



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

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Volume 64, Issue 7 July, 2017

## JULY 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

July 11, 2017 6:30 PM

Mike Johson WO9B

Trivia discussion

Field Day wrap-up

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

### Save The Date

W.A.R.A.C. Awards Dinner will  
be held at New Berlin Hills on  
October 29th at 5:00 PM.

### WARAC 2-meter net

Every Wednesday at 8pm

SEWFARS K9ABC Repeater 146.820 standard (-)offset  
127.3 Hz CTCSS

if repeater down try 146.55 simplex

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 July 2017*

We have another **Field Day** under our belt and I think everything went very well. See Chuck's summary and results information elsewhere in this issue. **Thanks to Chairman Chuck** for putting together a successful event and thanks to everyone who participated. And **thanks to Erwin, WI9EV**, whose publicity efforts paid off again with the visit of New Berlin mayor Dave Ament on Saturday.

It was a great to see everyone working together and I hope y'all had fun with your fellow club members! And it's great to see members that have joined our club in more recent years now playing major roles. I think the old farts among us are doing a good job of passing this knowledge on to the new farts. This bodes well for future WARAC Field Days

The program at the upcoming meeting will be **Mike Johnson, WO9B**, with a **Trivia** discussion and maybe even a little competition. Mike has been a bit tight-lipped about the details but the gleam in his eyes tell me it's gonna be good. Be there and find out!

Do you have a story to tell? We plan to have a story-telling session as each club meeting, so we'll do this after the Trivia bash. We'll also have a club trailer status update.

And of course, we'll have a **Field Day wrap-up** presentation by Chuck at our upcoming meeting. And, as usual, we'll finish up with our open discussion period and refreshments. **Please bring your questions, comments and show-and-tell items as usual.**

**Saturday, July 8** is the South Milwaukee Club's

**Swapfest** (Oak Creek). Steve, Phil and Co. will be there with plenty of donated items to sell for our scholarship fund. Contact Phil, W9NAW, or Steve, NO9B for details. Thanks in advance to everyone who helped collect and sell donated material for our Scholarship Fund.

I'm pleased to announce that **Barb Garnier, KD9HPS**, has accepted the position of **Sunshine** committee chairperson. In the last few years our club has been lax in recognizing members who are experiencing medical problems or who have had a death in the family. Barb will respond to these needs on behalf of our club, so please let her know if you hear of a member who needs some sunshine!

We have a few months until **Sunday, October 29**, the date of this year's annual **Anniversary Awards Dinner**, but these things have a habit of sneaking up. Mark your calendar. This year's committee, Erwin von der Ehe, Steve Dryja and Mike Johnson, has started putting the event together. We'll be at a new location: **New Berlin Hills Country Club**, 13175 W Graham St in New Berlin.

In **August**, we will have Don Solberg, K9AQ, give us the low-down on his Internet remote station which includes a home-brew solid-state amplifier. And we will continue our Story -telling series.

Again, please bring your stories for the July and August meetings. Any general interest topic is fine, although stories related to ham radio are preferred. Please contact me if you need help with pictures or other visual aids.

Don't forget our before-meeting dinner at **Johnny V's Classic Café, 1650 S. 84th St.** at 5:00PM.

See you at the meeting! Bring a friend!  
Tom, K9BTQ

## **From the Editor**

Field day is over. I was only able to stop in for a few minutes. It seemed like it went well and contacts were up. See Chuck's article on pg five and six.

**editorial pg 11**

# **WARAC General Meeting Minutes**

## **June 13, 2017**

### **Introduction**

The meeting was called to order at 19:00 by President, Tom Macon (K9BTQ). Overall meeting attendance was 22 members, plus 02 visitors.

### **Tonight's Program:**

- Current issues facing amateur radio and the American Radio Relay League – Kermit Carlson (W9XA)
- Field Day 2017 Planning – Chuck Dellis (W9WLX)
- Club trailer status – Steve Dryja (NO9B)

### **Future Programs**

July '17: Ham Radio Trivia and story telling  
August '17: Home Brew Remote and Amplifier

### **Business**

- Scholarship recipient is Erik J. Maplethorpe (KC9PDU) of Round Lake, IL
- Chris Kelling (KC9UXC) will set up W.A.R.A.C. FaceBook page.
- Check on hamsci.com for propagation during upcoming solar eclipse.
- May meeting minutes were voted on and approved.
- Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV) gave the status of Swapfest 2019 planning
- Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV) & Mike Johnson (WO9B) & Steve Dryja (NO9B) gave status of the Awards Dinner, scheduled for August 29, 2017.
- Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV) plans to attend a focus meeting on June 14th regarding plans for a new facility at the Waukesha EXPO center. Member input for our Swapfest needs was solicited for introduction into the focus meeting.
- Tom Macon (K9BTQ) gave a recap of the Dayton Hamvention visit.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:07.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV)  
Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.  
2017-06-13

# **W.A.R.A.C. Board Meeting**

## **June 27, 2017**

Howard Smith (WA9AXQ) called the meeting to order at 18:58.

Present: Tom Macon (K9BTQ), Howard Smith (WA9AXQ), Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV), Steve Dryja (NO9B), Frank Humpal (KA9FZR), Dave Garnier (WB9OWN). Guest: Barb Garnier (KD9HPS).

Howard Smith (WA9AXQ) presented the monthly Treasurer's report.

A discussion of Field Day antenna mast safety was held. We are investigating a safer way to raise, extend, retract and lower the masts. Safety improvements are being considered for FD

Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV) gave a Swapfest update.

### **Programs**

July, 2017: Field Day Wrap-up. Ham Radio Trivia.

August, 2017: Remote Operation

September, 2017:

### **Future Program Ideas**

Logger 32 logging software

SO2R Contest operating

WE Energies or Time-Warner Cable noise tracking

Feedlines

VHF/UHF Digital Communications

Ham trivia night

Story-telling night

Careers?

### **Other Items**

- Tom Macon (K9BTQ) will work on a Software One order.

- Sunshine committee – Barb Garnier (KD9HPS) offered to assume the responsibility.

- Operations Manuals: Awards Dinner Manual was updated and will be filed on the W.A.R.A.C. ftp site.

Chris Kelling (KC9UXC) offered to do a W.A.R.A.C. Facebook page. He is invited to the next board meeting to educate the board.

Meeting was adjourned at 20:47.

Respectfully submitted,

Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV)

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

2017-06-27

## **Field Day 2017**

*By Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, Field Day Chairman*

Can you believe it is already July and Field Day 2017 is behind us? Propagation was better than last year, but we are still experiencing band conditions different than what we have been accustomed to. Our overall performance is up 34% over last year. This year we did 1,115 QSOs vs. last year's 830.

We were blessed with very good weather this year, low humidity and moderate temperatures. Sunday morning was quite cold for late June with the temperature dipping to 49 degrees around 3:30 am, but bounced back quickly after sunrise. The weather tight campers proved necessary again this year; we had a couple of scattered showers move through Saturday evening. Luckily there was no lightening and the stations did not have to be shut down.

Our site was visited by New Berlin Mayor, Dave Ament, and Emergency Management Deputy Director, Jim Burns, KD9CIV. Thanks to Erv von der Ehe for driving the awareness of Field Day with the New Berlin municipal government. For the third year, a Proclamation to officially recognize and designate June 24 & 25 as Amateur Radio Weekend was made by Mayor Ament.

This year's antenna farm saw minor changes over last year. The 80/20 meter station ran all bands on an 80 meter loop fed with ladder line. Two trees and one mast supported the antenna with an average height of about 50 feet. The 40/15 meter station used an Alpha Delta DXCC multi-band dipole in a flat top configuration with a single 40 foot mast and a tree as supports. This year, 15 meters was loaded up into the 40 meter dipole. The VHF station ran 6 meters only using a Yagi on a single rotatable mast and for a second year, a 6 meter loop mounted above the Yagi, allowing monitoring in an omnidirectional pattern.

For a second year, the 40/15 station ran a FlexRadio 6500, performing very well. The crowded conditions on 40 meters, phone and CW, was a pleasure to work using the Flex. The visual signal monitoring helps to optimally set filters and passband quickly. Jim Casamassa, WB9IXS, and Paul Sperbeck, WB9HCO, ran 40 meter CW Saturday evening. Jim was interested in running it with his configuration and accessories so in just a few minutes, we swapped laptops, imported profiles and they were up and running the Flex their way without any issue. Nice testament to flexibility.

The 80/20/10 station ran an Icom 7600 and the 6m station ran an Icom 7100. The 80/20/10 station had some unusual noise this year, so the generator was shut down and power was supplied from the 6 meter station. Additionally, there was a noisy computer/power supply combination that needed swapping to rid the station of QRN. With the addition of a few ferrites to the computer cables to address some RF issues, the station was up and running.

Total contacts were 1115 this year with 51% CW and 49% phone. All contest bands, 80m through 6m, had openings, though some were modest. We worked 77 of 83 sections. The six missing sections were East Bay, Idaho, Newfoundland/Labrador, Northern Territories, Ontario North, and Virgin Islands.

2017 marks the 7<sup>th</sup> year as your Field Day Chairman. Included are the total QSOs over the last 7 years. This year is the second highest in total QSO count over the last 7 years. Nice showing!

Top 10 QSOs/Sec		Bottom 10 QSOs/Sec	
VA	76	PAC	2
OH	59	PR	2
NC	49	SF	2
EPA	44	SJV	2
MDC	41	AB	1
GA	38	AK	1
TN	38	EWA	1
AL	32	MAR	1
NFL	32	MB	1
WPA	32	ND	1

Band	CW	PH	Total
6M	0	143	143
10M	20	56	76
15M	106	75	181
20M	118	80	198
40M	268	179	447
80M	61	9	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>1115</b>

Year	Total
<b>2017</b>	<b>1115</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>830</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>1540</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>691</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>875</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>958</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>921</b>

Thanks to the entire WARAC team that help made Field Day 2017 a success! Congratulations!

-73, Chuck, W9WLX

## Bill Priebe, K9BTP, Silent Key

*By Tom Macon, K9BTQ*

Bill and I go back over 60 years. It will be hard to adjust to a world where he is not a phone call or a radio call away.

When I graduated from the eighth grade, my Dad bought me an S-38 (a basic shortwave receiver), which began my interest in radio. And through school and Explorer Scouts I came to know a guy with similar interests named Bill.

Besides his own interest in radio, Bill had an older brother Joe, who was a ham radio operator (W9YZS). With Joe as our mentor (called an "elmer" by hams), Bill and I spent a lot of time monkeying with old radios and learning how they worked.

A couple of years later, in the fall of 1955 (early high school), we both took the test for our Novice ham radio license, administered by Ray Frankenberg, W9RHT, another Rhinelander ham. We both passed and were assigned adjacent callsigns, KN9BTP and KN9BTQ. The following summer we again tested together for our General class licenses, passed and were able to shed the Novice "N" in our callsigns.

As luck would have it, Bill received his General "ticket" in the mail one day before I did. He immediately hopped on his bike, came to my house and put my station on the air on phone (voice) for the first time. I got to sit and watch. Over the years, Bill made sure I never forgot this experience.



After high school, I ended up settling in Milwaukee and during the busy family-raising years we didn't connect very often. We did reconnect after retirement and one of the reconnections was a weekly radio conversation (QSO) every Wednesday morning on 75 meters. These weekly conversations were soon joined by other hams in and near Wisconsin and within a few months it evolved into a daily on-the-air group called the "Nut Net". A bunch of nuts.

On September 17, 1960 Bill married his high school sweetheart Jean Sparks and they made a family for almost fifty-seven years. They had four children; Mark, Julie, Katy and Christy. Bill and Jean also have twelve grandkids and seven great-grandkids



**Bill with my S-38 receiver in 1954**



Bill was a 1960 graduate of Rhinelander High School and went on to work as a machinist at Printpack, Inc. for forty-three and a half years. He was loved and appreciated by everyone who knew him and was well known for being a hard worker, lover of water, motorcycles, airplanes and all things weather related. But above all, he was known as someone who cared for his wife, family and friends with the greatest of sincerity and love.

A memorial service for Bill was held Wednesday, July 5, 2017 at Grace Foursquare Church in Rhinelander.

Work on our trailer  
continuals as time  
permits.

The trailer was at Field  
day.



## Field Day pictures



New Berlin  
Mayor visiting  
site



What could  
possibly go wrong.  
HI HI

Just a small 6 meter  
beam



**Six meter beam  
connected now time  
to raise it.**



**Chuck and Barb  
getting contacts.**

**Time to fuel up the  
operators**



**Station up and  
running**

Here is a site that makes you glad your most challenging antenna problems are only light breezes.

[http://www.mro-network.com/engineering-design/understanding-today-s-antenna-complexities?NL=AW-05&Issue=AW-05\\_20170613\\_AW-05\\_241&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article\\_8&utm\\_rid=CPEN1000000265045&elq2=98d49c4e10a7483a99e8967a3ec4fb80&utm\\_content=buffer8d501&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](http://www.mro-network.com/engineering-design/understanding-today-s-antenna-complexities?NL=AW-05&Issue=AW-05_20170613_AW-05_241&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article_8&utm_rid=CPEN1000000265045&elq2=98d49c4e10a7483a99e8967a3ec4fb80&utm_content=buffer8d501&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

## editorial

Not much is going on around here, at least on the Ham radio side. It looks like I need to fix my two meter antenna up on the roof. The big question will be should I just say the heck with it and go buy one. Or do I want to build one. It isn't that hard to build one and there are many choices.

I like the building option but one can really end up spending a lot of time over designing an antenna. Temporarily I may just put up a old discone I have laying around. This one was just built as an experiment to see if it would work. I even put a bunch of magnets on it so I could mount it on the roof of my car. It did work but got some strange looks. I was in Chicago at the time so it might have been a good thing keeping people from getting to close! HI HI There are many other options which all look interesting. I always like being a little different than normal. Keeps life interesting.

There is an article on pg 7 by Tom Macon K9BTQ on Bill Priebe K9NTQ who became a Silent KEY after a hard fought fight with cancer. Bill was one of the founding fathers of the morning nut net on 3.985 mhz.

As many of you know Judy and me are still going down the road of healing her perforated stomach ulcer. We appreciate the continued concern and prayers from all of you.

73

Frank KA9FZR

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.