



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 74, Issue 7 July, 2025

JULY CLUB HAPPENINGS



NUT NET
3.985mhz
Monday-Saturday
8:15am CT

WARAC 4th Tuesday
Breakfast
At the Forum
Layton & Hyw 100 at
8:30am

The Milwaukee-Florida
Net time is:
7:15 - 8:00AM Central
8:15 - 9:00AM Eastern
Mon through Sat

Meeting
Tuesday July 8, 2025 7:00 pm
Community Center
14750 W. Cleveland Ave.
New Berlin, WI
Between Moorland and
Sunnyslope



July 8th 2025 Meeting
Raspberry Pi in the Shack!

This month's meeting
presentation is by Scott
Scherer, KC9WPS titled
"How to spend way too
much money and
achieve total
aggravation and build a
very cool Raspberry Pi
controlled Ham
Station".

Field Day follow up Dave Garnier

Premeeting dinner
New Berlin Ale House 5:15pm
16000 W. Cleveland Ave
West of Moorland Rd.

Sendik's Grill fundraiser
September 6, 2025
11:00 to 4:00 pm
At the New Berlin store

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WARAC 4th Tuesday Breakfast

NOTE NEW LOCATION

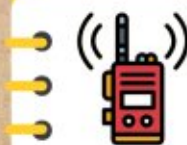
Several years ago there was talk among Nut Net members that we should get to meet each other. A breakfast get together idea was started. It was open to all hams, XYL/partners and anyone who wanted to learn about amateur radio. Even visiting OM/XYL couples joined us.

So, on the fourth Tuesday each month at 8:30 am we meet at [The Forum Restaurant](#), corner of [HWY 100 and Layton](#), [Greenfield, WI](#). Looking forward to seeing you, mark your calendar.

Phil, W9NAW

WARAC Find Us On The Air

VHF Simplex 146.55 Mhz & AllStar #63584



Looking for a Club Member to chat with? Fire up the VHF rig and give a shout out on the VHF Simplex Frequency 146.55 / Allstar 63584. You'll be surprised how often someone is listening. Hit the PTT and say "Hello"

DMR - BM TG 3155 WI State



The WI State 3155 TG is available on all the local DMR Repeaters AND via your HotSpot. Put yourself monitoring and come find a Club Member

Nut Net - Mon to Sat on 3.985 Mhz @ 8:15 AM



Join The Nut Net on 80 Mtr SSB from 8:15 to 9:00 AM Mondays thru Saturdays. Check-ins are from all over WI. You'll be a Nut Netter regular in no time. This is a general discussion net that gets your day started out right.

Milw - Florida Net - Mon to Sat 14.290 Mhz 7:00 AM



Join Tom, K9BTQ, for this early morning Check In Net, Mon thru Sat on 20M from 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM. Get the news to get your day started out just right.

Happy 4th to Everyone!!

June is a slippery month. It goes by QUICK!! So here we find ourselves with a bit of a hot weather binge and bingo, the 4th of July is upon us. Yea!! I certainly hope you are



all prepped for the parades and fireworks. I'm planning on a New Berlin celebration this year. I'm just now back in town from Field Day and what a time it was.

Speaking of Field Day, I understand from Field Day Chairman Dave, WB9OWN that WARAC's Field Day efforts at Col Heg Park in Wind Lake went very well. It wouldn't be fun without a visit from the fates, but all in all the group was well presented, fed and ran a couple of hot stations. Dave

will be filling us in on all the good news...can't wait to hear from everyone.

If you are looking for something to do radiowise, this is a good week to warm up the finals and go grab some 13 Colonies QSO's. It is a real live feeding frenzy at times, but I really enjoy the action. Maybe this year I'll actually work the GB13COL station.

This month's meeting presentation is by Scott Scherer, KC9WPS titled "**How to spend way too much money and achieve total aggravation and build a very cool Raspberry Pi controlled Ham Station**". I'd say we are in for a treat!!

See you Tuesday at 7:00 PM and you are more than welcome to hit up the pre-meeting dinner at the New Berlin Ale House.

WARAC General Meeting Minutes - June 10, 2025

Called to order by Pierre Porter KD9SSY @ 7 pm.

Attendance: 25 Member's.

May General Meeting Minutes – Approved.

Treasurers report Bill N9KPH: Income \$253, Sendix's. There will be WIQSO party expenses, Field Day expenses later this month.

Meeting place update: MJ WO9B – August is the end of the free use of the Community Center. It is unknown if we can get into the new Community center and what it will cost the club. The club may have to look at the Library, Rec center or else where.

Sendix's Frank KA9FZR – We had poor weather. We only made \$262. Next one is September 6. At the New Berlin Location.

Field Day: Update Dave WB9OWN: June 28 @ Colonel Heg Memorial Park – Wind Lake, Norway.

Arrive 9AM to start setup. Need spud guns. Paul and Phil,?. Photo/video Model Release forms this year. No GOTA, no Educator or Safety office. Looking for some one to setup and do winlink. The grill at the park is in bad shape. Problem with disposing of part used charcoal, ash's. Can anyone bring a Gas grill. Club will be operating 3A Battery. 3 Transmitters. 40M, 20M, 15M or 10m. Gill, Donna vhf station. Bill R. Food. Carla bring coffee. And another FD meeting before FD. Gill will bring BPF's.

Presentation – WI QSO Party – Chuck W9WLX:

40M did good this year. 20M did not open up like last year. 468 logs were received compared to 532 last year. Submissions from outside of Wisconsin totaled 298, down by 36 and in state submissions 170. Down by 28. Wisconsin Counties activation, 71 counties had QSOs logged. Only Rusk County was missing. 49 States had QSO activity with None for Hawaii. 7 Dx logs were also received. 15M had very little activity, and no QSOs were logged for 2M.VHF activity was up 796 compared to 489 last year. The 9 Plaques and certificates have been sent out. The Full Wisconsin QSO Party report is at . The next WI QSO Party is 3-15-2026.

July presentation Rpi in the home/Shack by Scott Scherer KC9WPS.

South Milwaukee Swapfest July 5th.

Mike WO9B – TIDRADIO TD-H3 multi-band radio

TD-H3 multi-band radio ~ \$30 on Amazon. Has AM/FM Weather - Rx. Ham bands 2M/220/440 Tx/Rx. USB-C cable or BT programming. USB-C Charging. With 2 batteries.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Bill Dargis KD9BJZ

Secretary WARAC, June 10, 2025

Contest Corner and DX Report

Michael Falk, AA9RK

As I write this, I'm recovering from a busy Field Day weekend with even more ham radio. WARAC operated at Heg Park in Racine County on Saturday, hosted many club members and visitors, and made about 400 contacts to boot. So Sunday, I made my own Field Day operation from my own shack on emergency power and made an additional 65 QSOs. Monday, I went with my family for a POTA operation and operated a little in the Canada Day contest. You just can't keep me off the air, I guess.

I mentioned this last month, but the CQ **Worldwide VHF contest** is split into two contests this year. July 5/6 is the analog version, so CW, SSB, and FM on 6 and 2 meters are on the table. It's 24 hours, running from Saturday morning until Sunday morning local. Hope for Sporadic-E on 6 meters; it makes these events much more fun.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the **13 Colonies event**. It's not exactly a contest, but it's contest-like. There are multiple stations using the same special event call sign (K2A through K2M for the 13 colonies), plus special American (WM3PEN), British (GB13COL) and French (TM13COL) stations. GB13COL is usually the toughest to contact, but all of these stations should be available on many bands and on SSB, CW, and FT modes. Check dxsummit for spots and check www.13colonies.us for more information.

The **IARU HF World Championship** is running for 12 hours on July 12 and 13, phone and CW, from 160-10 meters (excluding the WARC bands). If you're looking for other events, there are two CW events that weekend (**SKCC Weekend Sprintathon** and **QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint**) that might interest you.

There are a couple of fun events on the weekend of July 19 and 20 that I recommend. One is the **CQ Worldwide VHF Digital Contest** (the FT8/FT4 counterpart of the July 5/6 event). I don't know why more VHF/UHF hams don't try FT4. For whatever reason, they seem to prefer FT8. The other is the **North American QSO Party RTTY**. RTTY is a ton of fun. Set it up beforehand -- it's not something you can really do easily on the fly, and you can test it out on the Weekly RTTY Test, any Thursday from 8:45-9:15 PM. Additionally, the NAQP events are fun and also manageable. They are 12 hours total, so it is possible to put in a serious effort without spending your entire weekend. It's a fun exchange with generally strong signals, but there is a 100 watt power maximum, so you aren't going to get stepped on by kilowatt amplifiers.

On July 26 and 27, you can try a bunch of very different events. **The Puerto Rican radio club is running a 10 meter contest** that weekend, plus **the Flight of the Bumblebees** (a QRP CW event) will be running, in addition to the Alabama QSO Party and a US Counties QSO Party.

Once we reach August, that first weekend has another fun mix of events. Hope for a hot ten meter band again; the **10-10 International group is hosting their SSB Summer Contest**, there is another **North American QSO Party** (CW this time), and

the ARRL is hosting their 222 MHz and Up Distance contest as well (where you use your 6-character grid square to work stations at as great of a distance as possible; more distance is more points).

There are always **fast CW contests (CWTs) every Wednesday, slow CW contests (SSTs) every Friday and Sunday, and FT4, RTTY, and CW Sprints every Thursday**, if you want to scratch that contesting itch between weekend contests.

Here are four DXpeditions you may be interested in:

C94RRC will be QRV from Inhacamba Island from July 5th through 11th, and C93RRC will be QRV from Chiloane Island (both in Mozambique) from July 13 until 19th. Chiloane hasn't been activated since 2006. They plan to operate 24/7, QRO, CW, SSB, and digital.

ZD7TIM, Saint Helena in the South Atlantic, is a Holiday-style DXpedition from July 5-13th, 40-6 meters, CW, SSB, RTTY.

5K0C and 5K0T are QRV from Isla Fuerte, in South America, in late July, as part of an IOTA (Islands on the Air) event. They'll be on HF, VHF, UHF, and satellites from grid FJ19vj, just off the coast of Colombia.

T30TTT is on the air from Tarawa in Kiribati in the Pacific Ocean from now until September. They have several ops and operate a lot of FT8, but also some SSB and CW.

See you next month,
-Michael AA9RK

Field Day 2025 Preliminary Results

Saturday was a gorgeous day, after a week of near 90's and high humidity, we could not have asked for a better day. I am so lucky.

Placing wire antennas in the trees is always an interesting process and this day was no different. Antenna resonance was checked and WARAC was ready to roll at 1pm.

We had more visitors than last year. A local family stopped by and were interested.

We were overstocked with chips and cookies.

FT8 boys were still hungry at 6 after the brats & burgers ran out.

Next year, don't ask the FD chairman where to place the gas grill.

At the end of 7 hours operating two immediate questions come to mind.

- How many contacts did we make?
- How did we do in comparison to last year?

Generally Speaking

The FT8 Boys exceeded last years contacts by 36% Bravo!

The CW Crew exceeded last years contacts by 13%

Whom ever's idea to swap coaxes between stations was brilliant.

15m FT8 results were the same.

10m was a bust.

6m was slightly better than last year – BUT a huge disappointment since the previous days were HOT. Thanks to Gil & Donna for sticking it out.

Thank You Roger Heindl for bring your radio to operate!

Everyone had a good time, Thanks to all who visited and cheered us on.

David Garnier – FD Chairman

Interesting would love to see the schematics to see how they did it.



Facing execution if caught, Australian POWs in 1942 built a radio inside a broomstick. For years, it delivered forbidden BBC war news, providing a vital lifeline of hope.

In the heart of a Japanese prison camp, a simple broomstick concealed a lifeline to the outside world.

Australian radio engineer Russell Francis Wright, captured by the Japanese in 1942, transformed ordinary objects into extraordinary tools of resistance at Changi Prison.

With death as the penalty for possession of radios, Wright and fellow inmates meticulously hollowed out a wooden broomstick, hiding a functioning radio receiver inside.

Every night, prisoners would gather in secret to hear BBC broadcasts, learning vital war updates their captors desperately tried to keep from them.

The ingenuity wasn't limited to Changi. In German camps like Stalag Luft III, Allied airmen concealed radios

within innocent-looking items including a hollowed-out butcher's block.

At the Battle of Anzio in 1944, frontline soldiers crafted so-called "foxhole radios" using razor blades as detectors and barbed wire as antennas.

British POWs in Japanese camps scavenged materials from their surroundings - aluminum foil from tea chests, rusty wire from fences, and vacuum tubes smuggled in at great risk.

These makeshift radios required constant vigilance, with prisoners establishing elaborate warning systems and hiding places to avoid detection during surprise inspections.

For thousands of prisoners, these dangerous contraptions provided more than news - they delivered hope, a crucial connection to the world beyond barbed wire, and proof that human ingenuity could triumph even in the darkest circumstances.

Field Day 2025 in the UP

Michael Johnson, WO0B



Once again I spent Field Day wandering around the woods north of the border, the WI border that is. As Field Day adventures go, this one had no exotic UP destinations associated with it. I spent the weekend hanging out in the Marquette, MI neighborhood and was blessed with incredible temperatures, weather and very decent radio conditions. Friday evening began with dinner in downtown Marquette followed by an outdoor concert by the Marquette Symphony Orchestra Summer Strings. On Field Day Saturday first thing was an SDR bout on the computer copying the ARRL Field Day Message and then a trip to the Field Day site this year at Camp Kona Hills on the outskirts of Marquette. Oh and of course I made a side trip to the Marquette Farmers Market to stock up on some blazing hot Chili Crisp and a Breakfast



Burrito.



I arrived at the Kona Hills Rustic Campground around noon and was expertly escorted to my Field Day site atop a rock outcropping 200+ feet above Lake Superior in the back portion of the camp ground. Though I was packing QRP light, a 100' climb up the rock was just enough to remind me not to get carried away with too much gear. It took a half hour to deploy the Spark Plug antenna and spread out the radio, batteries and logging notebooks on a very thoughtfully located picnic table.

I was all set and ready to go for the 2:00 pm start of Field Day. QRP can be a bit frustrating as getting bumped and banged around the band is part of the QRP life. I found the bands to be decent, but 20 meters was experiencing QSB all afternoon. 40 actually played very well. Manually logging and duping is really slow and laborious. It is hard to make much of a QSO rate, but that is what happens with a tiny power budget of two 1 Ah batteries

The afternoon went by quickly and much to my surprise, Lake Superior was an ideal host this time around. My daughter did a wellness check on her ham radio dad at one point. Pretty sure she has the makings for a good phone op...I don't think CW will ever be her strong suite. Lol



About 7:30, the dinner bell was ringing and it was time to call it a day. I was greeted with a full spread camp dinner with a group of my daughter's friends and family and "bear" dogs. It was wonderful.

Sunday's op was from a different venue. Rain was forecast, though never materialized. I opted for a shelter at the Al Qual Recreation Area in Ishpeming.



It is one of my favorite haunts in the Marquette area and it delivered in spades. I started about 7:30 AM and wrapped up at 2:00 PM. The final tally was about 125 Q's, mostly CW with just a few FT8 contacts thrown in for fun. I managed to send a Winlink email to the WI Section Manager, but that took all of 45 minutes. Seems I have more work to do on my data modes.

After all that radio excitement, we finished the weekend at a 5 course Farm to Table Dinner Event at an isolated farm 50 miles east of Marquette in the middle of the Hiawatha National Forest. With the exception of the oysters, the entire menu was sourced from a coterie of local UP farms and included a wonderful pasta dish, paired wines and fresh rabbit sausage. A great way to finish off a memorable and exciting Field Day adventure.



Editor

This June is one of the few Junes which had a fourth weekend and then a last weekend too on separate weekends! So I was able to get out and see some of the set up and operation in the field.

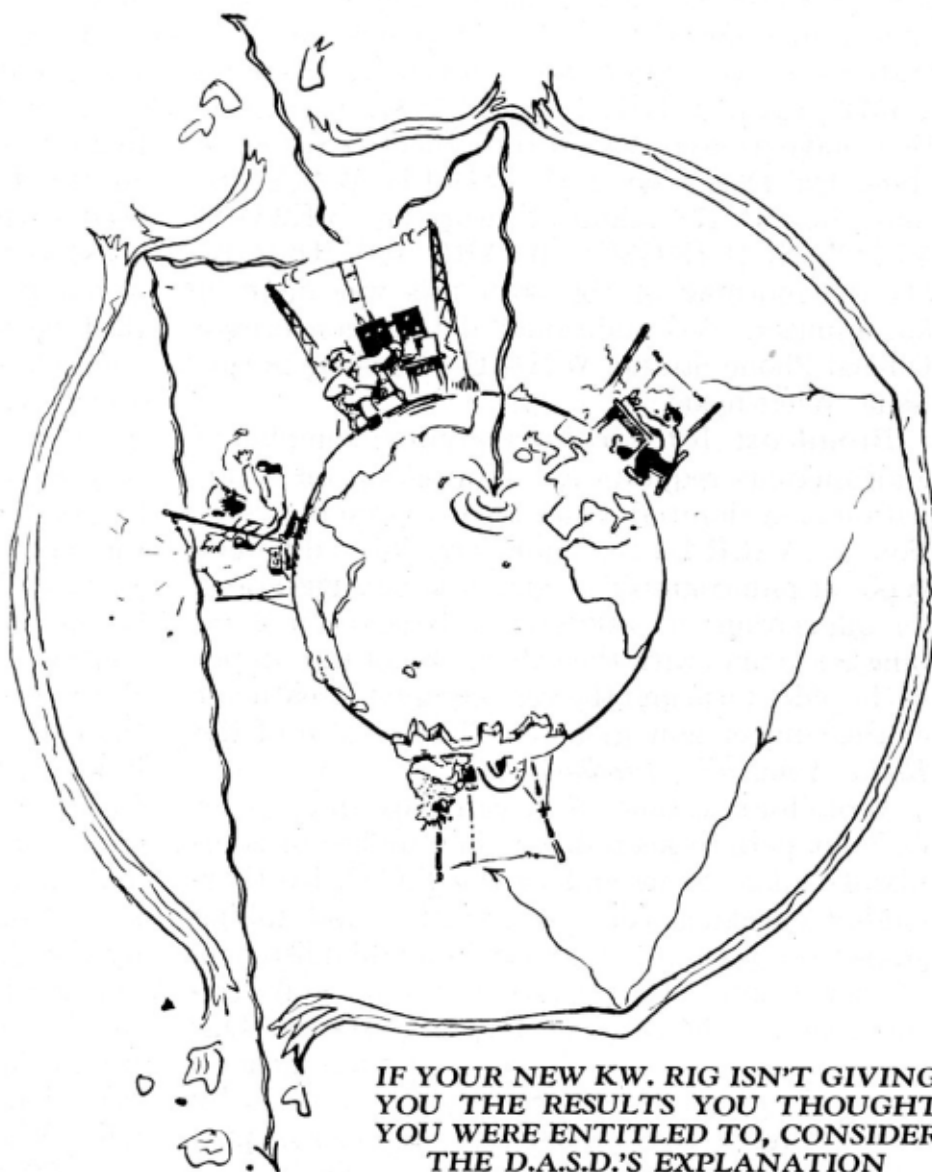
I had a fun time, didn't operate much because I brought Lucky, my Greyhound along. Judy was busy away from home so he came along.

I had a fun time and got to meet some of the Hams I talk to on the nut net which is always fun.

One ham project I'm working on is fixing my screwdriver mobile antenna. So far the rebuild has been interesting. Taking it apart so I can check parts has taken more time than I want to admit. Did learn how to take it apart without doing any damage. I found the fingerstock that shorts the coil to the lower pipe was worn out. The original order of replacement stock may work but would need a spacer. So I ordered the next size up so see if it will work. So far it has been an interesting project. Will keep you informed .

Hope to see you at the meeting

Frank



**IF YOUR NEW KW. RIG ISN'T GIVING
YOU THE RESULTS YOU THOUGHT
YOU WERE ENTITLED TO, CONSIDER
THE D.A.S.D.'S EXPLANATION**
The QRP rig is gentle, safe and sure.

2024 Challenge for our membership. Have someone you meet, Ham or Ham wannabe come to a meeting this

DON'T KEY LIKE A PHONE MAN



SLOW SPEED CW QSO NET

Monday's - 8:00 PM - 146.55 Simplex and AllStar Node #63584

CW Practice

One of the best and maybe the only way to get better at CW is practice. Having someone else who also wants to practice also helps. Just makes it more fun.

The West Allis Radio Club is going to try to help. We are running a CW practice net on Monday at 8pm The repeater is 147.045+ 127.3 the CW portion is on HF

Mike WO9B has been joining me and setting up some practice but we are open for suggestions on where to go with this. Come join us.

Officers and Board
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Vice-President

Pierre Porter KD9SSY

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Bill Reed N9KPH

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Bill Dargis KD9BJZ

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