



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

[click here to go to web site](#)

Volume 66, Issue 3 March, 2019

MARCH CLUB HAPPENINGS

Club Meeting

St. Peter's Episcopal Church,
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis
March 12, 2019 7:00 PM

Erwin WI9EV Swapfest results.

Wisconsin QSO party Update Tom K9BTQ

Icom 7300 Dave WB9OWN, Paul KK1FF on a Arduino Auto start

Don K9AQ on his legal limit Water Cool Amp Project.

This will be the last opportunity to correct your info in the Club Directory

Premeeting dinner

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



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.

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

[Even a couple contacts make valid log.](#)

Index

President's shack	2
Editorial.....	2
Minutes	3
CW story.....	3
DX/contest update.....	5
Special event corner.....	5
Hamtrix sale corner.....	6
Wisconsin QSO party.....	7
Is it spring Yet?.....	8
Interesting Kits.....	12

The President's Shack March 2019

How long's it been SINCE WE HAD A CLUB MEETING?? I am shocked to report that March will be the first bonafide club meeting for 2019. I am looking forward to it. We got some serious ham radio discussions to be had. Yeah!!

Before I get into the March meeting agenda I really need to salute the WARAC die-hards who braved the February snow storm, despite the meeting being canceled, and showed up. Now we won't get into who missed the cancellation notice and who just threw caution to the wind...ahem...but there were four of us. We ended up having a really good ham radio evening. Dave, WB9OWN, instigated an FT8 audio network and, well, he was decoding 40 meter FT8 via WebSDR like a boss!! If that isn't ham inventiveness, I don't know what is.

The first thing to mention is of course the Wisconsin QSO Party. You should be receiving this Hamtrix before the big event. Jump in. Make some Q's. Get some attention. We came very close to grabbing the Club Plaque last year and we really need your logs to push us over the line this year. So 2 QSO's or 200, get us your log. For small entries, we will even accept a hand written copy. So don't worry about the computer generated logs, just submit what you can. We will make it work.

For this months programs, that's right a big plural, we got an all star line-up of WARAC members pitching there best stuff:

Swapfest Wrap Up: Erwin, WI9EV, will give us the entire summary of how our Mid-Winter Swapfest did. It seems like a long time ago doesn't it?

Icom 7300 – Dave, WB9OWN, has been operating their 7300 for almost two years. This game changing radio hit the ground running in 2016 and remains one of the most popular radio's

available. Let's see what Dave can share with us regarding this SDR wonder.

Arduino Auto Start – Literally, how to use an Arduino to start your car. Why not, right? Paul, KK1FF, will fill us in on his nifty micro-processor hack. Geez, now that winter is almost over, where were you in December?

SS Legal Limit Water Cooled Amp – Don, K9AQ, will bring us up to date on his amp project. He will be sharing the explosive details and I am looking forward to hearing the latest.

WIQP Post Event – Tom, K9BTQ, will give us a quick peep into how the WI QSO Party went. The logs will be just pouring in at this point, but I'm sure there will be a couple of tales to tell.

Last, but certainly not least, we will have the pre-publication mock up of the WARAC 2019 Membership Directory. We need you to take a look and let us know of any corrections, omissions or just plain stuff we should have known.

That's it. See you Tuesday! Don't forget the Johnny V's pre-meeting dinner, for those so inclined.

73's

MJ,W09B

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

From the editor

Is spring going to get here this year? It's hard to tell with the weather we are having.

Of course I have an antenna project so I'm waiting for some green ground. You can blame me for the winter continuing to stay around HI HI. That project will be a

continued on pg 13

WARAC General meeting Minutes

Meeting canceled do to weather • —• —•

Board Meeting, No board meeting for the month of February.

January Board meeting minutes were found to be in error. We are working on getting a corrected copy. • —• —•

You can work WAS in Your First Year

http://home.windstream.net/johnshan/cw_ss_stories_kc2obs.html
http://home.windstream.net/johnshan/cw_ss_stories_kc2obs.html

They told me that very few women were hams, and hardly any of them operated CW. It sounded like there was no real place for women in ham radio. Right then, I decided that was my kind of challenge! Little did I know then that bigger challenges were just around the corner---I'd soon be in a race to work all states in my first year on the old Novice bands, something very few newcomers have achieved.

But to start from the beginning, even as a contest logger for Scott, WA2EQF during a DX contest little more than a year ago, I was already focused on getting my ticket. First I started listening in on code practice sessions between WA2EQF, WB2PJH, and WB2EZG. Then WA2EQF lent me a Morse tutoring program so I could learn on my own. I still didn't know a thing about transmitters, receivers, antennas, or FCC rules, but I bought the Technician study guide and went through it every chance I got. Within six weeks I was able to copy near 5 wpm and ready to try the Technician exam. But my nerves got to me at the last minute and I didn't make either test by the narrowest of margins.

I was disappointed. But that got me all the more determined. Only a month later, in April, I found myself sitting in a classroom next to two young kids, all of us ready to take the test. This time I was ready. The written exam went well. Then it

was time for the CW test. But wait...now I was intimidated and nervous again. At that moment, 5 wpm seemed like 20. I put everything else out of my head and went for it. And I walked out of there with a passing grade---all that studying paid off.

Next I borrowed one of Scott's 100-watt rigs, we put up a dipole at about 40 feet and I went to tackle the next challenge----finding the courage to get on the air with other ham radio operators. But there was another problem. Most all the hams were sending a lot faster than I could copy. So I figured the best way to contact hams would be to call CQ, at my own speed, instead of trying to answer their CQs. It worked. Most everyone was patient and most of them slowed down their sending for me. I got on almost every night, mostly 40 meters, and made one or two contacts every time. Anytime he didn't hear me, Scott told me to get on the air.

Now I was really into ham radio and enjoying CW. However, I was looking for yet something different to do within the hobby. But what could I do as a Technician? The answer came to me just before Thanksgiving, when WB2EZG noticed I had QSL's from 37 states. "Why don't you try to work all the states within your first year?" he said. "Very very few starting out in the Novice bands have ever achieved this certificate. I don't think even the ARRL has a record of it."

I soon realized it might even be tougher now. Old-time Novices were restricted in their transmitters output power and had to be crystal controlled, but today there were hardly any operators in the Novice bands! I had to find a way to get them there. I found

Continued next page

out the best way to do it was by using one old tool and one new tool: Word of mouth, and the amateur radio callsign database at www.qrz.com.

But again there was another big problem I hadn't counted on. We were at the low end of the sunspot cycle: The 15- and 10-meter bands were going to be closed for most of the year, and the DX I had figured would show up on these bands was going to have to be worked on the lower HF bands. Nothing was guaranteed. It was a matter of sticking with it every day, and hoping for a little bit of luck.

With most every night came more contacts, but no new states. So I started asking hams that I worked in states adjacent to the ones I needed if they knew anyone who might want to get on the 40- or 80-meter Novice segment. Most of the time, that's where the conversation ended. One Saturday just by blind luck I was able to work two new states - How exciting! Then I tried contacting YLs in the remaining states I needed. But the few that did get back to me were inactive and none operated CW.

Time was running out. Here we were coming into March and I had somehow gathered 44 states. I had counted Alaska but the station I thought I had worked in my first days as a Technician turned out to be a bootlegger - How disappointing! So I had the usual rough ones left: North and South Dakota, Wyoming, Hawaii, and Alaska. Of the easy states, only Oklahoma, a state I somehow thought to be easy, had escaped me. Thoughts of working all states except Oklahoma were making it tough to sleep at night.

One by one, though, the referrals came through. Oklahoma, Wyoming, South Dakota, and finally North Dakota fell. Then Hawaii came in, following an e-mail I sent to a ham in Hawaii AH6RH, he forwarded it to one of the biggest clubs. I ended up with two QSO's from Hawaii. There was one state left, and one week to do it. And then I received a call from NL7QT, who wanted to try. We tried for several days. He could hear me plainly, but I couldn't hear a thing, because all the international broadcast stations were wiping out everything on the band, and noise

levels were much higher than usual, perhaps due to solar conditions. We tried every hour from 10 pm to 2 am local time. I never heard a thing. But on the fifth day we succeeded on a noise lull that lasted for several minutes. We tried on 80 but I could not quite copy him, we than dropped down to 40 and at the 11th hour, so to speak, my one-year quest was done. And all accomplished on 40 meters CW.

With that behind me, I know there is a place for women in ham radio, and we can set goals just as meaningful as any ones. Now onto the next challenges: Trying for my General Class, WAC, and raising my code speed (now 16 wpm) to a level where I can become a good contest operator. See you on the air!

How to work all states from the Novice bands

Operate at the lower end of the allocated segment

Call CQ often---90 percent of my contacts were made this way

Don't miss a night on the air if you can---it took me 350 contacts to work all 50 states

Ask hams you work if they can refer other hams from hard-to-get states

On bands with broadcast QRM (i.e. 40 meters), be open to split frequency contacts

Maximize your operating fun

Short CQs work best

Don't be afraid to ask the other operator to QRS.

Master the lost art of ragchewing--dont make hello/goodbye contacts.

Lose your Novice accent--- read ARRL operating procedure carefully.

Keep practicing: Listen to W1AW code practice regularly

Build something.

Jane Tymko

KC2OBS

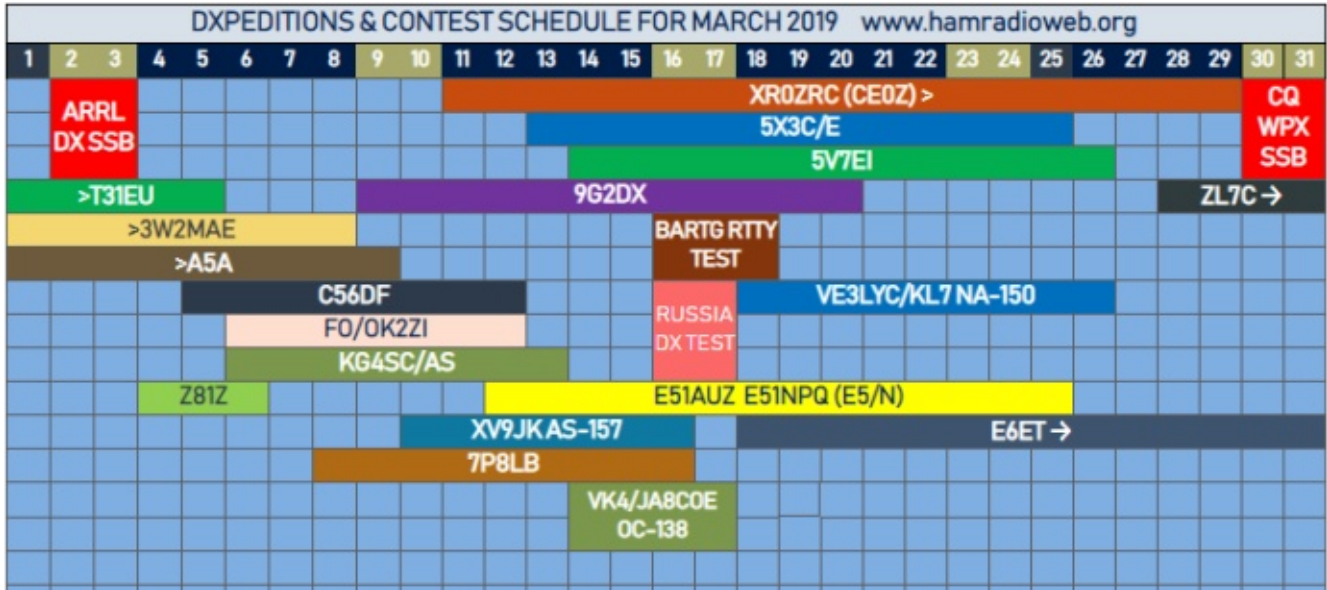
FISTS # 11706

• —• —••

DX / CONTEST UPDATE

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

DX: March is usually a big DX month. Starting out with the ARRL DX SSB contest and ending with the CQ WPX SSB, this brings out the DX. Except of course it helps to actually have some band conditions. For me the ARRL DX contest was a bust. Conditions were poor and even working Europe, normally a slam dunk, was a stretch. It does not look like conditions will be improving any time soon. Regardless, there are still a very active number of DXpeditions out there. Go get um.



Contests: DX contest season pretty much wraps up this month. The biggest event is/was the WI QSO Party, for sure, but there still are some also-runs worth your attention. The Russian DX contest gets lots of attention, but really needs decent conditions. Also the CQ WPX event will be popular and hard to miss on the bands. Oh, and every weekend is a State QSO Party.

- [WI QSO Party Mar 10th](#)
- [Russian DX Contest](#)
- [CQ WPX Contest](#)

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

Special Event Corner March, 2019

By Bill Reed/N9KPH

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

Next page

State QSO Parties

Louisiana – 3/16 to 3/17

Virginia – 3/16 to 3/17

Mississippi – 4/6 to 4/7

Georgia – 4/13 to 4/14

New Mexico – 4/13 to 4/14

North Dakota – 4/13 to 4/14

Michigan – 4/20 to 4/21

Nebraska – 4/20 to 4/21

Florida – 4/27 to 4/28

AZ, CT, ID and IN, ME, MA, MT, NV, NH, OR, RI,

UT, VT, WA and WY – 5/4 to 5/5

General Interest Events:

03/15/2019 | Bataan Memorial Death March

Mar 15-Mar 18, 1800Z-1800Z, N5BL, Las Cruces,
NM. 20 and 40 Meters

03/23/2019 | 205th anniversary of the Battle of
Horseshoe Bend

Mar 23, 1400Z-2100Z, N4H, Daviston, AL. 20, 40 and
80 Meters Certificate & QSL available.

04/13/2019 | 7th Annual Earth Day Celebration

Apr 13, 1500Z-2000Z, W8PRC, Cleveland, OH.
Parma Radio Club. 20 and 40 meters. Our 7th Annual
Earth Day Celebration. Operating on solar power from
historic, educational Stearns Farm in the Parma, Ohio
town center

04/13/2019 | USS Midway Museum Ship Special
Event: Doolittle Raid

Apr 13, 1600Z-2300Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS
Midway (CV-41) Museum Ship. 14.320 7.250; PSK31
on 14.070. QSL. USS Midway (CV-41)

A full listing of contests can be found at:

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



6265 VIBROPLEX VERTICAL "LINE CHIEF'S KEY:(10KB) Labeled: Trade VIBROPLEX Mark, No. 63440 U.S.Patents 767,303, 812,183, 842,154, 1,042,457, 1,043,449, 1,074,831, 1,109,818, 1,110,373, 1,170,796 1,178,291. THE VIBROPLEX COMPANY INC. 253 Broadway, New York.Circa 1918.

Wisconsin QSO Party

Sunday, March 10, 2019

By Tom Macon, K9BTQ

It won't be long now! Next Sundays be the 2019 edition **What would it take for WARAC to be No. 1 in 2019?** We will talk about this, and more, at the upcoming meeting!

The two most popular logging programs are N3FJP and N1MM+. See [N3FJP Tips](#) and [N1MM Tips](#) on the WIQP web page for more information. When WIQP 2019 becomes history, we will want your log! It doesn't matter how many Q's you make – we still want it. 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.

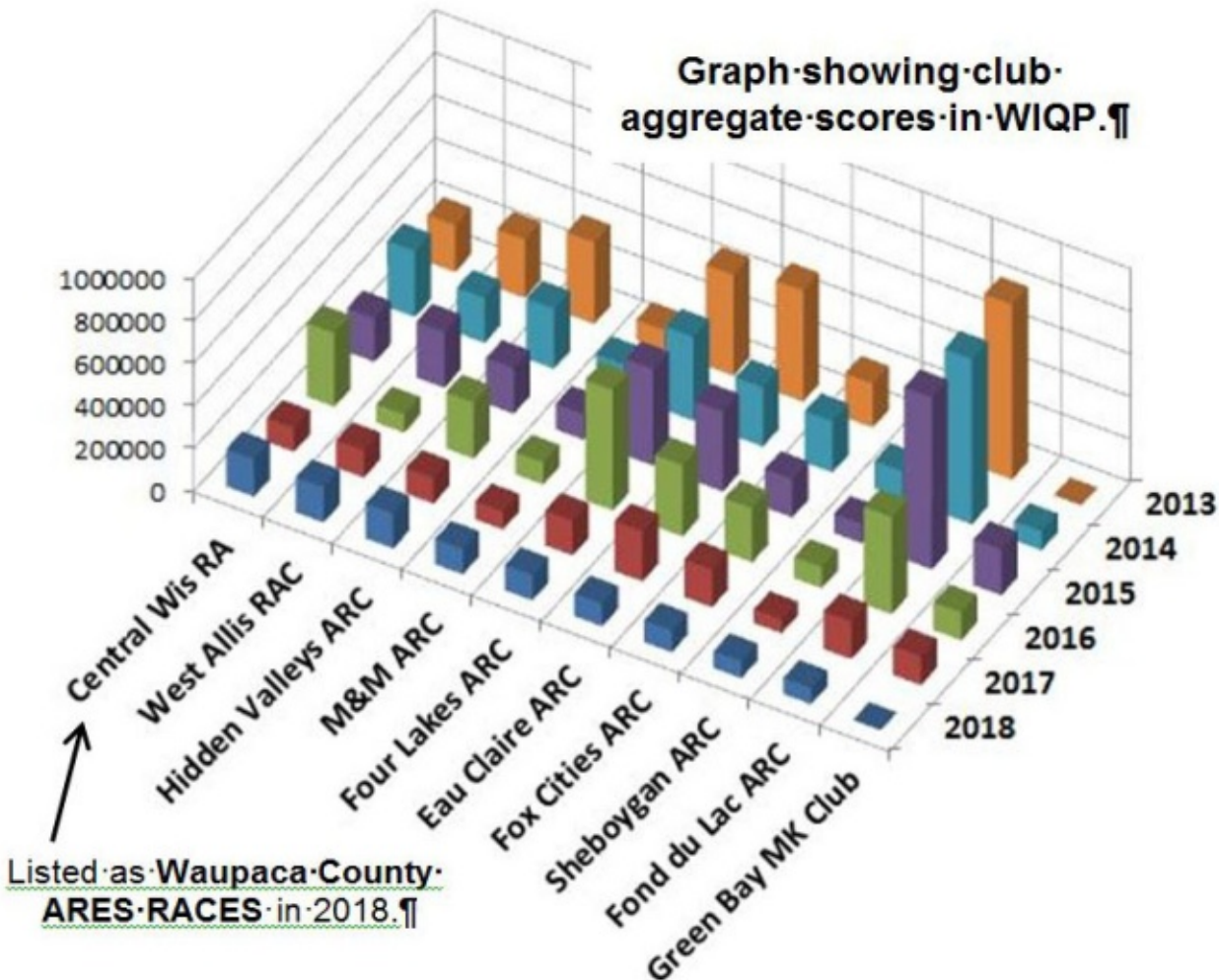
WIQP is only seven hours – 1:00pm to 8:00pm

local time and it 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 10 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! on of our Wisconsin QSO Party! Since the March club meeting will be two days after WIQP, the upcoming February meeting will focus on this event.

The contest will be pretty much the same as in recent years. The rules and other information have been published on the WIQP page of our website - <http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm>. Seven hours of operation from 1:00 PM to 8:00PM CDST. Remember, the first day of Daylight Saving Time.

As you know, QSO parties are about working

Next page



counties and we hope that all Wisconsin counties will be activated, either by mobiles passing through, portable stations, or by local hams.

Last year, logs were received from 70 of our 72 counties, but there was some activity by local stations in the two “missing” counties, Ashland and Taylor. Over one-third (27) of our 72 counties were activated only by mobiles this year compared to 29 last year. We’d like to see more local stations on the air in many counties. For more information on county activation in past years, see [Activate All 72!](#) on the WIQP web page. The [table](#) there has a page with activation data from each of the last six years plus an AllYears page that is a composite to give an overall idea of the action over those years.

Information on Planned Mobile Routes for 2019 will be published on the web page around March 1, and will be updated as 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.

The graphic on page 7 is about the club aggregate scoring of ten prominent clubs in Wisconsin. One thing that’s obvious is the decline in scores over the six years, largely due to the waning sunspot cycle. But the other thing to note is that WARAC was the No. 2 club in 2018! (The club names are sorted by the 2018 scores).

So our club score is not far behind the No. 1 club score. **What would it take for WARAC to be No. 1 in 2019? . __. __.**



A linesmans miniature key transmitter and receiver, carried in this leather case on the belt and could be operated without removing the set from the pouch.

Is it Spring Yet?

By Chuck Dellis, W9WLX

OK, so I guess I’m officially a snowbird! I returned from the Tucson, Arizona, area this past weekend, albeit somewhat too early! I expected better Wisconsin weather in March. There is a lot to see and do in southern Arizona. I focused on the tourist destinations and hiking but did manage to set up a station and do some operating as well.

My station consisted of an Icom 7100, 2 meter/440 MHz Diamond antenna, a Buddipole for HF, and a Rigblaster setup to play with some FT8. I left the Buddipole setup for 40 meters and was able to have some nice regional QSOs. I had to adjust a bit to my regional being Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, and California.

I checked into the Oro Valley Amateur Radio Club’s Sunday night net on a nicely linked system of repeaters with very nice coverage. I was fairly close to two of the nodes and had my choice of VHF or UHF, despite limited antenna height and being surrounded by mountainous terrain. They’re a very welcoming group of hams and by chance had their upcoming club meeting on the following Friday evening

Continued next page



My temporary Tucson home. I considered trying to load up that flag pole but never got around to it!! Picture on the right shows temporary antenna setup with antennas circled. I could have gotten them up a bit higher, but decided not to test the HOA. I was making QSOs and wanted to be able to keep them up.

I attended the club meeting on Friday night and it appeared to be a very well-run organization. They have a pre-meeting prior and this time it was an Elmering session. There were 2 topics where hands-on sessions were prepared. They had an Icom 7100 setup for help on HF rig configuration, SSB/CW operation and filters. The other session was focused on multi-meters where you could bring your meter and learn about its features. General Elmering was also done too.

The meeting venue was a local Lutheran church with excellent facilities. Seating was auditorium style with two large projection screens and great internet access. This was key for the night's program since it was delivered remotely from Maryland. The remote meeting could not have worked better as both the presenter and attendees had no issues interacting real-time with questions. The program was POTA, Parks on the Air, delivered by Jason Johnston, W3AAX, POTA administrator. Attendance for the evening was 65 members. Some regular attendees were not there since the Yuma hamfest was occurring the same weekend. We had a refreshment break after Jason's presentation and reconvened for the

Handy Man's corner. Two members demonstrated a DIY footswitch project. They showed us their process in constructing the footswitch and how to hook it up to the radio.

The club also has Saturday morning breakfast at a local restaurant for discussion and Elmering, but I wasn't able to work any Saturday morning breakfasts into my schedule. Overall, I was impressed how involved the club's members are in driving the activities and maintaining the repeater system. Most involved were not part of the board of directors.

My other interesting amateur radio experience was the Titan Missile Museum. The museum is an original site for the Titan Missiles with nuclear warheads put in place during the cold war. In one of my QSOs on 40 meters, I had a discussion about an 80-foot HF Discone antenna that was left in place and is now available for amateur use. The antenna is maintained by the Green Valley Amateur Radio Club. So, I decided to take a radio with me when I did the tour.

Continued next page



What's the big deal with portable operation? I have no problem making QSOs!

Continued next page

I had about an hour wait to get on the next tour so I gave the Discone a try. The antenna had flat SWR from 80 through 6 meters, with a little SWR on 17 and 12 meters. With our dismal band conditions, I figured this would be interesting. I called CQ on 14.288 a couple of times and had someone come back to me right away—telling me I was causing QRM on a net going on at 14.290. Really? Now who runs a net on 14.290? Since I was QSYing anyway, I was going to make this more interesting and move to 17 meters. After my second CQ, I had a South Carolina station return my call and had a nice QSO. I stuck around for a few more and then had to get on with my tour.



I hardly think there is any RF danger, especially since they were not willing to supply me with 240v for my amplifier! Operating 100w, QRP for me.

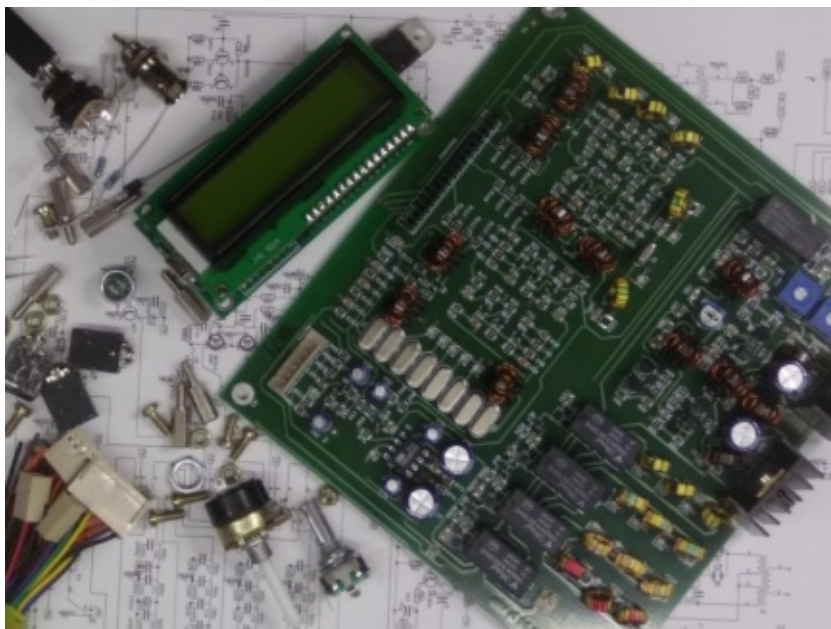


Although my total operating time during my respite in Arizona was no more than 7 or 8 hours, it is always fun to operate away from home, meet new hams, and see what other clubs are all about. • —• —••

AI WA9BZW was kind enough to send these web sites with this note looks interesting

For our club builders here is an interesting kit some hams I talk to on the air have been putting together. Links are to the kit and a box to put it in. They claim it receives like a 7300 and I guess there is even a video display available.

<http://www.hfsignals.com/index.php/ubitx/>



<https://amateurradiokits.in/product/universal-case-da-grey-for-ubitx/>



From pg 2 Editorial

later article.

As noted in other sections of this Hamtrix, Sunday is our annual QSO party. For the third year I will be helping Mike WO9B with his mobile operation. As I'm writing this the weather is looking like it may be a factor in our route. The last two years we did this the weather was not as much of a factor. As always safety will be number one priority!

Really not much else is going on around here. We have two major trips planned in April & May. I'll see if any Ham radio will be involved with them. Being an extra class makes traveling to EU countries easy to operate. In Non- EU countries it is a little more interesting especially for a short stay. The other thing I've found is it is not always easy to operate from your hotel room or parks, especially in old parts of town where the density of houses and people is high.

So on that note, I hope every one at least has a few contacts during the Wisconsin QSO party. All entries are appreciated!

73

Frank KA9FZR • — • —••



This miniature portable key was easily carried in a pocket. used by telegraph linesmen to test lines back to their depot. Circa 1850.

Officers and Board

President

Mike Johnson WO9B

Vice President

Steve Dryja, NO9B

Secretary

Barb Garnier KD9HPS

Treasurer

Bill Reed N9KPH

Directors

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR

Phil Tollefson, WA9AQL

Newsletter Editor

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR
fhump@milwpc.com

Webmaster past president

Tom Macon, K9BTQ

West Allis Radio Amateur
Club
P. O. box 1072
Milwaukee, WI 53201



WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC.

PO Box 1072
Milwaukee, WI 53201
W9FK
<http://www.warac.org>

***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.