



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

Volume 58, Issue 12 December, 2011

## DECEMBER CLUB HAPPENINGS

### December Club meeting

December 13, 2011

Program: Elmer Night and antenna projects not presented at  
September meeting

Dues are due! If you haven't taken care of this yet, please see  
Howard, our new Treasurer

WARAC 2-meter net

Dec 13, 20, 27 & Jan 2, 2011 7:00pm  
MATC repeater 147.045 standard offset  
127.3 Hz CTCSS

**No Board Meeting in December**  
**Have a Happy and safe Holiday season**

## Club Happenings

### Reminder

The snack kitty provides funds for our after meeting  
refreshments.

Help us keep the fund going for all our enjoyment!

### WARAC Ten Meter Contest

December 10-11, 2011

See Page 5

### Swapfest

**Saturday January 7, 2012**  
**see page 6 for more info**

**Repeater survey on Page 7**  
**bring to the meeting or**  
**mail or e-mail to George AA9SR**



# *The President's Shack December 2011*

Again, I am sad to acknowledge a Silent Key among our members. Ken Rogers, W9NUE, passed away last Thursday, December 1, at his home. Ken was the longest standing WARAC member with 57 years in the club. He was 84. A more complete obituary will be published in next month's issue of Hamtrix.

As you know, one of our club's major annual events is coming up on January 7 – our Midwinter Swapfest. It takes a lot of manpower to do a good job on the 'fest, so please plan on being there and bring a friend to help! Everyone helping gets free admission and a free food ticket.

At the upcoming meeting, 'Fest chairman Phil will provide the final details, including job assignments and table layouts. He will also have advance tickets to sell. And be sure to see Phil's article in this issue of Hamtrix. Again, everyone's help is needed to continue our successful Swapfest.

Since December is upon us, that means 10 Meter Contest! In fact it's this weekend, December 9 – 11! See Chuck WB9PUB's article and summary sheet in last month's Hamtrix about this contest and our club's piggy-back contest. With the upswing in the sunspot cycle, there should be much more activity than last year. This is a great contest for rookies as well as more experienced contesters, so be sure to join in, even if you can't participate for the whole weekend. And be sure to bring your contest stories to our meeting two days later! The upcoming meeting promises to be a busy one, with a triple-header program. First, we will have another Elmer session. It will be an open format where anyone can ask questions and anyone can chime in with answers. Bring on

your questions!

Secondly, we will have two Antenna Challenge presentations left over from the September meeting. If you remember, that was the night the church had no power and we had to scramble to find a place to meet.

And, of course, Phil's Swapfest discussion will be the third part of the program. Hopefully we won't have a major snowstorm that night as we had last year. By the way, how do you like the content and format of our meetings? Any comments would be appreciated! See you at the meeting!

- Tom, K9BTQ

## **From the Editor**

There's a lot of info in this Hamtrix:

Lynn K9KR has an article on the 10 meter contest. It looks like it might be a fun time since the sun is finally in an up cycle. I am not much of a contester but I may join in the fun.

Phil W9NAW has an article on the Swapfest, which is a major project of the club and requires help from all available members.

We also have a survey for you to fill out. We have the use of a repeater and are looking for ways to serve the club membership with it. I will print extra copies and have them at the club meeting if you want to fill it out there.

I made some progress on my portable antenna. I had it up and was able listen to South Africa on 17 meters. I wasn't able to call so I don't know if he would have heard my 2.5 watts but at least it's receiving and the Sun is working! I do need to devise a way to anchor it in the wind and make a portable top hat (to make it more efficient). The work continues...

Hope to see you at meeting and the Swapfest.

May you all enjoy the Holidays

Frank KA9FZR

# **WARAC General Meeting Minutes**

November 8, 2011

## **Introduction**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by President, Tom Macon, K9BTQ. Overall meeting attendance was 21 with 6 visitors.

## **Program**

The evening's program was Ground Controlled Approach given by Lou Schulz, N9LOU. This was the first widely used electronic system to land aircraft in adverse weather.

## **Announcements**

Planning is underway to hold license classes in the February time frame for testing in March at Superfest. More information to follow.

Next month's program is Elmer Night. Time will also be allotted for presentation of antenna projects for anyone unable to present their project at the September program.

WARAC swapfest tickets are available for advanced sale. The swapfest was published in the December QST event calendar. Swapfest date is January 7, 2012.

Club jackets and hats are available from Gold Medal Ideas through a link on the WARAC website, <http://www.warac.org>. Size chart is working well and sleeve lengths are generous.

The ARRL 10 meter contest will be December 10 & 11.

## **Discussion**

Motion was made and accepted to approve the October meetings minutes as published in Hamtrix.

Motion was made and accepted to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX  
Secretary WARAC

# **WARAC Board Meeting**

November 22, 2011

Howard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, George Dunco, AA9SR, Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, Jim Wilkins, KC9KEQ, Dave Schank, KA9WXN.

Election of Board President and December Board Meeting

Motion was made and accepted to re-elect Howard Smith for Board President.

Motion was made and accepted to cancel the December 27, 2011, Board meeting. This is not to be confused with the December General Meeting. The General Meeting will take place on December 13, 2011, as usual.

### **Goals for 2012 Board**

Goals highlighted for the 2012 Board were:

Completion of the Club Operations Manual

Club Public Relations/Membership Drive

Highlighting the Scholarship and improving the number of applicants and competition

Ham License Classes

### **Financials**

2012 fiscal budget will be reviewed at the January meeting. Committee is needed to complete the 2010 and 2011 audits.

### **Scholarship**

Plan to better publicize the scholarship at the WARAC Swapfest. Suggestions made to have a club table with updated information and poster board.

### **Club Operations Manual**

The assignments will be made and collected from operations manual authors. Meeting scheduled for January 14, 2012, to meet and complete the compilation of the manual. Location to be determined.

### **Programs**

December: Elmer Night and antenna projects not presented at September meeting.

January: Manhattan Breadboard Techniques

Future program topics suggested: Safety, Echolink, ARRL Membership Benefits, Amateur Television, Digital Modes, Antenna Design.

### **Other Items**

George Dunco will write Hamtrix survey to assess what the club would like to see in a 2 meter evening on air activity. Use of the 147.045 MATC repeater should assure good coverage with HT's throughout the metro area.

Reminder that the Wisconsin QSO Party is March 11, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX  
Secretary WARAC

## Ten Meter Contest / WARAC / Two Winners

Every year on the second weekend of December, there is a really, really fun contest event on ten meters, sponsored by ARRL. In my view, it is the most interesting contest one could operate in. Not only because it does not take a lot of power or a big antenna when the band is open, more importantly, it allows one to contact stations all over the world. And believe me, when the band is open, that is exactly what happens – you start at sunrise working into Europe, slowly the band shifts around to the south in the early afternoon, then finishes up open to the west, and sometimes after sunset, you work all the way to Japan. I have done it. Excitement during the two full days, and at night I sleep. Good news is that ten meters seems like it will be open this year – maybe even big time. What I have heard on 10, just listening during the day over the last several weeks, gives me encouragement. I know during Sweepstakes weekend, November 19th and 20th, I was able to utilize the ten meter band, to a great extend, for contacts.

What a great time for Hamtrix to come out, just before the 2011 version of the ARRL Ten Meter Contest. This gives me a good chance to encourage all club members to participate. The ARRL event starts Friday evening, at 6 PM and continues on until Sunday night at 6 PM. Check the band after 6 PM Friday. You might be surprised. If for some reason, activity is lacking on Friday evening, check Saturday morning. BTW, I know in past years that WARAC club members tried to meet at 8 PM Friday, on 28.400, to give club members a chance to work each other. Hopefully, there will be a congregation again this Friday. So don't quit too early Friday evening.

Since I mentioned working club members above, I need to explore part two of my title - WARAC. WARAC has a parallel event for club

members, which Charlie Craven, WB9PUB, covered very well in the November issue of Hamtrix. Bottom line, when a club member participates in the ARRL Ten Meter Contest, that club member can also enter the club event. Basically, you get credit for all the QSOs you make during the ARRL event, and by working club members, you get credit for each one that you work during the ARRL event also. You can work club members any time during the ARRL event – you do not have to just work them Friday evening. I encourage all club members to not only participate for as many of the 36 hours as you can, I also encourage you to enter the club event. There should be an entry sheet for the club event in this issue of Hamtrix I am told. Otherwise, just use the form on page 6 of November issue.

Now part three of my title - winners. I was able to go through the final results of the ARRL event. I found that seven WARAC members entered the ARRL event, with six claiming WARAC as their local club. Thank you for doing that. WARAC placed 11th in the local list with 73,282 points. If you do participate this year, make sure to send in your entry to ARRL indicating WARAC as your club. Let us see how many points we can make this year.

Winners. WARAC had four entries in the mixed mode category - K9BTQ, K9KR, W9NAW and W9WLX. In the phone only category, K9IAC, KA9JCP and WB9PUB were listed. Those were the call signs I recognized.

The “gooder” good news is that two of us did good enough to qualify for a piece of wallpaper from ARRL. Charlie, WB9PUB ended up with a first place for the Wisconsin Section in low power phone only, and I finished with a first place for the Wisconsin Section in low power mixed mode.

I do want to comment on WB9PUB. According to my information, Charlie did good enough to also qualify for two other awards – FIRST place in the Central Division AND 10th place in all the entries from the USA and Canada, low power phone only. Wow.

**West Allis Radio Amateur Club 10 Meter Contest**  
**2011 Summary Sheet for WARAC-sponsored portion of contest**

December 10 Saturday 0000 UCT to December 11 Sunday 2359.59 UCT

Rules: See the ARRL General Rules and Rules for HF contests.

Operator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Used \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Category: CW only: \_\_\_\_\_ Digital CW only: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone only: \_\_\_\_\_ Digital Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CW and Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Digital modes or Mix of Analog and digital modes: \_\_\_\_\_ (Check one category)

Power level: QRP (5w or less) \_\_\_\_\_ Low power (5.1w to 150w) \_\_\_\_\_ High power (151w and up) \_\_\_\_\_

**Scoring**

CW QSO's \_\_\_\_\_ x 2 = \_\_\_\_\_ **CW Points**

Phone QSO's \_\_\_\_\_ x 1 = \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Points**

**CW Points + Phone Points = \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Points**

**Contact Points \_\_\_\_\_ x Power Multiplier \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ Total QSO points**

**Bonus: No. of Club Members worked \_\_\_\_\_ x 5 = \_\_\_\_\_ Club Member points**

**Total QSO points + Club Member points = Final Score: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Send this summary sheet plus a copy of your log and dupesheet to:**

Chuck Craven, WB9PUB  
 W2292 Beulah Heights Road  
 East Troy, WI 53120

**Power Multiplier**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Power Range</b>	<b>Mult.</b>
QRP	0 – 5w	2.0
Low	5 – 150w	1.5
High	150w and up	1.0

Hope to Q you during the test this weekend. Get on, enjoy. Ten meters is a fun band.

Lynn K9KR

**Swapfest 2012**

Right about now, most club members are thinking about the upcoming Holiday season, and, of course, the 10M contest. However, there is one other major event—WARAC 40th Annual Midwinter Swapfest scheduled for January 7, 2012.

So what does this mean to most members? First of all, you better make sure that it is marked on your 2012 calendar. Then some thought should be given do I have any equipment that needs to be sold/traded or am I looking to upgrade to a new radio? Maybe it is time to get rid of some of the parts or radio

equipment that has been gathering dust for several years (that would make the XYL happy). I bet there are other things I can do to help WARAC at this event. You bet there are—see below.

For starters, preparations are just about in place. The caterer and VE license testing team are already getting ready and only the security contract needs to be received and signed. Table reservations will be well along by the time of our next club general meeting.

For some club members, the following information maybe old news, but worth reviewing again. The North Hall will, once again, be mainly used for socializing. What do we mean by this? It is the area were our visitors can relax, do some rag

chewing, have a bite to eat and meet our ARRL  
 (Continued on pg 9)

## Club Repeater use Survey

Send to George  
Dunco AA9SR,  
Bring to meeting.  
Soft copy on Web  
site for e-mail

What? WARAC 2-meter net

When? Each First, Third, Fifth, Tuesdays @ 7:00pm

Where? MATC repeater 147.045 standard offset +600KHz  
127.3 Hz CTCSS

In order to make use of the time and equipment we need your answers and suggestions.

### **Please answer the following questions:**

Do you have an operational 2 meter radio?- Yes No

Does your 2 meter radio have PL encoding?- Yes No

Do you need help checking settings?- Yes No

Would you join the net if it were a different time? AM?PM? \_\_:\_\_ Yes NO

Prefer another day of the week M, TU, WE, TH, F, SA,SU? \_\_\_\_

Topics for the net:

Review questions in preparation for testing \_\_\_\_

Items to trade/give away/sell? \_\_\_\_

I need help with \_\_ (restricted to radio topics)\_\_\_\_

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Suggestions that you would offer to improve the net? ( use extra paper if needed)

## **Roger Kenneth Rogers “Ken” W9NUE**

Visitation: Krause Funeral Home, 12401 West National Avenue, New Berlin, Friday, December 30, 9:30-11:00 AM.

Service: Krause Funeral Home, 12401 West National Avenue, New Berlin, Friday, December 30, 11:00 AM.

Cemetery: Southeastern Wisconsin Veteran’s Memorial Cemetery, 21731 Spring Street, Union Grove, Friday, December 30, 2:00 PM.  
[Map to cemetery](#)



Joined Betty, his loving wife of 63 years on Thursday, December 1, 2011. He was 84. Dear Dad of Julie (Jim) Esche, Susan (Jim) Hamilton, Gail (Roger) Brunn and Tom (Roselle) Rogers. Loved by 9 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, 2 brothers, 1 sister, numerous family and friends, and his cherished dogs, Sammie and Boots.

Ken was a proud Army veteran who served his country honorably during WWII. He was a story teller, and loved sharing his life experiences. Ken was as generous with his stories as he was with his talents and appreciated anyone’s friendship and caring. As a loyal member of the Operating Engineers Local 139 for over 50 years, he took pride in his role in the construction of many office buildings, hospitals, shopping centers, and even the deep tunnel sewer project. A lifetime Radio Ham operator, Ken was a founding member of the West Allis Amateur Radio Club. He will be sadly missed.



## Swapfest (continued from pg 6)

Division Director/Vice Director and Section Manager. Last year we had to add some tables to accommodate all our sellers.

Advance Tickets are available. Club members are encouraged to take some advance tickets and sell them to their fellow ham friends. Besides, they save a \$1 by doing it this way. See Phil at the December club meeting. This helps the overall attendance numbers and provides more income for the club.

Do you want to sell something? There are a couple ways you can do this. If you want to sell equipment, you need to bring it to John, K9IAC, in the South Hall who has a table for that purpose. Otherwise, along the east wall in the East Hall, there are several tables for electronic parts/components with the selling being coordinated by Louie, W9GSV. In any case, it is a good idea to provide a write-up sheet providing your name, call, selling price and other details. Also, Louie will take donations for the WARAC Scholarship Fund.

How can you help at this event? We need every WARAC member to be available and willing to help with the many duties that are necessary for this event to be a success. Please talk to Phil at the December general meeting or call him. If you have friends that want to help and don't mind working at 6 AM, bring them along too. We are encouraging members to arrive about 5:30 AM, Please wear your WARAC hat (or one will be provided at the event) and, if available, bring your HT (tuned to 147.42 MHz simplex). All volunteers will be given a door prize ticket and coffee/donuts will be provided as well as a lunch ticket.

Thank you, in advance, for your help in making this swapfest successful and living up to its reputation as one of the best in the Midwest. We are always searching for ways to get the word out and for additional sellers.

Phil, W9NAW  
Swapfest Chairperson

## Officers and Board

### President

Tom Macon, K9BTQ

### Vice President

George Dunco, AA9SR

### Secretary

Chuck Dellis, W9WLX

### Treasurer

Howard Smith WA9AXO

### Directors

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR

Dave Schank, KA9WXN

Jim Wilkins, KC9KEQ

### Newsletter Editor

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR

[fhump@milwpc.com](mailto:fhump@milwpc.com)

### Webmaster

Tom Macon, K9BTQ



**NEW** club jackets and hats!

Go to club Web site and click on  
The GOLD MEDAL IDEAS block

For more info

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.