



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 66, Issue 6 June, 2019

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

Club Meeting

St. Peter's Episcopal Church,
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis
June 11, 2019 7:00 pm

presentation by
ARRL Central Division Director Kermit Carlson, W9XA
Premeeting dinner
Johnny V's Classic Café, 1650 S. 84th St. at 5:00PM.

**At the Greenfield Sendik's June 8, 2019
11am to 4pm
Grill up brats and burgers for a Club fund
raiser
More info page 7**

**2019 ARRL Field Day is June 22-23
See pg 8 for more info**

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

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The President's Shack June 2019

This has been a really good month. Weather could be better, sure, but we've got a ton of good stuff happening right now. I don't know where to begin....

Let's start with last month's club auction / pizza night. I had a great time. We've made May our auction meeting for the past several years and by gosh, maybe it's just me, but the pizza and Stever, NO9B, both just keep getting better and better. If Steve keep up this trajectory, he may have to give up his daytime job. Big thanks to all the club members that made a donation of equipment and gear. Nicely done. Finally, a big thanks to everyone for bidding up the goodies. Between pizza donations and auction receipts, we had a net profit on the night. Bill, N9KPH can fill us in on the details at the meeting.

Normally in June two things happen. First we nurse those post-Dayton hangovers and secondly we fire up Field Day. OK, we've got that covered, but just to make it fun, we've added in a Park Activation and our Sendik's Community Grill fund raiser. Let's dig into the pile.

June 4th was our first Mid Week Park Activation for 2019. What a wonderful time. I literally threw a dart at the calendar and said it's time to start the summer. Apparently I'm not the only one to come to that conclusion. Take a gander at the event write up a few pages into this Hamtrix. As the saying goes, we will be doing this again!! Who wants to be the host for July? You need only pick a date and a park. It just goes off from there.

As you're reading this, it is quite probably Grill Fundraising time at the Sendik's on 78th and Layton. Even if you didn't sign up, come on down and pick up a brat or burger. We will see how it goes, but certainly the more the merrier.

Which brings us to Field Day 2019 on June 22nd and 23rd. Check out Chuck's, W9WLX, write up.

Very much similar to last year's event. This will be a 3 transmitter effort PLUS both VHF and GOTA stations. We will have a station for everyone this year: HF SSB & CW, FT8, VHF with SSB, CW and Digital. The equipment will vary from the latest Flex gear to more traditional knobs. This is a great opportunity to play with the bells and whistles on display at Dayton. Really. We need a lot of help to pull this off. Come on down for the setup Saturday morning and stay for BBQ dinner featuring Chile, Brats and Corn on the Cob that evening. Did someone mention Breakfast Burritos on Sunday morning? You bet. So put WARAC Field Day in the calendar.

With all the above, what about the club meeting on Tuesday, June 11th. We are once again lucky to have ARRL Central Division Director Kermit Carlson, W9XA, will bring us up to date on the latest programs and goals of the ARRL and amateur radio. In addition to Kermit, Chuck, W9WLX will be discussing the latest Field Day news. Finally, Tom, K9BTQ will finally get the chance to share the WI QSO Party Results.

Did I miss anything? Gosh, it's a full agenda for WARAC in June. That's a good thing!! And don't forget Johnny V's for the pre-meeting dinner. Get there early.

Did you pick up the new 2019 WARAC Directory? We got one for you at the meeting.

See you Tuesday!!

73's

MJ,W09B

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

From the Editor

Having been on vacation for most of May it seems I'm coming back to a very active month for the West Allis Radio Club.

Goto page 11

WARAC Meeting Agenda

May 14, 2019

28 members and 4 visitors attended. One person joined, W9KEY, Fred Schwierske. Pizza was enjoyed by all and \$312 raised for the scholarship fund. • _• _••



WARAC Goes to Valley View Park, June 2nd

Welcome to Summer in the Park. Some of it worked. Some did not. We all had a great time.



DX / CONTEST UPDATE

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

DX: Well, this is bleak. Granted, the joys of DX are a bit on the light side of late. Light but not non-existent. Trolling the CW and FT8 subbands has been very interesting. 40 meters in particular has become DX worthy with just wire antennas in the late evening. Static on 40 is manageable, but if you have not scanned the band after 10:00 PM, you're likely missing the good stuff. And 20 is has put on its summer clothes and is staying open to 10 PM on some evenings. Ahhhh, the good old days.

Check out the calendar below for new ones, but they all seem pretty laid back operations:

DXPEDITIONS & CONTEST SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 2019 www.hamradioweb.org																														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
3D2CR CONWAY																														
5W0H																														
S9A																														
XV9DG AS-157														PJ5/W9DR 6m																
R26RRC AS-204									V6K OC-059																					
>E31A			RIOZK AS-039 NOT SURE						R205NEW AS-205																					
7S6WX EU043																					ALL ASIAN CW		KING OF EA SSB							
LA/DL EU-076																														
HF FIELD DAY																					T88PB									
											JW/EA3NT OJOY																			

Contests: Two contests make this THE month: ARRL June VHF Contest on June 9th and 10th (That's right, THIS WEEKEND) and Field Day on June 22nd and 23rd. If you've got 6 meter FT8 capability, you really need to play in the VHF contest.

If smaller operating events are your thing, the myriad of QRP contests are just getting started. And State QSO Parties keep popping up. Take a spin through the contest calendar.

ARRL June VHF Contest: <http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>

Field Day 2019: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

And to check on all the contests: <http://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html>

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Special Event Corner

June, 2019

By **Bill Reed/N9KPH**

Here's a summary of some of the events that may be of interest during June and early July. See this ARRL web page for more information, including proposed operating frequencies, QSL and/or Certificate availability:

http://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:1/model:Event

State QSO Parties

West Virginia – 6/15 to 6/16

General Interest Events:

06/20/2019 - Commemorating the Lives of President Ronald & Mrs. Nancy Reagan
Jun 20-Jun 24, 1900Z-2359Z, N6R, Simi Valley, CA.
Ventura County Amateur Radio Society

6/29/2019 | 156th Anniversary of "The Battle of Gettysburg"
Jun 29-Jul 10, 1200Z-0500Z, WO4L, East Berlin, PA.

06/22-23/2019 | Field Day – Need we say more??

07/01/2019 | 13 Colonies Event, PA Station
Jul 1-Jul 8, 1300Z-0400Z, K2M, New Kensington, PA. 13 Colonies Special Event. This is an excellent, enjoyable event. Check it out! See <http://13colonies.net> for helpful details.

07/03/2019 | American Mensa Annual Gathering (For the genius's among us!)
Jul 3-Jul 7, 0000Z-1800Z, K7M, Phoenix, AZ.
HAMSIG.

There are at least TEN events in mid-July commemorating the Moon landing. Here are two:

07/14/2019 | 50 Years - First Man on the Moon
Jul 14-Jul 28, 1700Z-2000Z, N1A, Milford, OH.
Milford Amateur Radio Club. www.w8mrc.com

07/19/2019 | Apollo Moon Landing 50th Anniversary at Space & Rocket Center
Jul 19-Jul 21, 2000Z-2000Z, W4A, Huntsville, AL.
Huntsville Amateur Radio Club Celebrating Man's first steps on the moon 50 years ago. SASE for QSL.
www.qrz.com/db/W4A • —• —••



WARAC is GRILLING UP SOME BRATS and BURGERS!!!

Come Join us on Saturday, June 8th from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Where: Sendik's Greenfield Store
7901 W. Layton Ave
Greenfield, WI 53220

This is the first time WARAC will be trying to do a community fund raiser in this fashion. We NEED your help!! Come join us for an hour, two hours or stay the whole day!! Every little bit helps.

Sign Up Sheet will be at the next club meeting, Tuesday, May 14th. OR contact Mike Johnson by phone 262-923-6194 or email mike@palomonet.com

See you then!!! ·—·



Field Day is upon Us

Wow, I can't believe Field Day is less than two weeks away. Without much of a Spring, June is catching us by surprise!

Get ready for one of our larger club events of the year. We are tweaking some to experiment with recent trends, so be sure to get yourself signed up to operate. Field Day takes place on June 22-23, from 1 pm to 1pm CDT. Let Chuck, W9WLX, know when you would like to operate and if you have a station preference.

80/20 station--Tom, K9BTQ station captain.

Tom's station will be set up similar to last year. He will have an Icom 7600 using an 80-meter loop running phone and CW. If 10 meters opens up, it will be <https://www.politifact.com/facebook-fact-checks/statements/2019/may/22/viral-image/claims-democrats-didnt-attend-hearing-about-border/> handled <https://www.politifact.com/facebook-fact-checks/statements/2019/may/22/viral-image/claims-democrats-didnt-attend-hearing-about-border/> by either the 80/20 or 40/15 station, depending on how we can best level-load overall band activity.

40/15 station—Chuck, W9WLX station captain.

Chuck's station will be running the Flex 6600 with a few tweaks over last year. Changing up the antenna is an OCF dipole courtesy of Phil, W9NAW. The OCF dipole is broad banded and multi-band friendly. In addition to the PC interface, the Flex will also have a Maestro synched with the PC. Anyone who did not care for a PC interface in the past is encouraged to come by and give it another try. The Maestro essentially puts knobs on an SDR radio. A second antenna with non-horizontal polarization is still

under investigation which enables diversity receive. Diversity receive usually minimizes QSB by receiving in two polarizations simultaneously. The station will be running phone and CW.

Digital station—Mike, WO9B station captain.

Mike is giving more focus to digital this year; FT8 has come alive as a contesting mode. FT8 and RTTY is planned across all HF Field Day bands and who knows, maybe more! Mike's station will be running a Yaesu FT-891 with a vertical. If you haven't worked with FT8 or RTTY in a contesting environment, be sure to take a look. And if you are a digital user, stop by and share what we've all learned.

6 meter station—Steve/Phil, NO9B/W9NAW station captains.

The VHF station will be using an Icom 7300 with a beam and 6m loop. This is the first time for the 7300 on 6m. The station will be primarily phone and able to fill in with 6m digital.

GOTA station—Barb/Dave, KD9HPS/WB9OWN Barb is heading up the GOTA effort using an Icom 7300. It will be frequency agile with portable type antennas. If you know any youth or any interested non-ham, send them to Barb and let's get them on the air!

Mike, WO9B, is spearheading a food menu that will make your pallet water. Saturday noon is simple, catered sandwiches as we finish setup. Then Saturday evening will feature chili, brats, roasted corn, and potato salad. Sunday morning will showcase some savory breakfast burritos and for our Sunday noon lunch, we'll finish up the Saturday evening leftovers. Snack, desserts, and beverages will be available to keep everyone energized.

Let's hope we are blessed with great weather. Be sure to stop out, sign up to work some QSOs, and share some comradery.

Incredible Radio Tales

When radio officers hit the beach in San Francisco they went immediately to "the Dog House", a rooming house in Powell Street that, for reasons lost to time, was the home away from home for seafaring brass pounders. There were probably similar places in every port around the country if not the world. And what must these Sparkies have talked about at table? Why radiomen, radio conditions, and radio equipment of course!

Ah! What one would give to sit in on one of those bull sessions. These were men who could coax a sweet note from a decrepit quenched gap transmitter, copy through static and interference (using their own personal Audion detector smuggled on board) and look the Radio Inspector straight in the eye when he strode self importantly into the shack.

Our time machine is out of service at the moment due to a shorted power transformer. So we won't be able to join the boys at the Dog House tonight. But we can preserve and present some of our own radio tales, all of them true, for your enjoyment.

As you read, let the sounds of static on 600m at midnight and the dim light of glowing tubes in a dark room become real. Imagine the silence and smell the dust in the abandoned transmitter gallery of a once great station. And above all remember the men and women who came before us and made the profession of radiotelegrapher one of honor and skill.

A Rigger's Rigger by Richard Dillman

In the days of radio when men were men, days not too long past, forests of telephone poles held spiderwebs of antennas against the sky, usually at the very edge of great oceans. Such a place was the RCA transmitting station in Bolinas, CA.

When I first started visiting there in the early 70s, trans-Pacific telephone circuits were still carried on HF radio. Rhombic and fishbone antennas covered acres of land, each aimed at a particular spot on the Pacific rim. My favorites were the ones held aloft by stacked telephone poles; two 90 footers placed one upon the other and held by a network of guy wires. These laceworks of antennas, feed lines and guy wires were larger and more complex than the biggest full-rigged sailing ship. And, like those ships, it took a special breed of man to keep them all aloft in the face of Pacific storms, salt spray and the ravages of time.

When we think of these installations, we usually think of the radio operators. I often think of the Chief Rigger, within whose domain the maintenance of these antenna fields fell. I met the Chief Rigger at the station in those days. His name was Jim (Jimmy) Bourne. He appeared to be in his early 60s, barrel chested with big, working man's hands and spectacles that somehow seemed too small for his large, open face.

It was Jim who kept the poles straight, the guys tight and the antennas aloft, no matter the weather or the time of night. And he did it as a matter of course, as a part of the job he had agreed to do. He was the type of man who is a hero but does not know it.

I've kept that picture of Jim Bourne in my mind since then, as an example of the best of a breed of men now almost vanished. But I wondered at the time if anyone else recognized him for who he was.

A few years after meeting Jim I was in Bolinas again

visiting an amateur and fellow Radio Officer who lived near the transmitting station. As we chatted about radio and radiomen I noticed in the garage adjacent to his shack a large leather climbing belt of the kind Jim Bourne used. But this one was clean and new. I noticed too that this climbing belt had a brass plaque riveted to it. I drew closer to read it.

The inscription was simple. It gave me chills to read it then, as it still does now:

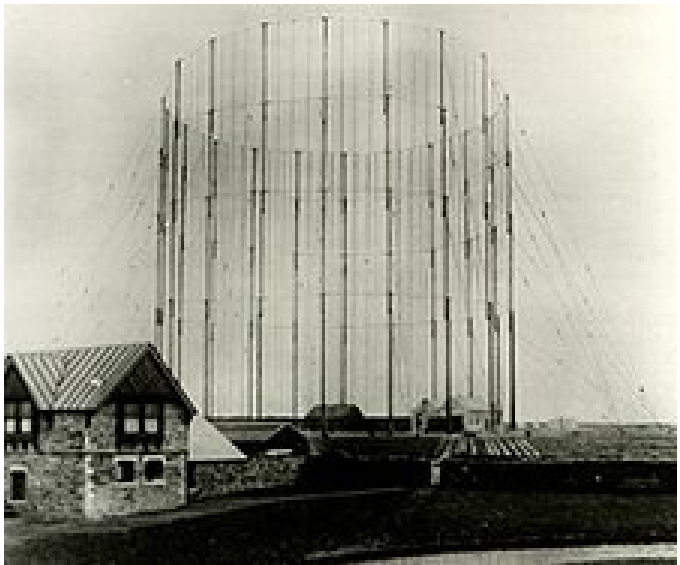
"To Jim Bourne - A Rigger's Rigger, A Man's Man"

Clearly, the belt had been presented to Jim upon his retirement by peers who recognized him, as I did, to be man worthy of honor. I didn't have the heart to ask my friend how it came to pass that he had Jim's belt. But I do know that one of the best epitaphs a man could hope for was engraved on that brass plaque.

When I wrote the piece above I assumed Jimmy Bourne had passed away. I was wrong, and that assumption kept me from meeting Jimmy again and talking with him at length about his life as a rigger at KPH. The notice of his actual passing appeared in the Point Reyes Light:

"He was in charge of maintenance for all the RCA towers - the tallest one was 300 ft. tall. He loved that job, loved climbing and spending time in the air," his granddaughter said. "He retired after 34 years."

Ed Brennan, his former boss, had the climbing belt mentioned in my story made for Jimmy upon his retirement.



Marconi's transmitting station at Poldhu, Cornwall, showing the original 400-wire vertical inverted-cone aerial which collapsed

Editor from page 2

We started the month of June with a park activation. It was well attended by club members and guests. Had at least 4 stations up. I brought my circular polarized 20 meter antenna prototype. It did snag some FT-8 stations so it was putting out and receiving.

A satellite station was set up but it wasn't quite ready for prime time! Even with some expert jury rigging no contacts were made but signals were heard.

A couple other stations were in operation with mixed success.

Everyone still seemed to have a good time. These outings are a great time to experiment with any projects one is working on. There is no pressure for it to be right first time and a lot of expertise to offer suggestions or alternatives.

Saturday June 8 is our brat fund raiser (see flier in Hamtrix).

Of course June is field day more (info also in the Hamtrix).

73
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.