



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 61, Issue 2 February, 2014

FEBRUARY CLUB HAPPENINGS Club Meeting

St. Peter's Episcopal Church,
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis
February 11, 2014

Program

QSO party
including logging programs,
basic operating techniques and strategy

**Join us for a pre-meeting dinner
at Johnny V's Classic Cafe
1650 S 84th St at 5:00pm**



A vote will be taken by the membership at the March 11th meeting to approve the Board Motion to move funds from a General Fund CD into the Scholarship Fund.
see pg 7 for more info

Wisconsin QSO Party

March 9, 2014 - 1800Z to 0100Z March 10
(1:00PM CDT to 8:00PM CDT on Sunday, March 9)

[Click here for latest info on web page](#)



WARAC 2-meter net
Every Wednesday at 8pm
MATC repeater 147.045 standard offset
127.3 Hz CTCSS

NEW club jackets and hats!
Go to club Web site and click on
The GOLD MEDAL IDEAS block
[For more info or click here](#)



The President's Shack February 2014

Enough already! It's time for a hint that spring will come someday. Hopefully this will happen before WIQP on March 9!

Breaking news on next year's **Swapfest** – it will be on **January 10, 2015** - not the 3rd as originally expected. Phil has received a facility contract for the 2015 event with the 10th locked in. This is good news because it seems that attendance is adversely affected when the date gets close to New Year's. Details from Phil at the upcoming meeting. Again, a big thanks to everyone who helped make our 42nd Swapfest effort another success.

It's only a month until the **2014 Wisconsin QSO Party!** Make sure **Sunday, March 9** is on your calendar and I hope you are making plans. Phil, W9NAW, is planning a portable operation in Pepin county and rumor has it that Ken, N9KS, is putting together an Atomic Mobile in his new vehicle for the event.

How about someone, or a group of members, activating our club call, W9FK? Anyone interested in doing this?

The upcoming meeting will be mostly about the QSO Party, but, as always, short show-and-tell discussions about anything are always welcome.

For the WIQP discussion, we'll look at what the data tells us about last year's event and we'll cover some **basic operating techniques and strategy**. Also, we'll take a look at the **new N3FJP logging program**. I would like this to be a discussion more than a program, so bring your questions, comments, insights and experiences. Visitors welcome!

WIQP is only seven hours – 1:00pm to 8:00pm local time. Yes, there's competition, but there is something for everybody, from hard-core contesters to casual “mom and pop” operation and everything in between. Come to the Party!

Another bit of breaking news is that **AES Superfest** is on again, and will be held on **April 5**. Space will be more limited than in the past, but we hope to have a club table. Stay tuned!

And, as always, don't forget our before-meeting dinner at **Johnny V's Classic Café, 1650 S. 84th St. at 5:00PM**.

See you at the meeting! Bring a friend!
Tom, K9BTQ

From the editor

I've been getting on the Nut Net most mornings. It's fun to get back into that aspect of Ham Radio. That was the ham radio my Elmer introduced me to as I got into the hobby.

I lost my Elmer Ray W9ONN, last month, always a sad time. He lived alone after his wife died (to 99yrs old.) Quite an act to follow. I had lost track of him the last couple of years. When I called there was no answer. I found out he had got so hard of hearing he could no longer hear the phone ring or hear his messages.

Like all great Elmers he will be missed. I remember his stories of growing up in Indiana. He told the story of when his friends and him took apart a combine and rebuilt it inside his high school gym. The adults couldn't figure out how it was got in. The adults ended up taking down a wall to get it out!

He also knew the old Harley Davidson motorcycles, not because he was a historian but he had owned many of them.

I hope everyone is lucky enough to have an Elmer to help them in Ham radio and life.

73
Frank KA9FZR

WARAC General Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2014

Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by President, Tom Macon, K9BTQ. Overall meeting attendance was 14 with no visitors.

Program

The evening's program was Swapfest Wrap-up, by Phil Gural, W9NAW and 80-40 Trap Antenna Design, by Tom Macon, K9BTQ.

Business

Motion was made and accepted to approve the December meeting minutes as published in Hamtrix.

WARAC Swapfest experienced lower attendance this year compared to last year. Regional weather conditions and timing in relation to New Year's Day impacted attendance. Attendance was down about 13% and 26 few tables were sold. WARAC members supported the Swapfest well with approximately 35 members participating. VE testing was also down this year with 12 taking an exam and 11 passing.

A reminder went out to all those who participated in the 10 meter contest to send their logs to Chuck Dellis, W9WLX. Logs received so far: W9WLX, WB9PUB, K9IAC, KA9JCP, WA9AXQ, AA9SR, WA9BZW, W9JBE, and W9NAW.

Wisconsin QSO party is coming, March 9, 2014, 1:00 – 8:00 pm CDT. More information will be presented at the February meeting, N3FJP program updates and contest strategy.

Annual WARAC dues are due! See Howard Smith, WA9AXQ.

Announcements

Mike Falk, AA9RK, will be back on Jeopardy's Tournament of Champions. No air date has been made available yet.

2 meter net every Wednesday at 8:00 pm on 147.045, + offset, PL 127.3. Join in!

CQ Tuesday, 1:00 pm 3rd Tuesday at Country Buffet

The Nut Net breakfast is at Genesis Restaurant, 8:30 am, 4th Tuesday of the month.

Johnny V's is the place for the WARAC pre-meeting dinner. The dinner starts at 5:00 and everyone is encouraged to participate.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX
Secretary WARAC

WARAC Board Meeting

January 28, 2014

Howard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Present: Tom Macon, K9BTQ, Steve Dryja, NO9B, Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, Leroy Hass, KC9NST, and Erwin von der Ehe, WI9EV. Mike Johnson, WO9B, and Phil Gural, W9NAW, were non-board members in attendance.

Treasurer's Report

Howard Smith presented the budget for 2014 and 2013 financials. Howard Smith made a motion that the general account CD due on February 10, 2014, be cashed and put in the scholarship fund. Steve, NO9B second the motion and it carried with 7 ayes and no nays. Howard will notify the general membership. A vote will be conducted at the March general membership meeting.

Swapfest Report

Phil Gural presented the 2014 Swapfest report. The date for 2015 will occur one week later, January 10, 2015. Pricing for 2015 was discussed with decisions tabled. Phil will be stepping down as the Swapfest chairman after the 2016 event. Anyone interested in being mentored for the role should contact a board member.

WAWC

Mike Johnson reviewed the proposed rules with the board. Wisconsin QSO party QSOs will be accepted for WAWC with the WIQP committee verifying any WIQP QSLs as well as email and postal mail QSLs. No eQSL or LOTW QSLs will be accepted. 3rd party verification will continue to be the confirmation method. Mike is finalizing the new certificate setup and printing.

Programs

February—Wisconsin QSO Party.

Future Programs:

Spotting

DX Operating

DX Suite Software demo

Kenwood TS990 rig presentation

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX
Secretary WARAC

Wisconsin QSO Party Sunday, March 9, 2014

By Tom Macon, K9BTQ

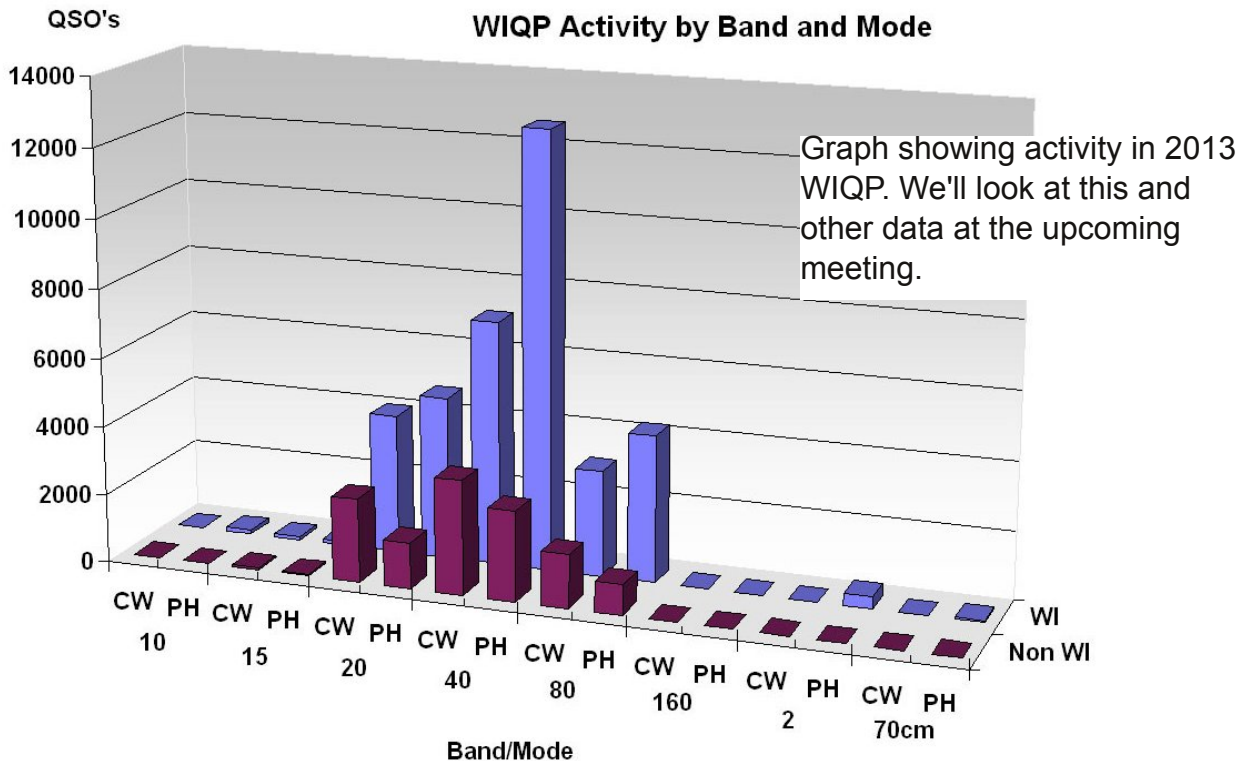
With the 2014 edition of our Party only a month away, preparations are in full swing.

As you know, QSO parties are about working counties and we hope that all Wisconsin counties will be activated, either by mobiles passing through, portable stations, or by local hams.

Last year, only two counties, Richland and Crawford, showed no activity. Also, we received no logs from a third county, Door, although there was activity there. It's interesting that all of our northern counties were active, thanks in part to our mobile friends from Minnesota who came over into Wisconsin. But we can always use more activity, so if you know or talk to hams in those areas, invite them to our party!

For more information on last year's county activation, see [Activate All 72!](#) on the WIQP web page. The table there has better data than in the past, thanks to the expanded database that we began using last year. [That year, mobiles activated 56 counties while fixed stations activated only 42, so you can see that the mobiles are a big part of getting our Wisconsin counties on the air. Eight counties were not activated at all.](#)

Information on Planned Mobile Routes for 2014 will be published on the web page in the next couple weeks and will be updated as more information comes in. Mobile route postings may be made on the [WIQP reflector](#) (please join if you're not a member), by email to wiqp@warac.org or on the [County Hunters](#) website, as in past years.



In January the popular N3FJP logging program for WIQP was updated with the release of version 3.1. The most significant change is that the program will now run on the latest versions of Windows. If you're happy with version 2.0 that was released a year ago, there is little reason to upgrade. For more information on V3.1, see N3FJP Tips on the WIQP web page.

No doubt you're aware that we have an [Internet mailing list](#) (a.k.a., email reflector) for WIQP. It's open to anyone interested in QSO Party discussion, including plans for mobile and portable operation, ideas, suggestions or other banter about WIQP. Currently, there are about 60 members that include our most active supporters. See Join our Mailing List on the [WIQP web page](#) for sign-up information. Another addition to the web page is tips on the use of the N1MM logger. Since this program handles many contests, it's a bit more difficult to make the proper setup selections. So please check out our [N1MM Tips](#) for WIQP if you'll be using the N1MM program.

When WIQP 2014 becomes history, we will want your log! It doesn't matter how many Q's you make or if you have a handwritten log – we still want it. Electronically (by email) if at all possible, but we'll take whatever you can provide. If you have questions or problems with your setup or log submission, please post your questions on the WIQP reflector or contact us at wiqp@warac.org.

It's only seven hours – 1:00pm to 8:00pm local time. WIQP has something for everybody, from hard-core contesters to casual "mom and pop" operation and everything in between.

So, get on the air on March 9 because you're a member of the sponsoring club, or because you want to run up a high score, or just for fun of it, but, by all means, get on the air!

I guess we can't travel with these any more....

How sad....

A public school teacher was arrested today at John F. Kennedy International Airport as he attempted to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a compass, a slide-rule and a calculator. At a morning press conference, Attorney General Eric Holder said he believes the man is a member of the notorious Al-Gebra movement.

He did not identify the man, who has been charged by the FBI with carrying weapons of math instruction.

'Al-Gebra is a problem for us', the Attorney General said. 'They derive solutions by means and extremes, and sometimes go off on tangents in search of absolute values.' They use secret code names like "X" and "Y" and refer to themselves as "unknowns" but we have determined that they belong to a common denominator of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country. As the Greek philosopher Isosceles used to say, "There are 3 sides to every triangle."

When asked to comment on the arrest, President Obama said, "If God had wanted us to have better weapons of math instruction, He would have given us more fingers and toes." White House aides told reporters they could not recall a more intelligent or profound statement by the President. It is believed that another Nobel Prize will follow.

Meeting Discussion

A Bank CD became due on February 10th, 2014, for an amount of just over \$6,000. This is money from the General Fund that was placed in the CD two years ago. It was placed in the Bank CD in an effort to have a little larger return than is provided by the General Fund checking account. I recommended to the Board that the funds from this Bank CD be placed into the Scholarship Fund, because it would then bring the Scholarship Fund to the point that it would fully Endow the Scholarship amount of \$1,500. This simply means that the Scholarship would be paid from the interest from WARAC Endowment Fund with the ARRL Foundation. Then, our Dave Knaus Memorial Scholarship would continue at \$1,500 indefinitely, as long as the ARRL Foundation yield on Endowment Funds remained above 4%. I think the club is better served with this money in the Endowment Fund rather than in another Bank CD that currently may pay just 0.15% interest. The General Fund currently has sufficient dollars to easily support all of the WARAC activities, and expenses that generally occur.

This will be discussed at the February meeting. It will also be announced in the March Hamtrix, and then will be voted on at the March meeting. If you have questions, please bring them to the February or March meetings.

Howard, WA9AXQ, Treasurer and Chairman of the Scholarship Committee.

I have a limited supply of these get yours now.



Officers and Board

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Tom Macon, K9BTQ

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Chuck Dellis, W9WLX

Treasurer

Howard Smith WA9AXO

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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.