



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 63, Issue 5 May, 2016

MAY 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 - 8:15AM CT



Club Meeting

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

May 10, 2016 6:30 pm

Program

Second annual Pizza and Auction Party

Asking for a \$5:00 donation to cover pizza cost

See page 3 for info on auction

Bring money to buy and stuff to auction

NO PRE-MEETING DINNER AT JOHNNY V'S

See page 3 for more info on auction

2016 ARRL Field Day is June 25-26

NPOTA Activation

**WHEN: Saturday, June 4, 2016, 10:00
AM until Noon**

**WHERE: Lapham Peak State Park,
Delafield, WI**

See page 6 for more info

WARAC 2-meter net

Every Wednesday at 8pm
MATC repeater 147.045 standard offset
127.3 Hz CTCSS

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 May 2016

The upcoming meeting will be our **Annual Pizza/Auction Meeting!** Rules are simple - you may donate items to be auctioned or you may bring items to be auctioned with a percentage of the proceeds going to our scholarship fund. Look elsewhere in this issue of Hamtrix or on the club website for more information.

Please note that the **meeting will start ½ hour earlier (6:30)** and our regular before-meeting **dinner at Johnny V's is cancelled** – just for this month. Doors will open at 6:00. Donations toward the cost of the pizza, soda, etc. will be appreciated.

Our **Field Day meeting** was held on April 19 with about 7 people attending. Chairman Chuck, W9WLX, ran a good meeting that put together plans for the 2016 edition of this popular club activity. This year's event will be at the same New Berlin site and we will be in the 2A class, similar to recent years. Chuck will provide details at the upcoming meeting and at the June meeting.

On Saturday, June 4 we are planning a club National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) activation. It will be on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail near Lapham Peak. Mike, WO9B, will continue last month's discussion of this club outing and provide details at the upcoming meeting. Meanwhile, more information on NPOTA is available at <https://npota.arrl.org/>

At our June meeting we will finalize our Field Day plans and focus on other FD topics as well. Be sure you have the **weekend of June 25 and 26 reserved** for a weekend of Ham Radio fun! In the meantime, watch for more information and don't forget to check the club website for details.

The Wisconsin QSO Party log submission period

ended on April 10 with 308 logs received, up from 285 last year. Logs were received from 71 of our 72 Wisconsin counties, with Green Lake County drawing the short straw. Other logs do indicate 3 QSO's from Green Lake, so there was a bit of activity there. Our own Mr. Rover, Mike Johnson, WO9B, has the honor of being the only station activating Clark County. Thanks, Mike for those 15 Q's! No Clean Sweep this year.

Howard, WA9AXQ, with help from several other members, worked on entry of paper logs and also took care of problems with some electronic logs. In all, there were 29 logs that required special attention. Ten of them were handwritten, down from thirty-some a few years ago. Thanks, guys!

This completes the first phase of processing the WIQP results. We hope to have the results finalized by June. Stay tuned!

Don't forget - **dinner at Johnny V's Classic Café is cancelled** for May. We'll be back in June.

See you at the meeting! Come hungry! **Bring stuff to be auctioned.** Also bring money so you can take home some new treasures. Bring a friend, too!

Tom, K9BTQ

From the editor.

Another month another Hamtrix. I found an article on adjusting bug keyers. My code is not good enough to use one yet but I like them just for their mechanical complexity. I do own two; a viberplex lighting; and the other a Hi Mound BK-100 or some other brand from Japan.

They are similar in basic function and adjustments. The lighting I think starts at 20 wpm and goes up at least in stock form. The Hi Mound BK-100 starts around 12 wpm and goes up. I heard it is easy to add weights to change the speed.

The Lighting was well used and had a fine coat of cigarette smoke covering it. I suspect it was used for many hours on the railroad or military. Surprisingly it cleaned up very nicely with the

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Pizza - Auction

As soon as the Pizza is gone, it's Auction time! Here's how it's going to work.

There will be two modes. You may donate your items to the club, or you may have your item auctioned with 10% (or more?) of the selling price going to the club. All club proceeds will go to our scholarship fund.

If you want to donate your items, simply put them on the tables indicated for that when you bring them in. If you want your items auctioned, please mark the items with your name, starting price and minimum selling price and put them on the indicated table.

Come hungry, bring your auction items, plus plenty of money to buy the treasures you will take home. Have a good time! CU there!

- Tom, K9BTQ

WARAC General Meeting Minutes April 12, 2016

Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 19:00 by President, Tom Macon (K9BTQ). Overall meeting attendance was 26 members, plus 3 visitors.

Future Programs

- May '16: Pizza & Auction
- June '16: Field Day 2016

Tonight's Program:

- QRP operation by Mike Johnson (NO9B) – incorporated AD5X presentation
- Connectors by Frank Humpal (KA9FZR)

Business

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 21:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV)
Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.
2016-04-12

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

April 26, 2016

Howard Smith (WA9AXQ), called the meeting to order at 19:02.

Present: Tom Macon (K9BTQ), Steve Dryja (NO9B), Howard Smith (WA9AXQ), Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV), Dave Garnier (WB9OWN), Al Hovey (WA9BZW), Frank Humpal (KA9FZR).

Howard (WA9AXQ) gave the monthly Treasurer's report. The general fund and scholarship fund are in good shape.

Tom (K9BTQ) gave an update to the Wisconsin QSO Party – 308 logs received.

Swapfest 2017: We must find an acceptable place for VE testing. Erwin (WI9EV) to investigate venues.

Programs

May, 2016: Pizza Night & Auction – \$5 donations for pizza will be encouraged

June, 2016: Field Day 2016 – Chuck Dellis (W9WLX)

July, 2016: Badger Weather Net – Sullivan / SkyWarn (?)

August, 2016: Software defined radio

FM38 Repeater System (?)

Future Program Ideas

DX Spotting

SO2R Contest operating

Logger 32 logging software

Other Items

Amendments to W.A.R.A.C. Constitution and Bylaws were discussed and changes recommended for final draft. Potential changes will be reviewed at the next board meeting.

Progress was made on the W.A.R.A.C. operation manual. New target is to have final documents on the ftp site within a couple weeks.

2-meter net continues and needs some more check-ins.

Replacement of the club video projector was discussed.

Meeting was adjourned at 21:22.

Respectfully submitted,

Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV)

Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.

2016-04-26

NPOTA #3

Frank KA9FZR

With the weather scheduled to give us a break on Friday 29 Apr 2016 Mike WO9B, Howard WA9AXQ, Tom K9BTQ and me Frank KA9FZR decided to activate the Ice Age trail at Lapham Peak State Park.

I had been out to the park looking for a spot to set up. The requirements for an activation included hiking down the trail for a way and being within 50 yards of the trail when you set up. You could not operate out of a car. So for this time we decided to go the QRP route. Mike brought his HB-1B and an end feed antenna with tuner for the CW portion. I brought my FT-817 with a end fed Zepp antenna with tuner.

Mike picked us about 10am and we headed to the park. The spot I had found was approved by all. We set up the 817 started our CQ's. Apparently we didn't do the proper ceremony or sacrifice to the propagation god. With a lots of CQ's and even with spotting we did not get heard.

Call sign	Worked	Date/Time	Band	Mode	Freq
KA9FZR	K8SIA	2016-04-29 18:28:00	40M	CW	7.00000
KA9FZR	WT8C	2016-04-29 18:27:01	40M	CW	7.00000
KA9FZR	WJ8Y	2016-04-29 18:26:12	40M	CW	7.00000
KA9FZR	WA9AGG	2016-04-29 18:21:18	40M	CW	7.00000
KA9FZR	AC8MR	2016-04-29 18:07:33	40M	SSB	7.00000
KA9FZR	K8JE	2016-04-29 18:02:43	40M	SSB	7.00000
KA9FZR	WA3WNT	2016-04-29 18:00:48	40M	SSB	7.00000

Still we had a good time. We stayed at it for about a hour which included some experimenting with the different antennas and tuners.

On the way home Jimmy WB9IXS had invited us to stop by and see his garage. We had a good time looking at his toys and ragchewing!

Over all a fun time was had by all. For anyone interested in attending one of these activations we have one planned for June 4th but the spur of the moment ones are usually planned over the Wednesday night 2 meter net.



NPOTA ACTIVATION ANNOUNCEMENT



West Allis Radio Amateur Club will be setting up a NPOTA Activation and everyone is invited to come out and join the fun.

WHEN: Saturday, June 4, 2016, 10:00 AM until Noon

WHERE: Lapham Peak State Park, Delafield, WI

TALK-INS: We will be monitoring 145.13 and 443.800

- June 4-5 is the annual DNR's Free Fun Weekend, so no state park admission stickers are required to access the park.
- The Activation will officially be a "Two-Fer" consisting of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (TR05) and the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve (AA11).
- Equipment: We are planning a SSB station with computer logging. Equipment will be a FT-857 running 100 w to a Budipole antenna. A QRP CW station will also be up and running. We plan to operate on 40, 20 and 15.
- Driving Directions: Take I-94 West to Highway C / Delafield exit. South on Hwy C to the Park Entrance. Park in the lot noted E1 on the Map below. Take a short walk on the Ice Age Trail to the Red X. That's where we will be!!



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!

Taken from Chapter 6 of Army Technical Manual TM 11-459

CHAPTER 6 SEMI-AUTOMATIC KEY

31. Use

The semiautomatic key, also known as the Vibroplex, or bug, is used chiefly in fixed stations where operators are required to send for relatively long periods of time.

32. Operation

a. In sending with the bug the thumb presses against the dit paddle (fig. 14) to the right and the index finger forms dahs by pressing the knob to the left. The key will send successive dits when the paddle is held to the right. One dit or a series may be sent depending on how long the thumb pressure is maintained against the paddle. One dah is formed every time the knob is pressed to the left. Dahs must be sent individually.

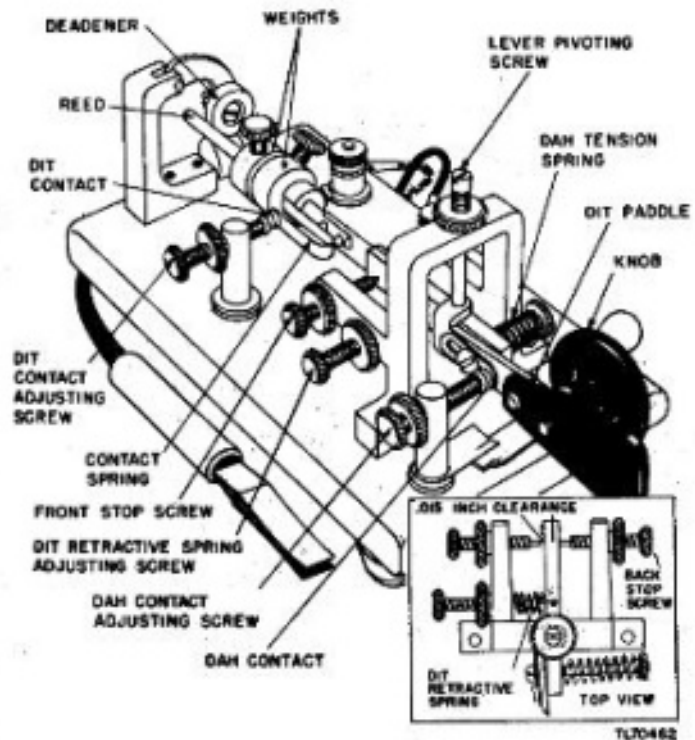
b. During sending, the hand pivots at the wrist, and the hand and arm motion is horizontal.

33. Key Adjustment

a. Best operation of the semiautomatic key will be obtained when it is adjusted to send dits and spaces of equal length. Locate the parts in figure 14 when adjusting the key. The top view in figure 14 shows the section of the key between the dah contact adjusting screw and the front stop screw. Semi-Automatic Key (bug) Diagram

b. Before adjusting the semiautomatic key, examine it for mechanical and electrical defects. First, make certain that both dit and dah contacts are clean and in perfect alignment, with the faces parallel. Second, make sure that the lever pivoting screw is loose enough to permit the lever to move freely. Signals will sound unsteady if it is too loose.

Third, examine all supporting parts to make certain that they are firm and steady. Fourth, make certain that stop screws and lock nuts are tight. Fifth, inspect the cord and plug for short circuits or loose connections,



c. Adjust the key as follows:

(1) Place the key on a level surface.

(2) Adjust the back stop screw until the reed lightly touches the deadener. Then tighten the lock nut.

(3) Adjust the front stop screw until the separation between the end of this screw and the reed is approximately .015 inch. (Approx. 10 pp. of this manual inserted between the screw and lever will serve as a convenient guide.) Then tighten the lock nut. A greater separation is permissible if the operator prefers more lever movement.

(4) Operate the dit paddle to the right. Hold the lever in this position and stop the vibration of the reed. Adjust the dit contact adjusting screw until the dit contacts just meet. This important adjustment determines whether the dits will be too heavy, too light, or perfect. The adjustment must be made without flexing the contact spring. Tighten the lock nut on the dit contact adjusting screw without disturbing the adjustment.

(5) If the dits are too fast, move the weight, located on the reed, in the direction of the deadener. If the dits are too slow, move the same weight in the opposite direction.

(6) Adjust the dah contact adjusting screw to a clearance approximately the thickness of the cover on a Department of the Army field or technical manual.

(7) Adjust the dit retractive and dah tension springs for the most comfortable operation.

d. Do not readjust the dit contact adjusting screw unless a complaint is received or unless you are certain that your dits are too heavy or too light. Never change the back stop screw adjustment when the bug is correctly adjusted. It should not be necessary to change the front stop screw adjustment. However, if the lock nut on the front stop screw should become loose, it will be necessary to readjust the dit contact adjusting screw. If the dah contact adjusting screw is too close, the dah contacts will remain shorted.

e. A change in the position of the weight for the speed of dits or a change in the tension of the retractive and dah springs to suit the individual's requirements will not throw the bug out of proper adjustment.

f. If the adjustment instructions are followed carefully, the bug will make 25 or more dits before stopping. The first 12 to 15 dits will be practically perfect with the dits and spaces equal.

g. The bug is designed to make sending easy rather than fast, and perfect control of the key is far more important than speed. Be especially careful to send dits accurately. Not all radio operators have equally sensitive hearing, and careless sending on the semiautomatic key will not be understood.

Ham Radio on the Internet
(click on red web address)

Anyone can submit websites for this column. I'll check them out and include them. The editor

Interesting site for finding where lightning is striking.
<http://www.lightningmaps.org/realtime?lang=en#y=42.887718987092;x=-88.03295898437534;z=6;t=2;m=sat;r=0;s=0;d=2;a=2;dc=0;o=0;n=0;>

Another propagation site. Sort of fun to watch and to see how it matches to what you hear on the radio.

<http://www.bandconditions.com/>

Editor from pg 2

chrome shining.

The Hi Mound BK-100 which was sold under other names and it doesn't look as used. Both work and can be adjusted easily.

So one of these days I'll have to start practicing with them and see if I can learn to use them. I'll try to learn to use my right hand so I can send and copy with out changing hands. Sounds good in theory.

Hope to see you at the meeting should be fun.

Frank

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.