



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

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Volume 66, Issue 1 Januray, 2019

## JANUARY CLUB HAPPENINGS



**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. You can get hold of her at 414-529-3536 or [barbsewsblue@gmail.com](mailto:barbsewsblue@gmail.com).

### Club Meeting

New Berlin Ale House, 16000 W Cleveland Ave, New Berlin, WI 53151

Park in the west parking lot. This is the old Kuglitsch's Bowling **This will be an eyeball QSO party post swapfest.**

### WARAC 2-meter net

Every Wednesday at 8pm

SEWFARS W9TJK Repeater 146.820 standard (-) offset

127.3 Hz CTCSS

if repeater down try 146.55 simplex

### Wisconsin QSO Party

March 10, 2019 - 1800Z to 0100Z March 11

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## The President's Shack January 2018

I have to say, it has been a busy, busy weekend. With a mixture of relief, excitement and anxiety it is a great big deal to have our annual Midwinter Swapfest completed and finally in the bag. Whew!! And for the next person to mention that the 2019 edition ended just in time to start work on next year's event....I'm going to invite them to the next board meeting. Lol. That's as tough as we can get.

Our swapfest really is a big deal. It requires a huge amount of work, especially on our overworked chairman, Erwin von der Ehe, WI9EV. He really does sweat the details all year long and I cannot say enough about the task he undertakes to "make it happen". Without stealing any of this thunder, it looks like he pulled it off without a hitch this year. Attendance appears to be up and table sales were also ahead of last year. It takes a little bit of time to figure out all the specifics so we hope to have the numbers in time for the February meeting. You're just gonna have to wait. Judging by the size of the crowd and the ad hoc vendor comments, we did well. Steve, NO9B, reported good sales activity at the club donated equipment table. All things look positive for our primary fund raising event.

I also have to make mention of the work all of you extend on swapfest Saturday. We had more than 30 club members show up crazy early Saturday (not to mention the dozen or so members that assisted on Friday too!!!) to man the doors, sell tickets and generally help host the 'fest. Well done and a big thank you to each and every one of you.

Before I sign off from this month's President's Shack, there's three items I just have to mention:

1. January Monthly Meeting: The January Meeting is NOT at the normal time or place. Take a look elsewhere in Hamtix for the brochure, but

this month's meeting, or as I like to say the post swapfest party, is being held at the New Berlin Ale House. We meet for burgers, beverages and eye-ball QSO's at 6:30 PM. Hope everyone finds there way to the place.

2. WARAC Operating Event: Don't forget about the North American SSB QSO Party event on Jan 19th. Let's get as many members to enter as possible. You just need an hour of operating to get enter. Even without the WARAC sub-event, the NA SSB QSO Party is a gas to operate. Plenty of activity but of the friendly sort.

3. Wisconsin Public Radio Interview: WPR has taken an interest in ham radio. Go figure. Better yet, tune in on Tuesday, Jan 8th at 6:00 AM and hear yours truly being interviewed. I've got my fingers crossed, but I am really looking forward to it. Hey, if it's good for ham radio, I'm all in.

So Happy New Year to all. We will see you on Tuesday night at the New Berlin Ale House. Needless to say, no Johnny V's this month, take your car off autopilot. We will be back to normal next month.

73's

MJ,W09B

Check out our Facebook page!!! Start Posting!!!!

<https://www.facebook.com/WestAllisRAC/> • — • —••

### From the Editor

Looks like we had a good swapfest this year. Results are not in but the weather was great which made it very different from other years. The original intent of delaying putting Hamtix out was so we could put pictures from the swapfest in this issue. Best laid plans interfered with that idea. I only got one picture before the fest started, which is in this issue. Others who took pictures had theirs swallowed by their computer! If I get any more I will fit some more in the next issue.

**Continued on pg 9**

**WARAC General Meeting Minutes  
December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Members: 19      Guests: 6

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Mike, WO9B

Reminder that renewals are due.

November meeting minutes approved.

Irwin gave update on Swapfest January 5, 2019. 103/116 table sold so far. Will have 2 raffles, one for cash, one for arch supports. Sponsors added.

Fred gave presentation on 80 meter loop.

NA QSO Party SSB 1/19/2019. Best hour score will win club prize.

Hamtrix to be published after Swapfest.

Meeting ended 8:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Garnier, KD9HPS  
WARAC Secretary  
December 27, 2018    • —• —••

**Board meeting not held due to holidays**



**Ham radio cartoons. Falling off the ham tower.**

**Hams can't fly!**

**This one should have put on a safety harness before climbing that tower of yours!**

## A Morse Code Story

Back when the telegraph was the fastest method of long-distance communication, a young man applied for a job as a Morse Code operator.

Answering an ad in the newspaper, he went to the office address that was listed. When he arrived, he entered a large, busy office filled with noise and clatter, including the sound of the telegraph in the background. A sign on the receptionist's counter instructed job applicants to fill out a form and wait until they were summoned to enter the inner office.

The young man filled out his form and sat down with the seven other applicants in the waiting area.

After a few minutes, the young man stood up, crossed the room to the door of the inner office, and walked right in.

Naturally the other applicants perked up, wondering what was going on. They muttered among themselves that they hadn't heard any summons yet. They assumed that the young man who went into the office made a mistake and would be disqualified.

Within a few minutes, however, the employer escorted the young man out of the office and said to the other applicants, "Gentlemen, thank you very much for coming, but the job has just been filled."

The other applicants began grumbling to each other, and one spoke up saying, "Wait a minute, I don't understand. He was the last to come in, and we never even got a chance to be interviewed. Yet he got the job. That's not fair!"

The employer said, "I'm sorry, but all the time you've been sitting here, the telegraph has been ticking out the following message in Morse Code: 'If you understand this message, then come right in. The job is yours.'"

None of you heard it or understood it. This young man did. The job is his."

We live in a world that is so full of

busyness and clatter, like that office.

We are distracted and unable to hear the still, small voice of God inside of us, as He speaks to us.

It may be a wake-up call.

-Author Unknown      • —• —••

## WARAC Contest Competition

By Chuck Dellis, W9WLX

Get ready for the West Allis Radio Amateur Club's friendly contest competition. This year, it will be taking place the weekend of January 19-20. With both interest and propagation fading on 10 meters, we will be taking on a new challenge as part of the North American QSO Party, SSB.

The contest takes place from 1800Z, January 19 to 0559Z, January 20. That's noon to midnight on January 19, CST.

- 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meter bands, SSB only.
- Single op can operate a max of 10 hours.
- Max power is either 100 watts or 5 watts QRP.
- Exchange is Name + (state, DC, province, country) or Name for non-NA.
- Work 'em once per band.

Entry into the competition is easy!

- Follow all NAQP rules.
- Work the contest for as long as you want, per NAQP rules.
- Submit your log to Chuck, W9WLX—cabrillo log submitted electronically.
- The best hour will be selected from the 00 to 59 minute-hour, not an arbitrary 60 minutes.

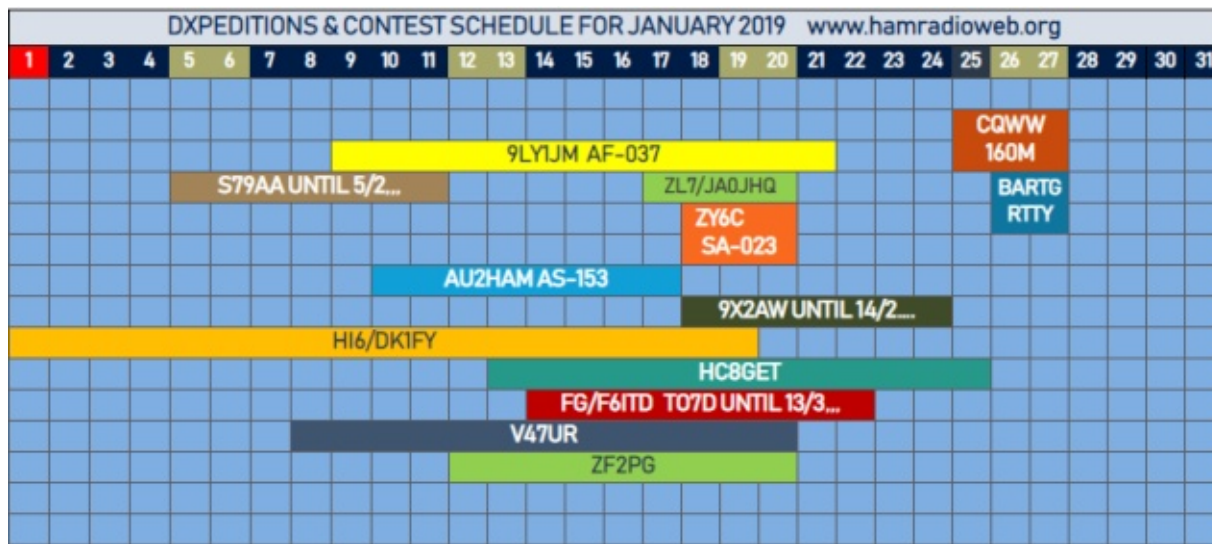
The NCJ rules may be found at <http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>. The deadline for log submission for both the NCJ and WARAC competition is January 25, 2019.

Email an attached cabrillo file to [w9wlx@wi.rr.com](mailto:w9wlx@wi.rr.com) for the WARAC submission. The NCJ submission may be done at <http://www.ncjweb.com/naqplotsubmit/>. Let's get all the club members on the air and have fun!

# DX / CONTEST UPDATE

<http://www.iz5cml.it/dxschedule>

DX: January is looking a bit lean. Just me saying, but it might have something to do with the sunspots. Or maybe it is just January. Regardless, this is not huge activity. Last month the big news was Bouvette Island 3Y0I, which this month is looking more and more like the little train that couldn't. So to coin a phrase, not much to see here, move along.



Contests: With the ARRL RTTY contest completed, January still offers up three really good contests, but more of the North American variety rather than international events. You really gotta try 'em.

- North American QSO Party CW, Jan 12th and 13th: <http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>
- North American QSO Party SSB, Jan 19th and 20th: <http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>
- MN QSO Party, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>: <http://w0aa.org/index.php/mn-qso-party>

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Full Contest Schedule check: <http://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html>

## Special Event Corner

January, 2019

By **Bill Reed/N9KPH**

Here's a summary of some of the events that may be of interest during and early February.

### State QSO Parties

Montana – January 26<sup>th</sup> to January 27<sup>th</sup>

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**General Interest Events:**

01/19/2019 | Quartzfest

January 19<sup>th</sup> to January 27<sup>th</sup>, 0800Z-1200Z, W7Q, San Luis, AZ. Quartzfest. Operators can be found on 10, 15 and 20 meters

February 2<sup>nd</sup> to February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1500Z-2300Z, | Space Shuttle Columbia Special Event

K5C, Nacogdoches, TX. Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club. All contacts will be confirmed via LOTW.

February 9<sup>th</sup> | USS Midway Museum Ship Special Event: Mt. Surabachi Flag Raising Feb 9, 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Ship.

**Noteworthy Contests:**

North American QSO Party, SSB: 1800Z, January 19<sup>th</sup> to 0559Z, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m

ARRL January VHF Contest: 1900Z, January 19<sup>th</sup> to 0359Z, January 21<sup>st</sup>

A full listing of contests can be found at:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

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**Hamtrix Sale Corner**

Listed are some interesting “toys” for your very own Christmas gifts:

Kenwood FT-570 HF/6m transceiver with mike, power cables, instruction and service manuals. It is in excellent condition. Asking price is \$700.

Yaesu FT-920 HF transceiver with a new mike and power cable. Will not transmit on AM—processor chip is not longer available. Instruction manual is available online. Very good condition. Asking price is \$650.

Dentron Super Tuner, 160-10 AT, 1KW, good condition with manual. A bargain at \$50.

Ameritron AL-811H HF power linear amplifier. It is in excellent condition with low hours of operation. Output of 600 watts CW is obtainable with only 50 watts of drive. Manual is included. Selling price is \$650.

Club members—do you have anything you want to list in this column?

For additional information about the above items, contact Phil, W9NAW, 414-425-3649.

Phil, W9NAW

8 Jan 2019

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## Repairing my Tri-Band Beam

As some of you may know, I have a Cushcraft A4S Tri-Band Beam mounted on a US Towers TMM4335S 35 ft. crank up tower. I really wanted the crank up tower because I thought it would make the antenna maintenance easier to do. The only problem is that the boom of the beam is at about 15 ft above ground with the tower cranked almost completely down. The Ham-M rotator just fits inside the top tower section, but will not fit inside the next to top tower section, so the tower doesn't really crank totally down.

Late this fall I noticed that the driven element of the beam was on a slant, but later on it leveled out. When this happened, I knew that I had to do some maintenance on the beam. So I cranked the tower down, got out my Little Giant ladder, and realized that I was not going to be able to use it as a 10 ft stepladder because it was not tall enough.

I could use the ladder as a 20 ft extension ladder, but I had done that before, and did not like the way it swayed as I climbed it. As I have aged, being on a tall ladder has proved to be a problem, as I feared a small mistake could cause me to fall. Not a good idea.

The solution seemed to be an aerial lift, or a friendly tree service person with access to a bucket truck. It was now December, and the weather was quickly becoming an issue. After spending time on the web looking for something to rent, at a cost that was reasonable, I ended up at Blair's TruValue Hardware on National Avenue between Coffee Rd and Moreland road. They had an aerial lift that was towable, would reach 45 ft, and was simple to operate. It would cost \$170 for four hours.

Fortunately, the weather cooperated on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, the temperature being in the mid 40's, and the

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wind speed under 5 mph. Chuck, W9WLX, met me with his F150 pickup truck at Blair's at 11:00am to pick up the aerial lift. We arrived at my QTH, positioned the lift beside the tower, and was ready to begin. Frank, KA9FZR, stopped by and brought his safety harness and shock pack, so I could be properly secured to the lift in case I unintentionally fell out. Tom, K9BTQ, was also there. He provided the antenna analyzer that was used to show the SWR plot for each band.

I have to say it was very easy making the repairs with the beam right at waist level. The U-bolt holding the beam needed to be repositioned and tightened. The 2 wires from the Balun to the driven element were broken and needed to be replaced. Again, that was easy to do. My biggest fear was dropping a piece of hardware, and not having the replacement. That, fortunately, did not happen.

With my work on the beam done, we all assembled in the shack, and Tom used the antenna analyzer to check the SWR for each band, and everything was good.

Chuck and I were back at Blair's hardware at 1:45pm; total time was 2 hours 45 minutes.

This was a very positive experience. The aerial lift made it easy, and the help from Chuck, Frank, and Tom was greatly appreciated. Chuck's picture shows me on the aerial lift at the beginning of the repair. You may notice that the driven element is right next to the mast, not in its desired position.

Howard, WA9AXQ • — • — • •





What a FCC action looks like

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-18-801A1.pdf>

Archive of Radio Constructor magazine,  
a UK mag that ran from from 1947 to 1981.

[https://www.americanradiohistory.com/Radio\\_Constructor\\_Magazine.htm](https://www.americanradiohistory.com/Radio_Constructor_Magazine.htm)

## Editor

For Christmas I received the ARRL book “Propagation and Radio Science.” So far I have found it an interesting read. I will do a review of it later in the year. One thing that got my interest was circular polarized HF antennas. I had built a 20 meter crossed dipole antenna to just test if it would work. It showed some promise but to test further the antenna needed some work to make it easier to use. So that may be on my project list.

Things are going well so far this year. I made a few minor changes to Hamtrix, let me know what you think.

Frank KA9FZR • —• —••

## Officers and Board

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***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.