yaesu FT-920, HF + 6M transceiver, S/N 2E560048, with power cable and small speaker

Cushcraft tri-band beam antenna, A3S with manual.

Cushcraft 2M "twist" 10 element beam, NIB.

Cables: 70' RG-8U, 70' rotor 8 conductor.

Rohn 25G tower, 40 feet, with rotator mounting plate.

ARRL Handbooks, 1990, 1998 and 2011.

Sears Silvertone Radio Receiver, model R1181, S/N 687787, multiband, desktop cabinet, schematic and parts list on bottom.

Power supplies, 13.8 VDC, various manufacturers

PLG, W9NAW
3 Nov 2016

from editor pg 2

I wasn't able to make the last or maybe one of the last NPOTA activations that was put on. I have been to many and had fun at all of them. I really didn't try to find any from home but enjoyed activating them out at Lapham Peak State Park. I wonder what the ARRL will have for fun next year. I enjoyed the low pressure, fun aspect of it. I could go out for an hour or so, experiment with antennas and different rigs.

Because the operating time was not long we could do it with much less gear than a field day operation. The smallest package we got it down to was when Mike WO9B and me rode out on our motorcycles and operated. We ended up running my FT-817 though a brick amplifier with an end fed antenna.

73

Frank KA9FZR

Officers and Board

President

Tom Macon, K9BTQ

Vice President

Steve Dryja, NO9B

Secretary

Erwin von der Ehe, WI9EV

Treasurer

Howard Smith WA9AXO

Directors

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR

Dave Garnier WB9OWN

Mike Johnson WO9B

Newsletter Editor

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR

fhump@milwpc.com

Webmaster

Tom Macon, K9BTQ

West Allis Radio Amateur Club, Inc.
Tom Macon, K9BTQ
3547 S. 95 St
Milwaukee, WI 53228



WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC.

PO Box 1072
Milwaukee, WI 53201
W9FK
<http://www.warac.org>

***See our Web Page or contact us
for more information on***

- WARAC Memorial Scholarships
- Wisconsin QSO Party
- Midwinter Swapfest
- Worked all Wisconsin Counties Award
- Amateur Radio Classes

WARAC holds meetings on the second Tuesday of each month and board meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at 7:00 PM at:

**St Peter's Episcopal Church
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue
West Allis, WI**

Entry is off the alley at the rear of the church.
A wheel chair ramp and chair-lift are available.