



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

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Volume 64, Issue 12 December, 2017

## DECEMBER CLUB HAPPENINGS

### Club Meeting

St. Peter's Episcopal Church,  
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis  
December 12, 2017 7:00 PM

Program

Swapfest

Chris KC9UXC will present Social media  
premeeting dinner

**Johnny V's Classic Café, 1650 S. 84th  
St. at 5:00PM.**



### NUT NET

3.985mhz

Monday-Saturday

8:15am CT

### Milwaukee-Florida Net

Every Day on 14.290 Mhz

7:00AM - 9:15AM ET

6:00AM - 8:15AM 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.

You can get hold of her at  
414-529-3536 or  
barbsewsblue@gmail.com.

the 46th Annual Swapfest  
at the Waukesha (WI) Expo  
Center Arena  
on January 06, 2018.

January Meeting will be held at  
The Bosch Tavern, 5871 S 108th St,  
Hales Corners

### WARAC 2-meter net

Every Wednesday at 8pm

SEWFARS K9ABC Repeater 146.820 standard (-)offset  
127.3 Hz CTCSS

if repeater down try 146.55 simplex

# *The President's Shack December 2017*

Merry Christmas everyone! At the time of this writing, none of the white stuff has graced us yet, but that can change. Maybe it already has. With or without snow, the holidays are upon us, so get you shopping done early and save your favorite spot in front of the fire. St. Nick is on the way hopefully packing something that runs on a lithium battery.

December is also a busy time for the club. We have a number of things going on, so lets get right too it.

•Membership Renewal: Have you re-upped for 2018? The form is included in this issue. It's not just about the money, but we want to keep your contact information and ham status current as well. Appreciate everyone tending to this annual rite.

•Swapfest. Swapfest. Swapfest!!! It's that time again. We are in full steam ahead mode for our Mid-Winter Swapfest at Waukesha Expo on Saturday, Jan 6th. Chairman Erwin will be filling us in on the latest and greatest. Sign up for a work assignment, we really need your help. It is a all hands on deck event. Not to mention a lot of fun.

•WARAC 10 Meter Contest: Chuck D is once more running the annual 10 Meter Contest. It is happening right now, so get on the radio!!!

•David Knaus Memorial Scholarship: Due to a lot of hard work the club is proud to announce that we are able to increase our scholarship to \$2000 annually. This is a really big deal and a tribute to 4 + years of donated equipment sales. Check out the article.

•Social Media Program: Last but not least, the program this meeting is on operating/dealing with social media. Our very own certified millennial, Chris Kelling will offer expert advice in guiding you into the (for some of us) mysteries of life on-line.

Big reminder that next month's general meeting is being held at The Bosch Tavern, 5871 S 108th St, Hales Corners. Plan to get there around 7:00 PM. This is on Tuesday, Jan 9th a couple of days after our Swapfest and is more or less our post Holiday Party. They have great food and, of course, beverages of all flavors. It is a nice place to gather and should be a lot of fun!!

So with that, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. If you are traveling be careful and don't forget to bring your ham radio go-bag.

As always, everyone is invited to the before dinner meeting at Johnny V's Classic Café, 1650 S 84th St at 5:00 PM.

Check out our Facebook page!!! Start Posting!!!!  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WestAllisRAC/>

Mike WO9B

## **From the Editor**

Happy Holidays

The temperature at this moment seems like winter may come.

Hamtrix has new feature: Bill N9KPH has volunteered to write up a regular column on at least some of the special stations that come up regularly on the bands. I like that idea and have also found they are a little more willing to tell you what makes them special. I kind of expected something like that during NPOTA but it was not to be.

I installed WSJT-X on my computer and jury rigged a connection between my FT-817 audio out and my computer. I was able to read some of  
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# **WARAC General Meeting Minutes**

## **November 14, 2017**

### **Introduction**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by President Mike Johnson, WO9B  
Meeting attendance was 17 members, plus 3 visitors.

### **Tonight's Program:**

- History of Keys and Keyers – Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT

### **Club Stuff**

- WIQP Results and discussion – Tom, K9BTQ
- Awards Dinner wrap-up – Mike, WO9B
- Recognition of new club officers
- Swapfest 2018 plans and discussion – Erwin, WI9EV
- Equipment Sales discussion – Steve, NO9B
- Field Day results in Dec. QST – Mike, WO9B
- WARAC Facebook Page discussion – Mike, WO9B

### **Operating and Activities**

- ARRL International Grid Square 'contest'
- Wisconsin Badger Weather Net has ended. Discussion – Steve, NO9B
- FT-8 Operating results – Al, WB9BZW
- Contests: ARRL Sweepstakes phone; CQWW CW; ARRL 10 Meter

### **Announcements**

- January 9th meeting will be at The Bosch, HW100 at Janesville Rd. 7:00pm.

### **Business**

- October meeting minutes were voted on and approved
- Swapfest –Mailing list e-blast has been done.

### **Group Discussion**

- 9:1 balun design for dipole – Chuck, WB9PUB

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Howard Smith, WA9AXQ  
Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.  
2017-11-14

## **W.A.R.A.C. Board Meeting**

### **November 29th, 2017**

Present:

Mike Johnson, WO9B, Tom Macon, K9BTQ, Erwin von der Ehe, WI9EV, Steve Dryja, NO9B,

Dave Garnier, WB9OWN, Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, Bill Reed, N9KPH

Mike Johnson, WO9B called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

- Mike Johnson, WO9B, volunteered to be the Chairman of the Board. This was unanimously accepted.
- Swapfest 2018 discussion. Erwin, WI9EV, got the Waukesha Expo to reduce the table price.
- Bill Reed, N9KPH, presented the monthly Treasurer's report. He also reported that he had updated his personal version of Quicken, and was able to read the Quicken backup files for the General and Scholarship accounts.
- Scholarship – Howard, WA9AXQ, lead a discussion about increasing the scholarship grant to \$2,000, and ways to accomplish that. Howard made the following motion: "I make a motion to increase the David Knaus Memorial Scholarship grant to \$2,000, and provide the additional \$500 from the scholarship fund each year." Motion was seconded by Steve, NO9B, and was approved by all.
- Club Budget, Bill, N9NPH, Mike, WO9B, discussion of budget for 2018. Mike, WO9B, made the following motion: "For 2018, that \$600 would be transferred from the Scholarship Fund to the General Fund to help offset the cost of sales for the equipment donations sold at various swapfests." Seconded by Steve, NO9B, and was approved by all.
- Audit of the 2017 books. Howard, WA9AXQ, past treasurer, reported that the books are ready for audit. Mike, WO9B, reported that he will be asking a couple of members to be the auditors.
- Display Screen – Mike, WO9B. Discussed the purchase of a larger screen for presentations. Steve, NO9B, suggested that the screen be about 80 inches diagonally, and in the 16:9 format. Mike, WO9B, said he would 'shop the internet' and report what he found.
- General discussion was held on the use of the FTP site, and if there were better options. The conclusion was that FTP site served its purpose, and did not have a cost associated with it. Other solutions had yearly costs.
- December Board Meeting – Mike, WO9B. Presented a motion to cancel the December 26th Board meeting. Was seconded and approved by all.

### **Programs**

Mike, WO9B, would like to appoint a 3 member Programs Committee to secure programs for club meetings

December, 2017: 2018 Swapfest, Social Media (Facebook page) – Chris, KC9UXC, 10 Meter contest, Chuck, W9WLX

January, 2018: Informal meeting at The Bosch in Hales Corners.

February, 2018: QSO Party

### **Future Program Ideas**

CW Skimmer / CW Decoders Learning CW / Building CW skills Story-telling night Careers? Ham Radio Outlet – New radio products DMR Radios SATERN Patriot Exercises

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Howard Smith, WA9AXQ Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.  
2017-11-29

# **DAVID KNAUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT**

## **Mike WO9B**

The annual David Knaus Memorial Scholarship has been the community outreach focus for our club since the first award in 1988. Over the years this has amounted to more than \$54,000 in scholarships. What an amazing achievement and something our club, rightfully, takes pride in.

In the early days, WARAC teamed up with the Foundation for Amateur Radio to find suitable candidates. While it succeeded in distributing the scholarships, the club played a very active role in the process. Finally, six years ago we moved to the ARRL as our awarding agent, which worked out so well that the membership approved having the club formalize an endowed scholarship through the ARRL four years back. In a very professional fashion, one could say in the best practices of our hobby, the ARRL advertises and sorts through the scholarship applicants, determines the winners and pays the awards to the qualifying institutions all while administering the underlying fund. Having met the latest winner, Erik Maplethorpe, at the Awards Dinner, there is little doubt the ARRL is doing our club proud.

So where did the funds come from? Well, most of the funds, were generated from both the Swapfest and used equipment sales. Of late, as the economics of the swapfest have gotten less profitable, the funding source has been the net proceeds from selling donated equipment. Typically those sales take place at various swapfests throughout the year. In no small measure, Steve Dryja,

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## **ARRL 10 Meter Contest—WARAC Style**

**By Chuck Dellis, W9WLX**

**WARAC 10m Contest Chairman**

The ARRL 10-meter contest takes place this month, starting at 0000Z on December 9 and concluding at 2359 on December 10. Once again this year, the West Allis Radio Amateur Club will have its friendly club competition.

The standard ARRL contest rules for contests below 30 MHz apply. Then take a few minutes to fill out the club contest form and submit it and your log to participate in the club event. You are awarded 5 additional points for every club member worked and any logs submitted electronically will automatically be checked for club member call signs.

Recent propagation trends may be discouraging, but don't let that stop you! 10 meters has that special attribute, sporadic E propagation. Sporadic E can occur anytime, day or night and peaks during the seasonal solstices. Single hop sporadic E is around 1300 miles, favorable for the contest. F layer propagation on 10 meters is a bit long, so many times there are good 10-meter contest results during low or declining sun spot cycles.

When 10 is open, high power and a big antenna are not required. Even ground plane antennas have been good performers. Pick up your microphone, key, or both and join in the fun! Then, submit your log and club form, but don't forget to send your log to the ARRL as well.

**WARAC 10 meter contest form next page (editor)**

## 2017 West Allis Radio Amateur Club 10 Meter Contest

Summary Sheet for WARAC sponsored contest portion

Saturday, December 9, 0000Z to Sunday, December 10, 2359Z

Rules: ARRL General Rules and Rules for HF contests apply.

Operator Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Used: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Category (Check one)      CW Only: \_\_\_      Phone Only: \_\_\_\_\_      CW & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Power Level (Check one)      QRP \_\_\_\_\_ (0-5 watts)      Low Power: \_\_\_\_\_ (5-150 watts)      High Power: \_\_\_\_\_ (>150 watts)

### Scoring

CW QSOs \_\_\_\_\_ X2 = \_\_\_\_\_ CW Points

Phone QSOs \_\_\_\_\_ X1 = \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Points

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

Class	Power Range	Power Multiplier
QRP	0-5 Watts	2.0
Low	5-150 Watts	1.5
High	>150 Watts	1.0

Contact Points \_\_\_\_\_ X Power Multiplier \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ Total QSO Points

### Bonus

Number of Club Members Worked \_\_\_\_\_ X5 = \_\_\_\_\_ Club Member Points

Total QSO Points \_\_\_\_\_ + Club Member Points \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ Final Score

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

Chuck Dellis  
3542 S. Massachusetts Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53220-1118

Or submit electronically at [cjd@wi.rr.com](mailto:cjd@wi.rr.com)

# Special Event Corner

**By: Bill Reed, N9KPH**

Welcome to a new, hopefully regular. column in Hamtrix. My interest in Special Events got started right after a 25 year vacation from Ham Radio ended. After joining the club, the fires started burning again, so I bought a new radio and got back on the air. As fate would have it, my very first HF contact was with a Special Event station commemorating the anniversary of a Civil War battle - The Battle of Franklin - which I had never heard of. I expected the usual impersonal exchange before the op moved on, but this one was different. I found he was actually willing to chat a bit and gave me a short synopsis of the battle. After a little more dial spinning, I soon realized that there were interesting commemorative events that occurred quite often. Thus began the Special Event chase.

This month, I'm writing about a year long event that begins soon. This information was largely copied from: <https://nasaontheair.wordpress.com>.

## NASA On The Air

2018 is a big year for NASA anniversaries. NASA was created in 1958, the first manned lunar mission was in 1968, and the first elements of the International Space Station (ISS) were launched in 1998. The club stations at the various NASA centers and facilities plan to be on the air with special events to celebrate these milestones. They are offering commemorative QSL cards and a special certificate indicating how many centers you worked on various bands and modes. QSL instructions are available on the QRZ.COM site for each individual club station. They expect to have a web-based system for you to check your points total and download a certificate at the end of the event in December 2018. Points will be awarded for each center worked on each band and mode (phone, CW, digital).

The event will run from December 2017 through December 2018 with the following key dates:

- Apollo 17 45th anniversary – 11-14 December 2017, beginning of event
- NASA founded 60th anniversary (act signed by President Eisenhower) – 29 July 1958
- ISS First Element Launch 20th anniversary – 20 November 1998
- ISS Node 1 Launch 20th anniversary – 4 December 1998
- 50th anniversary of Apollo 8 – launch 21 December 1968, splashdown 27 December, end of event

There may also be other special event operations by the various centers commemorating specific events but those listed above will include participation from all the centers.

So, if you've never worked Special Events before, give 'em a try. I think you'll find them much more fun and interesting than the usual, often boring, exchanges!



## RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

ALL MEMBERS WHO JOINED BEFORE October 1 ST  
MUST RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP BY September 30TH

\*\*\*\*\*FILL IN ALL INFORMATION PLEASE\*\*\*\*\*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL SIGN: \_\_\_\_\_  
(As you want it to appear on the roster)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ LIC CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ LIC EXP: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK HERE: \_\_\_\_\_ IF YOU WANT THE CLUB NEWSLETTER EMAILED TO YOU?

CHECK HERE: \_\_\_\_\_ If you are an ARRL member?

Would You Be Willing To Serve On A Committee? \_\_\_\_\_ Officer? \_\_\_\_\_

Club Activities You Would Like To Participate In?

Field Day \_\_\_\_\_ Programs \_\_\_\_\_ Swapfest \_\_\_\_\_ Hamtrix \_\_\_\_\_ Elmer Sunshine \_\_\_\_\_

Education Community Service \_\_\_\_\_ Public Relations \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship \_\_\_\_\_

QSO Party \_\_\_\_\_

Class Of Membership: Full Associate New Renewal

Dues Paid: Full \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Associate \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$18.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Student

\$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Retired \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \*\*\*\*\*

A family membership includes the individual applying and all members of such person's immediate family residing in the same household who possess an Amateur Radio license.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL SIGN: \_\_\_\_\_

LIC CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_ LIC EXP: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR WARAC OFFICE USE ONLY**

Treasurer Received/ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sec. Add Roster/Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:**

West Allis Radio Amateur Club, Inc.

P. O. Box 1072

Milwaukee, WI 53201

Interesting seems logical to me just basic repeater technology. We may need our Aluminum foil yet. HI HI

[https://www.wirelessdesignmag.com/blog/2017/12/no-key-no-problem-thieves-improving-infiltrating-keyless-vehicle-entry-systems?et\\_cid=6198745&et\\_rid=353748193&type=headline&et\\_cid=6198745&et\\_rid=353748193&linkid=No+Key%2c+No+Problem%3a+Thieves+Improving+At+Infiltrating+Keyless+Vehicle+Entry+Systems](https://www.wirelessdesignmag.com/blog/2017/12/no-key-no-problem-thieves-improving-infiltrating-keyless-vehicle-entry-systems?et_cid=6198745&et_rid=353748193&type=headline&et_cid=6198745&et_rid=353748193&linkid=No+Key%2c+No+Problem%3a+Thieves+Improving+At+Infiltrating+Keyless+Vehicle+Entry+Systems)

## From pg 5

NO9B, has lead the donated equipment sales effort with the assistance of a number of club members. And it is those efforts that have lead to this announcement.

The goal for the scholarship committee has been to increase the annual scholarship amount from \$1500 to \$2000. To do this, using the ARRL's endowment formula, requires a \$12,000 funding source. Based on outstanding donated equipment sales, we finally reached that necessary amount and with Board approval at the November meeting, we are proud to make this announcement.

What a great Christmas present from WARAC to our ham radio community. Thank you to all those involved who made this possible. This is one of those times that we as a club can all take a moment to pat ourselves on the back. You done good!!

## From pg 2 Editor

the FT-8 mail out there. As time permits will play with it some more. I need to learn more about how WSJT-X works and what options I find helps. This should keep me busy in my spare time. Hi HI

Every one have Merry Christmas stay safe etc. I should be able to make some meeting since my other meeting are done for a while.

73

Frank KA9FZR

Officers and Board  
President  
Mike Johnson WO9B  
  
Vice President  
Steve Dryja, NO9B  
  
Secretary  
Howard Smith WA9AXO  
  
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Bill Reed N9KPH  
  
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## 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. Meet-  
ings 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.