



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 65, Issue 2 February, 2018

FEBRUARY CLUB HAPPENINGS



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 - 8:00AM 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.

Club Meeting

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

February 13, 2018 7:00 PM

Program

Mike Erstad, K9BBN,

The Great Loop.

QSO Party

premeeting dinner

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

Wisconsin QSO Party

March 11, 2018 - 1800Z to 0100Z March 12

(1:00PM CDT to 8:00PM CDT on Sunday,
March 11)

(The first day of Daylight Savings Time)

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

The President's Shack Feb 2018

Hello WARAC Members.

I don't know about you, but I've been giving serious thought to doing a Park Activation on the front door of Punxsutawney Phil's ground hog cage. I can't recall shoveling so much snow in, well, at least a year...or two and by gosh, someone needs to be held responsible. Well, snow or not since the year began, things have really taken off. Lot's going on like....

- Swapfest! Lot's of club members at our annual January get-together. Erwin, WI9EV, will be filling us in on the final results at the meeting, but a big thank you is in order to all that lent a hand. Like 30 members. That's a lot. And on such a cold day. The Expo Arena was full and treasures were to be had. I even broke my personal rule and picked up some NOS items.

- Jan / Feb Contest Time: Tis the season for great contests. I worked a bit in both NA QSO Party contests (CW and SSB), Winter Field Day and just last weekend the MN QSO Party. Due to equipment issues, it has been all QRP for me. If you are looking to juice your HF operating, these are a great, easy way to get some Q's in the log book. Check out the DX / Contest article for the upcoming opportunities.

- International Grid Chase: Speaking of Q's in the log book, while you're doing that, don't forget to load them into LOTW too and get some grid square credits as well. My admittedly very unscientific search of the standings shows Al Hovey, WA9BZW and Dave Garnier, WB9OWN to be the pride of WARAC.

- WI QSO Party: March 11th is about a month away. Tom, K9BTQ, will be giving us the latest and greatest news at the meeting. Time to plan

your operation for this extremely cool event. So grab another club member do a multi-op or hit the road for an afternoon of mobile operations. This is the one ham radio event that the world is literally looking to talk to you. Doing 1 Q or 850 Q's, jump in and get your feet wet.

- Club Presentation: Finally, the club's main presentation is courtesy of Mike Erstad, K9BBN, titled The Great Loop. No, that's not a mag loop, but it is a great story about his sailing adventure from Milwaukee to the Gulf and back home via the Intercoastal and Great Lakes. WOW.

Finally, last call for the annual club membership renewals. See Bill, N9KPH, at the club meeting to square up for the year. We really need you to update your contact information and preferences too. We are planning a 2018 Club Directory and it would be nice to have all the latest info.

Hope to see everyone at the club meeting. Johnny V's is the pre-meeting dinner spot of choice, so join the group there and get the evening started off right.

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

From the Editor

Welcome to the February Hamtrix. I'm experimenting with new formats, trying to make it look more professional. Let me know your thoughts on any changes you see.

There are a couple of routes I can go, so I will be trying them and see where they go.

Not much else is going on a round here. I made it to my 70th birthday last Sunday. The only fly in the ointment was my wife picked up an infection and needed an operation to clear it up. So she had to run my surprise party from remote. Lucky my daughter and Judy's

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WARAC General Meeting Minutes

January 9th, 2018

The January General Membership meeting was not held. Instead, a social event was held at The Bosch, a bar in Hales Corners. The food was good, the beer cold, and everybody appeared to have a good time.

Respectfully submitted,
Howard Smith, WA9AXQ
WARAC Secretary

Feb. 5, 2018

W.A.R.A.C. Board Meeting

January 23rd, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Mike, WO9B, at 7:04pm

Swapfest chairman Erwin, WI9EV, presented the results of the 2018 Swapfest. A discussion was held on various swapfest issues.

Field Day chairman Chuck, W9WLX, lead a discussion about the 2018 Field Day. There was a suggestion to put all of the campers next to each other to make the various band positions more accessible. The possibility of adding Digital mode station was also discussed. Finally, we will again be at the same New Berlin site we have used for the past several years.

Club Treasurer Bill, N9KPH, reported the financial status of the club. Bill also reported that the Audit of the 2017 books had been completed, and there were no issues to report.

Club Secretary Howard, WA9AXQ, reported that a list would be provided that showed which members had not paid their 2018 dues. The member renewal forms need to be created and handed out at a subsequent membership meeting. A new Member Handbook is planned for May or June.

Scholarship Chairman, Howard, WA9AXQ, reported that the ARRL Foundation had updated the Dave Knaus Memorial Scholarship, increasing the grant amount to \$2,000. Also, the Treasurer had sent the additional \$500 for the 2018 scholarship to the ARRL Foundation, and they had acknowledged the additional funds.

Equipment Sales Chairman Steve, NO9B, reported that he will be at the Jefferson Swapfest in March, and is looking for a volunteer or two to assist.

Hamtix Editor, Frank, KA9FZR, reported that he is in the process of updating the look of Hamtix.

WIQP chairman, Tom, K9BTQ, reported that a meeting had been scheduled for January 30th to discuss any

issues for the upcoming WIQP on March 11th.

Mike, WO9B, talked about the Wed. 8:00pm 2-meter net. He reported that the averages about 6 checkins, and has been well received. The repeater hardware has been working pretty well.

Program Committee chairman Chuck, W9WLX, reported that the committee had identifies 18 topics that could be used for club presentations. Chuck will present this list to the membership at a future membership meeting.

President Mike, WO9B, had created a set of goals for the WARAC Board, and those goals were discussed. The meeting ended at 9:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Howard Smith, WA9AXQ
Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.
Feb. 05, 2018

Special Event Corner

by Bill Reed - N9KPH

Here is a listing of the Special Events that are listed on the ARRL website. As I mentioned in a previous column, there are often events that are not "published" - at least that I can find. So, spin the dial.

Of the ones listed, I can recommend the Frozen Lake Portable event. I have talked to this station several times. They literally set up on a frozen MN lake and operate portable from there. Hardy lot, they are. I've found this group to be especially friendly and fun to chat with.

- 02/17/2018 | 14th Annual "Freeze Your Keys" day - Feb 17, 1400Z-2200Z, W0EBB, Leavenworth, KS
- 02/17/2018 | George Washington Birthday - Feb 17-Feb 18, 1400Z-1800Z, K4US, Alexandria, VA.
- 02/17/2018 | Ice Station W0JH: Frozen Lake Portable - Feb 17-Feb 19, 1600Z-2345Z, W0JH, Stillwater, MN. Stillwater Amateur Radio Association; Stillwater, MN
- 02/17/2018 | H L Hunley Commemorative Station N4HLH - Feb 17, 1400Z-2000Z, N4HLH, North Charleston, SC. Trident Amateur Radio Club.
- 02/19/2018 | George Washington's Birthday - Feb 19, 0000Z-2359Z, WS7G, Moses Lake, WA..
- 02/23/2018 | Faces of the Florizel - Feb 23-Feb 24, 1100Z-2000Z, VO1MZL, St. John's, NL. Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs. This takes place at the Admiralty House Communications Museum in New Foundland. Background - On February 23, 1918 the SS Florizel left St. John's, NL for what would be its final journey. What was supposed to be a routine trip from St. John's to Halifax and then to New York ended in tragedy. Blizzard conditions and miscommunication between the bridge and the engine room caused the vessel to crash into the rocks near Cappahayden, Newfoundland. Of the 137 souls on board, only

44 survived. 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the wreck.

- 02/24/2018 | Hastings Naval Depot 75th Anniversary - Feb 24, 1500Z-2100Z, W0WWV, Wood River, NE. ARAN. The Naval Ammunition Depot is 75 years old and produced 40% of all naval munitions for the Second World War and the Korean War.

- 02/24/2018 | Heinrich Hertz Birthday - Feb 24, 1600Z-2200Z, W4NRC, Germantown, TN. Nashoba Amateur Radio Club. I'm embarrassed to say that I never knew where the term "hertz" came from.

- 02/28/2018 | Snow Bird Field Day - Feb 28, 1400Z-2300Z, W7ASL, Mesa, AZ. Sunlife & Venture Out Ham Radio Clubs. This might be a good event to help us live vicariously!

And.....let us not forget the NC and SC QSO parties! NC is held on 2/25 and 2/26. SC takes place on 2/24 and 2/25.

Wisconsin QSO Party

Sunday, March 11, 2018; 1:00PM to 8:00PM CDST

By Tom Macon, K9BTQ

Forty years! Our West Allis Radio Amateur Club has been sponsoring the Wisconsin QSO Party since 1979 and that's forty years! Let's be proud of that and show it by being on the air on March 11. And be sure to proudly mention that you are a member of the sponsoring club.

Our QSO Party is an on-the-air operating event that remains popular with stations in Wisconsin, across the country and the world. A unique thing about WIQP is that there's something for everyone, from big-gun contesters as well as more casual little pistols.

Much of the focus of QSO parties is on mobile operation and WIQP is no exception. Since Wisconsin counties are multipliers in the scoring, there is a strong incentive to get all counties on the air. And since there are many counties that have few local hams, the only activation is by mobiles that travel from county to county. See details on our webpage at <http://www.warac.org/wqp/activate.htm>.

So mobile operation is a big piece of WIQP. In 2017, forty percent (29) of our 72 counties were activated only by mobiles – no fixed stations. Only two counties had no QSO's by mobiles.

It's not surprising that much of the mobile operation is on CW. There are two main reasons. CW is simply more effective for low-power stations with poor antennas. It's much easier for a CW mobile to hold a frequency than a phone mobile. The other reason is that CW QSO's count two points, a long standing incentive to encourage CW activity.

Operating on CW in a moving vehicle is a challenge, not to mention the planning and personal resources that are needed to drive through 10 or more counties in a seven-hour period. Hats off to the mobile stations that come out for WIQP.

But CW operation isn't for everybody. One of the strengths of WIQP is that there is something for everybody. There is lots of activity on the phone bands, too, as well as on VHF. Many stations just get on the air to enjoy casual QSOing. And remember that the overall goal is for everyone to have fun.

So we want everyone! The more stations participating, the more QSO's will be made, and that makes it more fun. Be sure to read the Rules, get on the air and **join the party on Sunday, March 11 - 1:00 PM to 8:00PM.**

At the upcoming meeting we'll talk about the in's and out's of the QSO Party, with information about county activation as well as strategy and logging software.

Any and all questions are fair game. **If you have something you're wondering about, please bring it**

up! Meanwhile, please visit the WIQP website at <http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm>.

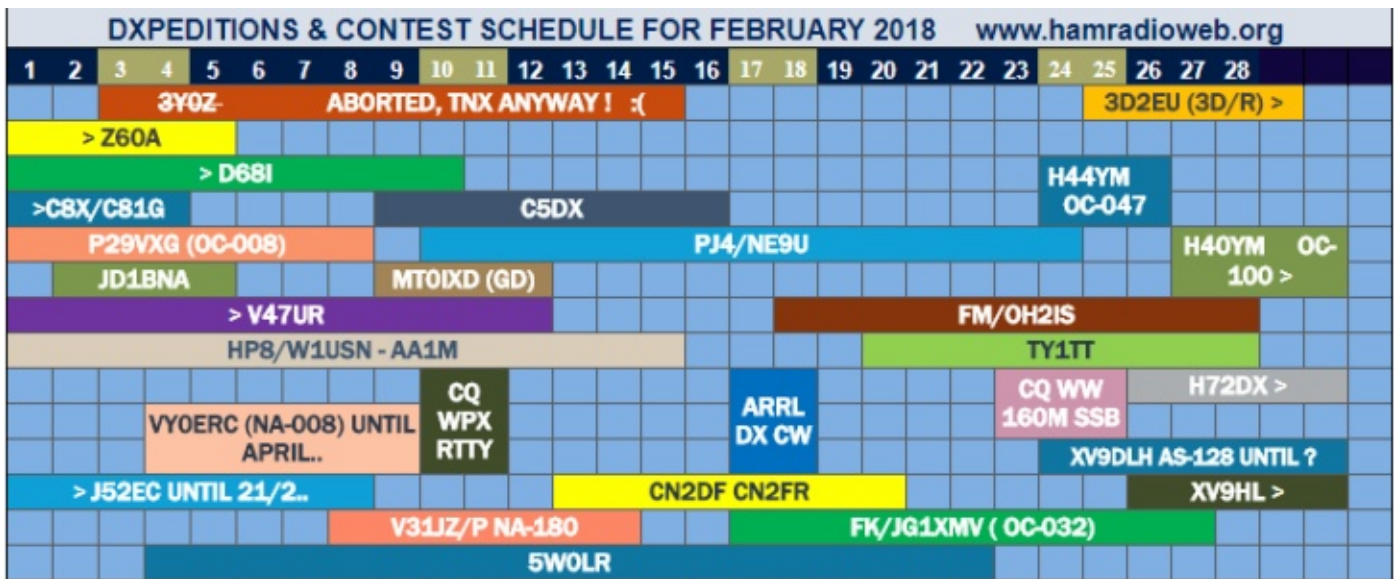
So please make plans to be on the air – Sunday, March 11. Just seven hours of fun!

And, when it's over, don't think you didn't do well enough to submit your log. We receive logs with just two or three QSO's. Again, if you need help, bring your questions to the meeting or contact one of our WIQP team members: Chuck, W9WLX; Howard, WA9AXQ or Steve, NO9B, Mike, WO9B or myself.

DX / CONTEST UPDATE

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

DX: Nothing is a bigger let down than the cancelled Bouvet 3Y0Z event. Canceled literally on arrival at the island. That has to hurt. The rest of the planned events are more typical. There seems to be an African DX push of late with C5DX being the next up. The good news is smaller events make for smaller pileups. And don't forget to scout FT8. That is a great way to bag ATNO's the easy way.



Contests: We are in prime contest season RIGHT NOW. The Dutch PACC contest is neat because every entry receives a Participation Token. One QSO is all it takes. I'm not competitive in the DX contests, but always make a few contacts. Also the Carolina contests are pretty neat as South Carolina is on Sat and North Carolina is on Sunday. For those two, if 20 meters is working, then you can do well, otherwise it is a function of waiting out the contacts on 40/80. Working QSO party events as out of state entries makes you appreciate how many mobiles are involved in the WI QSO Party. Mobiles make the QP contests fun to work and not many states field as many mobiles as WI.

- Dutch PACC: 2/10 – 2/11 <http://pacc.veron.nl/>
- CQ WW RTTY: 0000Z, Feb 10 to 2359Z, Feb 11 <http://www.cqwxrtty.com/rules.htm>
- ARRL DX CW: 0000Z, Feb 17 to 2400Z, Feb 18 <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>
- CQ WW 160M SSB, 2200Z, Feb 23 to 2200Z, Feb 25 <http://www.cq160.com/rules.htm>
- Carolina's Wknd QSO Party, 1500Z, Feb 25 to 0059Z, Feb 26 <http://scqso.com/rules/>
<http://rars.org/ncqsoparty/index.php?id=rules>
- ARRL DX SSB: 0000Z, Mar 3 to 2400Z, Mar 4 <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>
- WI QSO Party: 1800Z, Mar 11 to 0100Z, Mar 12 <http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm>

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

Bruce Kelley 1929'r

By Mike Johnson, WO9B

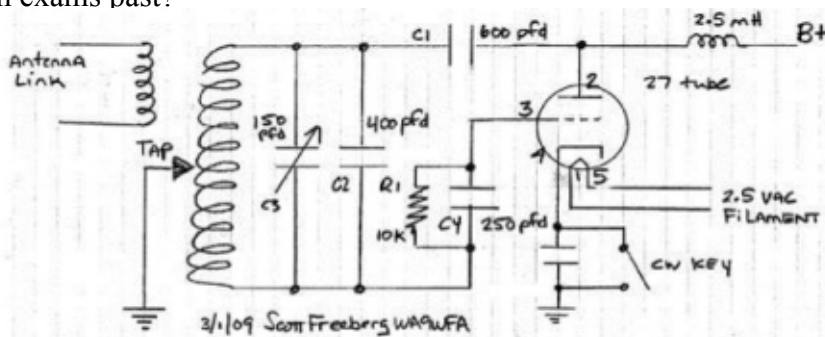
What is a Bruce Kelley? 1929'r? What madness is this? All good questions and for those who are goal/project afflicted like myself, it is best described as my latest Grail Quest.

Somewhere in the last couple of years I stumbled on this crazy operating event called the Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party. The event is sponsored by the Antique Wireless Association (AWA) and takes place in December over two weekends. The goal is to make contacts with stations running low power transmitters, home built, which use designs and tubes available in 1929 or earlier. You can read all about it at this website:

<http://www.antiquewireless.org/bruce-kelley-memorial-cw-qso-party.html>

This past December, I listened to these guys on 80 meters making a bunch of contacts. You can't miss the signals, they are very distinctive. Chirpy, drifting, unsteady tones....Geez it was amazing. So amazing that I absolutely need to get in the game. So by this December, I'm gonna have me one of them thar 1929'rs. The Grail Quest has begun.

There is one really big problem: I don't know much of anything about building transmitters with tubes, much less anything electronic beyond the very very basics. The good news is the AWA certainly does and offers up enough to get me started. Long story short, and you can read more on their site or as they say "Google is your friend", I've decided on the easiest transmitter for the contest, the Hartley Oscillator. Remember those from ham exams past?



That's the goal. And I've added one other rule to the game. It's simple and that is the parts need to be scrounged from friends, part stashes, swap fests and the like. The exception being "special" parts that give me few options besides Mouser. I've already run into a problem with the power supply, but that story will have to wait until next month. In the meantime, let the scrounge begin!!



Swapfest Pictures



Mike Martens (KB9VBR) is the person who did the Youtube video of our Swapfest. Our thanks to him for his nice work.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWlgQ2KT-Wc>

Old technology reemerging

<https://www.wirelessdesignmag.com/blog/2018/01/50-year-old-technology-reemerging-autonomous-vehicles>

Low-cost RTL-SDR dongles can read frequencies between 24 and 1,766MHz. We built a simple FM radio with a Raspberry Pi, a USB dongle based on the RTL2832U chipset, an LCD HAT, and some Python code.

http://www.linux-magazine.com/Issues/2018/206/Pi-FM-Radio?utm_source=Linux+Update&utm_campaign=Linux_Update_151_RaspPi_FM_Radio_2018-01-10&utm_medium=email

===== **Help Wanted** =====

West Mountain Radio, a local Amateur Radio equipment company, is looking for person(s) interested in working our booth at local or national Hamfests. All travel and expenses are paid for -- and provides an opportunity to talk to other hams and see other national vendors. West Mountain Radio also has part-time assembly work. If interested, contact Joey Didion at joey@westmountainradio.com or 262-522-6503 x73.

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From pg 2 Editor

sister were here to be her remote hands.

By the way, for those who haven't noticed, if you get Hamtrix in the your email the PDF file allows you to click on any red web pages you see and you should go to it.

Not much else going on.

73

Frank KA9FZR

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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.