Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

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# AUGUST CLUB HAPPENINGS

## MEETING INFORMATION

**August Pizza Picnic**

**6 PM**

**At**

**Prohealthcare park**

**On Sunny Slope road**

**South of National**

**Sendik's Community Grill**

**Date Saturday September 12, 2026**

**Signup Aug -Sept meeting**

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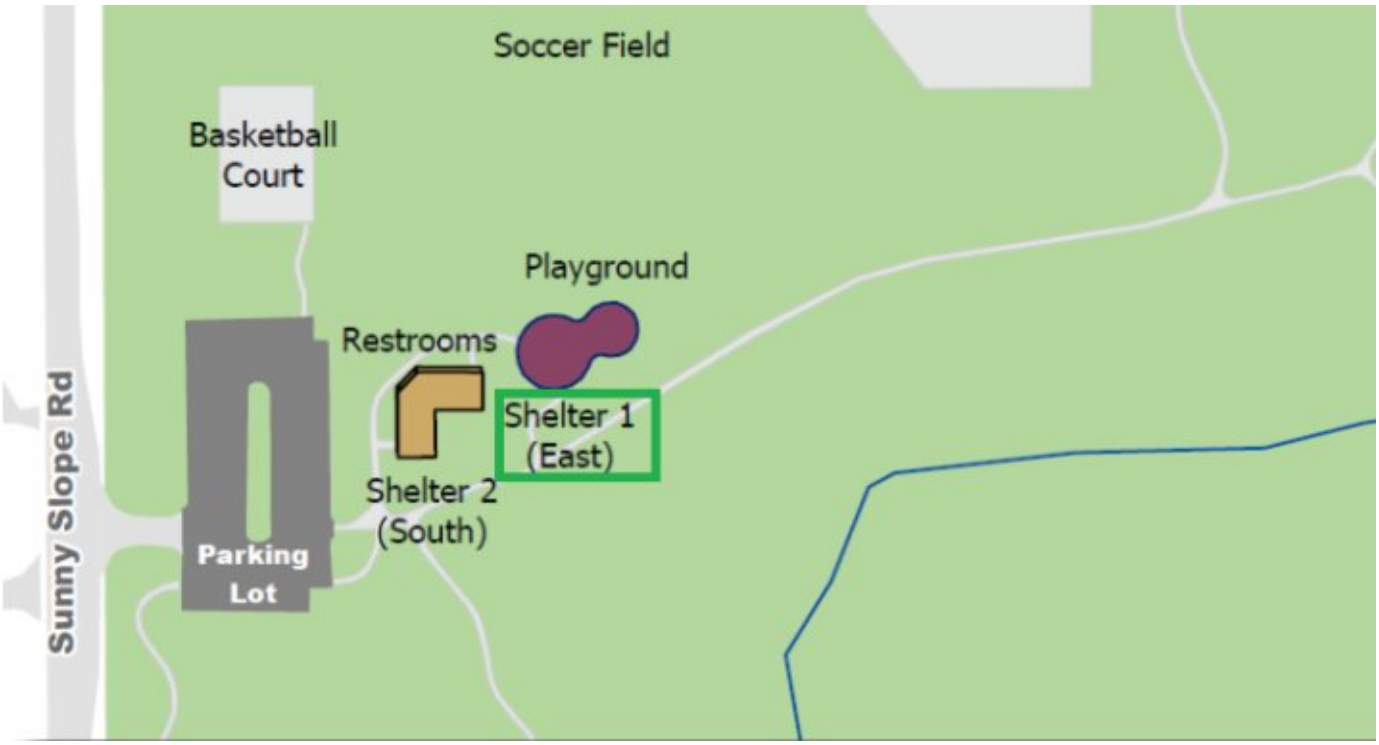


# WARAC 4th Tuesday Breakfast

NOTE NEW LOCATION

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.

So, on the fourth Tuesday each month at 8:30 am we meet at The Forum Restaurant, corner of HWY 100 and Layton, Greenfield, WI. Looking forward to seeing you, mark your calendar.

Phil, W9NAW

# President’s Shack - Aug ‘26
# Pizza in the Park Month!

I wait all year for this one.
We're heading back to ProHealth Care Park this month, so don't put the car on autopilot to our usual meeting location! The park is located on Sunnyslope Road between National and Cleveland, with plenty of parking right next to the pavilion.
As always, the club will provide the pizza and beverages. If you're able to bring chips, cookies, or another dessert to share, it would be greatly appreciated.
We'll get started at 6:00 PM—an hour earlier than our normal meeting time—so we can enjoy the evening before the sun goes down.
If you have a favorite radio, gadget, or interesting ham radio trinket, bring it along to show everyone. Half the fun is seeing what other members have been experimenting with.
And one final request...Please don't wash your car that day. We need all the help we can get to guarantee sunshine and a nice breeze!

Club Update
Your Board of Directors met last week, and our biggest priority continues to be the launch of our new website and updated club logo. Those projects are moving forward and should give WARAC a fresh new look as we head into the fall.
We also discussed this year's officer elections. Several key leadership positions—including President, Vice President, and Secretary—will be open.
Fresh ideas and new energy are what keep a club healthy. If you've ever thought about becoming more involved, now is the perfect time. You don't have to do everything yourself—there's a great group of members willing to help.
Our club has always succeeded because members step up when they're needed.

WARAC is about friendships, learning, and having fun together. Come hungry, bring a smile, and we'll see you at the park!

**WARAC General Meeting Minutes – July 14, 2026**

Called to order by Mike Johnson @ 7:05 pm.

Attendance: 26 Member's.

**Field Day Dave Garnier, WB9OWN:**
The numbers compare to last years. VHF Gill and Donna had outstanding number of contacts. See you next year. Max did FT8 with a good number of contacts. Tom did good on CW. The location was good.

MJ WO9B did Field Day in the UP. Oops left my main radio setup at home. Had to use my 5W backup radio with an end-feed antenna. Had to download PoLo to log. I don't recommend anyone to use for FD logging.

**Windows 10** MS extended support to October 12th, 2027.

**Publication of the Month:** Q5 Magazine . -https:// www.q5hamradio.com/.com

**Site of the Month:** Advice from my first year of learning Morse code | mkj's musings-https://musings.danlj.org/2025/12/26/one-year-of-morse-code .

**$1 - Offline Spotte**r for POTA?SOTA iPhone only. Offline Spotter for POTA / SOTA uses iPhone sat connections.

Hamfests: https://www.amatrurradioevents.com/hamfests .
Yellow Thunder – August 29th, Baraboo.
Ozaukee RC – September 12th, Cedarburg.

HamClock: Original server is completely shutdown. Need to use the new alternate server.

**WRTC Championship Results are out**. A 24 Hr every 4 years contest. 50 Teams of 2 from top contesters from around the world. Using there own radios and all using the same model antenna @ 100W. World Radiosport Team Championship – Official Web Site of WRTC History .

**Meeting Minutes: Approved.**

**Treasurer's Report** Jerry: General Checking $7,579.30. General operating CD $5,700.

**Meeting room TV Fund Raiser:** Have not done anything yet on TV offer. Room 104 has a TV measuring 65". Do we ask the city to switch us to RM 104. Will look into it.

**We have approval on the new Logo**, which will be use with marketing and the new Website.

**Scholarship Winner** listed in Hamtrix: Emma Schaefer KC9YGJ, of Black Earth WI.

**Next Sendik's Grill**: September 12th.

**Brayden, KD9YVG Civil Air Patrol Project:**
Fox Hunt may still happen. Still looking for Ham people to help with equipment and time. Plan is to be on a Thursday night, 6:30 to 9pm. ( 40 minutes to 2 hours). 30 - 50 cadets.

**Presentation Chad Stiles, N9PAY: DMR Today**

Started with Ham radio in 1994, in High School, became interested in repeaters. 1997 moved to Milwaukee. 1999 with Y2K, St. Joseph Hospital put me on a Emergency Preparedness Committee. With my Ham radio background. I was able to talk them into letting me put a cross band repeater in their penthouse, using a repurposed surplus radio from New Berlin Fire Dept. Which is still operating today. A few years later. A group of Ham's came together to form MAP-SAR - “Milwaukee Area Public Safety Amateur Radio”. In 2010 the Greenfield Fire chief was able to get funding to put a repeater at St, Luke's Hospital. 27Th & Oklahoma. Channel 10 tower also has a repeater. New Berlin(Prospect Hill). Forming a VHF/ UHF/ 900mhz repeater system using P25, DMR. In the Larger Metro Milwaukee / suburban area. Receive and transmit sites are interconnected over internet. I would like to expand to other Hospitals. This system was put together to assist Hospitals as a Ham radio backup to the backup of hospitals inter communication system. Where licensed Ham's could also use the repeater system. There are repeaters in Green Bay, Door County – Sturgeon Bay, Carlsville, Brussels. A Medicare CMR rule mentions Ham radio should be included in Hospital Emergency Management plans. If you have a P25 or analog or DMR radio. DMR in Green Bay, Milwaukee, New Berlin, Door County, Carlsville. DMR New Berlin (Tri State) is on 441.43750 color white + offset. P25 is down right now. Hopefully we will get it backup soon.

**Pizza in the Park** August 11 @ 6pm, Lyons Park or Pro Healthcare Park.

**Board Meeting** July 28th @ 7pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 pm.
Respectfully Submitted
Bill Dargis KD9BJZ
Secretary WARAC, July 14, 2026

**WARAC Board Meeting Minutes – July 28, 2026**
Board meeting called to order by Mike Johnson, WO9B @ 7:05PM.

**Present:** Michael Johnson - WO9B, Pierre Porter - KD9SSY, Bill Dargis - KD9BJZ, Jeff Pahl - W9JSP,  Scott Sherer - KC9WPS.

**Pre-meeting Dinner location:** Cleveland Pub (Sunnyslope Rd. & Cleveland). The food was good. Plus very good service.

**Meeting Room TV donation:**
Mike has not received a response from New Berlin. R104 in not permanent. The exercise group think we are too loud. We were locked out of the room we are assigned to, and we were all talking. It took time to find out if we could use another space and move. Do we think about changing the meeting day to get R104. TV

donation is on hold. Where will they let us meet in September, thru the end of the year?

**Club Archives Project:** MJ want to ship material to DLARC by September. Tom is still finding more to scan.

**Treasurers report – No Jerry Roeder:** MJ – Due's are down some. Donation's are down.

**Sendik's Grill:** September 12th.

**Field Day:**
We need a new chairman. Dave Garnier wants to step down. Bill D. Said “It looked like everyone at Field Day was having a good time. The visiting people stayed and talked. The food was good. Snacks, pizza, chill, brats, hamburgers, soda, water. I think it was a fun day.”

**WIQP:** Complete for 2026.

**Scholarship:** 2026 is done. No update on fund for 2027.

**Ham Software:** MJ – Ham software is exploding in the numbers. But how safe is it to run on our PCs. Is there security to keep us safe. Beware what you try.

**Publicity:**
Pierre Porter: Pierre is keeping the mail list up to date. Should we look at VHF/UHF to get people interested in Ham radio?
Scott Sheere: Looking for 4-5 new members a year. New Berlin created the ad on their site. We need to create are own to contact other municipalities, to place in their News letters or website. Franklin said no. Will talk to West Allis and others.
**New Website:** MJ responsibility to get it moving. Looking into a standard format. Active main page with static back pages. Move News letters to website. May have a cost.

**October Elections:** Michael, Pierre, Bill are stepping down. Scott - We should look into making the President and Vice president a 2 year Term with alternate year elections. Currently we can lose both in the same year and create problems. An email is planned to poll the membership about the October elections.

**Meeting Programs:**
August – Pizza in the Park. Lyons or ProHealthcare Park. Watch Hamtrix, groups.io for final pick.
September – Polar Modulation.
October – Elections. Gary B. - Restoring classic Radios.

**2026 Board Meeting schedule**
Monday Oct 5

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted
Bill Dargis KD9BJZ
WARAC Secretary, July 28, 2026

Contest Corner and DX Report
Michael Falk, AA9RK

**August!** So much to do! I'm looking forward to seeing you at the meeting in the park on Tuesday, August 11th, where there will be some portable operations on display. But what else is there on the air?

**This weekend, August 8-10th**, the main event is the **Worked All Europe DX Contest**, CW edition. It's 48 hours on 80 through 10 meters. Send RST and a serial number. If you are into 2.3 GHz and Up, and high power, you can try the **ARRL EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) contest**, to see how many contacts you can make using moonbounce. You can also get on the **Maryland-DC QSO Party and the Kentucky State Parks on the Air** events.

**August 14-16th,** I highly recommend the **North American QSO Party (SSB edition**), which is a short (12 hour) event on Saturday afternoon and evening. Activity levels are great and the exchange is easy (first name and state). There is also the **ARRL 10 GHz and up contest,** if you are able to operate on microwave bands. There is also the **ARRL RTTY Rookie Roundup** -- you don't need to be a rookie, but you get more points for working new operators. I highly recommend RTTY as a fun contesting mode. Finally, if you're willing to operate on low power (**QRP) CW and SSB, the NJQRP Skeeter Hunt** is a four hour event on Saturday afternoon with additional categories for portable operators and home brew gear.

There aren't a lot of big events on the weekend of **August 21-23rd,** but there is the **Walk for the Bacon (slow speed) QRP CW** contest on Wednesday and Thursday and the Hawaii and Ohio QSO Parties on the weekend. (Maybe I'll work Hawaii on phone, leaving just Alaska and Idaho for my Triple Play Worked All States.)

**August 28-30th is** also a pretty quiet weekend. During the week, there is a **Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) Sprint** for two hours on Tuesday night. There is the **World Wide Digi DX Contest**, for FT4 and FT8, for 24 hours from Saturday

morning to Sunday morning. The **US Islands QSO Party and Kansas QSO Party** also are going on during the weekend. Finally, you might like to try the **RTTYOps Worldwide DX RTTY Contest** (Friday and Saturday).

**September 4-6th**, Labor Day Weekend, brings one of my favorite events the **CWOps CW Open**, which is actually three different four-hour contests. They all take place on the UTC day September 5 (meaning here they take place on Friday night, Saturday morning, and Saturday afternoon). Also check out the **Tennessee QSO Party** and the **PODXS 070 Club's 80 meter sprint**.

So, the upshot of all this is that August is a fairly quiet month for contests. If you want to get your fix of contest and contest-style contacts, let me recommend a few of the weekly events: there is a **Slow Speed Test (CW)** on Friday afternoons from 3-4 and Sunday evenings from 7-8. There are **medium speed (MST) and fast speed** (CWT) contests, respectively, on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 8-9 AM, 2-3 PM, and 10-11 PM. Thursday nights feature an **FT4 sprint** from 8:00-8:30, the Weekly **RTTY Test** from 8:45-9:15, and the **CW Sprint** from 9:30-10:00 PM. Always check if you are looking for POTA stations to work; there's usually somebody.

**On the DX side:**

**YS/WE9G** will be on the air from El Salvador, primarily on digital but with a little SSB/CW, 160-6 meters, from August 7-14.

**OJ0JR and OJ0YL** will be activating Märket Reef near Åland in the Baltic Sea. The island is only 8 acres, and it's shared between Finland and Sweden. They'll be on the Finnish side, on 80-10 meters, CW/SSB/FT8 at high power, from August 15-22. Perhaps I can use a QSO with them to sharpen the Swedish skills I've been cultivating in Duolingo for the past year. Jag tycker om att köra amatörradio.

**V51WH and V55Y** in Namibia will be on the air from August 25 until October 10, 160-6 meters, all modes. V55Y is just a call for the CQWW RTTY contest (the last weekend of September).

See you next month,
-Michael AA9RK

## ATNO Six Meter Opening To ZL1RS

Last night on 6M there was an amazing FT8 opening to New Zealand. We had just turned the TV off. Gil had just gotten to the rig to shut it down. He yelled from the basement ham radio shack that New Zealand was on 6M and would I like to try to work him? It was 11 PM and the band was showing a strong signal from ZL1RS, a well known 6M operator. We turned our beam to 245 degrees SW and entered my call WB9TFF. Gil, WB9TFH, was excited that he worked the station 8,192 miles from our FT-991 at 100 watts to a 4 element 6M Yagi at 30 feet. He was emailing our fellow hams what was happening when I said I'm getting a RR73 from New Zealand! The 6M band was showing many 9 area callers and the signal was strong +0 sent -13 received. This was the longest distance we have ever worked from our station on 6M! WOW this could never have happened without Gil checking the band at the right time and place. We have the qso confirmed on Club Log. 73 Donna WB9TFF and Gil WB9TFH

# Editorial

Had a short vacation last week. My wife and I took the high speed ferry over to Muskegon where Judy's sister, who had driven up from Kentucky, picked us up and we went to Grand Rapids. The first thing I found great on the ferry were the window which seats were three across, airplane style. The plus was the spacing was for real people. I had over a foot of space between my knees and the next seat. Judy and me could sit next to each other with out rubbing shoulders Great.

The Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park and the temporary Chihuly Glass display was amazing!

To keep this on ham radio I did take my portable Ham radio set up. Found it was too heavy and took longer than I wanted to set up. So didn't find time to set up and operate. Reevaluating the whole setup. Will see where that goes.

August is traditionally our pizza picnic. NOTE we are at a different location from the last few years PROHEALTHCARE park . Just south of our normal meeting place on Sunny Slope road.

That's about it for this editorial. Hope to see you at the picnic.

Frank Hamtrix editor

# DIGITAL DIGEST

**August 2026 * Hamtrix * By Michael Johnson, WO9B**

Android FT8

Several years ago I built a QRPlabs QDX QRP power digital transceiver. It is the size of a deck of cards and once modded, is very capable. My goal was portable FT8 ops to match my MountainTopper CW rig. A year ago I used both devices for my Field Day operations. I may have worked a couple of FT8 QSO's during Field Day, but my real goal was to send WinLink Email for the sweet bonus points available. Well, that didn't work out very well, as only one message was able to be sent. That failure was on me, not the QDX as I had a bit of chaos in my operation plan. That's a different story.

Though the QDX fits in the palm of your hand, unfortunately a computer device is needed to operate the digital modes. That meant hauling a laptop, which is really large by comparison and requires some kind of charging scheme…at least my chunky, power hungry laptop does. So instead of moving around with a tidy little camera size bag, a much larger laptop and charging battery is needed. This increases the load substantially.

Working on a solution to that problem, I've been experimenting with tablet and cell phone solutions. Both devices represent a much smaller device and an easy battery charging scenario. The world of IOT's has landed on USB-C for data and power which goes a long way to solve the issue. I happen to have an Android Tablet in my possession which I have been experimenting with. This tablet is nowhere near state of the art nor is it particularly sophisticated. It literally sells for $60 new which qualifies it as the runt of the tablet litter. Paired with a downloaded app and a USB-C to USB-B cable, it works.

I searched the Google Play Store for possible FT8 apps. As it turns out, several years ago BG7YOZ shared a program named FT8CN which was widely distributed and was an early tablet/cellphone FT8 application. It had a lots of problems, but that is the nature of this type of development. It was distributed as open source and others have used this trail blazing app to push development forward. What interesting is that the packages I looked at are all heavily based on the FT8CN software which makes it a snap to try out different releases.

The two packages I'm using are FT8TW and qFT8. Both are free downloads from the Google Play Store. The qFT8 app is aimed at the QRPlabs QMX and QDX units though interfacing with other rigs may be possible. The FT8TW uses a Hamlib base for CAT control and appears to be able to work with most radio's. I did connect it to my Yeasu FTdx101D and got it to work. Setting them us was EASY. The menu is fairly intuitive and the learning curve to operate is shallow. Very shallow in fact. This is something you do.

I will bring the tablet and the QDX to the Pizza Party so you can try it out.

Submitted by Pierre, KD9SSY

**AMSAT** News Service
**ANS-207**
July 26, 2026

# HamGPT Launches Personal AI Copilot for Amateur Radio

Amateur radio operators have a new digital tool in their toolkit with the launch of **HamGPT**, a specialized AI chatbot designed specifically to assist hams with technical questions, propagation, and station data.

Built on a powerful GPT engine, HamGPT distinguishes itself from mainstream artificial intelligence platforms by integrating directly with key amateur radio data sources, including the FCC database and live propagation tracking reports.

*Ham Radio Copilot [Credit: https://app.hamq.net/en/]*

To get started, users must register using their valid amateur radio callsign and location. The platform currently offers a free tier featuring a limited number of daily queries.

## Key Features and Capabilities

**Targeted Assistance:** HamGPT can field common operational questions, such as identifying which amateur band currently offers the best propagation to a specific DX destination, or surfacing nearby repeater coordinates and band plans.

**Data Integration:** Unlike standard AI assistants that rely solely on generalized web data, HamGPT is tailored to parse structured amateur radio frameworks, providing context-aware answers tailored to licensing and regional regulations.

**Future Developments:** Developers behind the project are exploring advanced utility features, such as processing ADIF (Amateur Data Interchange Format) log files to streamline award tracking, DXCC qualifications, and contest log scoring.

While tools like HamGPT showcase how modern artificial intelligence is bleeding into technical hobbies, the platform serves as an interactive copilot rather than a replacement for hands-on operating experience. Early users note that while it provides quick access to localized repeater and database queries, operators should still cross-reference complex technical designs with authoritative texts and Elmer advice.

For more information or to test out the platform, visit: https://hamgpt.co/.

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*.[ANS thanks Daily Ham Weekly, for the above information.]e*

**AMSAT** News Service
**ANS-214**
August 2, 2026

# New Satellite Distance Records Claimed on AO-7, AO-123, and SO-125

Three newly claimed marks have been added to the AMSAT Satellite Distance Records, headlined by a new Mode A record on **AO-7** set just days before this bulletin went to press – proof that a 51-year-old satellite can still deliver record-book DX.

On Wednesday, July 29, at 20:02 UTC, KE9AJ, operating from EN50fn59 in Illinois, worked DJ8EW in JN58wh92 in Germany through **AO-7**'s Mode A transponder – a 2-meter uplink paired with a 10-meter downlink – at a distance of 7,495 km (4,657 miles). The contact edges the previous Mode A record of 7,454 km, set between VE6WQ and F4DXV on March 23, 2022, by 41 km. Launched on November 15, 1974, AMSAT-OSCAR 7 is the world's oldest active satellite, and its Mode A transponder harks back to the earliest days of the OSCAR program. The new claim gives KE9AJ a share of both AO-7 transponder records – the current Mode B mark of 8,204.592 km was set between F4DXV and KE9AJ on August 10, 2020 – alongside standing records on AO-91, AO-27, and SO-124.

The other two records share a path, and a distance. Operating the Croatian club station 9A1CAL from JN86dm82ud, 9A6WW twice worked A46UNX in Oman, in LL83gg, for contacts spanning 4,419 km (2,746 miles) – first through AO-123 on August 15, 2025, at 18:19 UTC, and again through SO-125 on October 31, 2025, at 20:08 UTC.

The **AO-123** contact raises that satellite's record by more than 1,800 km over the previous mark of 2,610 km, set between KK7OVF and WD5GRW in November 2024. ASRTU-OSCAR 123 (ASRTU-1), a joint student project of the Harbin Institute of Technology and Amur State University, was launched on a Soyuz vehicle from Russia's Vostochny Cosmodrome on November 4, 2024, and carries a V/U FM repeater, a UHF SSDV digital image transmitter, and a 10.5 GHz QPSK image downlink.

The **SO-125** contact, meanwhile, is the first documented distance record for that satellite – and one that can no longer be beaten. HADES-ICM, a 1.5P PocketQube from AMSAT-EA measuring just 5 x 5 x 8 cm and weighing 400 grams, was launched on SpaceX's Transporter-13 mission in March 2025 and provided an SDR-based FM voice and FSK digital repeater – 145.875 MHz up, 436.666 MHz down, no tone required, with up to 0.25 watts of downlink power – along with a low-power active graphene radiator experiment from University of Manchester spin-out SmartIR. The satellite re-entered the atmosphere on May 23, 2026, so the Croatia-to-Oman contact, a remarkable haul for a 400-gram QRP satellite, will stand permanently as SO-125's distance record.

The full list of records may be found at . Operators who complete a contact exceeding a listed mark, or a notable distance on a satellite or transponder not yet documented, are invited to email details to n8hm at arrl.net. Note that only real-time contacts are considered for distance records; QSOs completed across multiple orbits using store-and-forward techniques are not eligible. Distances are calculated using the calculator at k7fry.com/grid for consistency, and separate records may be claimed for each transponder or band combination a satellite supports, such as Mode A and Mode B on AO-7.

*[ANS thanks Paul Stoetzer, N8HM, AMSAT Executive Vice President, 9A6WW, and KE9AJ for the above information]*

**America Worked All States (WAS) is a year-long even**t, calling all radio amateurs worldwide to make contact with all 50 US states in honor of America's 250th Anniversary. ARRL will produce a basic achievement award for amateur radio operators who meet the challenge. There are also 3 endorsements. Each week several W1AW states are on the air calling cq on different modes and bands. This week the states of Colorado W1AW/0 and Montana W1AW/7 are on the air. These contacts will be confirmed on Log Book of the World.

In April Gil, myself and a group of hams from Wisconsin operated as W1AW/9. We assigned ourselves two hour shifts on a shared spreadsheet for a mode and band. The Wisconsin Team made over 5,000 qso's. To participate check out the America250 on the ARRL website. View the schedule weekly to see the states and operators calls. Wisconsin W1AW/9 is scheduled again the week of October 21, 2026. Our lead operator is W9XT Gary Sutcliffe. There is still an opportunity to work all 50 states until the end of the this year.

73 Donna WB9TFF and Gil WB9TFH

# WARAC 2026 David Knaus Memorial Scholarship Recipient Announcement

**WARAC** is pleased to announce that **Emma Schafer, KC9YGJ**, has been selected as the **2026 David Knaus Memorial Scholarship** recipient.

Emma is from **Black Earth, Wisconsin**, and is a first-year Master's student at the **University of Wisconsin**. She holds a **General Class amateur radio license** and is active in **ARES/RACES**. She is also a member of the **Badger Amateur Radio Society**.

Emma received her first amateur radio license at the age of 10 and earned her General Class license at age 13. She remains active on the air and continues to represent the spirit of amateur radio through service, learning, and participation in the ham radio community.

WARAC congratulates Emma on this well-deserved recognition and wishes her continued success in her studies and amateur radio activities.

**73,**
**Gary Beier, KD9VGL**
**Scholarship Chairman**
**West Allis Radio Amateur Club**

## 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 147.045+ 127.3 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:
Mike Johnson WO9B

Vice-President
Pierre Porter KD9SSY

Treasure:
Jerry Roeder K9HOG

Secretary:
Bill Dargis KD9BJZ

Committee member(2)
Scott Sherer, KC9WPS
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