



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 68, Issue 6 June, 2020

JUNE 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.

Contact her: 414-529-3536 or barbsewsblue@gmail.com.

JUNE VIRTUAL MEETING

presentation by Chuck Dellis W9WLX

Icom Remote Control Using Turn-key Solutions.

Time: June 9, 2020 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting, June 9, 2020, at 7:00 pm.

<https://zoom.us/j/93853694817?pwd=WEtwSlJEeXdxMEgralB6ZVg1TTVQUT09>

Meeting ID: 938 5369 4817

Password: 6mm3g6

Alternate Field Day
See Page 6 for our idea for an alternate Field day

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

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The President's shack

Not much to report on this end. People seem to be working around the new normal. Ham radio in all it's many modes seems to be going on as usual. Of course being at the bottom of a sunspot cycle is proving to have all sorts of new challenges.

I listen to the Nut net most mornings. With the spring storms and higher noise my 5 watts doesn't always get through. Still it does offer surprises! Signals to northern, Wisconsin many times surprise everyone. NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave) communications does seem to have its uses. It isn't a set and forget form of communications.

You have to find what frequencies are being reflected. There is still a lot to explore, with antennas, power and modes.

Other than that it is very quiet around here. Our Grand kids come often to give their parents time to work at home. They are both young enough to

think it is fun to say hi when you stick a microphone up to their face. Maybe I can hope for other Hams in the family yet!

Thoughts for the meeting. What would you need to feel comfortable to come to a regular meeting. Next question would an outdoor picnic type meeting be comfortable for you.



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From the Editor

No editorial due to being occupied by the President's Shack

WARAC Club Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2019

Due to the nature on the Covid-19 crisis and Governor Tony Evers “Emergency Order #12 Safer At Home Order”, Chuck W9WLX offered his work experience and conducted a WARAC club Zoom Meeting.

The club meeting was called to order 7:05 pm by Frank KA9FZR.

This online Zoom meeting was a learning experience for all; people were appearing and then dropping out, be it for any number of reasons. User hints for going forward, use headphones and mute your microphone when not speaking.

Approximately 17 virtual club members were identified by the Secretary Dave WB9OWN as being present. There was 1 visitors, Feroz WU9N.

(Question. Which members were wearing WARAC club hats?)

Field Day. Check Dellis contacted New Berlin, the FD at the recycling center is off the table for 2020 FD.

Club Presentation. My life as a Amateur Radio operator in Sri Lanka by Feroz WU9N. This was truly an excellent presentation, we know so little about that part of the world and we dream about being that DX station.

Wisconsin QSO Party Results. Tom Macon K9BTQ. The official results were posted on WARAC website, <https://www.warac.org/wqp/2020/results2020.pdf> This was a recording setting year for logs received, up by 100 log entries and mostly out of state! 80 and 40 meters were the bread and butter bands, especially 80.

It was the Secretary’s observation that the “round robin participants” need to keep their comments short to the point to maximize the online time.

General meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
David Garnier WB9OWN
Secretary WARAC.
April 14, 2019

Odds & Ends. Steve N09B was the only member wearing club hat. • —• —••

WARAC Field Day 2020

Chuck Dellis W9WLX

Field Day is a little over 2 weeks away and I'm sure that you have begun to solidify your plans. It is going to be a very different Field Day this year as it will be for many of this summer's events.

There have been two temporary rule waivers due to the pandemic and they may change your operation plan.

The first change is class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points. It states:

***Field Day rule 4.6** defines Class D stations as "Home stations," including stations operating from permanent or licensed station locations using commercial power. Class D stations ordinarily may only count contacts made with Class A, B, C, E, and F Field Day stations, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows Class D stations to count contacts with other Class D stations for QSO credit.*

The second change is club aggregate scores will be published. It states:

In addition, for 2020 only, an aggregate club score will be published, which will be the sum of all individual entries indicating a specific club.

If Dave, WB9OWN, and Mike, WO9B, include the West Allis RAC club in their individual score submission to the ARRL, then both individual and club aggregate scores will be reported. This waiver changes my earlier statement that scores do not need to be submitted to the ARRL to participate in the club competition. While that is still true, submission to the ARRL is strongly encouraged so we can build our club score. Please take the extra time to send your log to the ARRL and make sure the club is identified **EXACTLY** as **West Allis RAC**.

Be sure to update your logging program too. Prior versions did not give QSO credit for class D stations working other class D stations. The N3FJP program has already been updated to version 6.3, the version necessary if you are operating class D. I checked N1MM Logger+ v1.0.8423.0 and it appears to score class D/class D QSOs correctly. If you are using another logger, check for any updates to their Field Day logging program.

The friendly club competition is still being done as well. Send a copy of your Cabrillo log to Chuck, W9WLX, at w9wlx@wi.rr.com by July 28, 2020. The deadline date has been updated to correspond with the ARRL deadline.

Yes, Field Day is different this year, but get on the bands and have fun with it! Update your logging program, work whatever class you want to try this year, and add to the West Allis RAC aggregate score. "See" you on the bands!

Chuck

Thanks to Dave Garnier WB9OWN for this update on WSJT-X

The WSJT Development Group is pleased to announce the general availability (GA) release of WSJT-X Version 2.2.0. A brief summary of new features is provided here; for further details see the Release Notes:

http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/Release_Notes.txt

... and of course the updated WSJT-X 2.2 User Guide:

http://www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/ws-jtx-doc/ws-jtx-main-2.2.0.html#NEW_FEATURES

New Features in WSJT-X 2.2.0:

- Significant improvements to the decoders for FT4, FT8, JT4, JT65, and WSPR.

- New format for "EU VHF Contest" Tx2 and Tx3 messages

When "EU VHF Contest" is selected, the Tx2 and Tx3 messages (those conveying signal report, serial number, and 6-character locator) now use hashcodes for both callsigns. This change is NOT backward compatible with earlier versions of `_WSJT-X_`, so all users of EU VHF Contest messages should be sure to upgrade to version 2.2.0.

- Accessibility

Keyboard shortcuts have been added as an aid to accessibility:

Alt+R sets Tx4 message to RR73, Ctrl+R sets it to RRR.

As an aid for partial color-blindness, the "inverted goal posts" marking Rx frequency on the Wide Graph's frequency scale are now rendered in a darker shade of green.

- User Interface Translations have been enabled. Translations are now available for Catalan, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, and Hong Kong Chinese. Additional languages will follow, when available.

Note that UI translation is automatic, based on your system primary language. If you do not want the WSJT-X UI translated to your local language then start WSJT-X with the '--language=en' command line option:

```
wsjtx --language=en
```

If you wish to contribute by authoring WSJT-X UI translations please join the new discussion group `wsjtx-l10n@Groups.io` (<https://groups.io/g/wsjtx-l10n>), where help from other translation authors and coordination with the development team is available.

- Minor enhancements and bug fixes

"Save None" now writes no .wav files to disk, even temporarily.

An explicit entry for "WW Digi Contest" has been added to "Special operating activities" on the "Settings | Advanced" tab.

Contest mode FT4 now always uses RR73 for the Tx4 message.

The Status bar now displays the number of decodes found in the most recent Rx sequence.

The "Highlight Callsign" UDP message has been enhanced to allow clearing of old highlighting for a specified callsign. Please note a recommended restriction on the use of this message in the documentation here: <https://tinyurl.com/y85nc3tg>

- Hamlib - this library which we use for direct rig control has had many defect repairs and enhancements, we thank the contributors to that project for their work.

Upgrading from earlier versions of WSJT-X should be seamless. There is no need to uninstall a previous version or move any files.

Please do not continue to use any release candidate -- that is, any beta release with "-rc#" in the version name.

Links to installation packages for Windows, Linux, and Macintosh are available here: <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjt.html>

You can also download the packages from our SourceForge site:

<https://sourceforge.net/projects/wsjt/files/> It may take a short time for the SourceForge site to be updated.

WSJT-X is licensed under the terms of Version 3 of the GNU General Public License (GPL). Development of this software is a cooperative project to which many amateur radio operators have contributed. If you use our code, please have the courtesy to let us know about it. If you find bugs or make improvements to the code, please report them to us in a timely fashion.

We hope you will enjoy using WSJT-X Version 2.2.0.

-- 73 from Joe, K1JT, Steve, K9AN, and Bill, G4WJS,
for the entire WSJT Development Group

wsjt-devel mailing list
wsjt-devel@lists.sourceforge.net
<https://lists.sourceforge.net/lists/listinfo/wsjt-devel>

• —• —••

If your up for a ham radio challenge listen to the song at the top of this web page. Pay attention to the musical chorus it is repeated three times

<https://soundcloud.com/michael-zelenko/better-days-by-natalia-gutierrez-y-angelo>

If you think you got it or don't have a clue what I'm talking about you can go to this web page and get the rest of the story.

<https://www.theverge.com/2015/1/7/7483235/the-code-colombian-army-morsecode-hostages>

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2020 WI QSO PARTY - Working DX

By Michael Johnson, W09B

Participating in the WI QSO Party as both a mobile participant and a committee member has its good moments. For the committee, I don't do the heavy lifting that Tom, Howard and Chuck do for the contest, but I do get to send out hundreds of emails and Facebook notifications plugging or sharing info about our little homegrown contribution to the State QSO Party universe. As a mobile op, I get the thrill of running a frequency which can be very busy at times. Every once in a while my dual role sparks an unexpected dividend. This year's WIQP did just that.

As part of the final wrap up for the contest, once Tom, K9BTQ, releases the final results, it is my job to get the word out. One task is to email all the participants the link for the results and invite them to visit our webpage. It is a very automated process but regardless I've got my name and call at the bottom and I get a few responses. It is kind of nice to get some feedback as these tend to be rainbow shots into the blue.

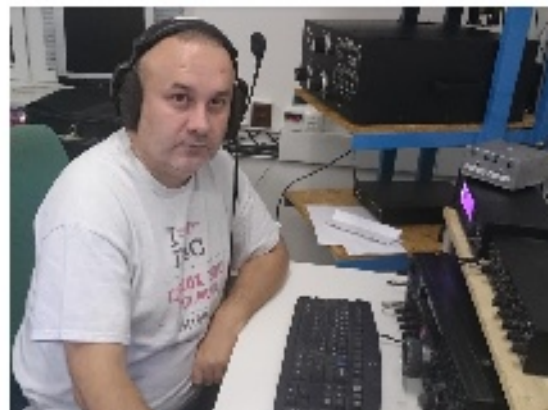
One of those responses came from Laci, OM2VL in the Slovak Republic. In addition to thanking us for getting the results out so quickly, he was wondering why we did not issue awards to DX stations specifically. When I saw his callsign, I paused for a moment. I was sure we had worked each other in the contest. Checking the log, turns out that was the case. It happened about 7:30 PM on 80 meter CW. I was parked at Greenfield Park working a bunch of WI's, MI's, IL's when out of nowhere OM2VL calls. Caught me by surprise. So much so that after the QSO, I followed him up band just to confirm that I had not made a mistake on his call. I remember thinking "OMG" at the time, caught my breath and got back into the contest rhythm.

Working mobile, especially on 80 meters, your signal at 100 W's is pretty much down in the mud. I remember thinking at the time that OM2VL must have one heck of a station. This was a great opportunity to ask Laci those questions directly. We exchanged a number of emails which filled in his operating history and situation very nicely.

Turns out Laci, OM2VL has been an active, you could say voracious, DX and Contest operator for many years. A real life BIG GUN.

In his own words:

My amateur radio career began at the beginning of the 70's when I was 5-6 years old. At that time, there in my home town Dunajská Streda, was a good working radio amateur club - OK3KTD, also my father OK3TCG was a member of this club. I took part on many contests and I collected QSLs for RARE Awards especially Islands, castles, Antarctica and many other. I have confirmed 340 DXCC, 160m-321, 80m-335, 30m-336, 20m-338, 17m-337, 15m-339, 12m-332, 10m-336, 270 Canadian Island, 366 US Island from all 50 states, 310 Antarctic station / 128 base / 28 DXCC. I have my all LOGs till



2020 WI QSO PARTY - Working DX

today and when I hear some RARE station I send also my SWL card.

I began work from 1st January 1992 with OM2VL callsign on all frequencies, but unfortunately at that time I had not much time for my hobby.

At the age of 15 I met Tibi OM3RM who was acting in club OM3RMM (on contests OM8A). He approached me to join their club, I agreed with pleasure. We started in these years to build the OM8A radio amateur station on the new QTH – about 25km from my home. In 2008, 2017, 2018, 2019 (CQWW SSB 80m) and 2019 (CQWW CW 80m) I took part as OM2VL in SO80m Assisted category. I am the EU record holder on CW and World Record holder on SSB!

As I remember we worked the first CQWW from new QTH in 2006. From that I was travelling to station regularly at free weekends to make DX's or contests. I have confirmed 338 DXCC, missed only North Korea; 160m – 258, 80m – 304, 40m – 320, 30m – 309, 20m – 334, 17m – 307, 15m – 327, 12m – 267, 10m – 300.

From 2008 I am interested in the US County Award and I started collect the counties, so now I have 2933 counties confirmed. Unfortunately, many stations do not send QSL ... ☹

I started also to take part on various QSO parties – now these became my favourite contests. I took part in 153 QSO Parties (20.000 QSO) and won totally 67 Certificates + 50 Plaques from 23 different states.

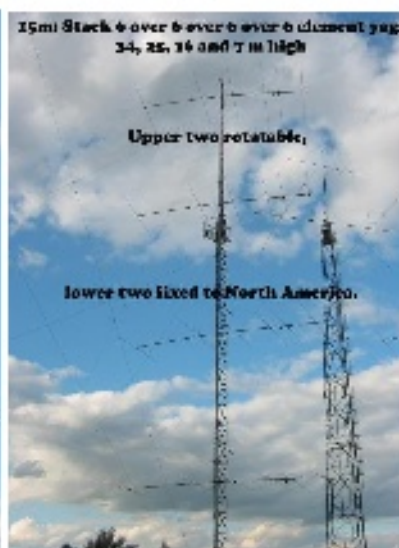
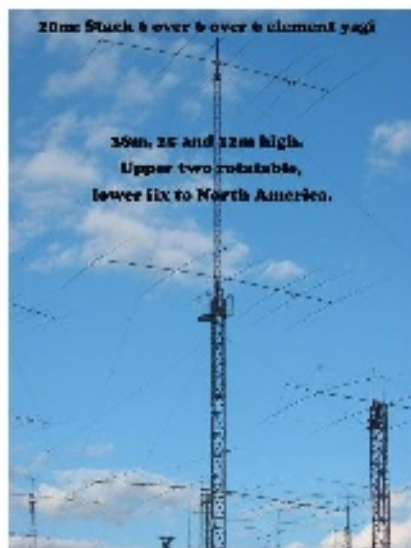
From last year I am interested also for County Challenge Toplist (need every county on every band and on every band on CW, SSB, RTTY)

That is some serious amateur radio cred!! Which gets us to the good part....The Wall Paper, oh the Wall Paper!!!



2020 WI QSO PARTY - Working DX

Which of course brings us back to the beginning of this article, the part where Laci plucks my little 100 W mobile CW signal out of the ether. You just know there is a serious antenna farm behind all that radio talent. And you are absolutely correct.



What a great QSO this turned out to be. After reading and seeing all about OM2VL, it should be no surprise that he happened to be the top DX entry in this year's WI QSO Party. Thanks for the QSO Laci!!

DXing and Contesting - June Update

DX UPDATE:

For we ham radio HF junkies wallowing in the throes of Solar Minimum 2020 any story, rumor, whisper of sunspots, solar flares or CME's is like a tonic for what seems like a forever walk in the Death Valley of ZERO sunspots. So nuggets like this, <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2020/new-sunspots-herald-increased-solar-activity-cycle-sdo>, are welcomed with open arms. Hang on brother, just a while longer. Better days are coming. Sometime.

DXpeditions: Don't hold your breath for June. Unless you plan to personally charter a boat to the Dry Tortugas, you are fresh out of luck this month. And next month too. Actually, the schedule for 2020 DXpeditions shares the same prognosis as old Sol's sunspots: ZERO.

HF and VHF: Despite the less than stunning news above, DX is alive and well on the bands.

VHF: The June Sporadic-E season is running at full throttle. With the popularity of FT8, the 50 Mhz band is popping with activity. Currently very good openings are occurring throughout the day. Morning seems to be particularly strong. Skip zones of 1000 mi to 1500 mi are common. Multi-hop openings to Europe are also happening. CW and SSB are equally in play. Don't forget to check 10 meters and 2 meters as well with these strong sporadic-E events. Tis the season!!

HF: DX is readily available on HF. 20 meters is active during the day and stretching into the evenings. Evenings on 40 and 60, that's right 60 METERS, can yield astounding results. If you are playing FT8, the bands will be very crowded. Grey Line propagation is hot, hot, hot. But you know that. You've always known that.

CONTEST UPDATE:

Nothing says June more than Field Day, which is going to be different for 2020. Check elsewhere in Hamtrix for info on club participation for this very unusual year. As we can do a club aggregate score, you can pitch in by getting on the air. Field Day aside, there are plenty of other contest activities:

- CWops CWT: Every Wednesday at 2:00 PM. CW only. Watch Facebook for which park I'll be operating from.
- Kentucky QSO Party: Sat, June 6th. All day.
- Cookie Crumble QRP Contest: Sunday afternoon, June 7th.
- ARRL June VHF Contest: June 14th and 15th. BIG Contest!!!
- West Virginia QSO Party: June 20th
- ARRL FIELD DAY: June 27th and 28th

Finally, the Best Contest You Can Enter, PERIOD

- RAC Canada Day Contest: July 1st



Thanks to Feroz Ghouse WU9N for allowing us to use his power point presentation from his May club talk in Hamtrix.

Me... a little bit

- Sri Lanka – 4S7FG (1977/78 #255)
- Came to La Crosse, WI in Jan 1985
- NgFJL → WU9N
 - Did a lot of Skywarn, Emergency Operations
- Started
 - Handi Talkie....Packet Radio... HF
- HF
 - TS – 820, TS-850, TS-870
 - 2 El Tri Band Yagi, 2 El 5 Band Quad (rebuilding)
- Current Status – Slowly awakening after a long period of Hibernation!

Sri Lanka



- 268 Miles by 139 Miles
- 21.5 Million – Multi Ethnic & Multi Racial
- Recorded history goes back to 6BC
- Oldest documented Living tree (2500 plus years)
- Colonized by the Portuguese, Dutch & British – Cultural Mish-Mash! – Big Salad Bowl/Melting Pot
- Independence in 1948 & 1971
- Multi-Ethnic, Multi Religious, Multi Cultural Society. Harmony?

Sri Lanka

- Varied Terrain (Sea Level to 7500ft)
- Primary Commodities – Tea, Rubber Coconut
- Secondary Commodities – Gems, other natural resources,
- Climate – Hot & Muggy – Need swamp coolers over air conditioners
 - 6 Deg North of Equator
 - SW & NE Rains
 - Bugs & Mosquitos
- Hydro Power
- Footprint of Adam! (Adam's Peak)

Land Bridge Nasa Satellite Image



Tit-bits

Historical

- 5th Cent. AD Archeological Digs
 - Let not one drop of rain go by on its way to the Sea
 - Flush Toilets
 - SS Surgical Instruments
 - Aveda
 - Signs for contemplation
 - Book of Stone
- Pre Christ Documentation
- Aborigines

Other

- Elephant Orphanage
- Eco Tourism – Big Trend!
- International Biosphere
- 3 Major Air Crashes – no Survivors
- Only 9 deaths from COVID
- Home of Arthur C. Clarke
- Strategic Location (Military)
- World Heritage Site

Politics

- Today a Socialist Democracy
- Multiple parties across the spectrum
- Was a Socialist Nation (lived thru it)
- Roman Dutch Law
- Follows British Parliamentary Process
- Country is divided & governed in regions (like the US)
- Today – Very Capitalist
- Near Socialism
 - Assets nationalized by Govt.
 - Land redistributed
 - No Imports (Self sufficiency)
 - Lines for everything
 - Travel restricted
 - Speech restricted
 - Rationed Items
 - Breads, Flour, Rice
 - Cloth to make clothes.
 - Other commodities.
 - Tough & Hard Days!
 - Media & People Control

Ham Radio in 4S7 Land

- First Licenses 1946 (VS7)
- Changed to 4S7 in 1952
- Used Lots of War Surplus
- Very Highly Regulated
 - Written exam
 - CW Portion (12, wpm & 20 wpm)
 - Security, Criminal & Character Checks
- First Year – ONLY CW
- Lots of Home Brew
- Ham-bug but in 1976 (JOTA)
- Great Mentors (4S7SW, 4S7JA)
- Licensed in 1977 (DARC)
- Held License #255
- First Shack: RCA AR-88D & X-tal Xmitter for 40M, Dipole
- Yaesu FT DX-400, TA33JR
- 50K QSO's a Year!
- A Privilege

Ham Radio in 4S7

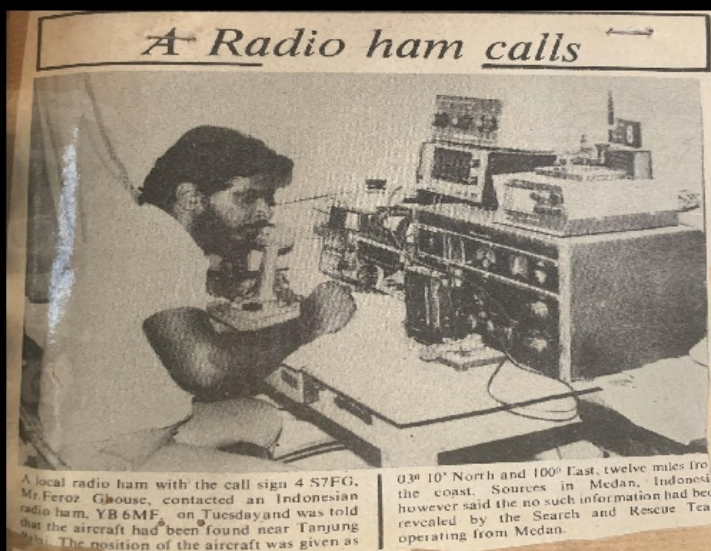
- Active Radio Club (Editor, Secretary)
- Practical Builders
- Necessity was the Mother of...
- DF Contests were great
- Relied on the generosity of Hams from other countries
- Locals host visiting Hams for an authentic local experience



Ham Radio Operations

- Getting on the Air was NUTS (4S7 was rare – still is)
- Pileups considered normal
- Hard to have a rag chew
- Develop novel techniques
 - Work station a few KHz up or down from primary freq.
 - Discipline –
 - Have a third party moderator
 - QSL Manager
- Inconsiderate LIDS
- Logs by hand
- Worked every night from approx. 8pm to 3 am
- Hams would send equipment (Used)
- Very disciplined (Traditions)
 - No vulgarities, politics, religion etc.
- A lot of Goodwill
- A fraternity of hams worldwide – especially when travelling!

Search & Rescue





Stealth 9400 HF Mobile NVIS Magnetic Loop Antenna |

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