



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

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Volume 65, Issue 5 May, 2018

## MAY CLUB HAPPENINGS



### **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](mailto:barbsewsblue@gmail.com).

### **Club Meeting**

St. Peter's Episcopal Church,  
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis  
May 8, 2018 6:30 PM

### **Annual Pizza night and Auction**

**bring money to spend and donations for the auction**  
**No premeeting Dinner**

### **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

### **Field Day 23-24 June 2018**

**See page 7 for more info.**

**It's coming sooner then you think**

### **Notes from the Secretary May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018**

1. If you have not completed the membership renewal form, please see me for your form to update.
2. I have Nametags for the following members: KF9K, KC9SND, KC9JET, AA9SY, KC9WW, KC9PQD, and W9DC.
3. Nametags for KC9UXC, and W9PCS have been ordered.

## The President's Shack May 2018

Swap Fest Season is upon us, and to start it out right, it's WARAC Pizza Night and Auction Time. This ritual of spring started a few years back and makes for an enjoyable night. Besides, who doesn't want to witness Steve, NO9B, rummaging through the goodies du jour. So do some digging around the ham shack and garage and bring a few items along to contribute to the melee. It's good for you, for the club and especially for the evening. No word yet on what Steve is bringing along from the Club's stash, but by golly there is always something everyone can use.

**Just a REMINDER: CLUB MEETING STARTS EARLY. 6:30 PM and there is no Johnnie V's this month. 6:30 PM.**

On a couple of other notes for the month:

Dayton is just around the corner. Who's going? I'm passing again this year, but have to admit resistance is getting lower and lower. I'd really like to tramp around the new equipment vendor buildings. There is just something about seeing the full line-up from the major vendors that just grabs my attention. Odd this year, that the buzz on new equipment announcements is a bit quiet. Flex, Icom, Yaesu and Elecraft are all nursing hangovers from last year. Kenwood, well that just seems a bet on long odds. Gotta be something though. There always is. If you're going, share your good stories.

A big thanks for those members that made the Field Day Planning Session on April 17th. Chairman Chuck ran a darn good meeting. Quite a few new items in the stew for this year. Adding a new station for Digital/VHF. A GOTA station will be up and running. Food, food, food, naturally. But the big thing, as a club is to get as many of us out and on site as we can. We are really pushing everyone to sign up for operating

time. For those who might be a bit shy on their skills, no problem. We will be working the rigs in teams so whether you're a pro or all thumbs it won't matter a bit. Put some time in sitting in the operating tent, I guarantee you will have fun. Sign up, we will find an hour or two with your name on it!! It will be a great way to experience new modes and new equipment. I'm looking forward to punching some holes in the ether with the spanky new Flex 6600. That will be my check box for the weekend.

After our winter of forever this year, I know most of us are more than anxious to get the summer outside activations started. If you have not attended one, they are very informal and a lot of fun. We tend to organize them quickly as both weather and schedules allow. So if you are at all interested, make sure you let me know so I can pipe you in on the Ready-5 email list. Literally that is about as much warning as we get. We are going to attempt to pick park locations throughout the metro area. Surely we can find a place near you. Or you can suggest a place. We are most certainly good with any and all feedback.

So read the rest of Hamtrix to find out the rest of the story. Don't forget to show up 30 minutes early to this month's club meeting, the sausage and pepperoni will be awaiting you.

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

### From the Editor

Can we believe Wisconsin spring may actually be here? Looks that way but one never knows. As much as I would like to be at this year's Auction pizza night I have commitments that will prevent that. Hope everyone else can make it.

Looking forward to some park operating now that the weather makes it comfortable to be out. A group of us had lots of fun doing it last year. This is more of an informal 'National Parks on the Air' which had been the start of it. Now it is just an excuse to get together and operate with portable equipment. One of the many

See pg 11

## **WARAC General Meeting Minutes April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

The General Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by President Mike, WO9B.

The main presentation was '3-D Printing' by Geoff Clay from Milwaukee Electric Tool Co. 3-D printing is now 20 years old, and all of the original patents have expired. This has resulted in a lot of inexpensive 3-D printers becoming available. Various materials are used as 'ink'. Different processes provide different results. Many prototype parts are produced using 3-D printing. Getting started has a big learning curve, unless you already know about 3-D modeling, and how to create items using the 3-D graphics design programs. Geoff provided several samples of items that he had created from Milwaukee Tool.

Club Secretary, Howard, WA9AXQ, asked that anybody who had not filled out a renewal form to please see him for your form to update. These forms will be used in the process of creating an updated Membership Booklet.

Field Day Chairman, Chuck, W9WLX, reminded the membership that a Field Day Planning Meeting would be held next Tuesday, April 17, at 7:00pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Hales Corners. Everybody is welcome to attend and make suggestions about Field Day.

WIQP Chairman, Tom, K9BTQ, reported that 332 logs have been received, the 80 meter band was the most popular, and that even 160 meters had some activity.

Mike, WO9B, reviewed the three sections (Sect. 3, Sect. 8, and Sect. 12) that were to be updated. After each section was discussed, a vote was taken, and the changes passed for each section. Section 8 had a little more discussion about whether having just one person doing the auditing of the club books was adequate.

Mike, WO9B, presented the idea of doing a group purchase, and suggested the AnyTone D868UV Dual Band GPS enabled DMR / Analog HT, as a candidate. It normally sells for \$168 on the internet, but he found a supplier that would sell it for \$110.

There seemed to be little to report about DX activities.

There are two QSO parties, Michigan and Florida, which will happen shortly.

The Ozaukee Radio Club Swapfest in Cedarburg is on Saturday, May 5th.

The idea of having a BBQ and a Fox Hunt was suggested for the August meeting. The details need to be worked out, and reported at a future meeting.

Chris, KC9UXC, talked about the ARISS activity at a local school.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm.

Coffee, donuts, and eyeball QSOs followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

WARAC Secretary

May 1st, 2018

## **WARAC Board Meeting April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by President Mike, WO9B, at 7:05pm.

All Board Members were present except for Frank, KA9FZR. There were no visitors.

Mike, WO9B, said the Swapfest Chairman Erwin, WI9EV, was on a roll to see that the swapfest tickets, tables, and sponsorships could be purchased from our web page. Mike reported that he went to website provider Square Space.com to investigate how difficult it would be to use them as our website provider. He said he spent about an hour and a half to create a website that had lots of the content of our website. He also provided a URL that we could use to view his efforts. There were questions as to why we would want to leave our current website provider. Steve, NO9B, offered to contact our website provider and see if they could provide a way to create our website using tools similar to those used by the Square Space website. He will report back shortly.

Treasurer Bill, N9KPH, reported on the finances, and indicated that the transfer of accounts to North Shore Bank has been completed. He also indicated that part of the Scholarship Fund had been placed in CD at North Shore Bank, to get a higher yield than having the funds in a savings account.

Secretary Howard, WA9AXQ, reported the status of the membership renewal forms. He met with Bill, N9KPH, and Bill's XYL, Barb, about the possibility of using MS Publisher to produce the Membership Booklet. He also brought up the question about how to archive certain important club documents, and agreed to provide some guidance at the next board meeting.

Equipment Sales Chairman, Steve, NO9B, had nothing new to report. The next Swapfest that he will be at is the Ozaukee Radio Club Swapfest in Cedarburg on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

The May meeting will be the Pizza Night, and a club auction.

The Program committee needs to make some suggestions for the June and July meetings. The June meeting feature the Field Day preparations, but a second presentation is needed. Other program thoughts were a picnic along with a Foxhunt, a Brewers baseball game, or meeting in a park with a beer garden.

Mike, WO9B, presented the changes that he wants to make to the Bylaws. These changes need to be outlined in the April Hamtrix, and can be voted on at the April membership meeting.

At the last board meeting, some thought was given for a new meeting place. The needs were good internet access, easier access for disabled members (i.e. no stairs), and better parking. The challenges were the cost, having to be out of the facility by a fixed time, and where to hold the board meetings. Mike reviewed the places that he had talked with. This will be an ongoing discussion until a better site is found.

There was a discussion about the club video projector. The unit that we currently have was purchased in 2004 for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. It has worked well, but the technology has moved forward. The current projectors support bigger screen areas, and are brighter (have a higher lumen rating). There are new standards for video such as HDMI. Newer notebooks support these, and the use of the VGA connector will begin to diminish as notebooks move away from the VGA interface. This seems to be the time to do an upgrade, and the board voted to do this. The plan is to present the purchase request in the June Hamtrix, and vote on it at the June membership meeting.

Mike, WO9B, was approached by a local school to see if our club would help them with setting up and doing an ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) program. Having seen the 17 page NASA form to be completed, he declined to participate.

The meeting ended at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Howard Smith, WA9AXQ  
Secretary, WARAC  
May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

## Special Event Corner May, 2018

By Bill Reed/N9KPH

Here's a listing of just a few events that will occur during May that may be of interest. Unless otherwise noted, these stations can be found on 20 and 40 meters. Most stations offer QSL cards or Certificates - some very original.

### Military Commemorative Events:

**Special Event Station EI100MCV - US Armed Forces Day** - May 19, 0800Z-2359Z, EI100MCV, Dublin, Ireland. National Maritime Museum of Ireland Radio Club. All bands, all modes; operating on or close to frequencies ending in 18.

Memorial Day - May 28-Jun 3, 0000Z-2359Z, K7UGA, Phoenix, AZ. All bands, all modes.

### General Interest Events:

1869 Transcontinental Railroad Golden Spike Commemoration - May 9-May 10, 1500Z-2300Z, W7G, Corinne, UT. Lucky SSB contacts may hear

actual whistles from the "Jupiter" and "119" replica locomotives.

150th Anniversary of Tabasco Pepper Sauce - May 19-May 20, 1500Z-2000Z, W5DDL, Avery Island, LA.

Lindbergh Flight Across the Atlantic - May 20, 1330Z-2000Z, K2CAM, Garden City, NY.

### Home Grown Event

Emergency Medical Services Week - May 18-May 28, 0000Z-2359Z, W9A, Wisconsin Rapids, WI. SSB only, all bands.

WA9BZW - This One's For You!

Corvette Homecoming - May 31-Jun 3, 1400Z-2300Z, KY4BG, Rockfield, KY. Kentucky Colonels Amateur Radio Club. Certificate and QSL

information. [www.kcaronline.com](http://www.kcaronline.com)

Finally, in honor of all of those who served, here is a good looking Memorial Day card that I received in 2016





## Field Day—It's Just Around the Corner!

Wow—Dayton is in two weeks and Field Day will be here before you know it. Our Field Day planning meeting was well attended and fostered some great discussions.

### New for This Year

2018 brings a move to 3A for WARAC. The additional station will be focused on Digital QSOs using a multi-band vertical antenna. Mike Johnson will be the station captain sharing the 6-meter radio. When the 6-meter band is closed, the radio will be re-purposed for HF digital work.

Barb Garnier will be running a GOTA station for WARAC this year. Stop by, take a look at the operation and work a few Qs. The station will operate under Barb's callsign.

More attention will be placed on sign-up sheets for operating time slots and setup help. The Field Day operations team would like to see more hams enjoy the thrill of working Field Day contacts. It is a great opportunity to work in a traffic handling mode with little pressure to get every detail right. The purpose of the exercise is to do just that—practice! Promoting the idea to get more hams on the air, is an option to sign up for an elmer. The sign-up sheets will give you the choice of being paired with a mentor. Do you want to have someone log for you? Do you want to log for someone else? Ideally, take a few minutes observing, then grab the mic and have someone log for you! Spend an hour on the air and come back for more!

The Field Day arrangement is changing up by co-locating the pop-up campers closer to each other. This will give us a more community feel and make moving between stations much more convenient. Antenna locations will remain basically unchanged.

### Back by Popular Demand

The other station setups are very similar to last year. Tom Macon will captain the 80/20-meter station running a loop antenna, Chuck Dellis will captain the 40/15-meter station running dipole antennas, and Steve Dryja & Phil Gural will captain the 6-meter station running a Yagi and a loop. The Flex radio will be used at the 40/15-meter station, so if you curious about finding out about the SDR craze, be sure and take a crack at operating the Flex.

Check your calendars and let's get you an operating slot(s)! The bands seem to be taking a turn for the better, so we should see at least good conditions in late June.

Thanks.

Chuck, W9WLX

Field Day Chairman



## Hamtrix Sale Corner

This month's listing is dedicated to help the estate of K9IVL (SK) sell some HT radios to new owners. Read on to learn what is available at this time:

**Baofeng UV82L** dual band with speaker mike and charger

**Baofeng UV-5R+** dual band with speaker mike and charger

**Baofeng UV-5X** dual band with charger and original box

**Yaesu FT2DR** dual band with charger, manual and original box

**Wouxun KG-UV8D** dual band with charger and original box

All of the above units are in excellent condition. Most of them had a charged battery.

There is also (2) Motorola business band HT radios with chargers. Frequency of operation is unknown at this time.

Please contact Betty Junek, 262-510-2423 for additional information and pricing.

Phil, W9NAW

1 May 2018





Here is some notes from a pdf file I located on the web with ideas for protecting Amateur radio's operators antennas from lightning. Its that time of the year.

<https://www.solacity.com/docs/Polyphaser/An%20overview%20of%20lightning%20protection%20for%20ham%20radio%20stations.pdf>

## **An overview of Lightning Protection for Ham Radio Stations**

Notes:

Proper lightning protection for a ham radio station can involve more variables than any other type of radio site. The antenna location will establish the grounding requirements, while the station location will drive the protection requirements.

The primary rule for surviving a lightning strike is still the same no matter which of the many possible variations you have: all equipment elements must be connected to a single, low impedance ground system. This includes the antenna, the antenna support (pole, tower, etc.), and all of your station's input and output protectors. (I/O's: antenna, power, telephone, rotor, etc.).

Let's examine the significant elements of a good grounding and protection scheme to help you construct an installation that will survive a direct lightning strike.

We begin with choosing the antenna location. This and the antenna type will dictate the size and location of the earth system needed to disperse the strike's energy. The sooner the ground system is able to spread out the energy, the better the chances of preventing it from traveling to your equipment. Almost 90% of strikes will be electrons that, due to like charge, repel and spread out. The antenna ground system provides the interface to the earth body. As we will see later

on, the ground system is formed by a set of ground rods interconnected below grade with bare radials.

Also fundamental to a good protection scheme is the creation of a single point ground within the ham shack. This single point ground is used to mount all

of the protectors and to provide a ground for all of the equipment chassis. This interior single point ground is connected to an external ground system (composed of radials with ground rods) with a low impedance copper strap. The tower ground system and the single point ground system must be interconnected. This interconnection should be below grade and with a bare low inductance conductor. The coax cable shield must not be the only interconnection between ground systems.



You're a ham if you sit around trying to figure out how to work DX on your cordless phone.

You're a ham if you check a potential new car for rig and antenna mounting possibilities even before you take it for a test drive.

You're a ham if, whenever you visit ANYONE'S house, you look at the height and spacing of trees for dipole stringing potential.

You're a ham if, when someone asks you to spell your last name, you do it with phonetics. (Sierra Charlie Hotel Echo India November Bravo....)

You're a ham if, when you are watching a movie that shows someone operating a radio, you will loudly and indignantly proclaim the inaccuracies in the portrayal.

Oh by the way -- sometimes I do think in Morse code. No lie. Sad, huh?



Ham radio cartoons. Plumber's delight.

"Plumber's delight" version of a fractal antenna for HF.

info on flying drones

[https://unmanned-aerial.com/faa-reauthorization-amendment-seeks-section-336-reform?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=LNH+04-26-2018&utm\\_campaign=UAO+Latest+News+Headlines](https://unmanned-aerial.com/faa-reauthorization-amendment-seeks-section-336-reform?utm_medium=email&utm_source=LNH+04-26-2018&utm_campaign=UAO+Latest+News+Headlines)

Magnets

<https://www.kjmagnetics.com/blog.asp?p=halbach-arrays-2>

## From pg2

things you can do as a Ham radio operator.

Modern equipment has made these expeditions easy. I'm sure some hams did it with tube equipment but I can't believe it was a spur of the moment thing. Nowadays you can pack a whole station including batteries antennas even computers in a backpack and operate for a couple of hours with no problem.

I look at my Heathkit HW-8 which was an old QRP rig and it looks huge compared to some of the radios today. We have come a long way. One wonders where we will go next. But that seems to be what ham radio is all about.

I find it amazing that next month will be Field Day one of the older off the grid activations. It looks like we may be using the whole range of modulations this year, from the original mode CW to some of the digital modes. It should be interesting.

Frank KA9FZR

### Officers and Board

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Mike Johnson WO9B

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## WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC.

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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.