



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

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Volume 61, Issue 8 August, 2014

## AUGUST CLUB HAPPENINGS

### Club Meeting

St. Peter's Episcopal Church,  
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis  
August 12, 2014 **7:00pm**

#### Program

Wire Antennas

Join us for a pre-meeting dinner  
at Johnny V's Classic Cafe  
1650 S 84th St at 5:00pm



### 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

### Mark your calenders

#### 2014 Awards Dinner

November 2, 2014

**Check out Dave Englmann WB9GZP's article (pp 5-6) on HR-4969 (the ability to put up antennas is something that concerns all of us.)**



### WARAC 2-meter net

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

**NEW** 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 2014*

As we move into August, I have the feeling that the summer will be winding down soon. That means that it's time to get busy with that antenna project you've been wanting to do before cold weather gets here.

So our August program will be an antenna topic. There seems to be a good bit of interest in wire antennas lately so our program at the upcoming meeting will be about horizontal loop antennas versus inverted V's and flattop dipoles. Several members will relate their experiences plus we'll be open for anyone to add their comments and experiences with low-band wire antennas. This promises to be an interesting discussion. Be there!

Thanks to Chuck, W9WLX, for a great job as Field Day chairman and for last month's wrap-up. Also, thanks again to all who participated!

As you know, the 2014 Wisconsin QSO Party results have been published but there is still some unfinished business – the awards; plaques and certificates. We'll talk more about the WIQP awards and WIQP in general at the September meeting. (WIQP results are at <http://www.warac.org/wqp/2014/14results.pdf>).

Don't forget that November 2 is the date of our 60th Anniversary Awards Dinner. This year's committee, Chuck Dellis, Frank Humpal and Paul Hass, is putting this event together. Do you have any club memorabilia – pictures or other items? If so, let one of the committee members know so that your items can be displayed at the dinner.

As always, please bring your stories, on-air activities, travel experiences, etc. for the open discussion portion of our meeting. And don't forget our usual

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**

This edition of Hamtrix turned out to be a miniature antenna edition. See page 5-6 for a good article by Dave Engelmann WB9GZP on bill HR-4969. We all have our thoughts on politics. One of the most important parts of being a Ham is the ability to put up antennas. Ham Radio can be a life time hobby in a real sense of the word. In any of our lives we may be required to move. Having to give up Ham Radio because someone doesn't like my installing an antenna to me would be one more thing I would not want to tolerate.

I was just searching the Internet for some strange antennas to fill space. I found one on using metallic objects for antennas. If anyone has any stories of using some object let me know I would be happy to add it to the newsletter.

When you think about it our hobby is about antennas. Without one we have a very hard time getting out. With a good one even QRP power can get out. The antenna also enables us to hear others. While added power may make you heard only a good antenna enables you to hear others.

Although I've been told building antennas is an engineering exercise I still look at it as having some magic about it. There are so many variables involved, between one transceiver and another, that sometimes it seems like magic when it works!

Frank KA9FZR

# **WARAC General Meeting Minutes**

## **July 8, 2014**

### **Introduction**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President, Tom Macon, K9BTQ. Overall meeting attendance was 19 with 2 visitors.

### **Program**

The evening's program was Hearing Aids 101, presented by Steve Dryja, NO9B, with additional contribution by Bill Reed, N9KPH.

### **Business**

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

November 2 is our 60th anniversary and Awards Dinner. See Tom if you have anything to contribute.

All 72 counties were on the air. W9EAU accomplished a clean sweep. New record score for single op score set this year. 6 plaques will be awarded with a sponsorship program.

South Milwaukee ARC will have their swapfest on July 12. WARAC will be represented with a few items to sell.

Field Day stats were reviewed by mode and band. Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, reviewed personal experience operating W1AW/9 last week.

WRTC 2014 runs from 7 am Saturday to 7am Sunday. Information available at [www.wrtc2014.org](http://www.wrtc2014.org). The event is being held in the US, Boston area.

Swapfest flyers for the WARAC 2015 event are available. See Phil Gural, W9NAW.

Next month's program will be Theory and Use of Wire Antennas.

### **Announcements**

Need suggestions for future program ideas. Please relay your ideas to a board member.

2014 is WARAC's 60th anniversary. The membership was solicited for interest in making the Awards Dinner an anniversary event too.

2 meter net every Wednesday at 8:00 pm on 147.045, + offset, PL 127.3. Join in!

CQ Tuesday, 1:00 pm, 3rd Tuesday, in Waukesha at the New China Buffet.

The Nut Net breakfast is at Genesis Restaurant, 8:30 am, 4th Tuesday of the month.

Dinner at Johnny V's

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX  
Secretary WARAC

## **WARAC Board Meeting July 22, 2014**

Tom Macon called the meeting to order at 6:58 pm.

Present: Tom Macon, K9BTQ, Steve Dryja, NO9B, Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, Frank Humpal, KA9FZR, and Ervin von der Ehe, WI9EV.

### **WIQP**

2014 results are published. Steve Dryja will investigate migrating the database to a file server environment for future development.

### **Field Day Planning**

Field Day documents have been submitted to the ARRL.

### **Awards Dinner, 60th Anniversary**

Dinner planning is ramping up. Venues being reviewed.

### **Programs**

August – Antenna Topics

September –

October – Radio Presentation

### **Radio Merit Badge**

Ervin has communicated with the Potawatomi counsel regarding an event. No response to date.

### **Future Programs**

Yeasu System Fusion

Spotting

DX Suite Software Demo

Rebuilding Rotators/Bird Wattmeters

3 Phase Power Monitors

Tower service presentation

## **Club Operations Manual**

No updates.

### **2011 Audit**

No report.

### **2012 and 2013 Audit**

No report.

## **Other Items**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX  
Secretary WARAC

## **Are We All Doing Our Part To Support HR-4969?**

I assume most have heard about the upcoming vote in Congress on the "Amateur Radio Parity Act". For those who may not be aware of it, it is a very important bill which will affect the future of amateur radio. One of the largest threats we are facing are the restrictions being placed on amateur radio antennas by restrictive covenants being imposed by home owners associations. The percentage of homeowners living under these conditions is growing at an enormous rate.

What HR-4969 will do is extend the PRB-1 act which now prevents states and municipalities from over-riding federal laws to impose unreasonable restrictions on amateur antennas to private property owners. This means that home owners associations, whether in condo developments, private housing developments or even apartment owners, will have to reasonably allow licensed amateurs to put up outside antennas. They will still have the ability to impose restrictions such as height of towers, safety and aesthetic issues etc. However, they will have to be reasonable restrictions that will still allow the amateur to erect an effective outdoor antenna.

This issue affects all amateurs whether or not you think you may someday end up moving to a condo, restrictive housing development or apartment. You still need to have other hams to talk to and the growing restrictive covenants would potentially reduce the number of hams on the air.

The ARRL has set up a link on their site about HR-4969 at [www.arrl.org/hr-4969](http://www.arrl.org/hr-4969). It has updates on the progress of this bill. It gives information on how we can help by writing letters to our representatives. It has a link to a sample letter which you could use as a template and add any comments of your own. It even has links to find out who your district representatives are. The league is asking that we forward the letters to them to present since it takes several weeks for a direct letter to reach a congressional representative. The ARRL is having people in Washington set up meetings on this issue and will be hand carrying the letters to the people in Congress.

Please give some thought to this important issue. The more support we can give to this bill as amateurs the better the chances are for it to be passed.

Dave Engelmann WB9GZP

## **Article found on EHAM while doing a search for "Strange antennas"**

I like to share with you a special event that I have taken part in the last few years that has provided me great entertainment: the K0S Kurt N. Sterba Strange Antenna Challenge Special Event (Kurt's nom de plume used with permission of World Radio).

This special event takes place each Memorial Day weekend (May 28-30), the first 3-day holiday of the year. It offers amateur radio operators a great opportunity to get outside and enjoy the warming weather while playing with all kinds of strange antennas. As a participating K0S Satellite Station the only things you cannot use as an antenna is wire or metal pipes -- unless it is part of another structure, such as a tent you have set up, then you can fly the entire tent as an antenna!

In the past I have successfully used a wide variety of objects as strange antennas, usually between 10 and 40-meters. Band openings dictate where to play. Such strange antennas have included folding chairs, painting easels, chicken wire, a dog kennel, and the neighborhood fence. It is a ton of fun hearing the other station cry "you're using what?"

Last year while using one of my chicken wire antennas one of the stations I had spoken with got

so excited he went down into his walk-in basement and turned his shop lights into a strange antenna. His signal was much weaker than when he was using his normal antenna, but he did succeed in working me "in the blind" (he didn't tell me about his shop light antenna until after we had been conversing for a few minutes).

For this special event I prefer manual transmatches over automatic transmatches because the manual tuners generally are able to match a wider range of impedance than auto-tuners. I believe this is because the auto-tuners are designed to match known and "normal" types of antennas, and have inherently smaller range of impedance differences they will match. Imagine the auto-tuner as a riflescope of high magnification -- the field of vision is much smaller than found with a inexpensive pair of binoculars, which represents our manual transmatch. Which is better? Depends upon your intended use!

For those that care to inform their local media they (perhaps their club) are participating in this special event it offers a good opportunity to generate media coverage. It is quite unusual, especially to non-hams, and is a local event. -- If there is no breaking news you should stand a better than average chance of receiving news coverage.

There are also practical reasons for taking part in this special event. You will learn quite a bit about your transmatch. Believe me, if you can tune up a dog kennel or a ladder, you will find tuning up any "normal" antenna quite easy! You also learn a lot about what may be easily employed as an emergency antenna. Following the ravages of a natural disaster this is a potentially life-saving skill enabling HF communications without use of

normal antennas. If all your regular antennas have been blown into the next county, it will be comforting to know all you really need are a couple lengths of metal object, a tuner, and you can get your HF station back on the air! These ideas tie in with Homeland Security, ARES / RACES, and Skywarn activities, and more news release possibilities.

Don't overlook the importance of pure fun either! It is important to take time just to play now and again. If your club were to take this on as an opportunity to gain public exposure you may be able to capture the imagination of others. With a few handouts available discussing amateur radio, and a person designated as the Minister of Propaganda, you may be able to find a few new members for your club. Stranger things have happened!

Anyone interested in learning more about this can point their browser to <http://www.n0ew.org/k0s/> and read more about this interesting special event. There is also a free PDF "Field Manual" available that serves as an introduction to this topic as well as the fundamentals of antennas and transmatch use.

I hope to hear some of you on the air this Memorial Day weekend calling "CQ K0S, CQ K0S" and that you get a few 59+ reports from your ladder dipole!

73 Erik n0ew

**Looks like an interesting antenna. Just the fact that it says it is -24 dBi at 2 mhz says it might actually work as advertised.**

## **Conformal HF Manpack Antenna 2 – 30 MHz**

Pharad's *octane*<sup>®</sup> conformal HF antenna is a unique field expedient HF antenna that is ideal when moderate distance HF connectivity is desired for on the move communications.

This antenna allows for full mobility when using the PRC-150 HF manpack radio, allowing even in-building or in-structure HF performance.

This antenna is fabricated using a state-of-the-art thin flexible material that easily attaches to the MOLLE system of a rucksack.

The lightweight, unobtrusive conformal design provides the soldier/marine a low profile alternative to visually large field expedient HF antennas.

The antenna comes complete with a standard BNC connector and a MOLLE compatible antenna carrier allowing for easy integration with a variety of systems.



### **Features**

### **Specs**

### **More Information**

Frequency	2 - 30 MHz
Gain	-24 dBi @ 2 MHz -7 dBi @ 30 MHz
Maximum Power	20 Watts
Pattern	Near omni
Polarization	Vertical
Radiator Size (L x W x D)	17" x 13" x 0.5"
Cable Length	48"
Radiator Weight	< 20 oz
Connector Type	BNC

## Ham Radio on the Internet

[http://digital.wirelessdesignmag.com/wirelessdesignanddevelopment/november\\_december\\_2013?pg=12&pm=2&fs=1#pg12](http://digital.wirelessdesignmag.com/wirelessdesignanddevelopment/november_december_2013?pg=12&pm=2&fs=1#pg12)

Oragami Antennas... submitted by Steve NO9B

<http://www.public.navy.mil/spawar/Pacific/TechTransfer/ProductsServices/Pages/SeaWaterAntennaSystem.aspx>

An article about the navy using salt water for an HF antenna

[http://www.sippican.com/stuff/contentmgr/files/c9b920684182edab1a8ecb0e5f2aefc/sheet/buyoyant\\_wire\\_antenna\\_system.pdf](http://www.sippican.com/stuff/contentmgr/files/c9b920684182edab1a8ecb0e5f2aefc/sheet/buyoyant_wire_antenna_system.pdf)

An interesting advertisement on an antenna used by submarines while submerged. We used them when I was on a submarine biggest problem was the prop made a great wire cutter. HI HI

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



### 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.