



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 70, Issue 11 November, 2021

NOVEMBER CLUB HAPPENINGS ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Meeting

November 9, 2021 7pm

New Berlin Community Center

14750 W. Cleveland Ave.

New Berlin, WI

Between Mooreland and Sunny Slope

Premeeting dinner

New Berlin Ale House 5:15pm

16000 W. Cleveland Ave

West of Mooreland Rd.



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.

Contact her: 414-529-3536 or barbsewsblue@gmail.com.

The Club election of Officers will be held at this meeting.

Volunteer for any position. We have no candidates for President and Vice-president

The Club needs YOU!

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Presidents Shack and Editors Corner.

I'm sure you are all aware we looking for a people to run for President and Vice President. We will be having an election this meeting. Please, there is still time to volunteer!

As the former president I want to thank all the club members for their support. The club has been through some major changes. Some were caused by the changing demographics of the club and some by external problems. We are still changing, which I hope will be a good thing in the long run.

I will still be the Hamtrix editor so you can send any stories or story ideas to me. In fact, when I was calling looking for officer volunteers, I enjoyed it enough that I might occasionally call asking for Hamtrix ideas.

Note there is an article in this Hamtrix about Mike WO(B and me, and my test of the screwdriver antenna set up I installed in one of my cars.

I'm still working on Morse code and am making some progress on that.

So it is time to get the Hamtrix ready to send.

Frank KA9FZR (former President) current Hamtrix editor



WARAC Club Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2021

Club meeting was held at New Berlin Community Center, Cleveland Room, 14750 W Cleveland Ave, New Berlin, WI. 53151

The club meeting was called to order 7:08 pm by Frank KA9FZR

There were 15 club members and no visitors per secretary Dave WB9OWN.

ARRL 10 GHz Contest by Dave Garnier WB9OWN,

This contest is unlike any HF contests I've experienced. Contacts are prearranged, managed by group leader(s), coordinated over an open phone call, while tuning in a series of "dits" sent between each other, then the stations are worked down the list. You are permitted to move your location 1 Km (while maintaining 10 miles between stations) to reworking the same stations! Why are the rules lenient? The typical beamwidth of 18" dish is 4 degrees. This means your 18" dish will work +/- 2 degree to the left or the right! Knowing exactly where on the horizon you need point your dish is a make or break affair. So working another 10 GHz station 10 miles away can be really hard.

I witnessed Wisconsin stations at two different locations working across the Lake Michigan to Michigan stations on 10 GHz. Sunday night 24 GHz signals were stronger than 10 GHz.

Wisconsin Racine location: <https://k7fry.com/grid/?qth=EN62CT36CH>

Wisconsin Bayview location: <https://k7fry.com/grid/?qth=EN62BX47VR>

Michigan 10 GHz location: <https://k7fry.com/grid/?qth=EN64VP10CH>

Rain Scatter website: <https://rainscatter.com/>

- Surprise, there's another 10 GHz operator in the club, Jeff Pahl W9JSP.

Election of Club Officers Time, "Who wants to be the president?" "My term is up and I'm not running again," Frank KA9FZR.

President is Open

VP is Open,

Treasure, Bill N9KPH volunteered to stay on 1 more year.

Secretary, Dave Garnier WB9OWN was motioned, voted in and accepted the Secretary position (unless he decides to become WARAC's President.)

Open Board Member Phil Tollefson WA9AXQ, has agreed to run again, he was nominated and voted in.

- The board is going to discuss looking for a President.

- Dave is running the next general meeting.

Huron Mountain Michigan SOTA Activation by Mike Johnson WO9B.

- Huron Mountain Club, about 100 members, the club is secretive and avoids any public contact whatsoever. But they have a website! <https://huronmountainclub.org/>.

Michigan Public Radio did a piece on them:

<https://www.michiganradio.org/offbeat/2017-10-03/can-you-get-into-the-huron-mountain-club-no-here-are-13-things-we-learned-about-it>

A private club, (1890's money) bought 24,000 contiguous acres along the shore of Lake Superior, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, 30 miles northwest of the city of Marquette. It's a who's who is of the likes of Henry Ford, Thomas Edison and others who prefer to remain unknown...

I began at Rush Lake, <https://k7fry.com/grid/?qth=EN66BV03> and walked to my SOTA site here:

<https://summits.sota.org.uk/summit/W8M/UP-028>

Rig was FT-891 @ 50 watts, used Spark-Plug antenna. Results, I talked to myself on 40m, 20m is where I made my Q's... Began with 3 voice Q's, then went to CW. Experienced a huge insane pile-up, couldn't hardly separate a single station, made 13 QW Q's, operated for 10 minutes. The pile-up and the weather did me in.

September's Minutes were approved as published.

WARAC ARRL Scholarship discussion by Howard Smith WA9AXQ.

- Howard presented a new scholarship proposal concerning the WARAC ARRL foundation funding. Howard proposed a one time WARAC donation of 12K to the ARRL foundation thus increasing the WARAC contribution from 37K to 50K - thus raising the yearly scholarship to 3K.
- Discussion followed this proposal. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Trailer Activities by Steve NO9B.

The trailer check is in the mail.

Remote HF Station Discussion

- Waiting to make contact with the Alberta club.

Field Day 2022 by Dave Garnier WB9OWN

The present membership was polled about a WARAC Field Day (FD) interest.

- About 7 persons were interested.
- Single day FD was desired, along the lines of Mike's park activation.
- Feeling was voiced about not enough people showing for Sundays tear-down.
- First thing, "Looking at 2021 FD results from home. Is there interest in the activity? Did anyone operate? Then what is the purpose of the gathering in the park? Modes? To score points? Provide opportunity for those to operate that don't have a home station? Only time of the year they get on? How many operated, what modes?"
- Battery power was kicked around.
- Dave is going to do a virtual meeting to flush out more ideas.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm.

Coffee, donuts, and eyeball QSOs followed the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Garnier WB9OWN

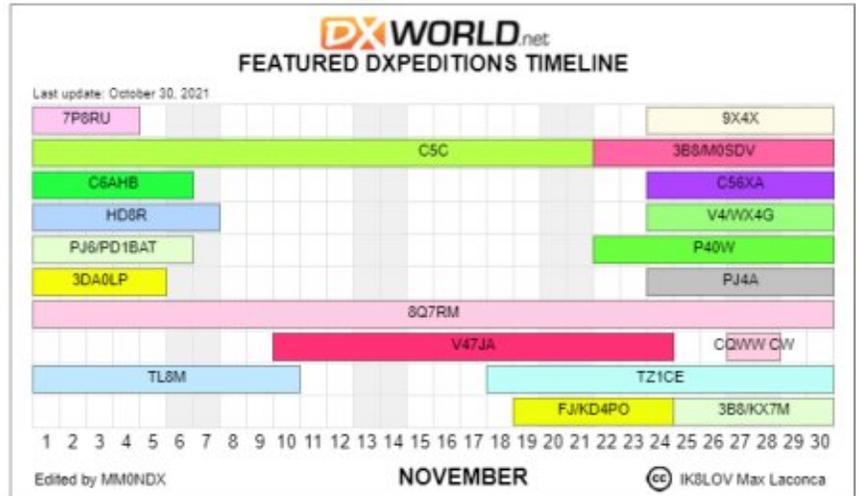
Secretary WARAC, November 1, 2021

DXing and Contesting - November 2021

DX UPDATE:

DX Operations: Are we having fun with DX now? Oh you bet. Wrapping up are the 7P8RU and HD8R expeditions. Huge presence with CW, SSB and digital. Keep an eye on the clusters as this month ends with CQWW CW and that means lots of DX opportunities. Things are picking up.

Solar: Solar activity is off and running. Bands are hot. MUF has been steadily increasing as expected. Band propagation is getting back to normal. The SFI with accompanying Flares and CME's are becoming the new normal. 15 meters is now in play daily. 10 meters is similar though with less activity. Use FT8 as a beacon for openings. For newer hams, station requirements for 10 and 15 meter DX success are minimal. QSO's of 10,000 miles with 100 W's and a dipole are common. Just get on and make some noise.



CONTEST UPDATE:

This weekend is the ARRL SS CW event. This is not a good contest to learn CW on given the long, long exchange. But it is also one of the best NA centric contests of the year. If you can dit and dah, join in. This is the month for contesting with the Fall season in full bloom. Get on board.

Not listed below is the start up of the Fox Hunt QRP events that occur each Tuesday (40 meters) and Thursday (80 meters) from 8:00 PM to 9:30 PM. With bands getting back to normal, both the 40 and 80 events should turn out to be a lot of fun. The schedule is from Nov thru March.

The Slow Speed CW QSO Net has adopted the Spartan Sprint (1st Monday of every month) as a once a month event. It is proving to be a fun time. If you are a bit uncomfortable with CW contesting, this is a great way to pick up the skill in a friendly, fun, team environment.

Major Contests this Month:

- ARRL SS CW: Nov 6 - 8
- Bruce Kelly 1929 QSO Party: Nov 13 -22
- ARRL SS SSB: Nov 20-22
- CQ WW CW: Nov 27-28
- ARRL 160 Meter Contest: Dec 3-5

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Nov 2021 * Hamtrix * By Michael Johnson, WO9B

DroidStar

This month we take a break from the Pi-Star / BrandMeister journey to look at a Digital Voice alternative. The beauty is this alternative requires little more than a cell phone or desktop/laptop/tablet. If you are of the opinion that DMR is not “real radio”, then the following is all the proof you need to confirm that belief. On the other hand, if you are an internet novelist, than this is just another example of how the internet extends the capabilities of our little hobby. Either way, this is a fascinating application of our digital / internet voice capabilities. This is also a great way to dabble with these modes of communication utilizing equipment you already have.

First, there are several existing programs all fall under this heading: DroidStar and DudeStar are two that have been popularized and ergo are imminently Googleable. Whatever name you follow, they all work as a VOIP technology using open source audio codex's. One of the first to enter this realm was EchoLink and D-Star where you could gain access to the ham digital voice channels without having an iota of RF in your personal comm chain. These new variants go a step further and give access to the DMR, Yaesu System Fusion, P25, NXDN, ect networks. To the application, it is just a matter of networks organization and audio codex's.

As a warning, these apps are just barely ALPHA grade trial ware. For the most part. Operating with them is a challenge from a use perspective and from a quality of communication standpoint. I personally keep them available when I have no other options. I do think their value is as a demonstration and very occasional use. On their best day, the digital voice experience is not great. Unusually not terrible, but just not great.

Want to play? You are going to need a DMR ID as the programs will authorize your use via typically BrandMeister using your DMR ID. So go get one. After that hurdle, simply download to your android or iphone the DroidStar app. Iphone is a bit of a issue as it is not available from the Apple store so you need to take the additional step of installing TestFlight which will then let you download non-AppleStore software. If you've made it this far, sign on to the BrandMeister Network DMR and punch up TalkGroup 3155 Wisconsin. Start talking!!!

If the above seems a bit sketchy, best advice is to take a pass. As I've mentioned, this is alpha level software and it is buggy, by definition. Still, it gives you a chance to experiment on the digital voice networks, and that is worth your while and absolutely in the best ham tradition.

Before I go, if the above intrigues you, there is another option to explore called DVSwitch that uses a Raspberry Pi as a server. I'll let you Google that one on your own.

Next Month: DMR Radios

WARAC Special Board Meeting, October 26, 2021

A quarterly board meeting was called by Frank Humpal KA9FZR, a virtual meeting via Jitsi, <https://meet.jit.si/waracBoardJuly2021>

The special board meeting was called to order 7:03 pm by Frank KA9FZR.

Officers Board Members Present

Frank Humpal KA9FZR, Bill Reed N9KPH, Phil Tollefson WA9AQL, Dave Garnier WB9OWN, Mike Johnson WO9B, Steve Dryja NO9B and Tom Macon K9BTQ. Visitors were Tom Sizer K9SQU, Joe Siefert N9JOS, Chuck Dellis W9WLS and Howard Smith WA9AXQ.

Meeting began @ 7:03 PM

Meeting Agenda

1) **Election of President and Vice President**, Frank KA9FZR. “The search for candidates is coming up empty handed, I’m open for suggestions.” Discussion ensued...

Decision was made, Steve NO9B and Frank KA9FZR will divide the membership list up and make calls soliciting candidates for President & Vice President positions.
(Dave WB9OWN will run the Novembers club meeting.)

2) **Steve NO9B is stepping down from Remote Station Chairman** and is backing away from WARAC club and not renewing his membership... Joe N9JOS notified the club that the window to use his property for remote station location is open until March 2022.

WARAC club is looking for Remote Station Chairman to fill in Steve’s shoes, no volunteer has stepped forward. Note, erecting club materials at Joe’s will be done at this point without Steve’s help. Frank has volunteered to operate a bobcat but w/o anyone around to watch him. ;-)

3) **WARAC ARRL Scholarship discussion** by Howard WA9AXQ.

- Howard presented a new scholarship proposal concerning the WARAC ARRL foundation funding. Howard proposed a one time WARAC donation of 12K to the ARRL foundation thus increasing the WARAC contribution from 37K to 50K thus guaranteeing a yearly scholarship to 3K.

A motion was made “That WARAC make a 12K donation to ARRL foundation to complete the 50K endowment fund we started back in 2014” The motion passed 4 to 2 in favor of the donation with 1 abstention (Frank KA9FZR abstained since he’s the club president.)

This recommendation will be presented to the membership at the next general meeting for a vote.

Meeting Ended @ 8:11pm

Respectfully submitted,
David Garnier WB9OWN
Secretary WARAC, November 2, 2021

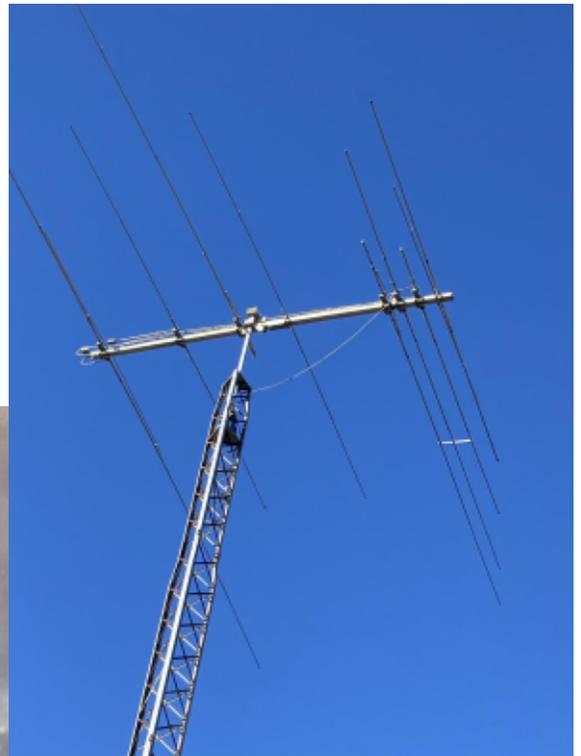
Taking IT Down

When it comes to putting an amateur radio station together, it takes more time and effort deciding what the antenna system should be. Decisions range from a long wire to vertical to possibly a tower/beam combination, never mind the cost constraint. What ever the outcome is, it usually will last for more than a few years.

Years later it is time to “take it down” for various reasons. I have been helping a family to remove the tower/beam that was probably installed in about 1995 (pictures 1 & 2). It was the setup of Rick Kissel, WB9GYT (SK). Annie Espinoza, XYL of Rick, was making various changes to the property and had no reason to keep the antenna system any longer. She called several tree removal services and no one had a big enough bucket truck to do the job. Not getting any results, she asked her good friend, Isaiah Padilla, if he had any ideas. Much to her surprise, he thought he could do it. She naturally asked how and he replied by using scaffolding (pictures 3 & 4). The final steps were to remove the tower sections and scaffolding on the way down. It turned out to be a safe way to remove everything.

Phil, W9NAW

2 Nov 2021



HAMFESTS



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.

Then COVID-19 showed up on the scene and the breakfast meeting was put on hold.

That was about March 2019 when we stopped this enjoyable gathering. We are now ready to start it AGAIN.

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



Mike WO9B and I participated as a mobile in the Illinois QSO party this year. Our plan started a year or so ago when I bought a used screwdriver antenna from the club. My thought was to use it when Judy and I took trips to see the kids or other travel. It also seemed a good back up antenna if, at some point, we moved into a place where antennas are frowned on.

The first step was to install it on a car in such a way that it could be removed easily if I needed the car for other things. That was easy since it came with a mount designed for using a trailer hitch. With a little help from Paul W9PCS that part was accomplished.

Next problem was to find a radio. My Yaesu FT-817's 5 watts was not going to work. So after searching QRZ swapfest I found a Yaesu FT-891 that looked like

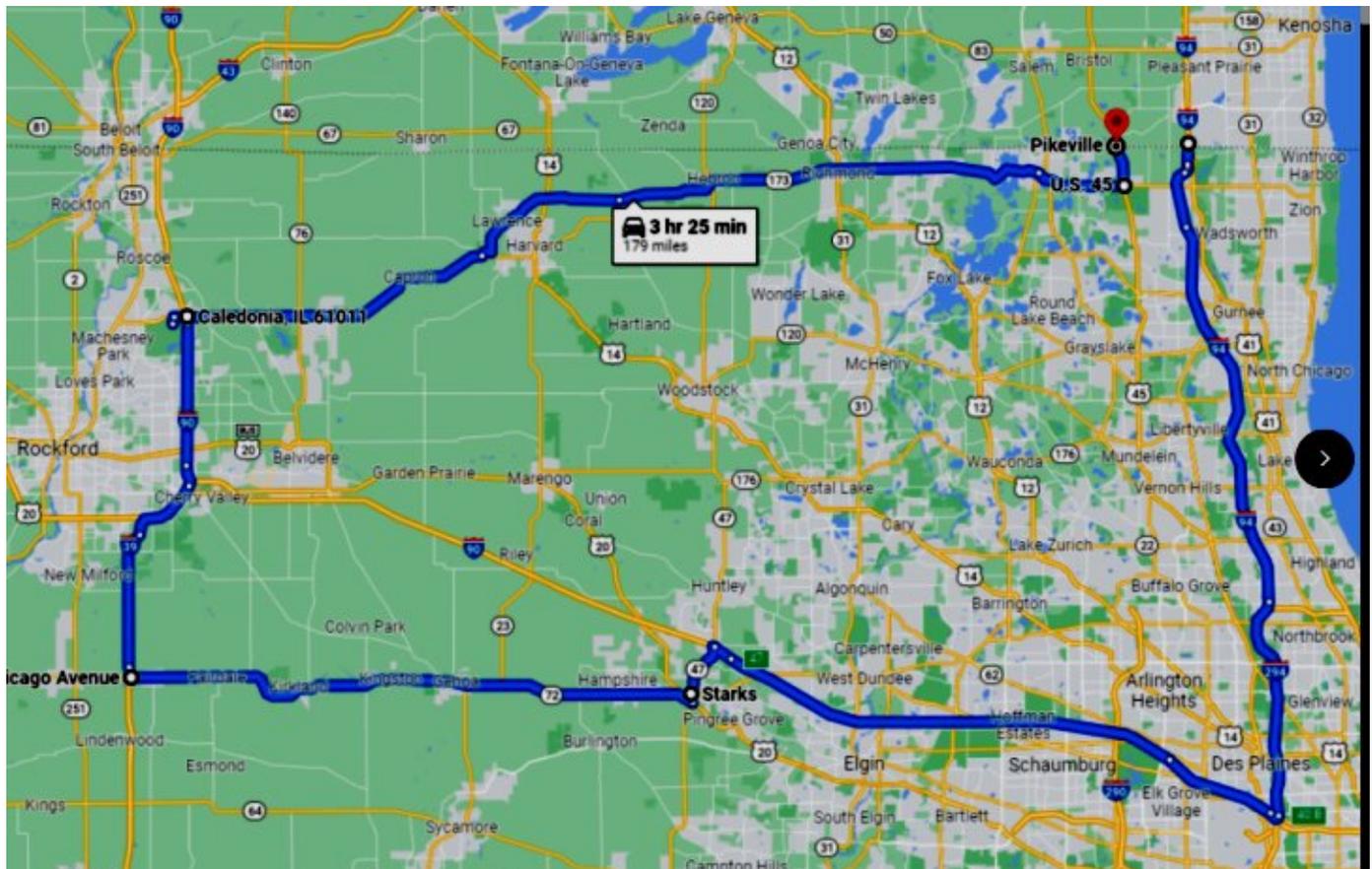


a winner. Next I needed to get power from the car battery. That used to be easy since there were rubber gaskets in the firewall that were not used. New cars don't seem to have the extra holes. I didn't want to take a chance putting in a new hole. I went the route Mike suggested, just ran it out the hood into a door gasket. That worked well!

Next was making a box to control the antenna. I tried a couple of switches and settled on a two pole two position rocker switch. I installed it in a metal BandAid box. Worked good!



A few test runs were required to work the bugs out. This was done on a couple of Wednesday Park Ops. By then Mike had come up with a route to take to get the most counties in the three and half hours we planned to operate. Come Sunday we met at my house, finished setting up the car and left in time to reach the Illinois/Wisconsin border at noon when the contest started.



Then the fun started for Mike! He had more than enough contacts to connect with from all over, including overseas. He said he was almost overwhelmed with the response to his CQ's. That's where the screwdriver antenna proved it's worth. Need a new band? No problem! Push a button until the SWR went down and off you go. The route proved easy to navigate. Only a slight delay getting through the traffic going to a fall festival. The only case of pilot error was when I missed a turn, oops, otherwise it was smooth sailing.

Took a break half way through and made it back to Wisconsin as scheduled. We met my wife Judy at the Bosch for a sandwich and headed home after a satisfying day.

Amateur Radio Station
W7FSH
 Phone Test 5251 4445 51st Ave. South West
Seattle, Wash., U.S.A.
 7th July, 1937.

"TAYLOR TUBES ARE POPS" "Filtering by Sprague Condensers"



To:- W7FFH;
 Tnx for QSO on 40 mtrs today at
 4:47 P.M. Ur sigs RST 349 es vy
 poor keying. U key like a phone
 man. Rig hr 47X osc 801 final 80
 watts input. Revr E.O.S tube es
 for Pse 2SL.73. Map coming in

SLOW SPEED CW QSO NET
 Monday's - 8:00 PM - N9FSE 147.135 Repeater
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 147.135+ 141.35 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
 Frank Humpal KA9FZR

Vice President
 Steve Dryja, NO9B

Secretary
 Dave Garnier WB9OWN

Treasurer
 Bill Reed N9KPH

Directors
 Tom Macon K9BTQ

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