



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

[click here to go to web site](#)

Volume 65, Issue 8 August, 2018

## AUGUST 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.

**Club Meeting at  
PROHEALTH CARE PARK  
See PAGE 7**

**August 14, 2018 6:00pm**

### **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

**Save the Date  
2018 Awards Dinner  
October 21, 2018 at 5:00pm**

## The President's Shack August 2018

Last month I have to admit to some "ham fatigue". Just drained from the spring/summer radio activities. I can't even blame it on Dayton, not having made the trek. But I'm here to say I'm refreshed and raring to go. And just in time as summer is waning...time to get busy while the outside conditions support such activities.....

In the spirit of trying something new the club has done two mid-week park activations. For those that attended, what a super time. For those that can't make a mid-week schedule, this month's club meeting is an evening park activation. We are going to meet at ProHealth Care Park in New Berlin (see notice elsewhere in this Hamtrix) and set up a couple of radios and just have a nice face to face social. Maybe even work a few stations. We have been doing a few of these during the summer for the past couple of years. It is all about the social. Bring a radio if you have one you can easily set up, otherwise we will have two or three that anyone can use.

Also in the staying busy with the radio category, I've been working a few of the summer contests. These aren't quite as big as the fall/winter season ones, but man oh man, the bands are full and the contacts plentiful. In particular the North American QSO Party events, CW and RTTY, have been wonderful to play in. The exchange is really simple and the Q's are for the most part the lower 48 so it is made to order for my 50 watts and a wire. An hour or two is quite enough for me and frankly very refreshing.

In the same mode, but a bit more peculiar are the summer QRP CW contests. They are out there and so much fun to play with. The New Jersey Skeeter Hunt is the next one up for me on August 19<sup>th</sup>. You can google them, but it is generally a well attended event and about as low key as you will find. If your CW skills are on the edge, then this is the event for you. You can jump in with your home station, they are not at all picky.

Finally I've been playing around for the past few weeks with DMR. My little Anytone HT coupled with a "hot spot" has been a gas. I have had really nice chats with hams all over the country and they were easy and fun.

So that's what I've been up to and it has really added fun and a little bit of adventure to my ham radio life. If you are finding yourself stuck in a rut...try something a little different.

How about some club business? Check out the Board Meeting minutes. We have some issues being discussed that affect our club status quo. We are exploring different ways to raise funds for our operations and what we need is your thoughts and input. It was an open discussion but the long and short is ideas about club projects or group activities. Hey, we are a club and what we do, we do as a group.

So get on the radio and make some RF. The summer season is moving fast. Get in there!!

73's

MJ,W09B

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

### **From the Editor**

It's the last full month of summer seems like it has been a short one this year! It might be because of the swings in the weather it started out with. It didn't seem like summer weather started until later than normal.

I'm doing my normal radio stuff: morning nut net and Wednesday 2 meter net. I'm still learning the DMR portion of the little AnyTone handi talky we got a group buy on. You can send messages to each other while your talking to each other not sure if I can find a use for that but maybe there is more to it than just the basics. I'm having fun with it any way.

Our August club meeting will be outdoors at a park which should be fun. I've enjoyed the park activations we have had. We will have some radios set up so you

cont pg 11

## WARAC General Meeting Minutes

July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The General Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Mike, WO9B.

Chuck, W9WLX, Field Day Chairman presented the wrap up on the recent Field Day Event. He reported that the event went very smoothly. The new camper configuration worked quite well. The New Berlin Mayor presented the Field Day weekend proclamation. The GOTA station, run by Barb, KD9HPS, and Dave, WB9OWN, was a big success, and had over 150 Q's. There were 3 or 4 youth visitors.

A video about the aborted Bouvet Island DXpedition was presented.

The Baker Island KH1 DXpedition was also discussed.

Mike, WO9B, talked about the 13 Colonies contest.

The minutes for the Board Meeting and the Membership meeting were approved.

Just a reminder: The annual Awards Dinner is Sunday, October 21st. Please plan to attend.

There was some discussion about future group purchases. No item in particular was identified.

There is a QRP event on Sunday, July 29th called Flight of the Bumblebee, and is sponsored by the Adventure Radio Society.

On Wed, July 18th at Noon, there will be an activation at Fireman's Memorial Park in Wales, WI. Jim, WB9IXS is sponsoring this event, and the park is across the street from Jim's QTH. Bring a sandwich, bring a radio, and have some on the air fun.

Fred, KD9IGO, talked about his 270 ft loop antenna, and asked whether wires touching trees will be a problem.

**Important Note:** The next club meeting, August 14th, will be at the Pro HealthCare park off of Sunnyslope Road between National Ave and Cleveland Ave. The meeting time will be 6:00 pm, and there will not be the dinner at John V's restaurant before the meeting.

The meeting ended at 8:45 pm.

Eyeball QSOs followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

WARAC Secretary

August 7th, 2018

## WARAC Board Meeting

July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The Board Meeting was held at the QTH of President Mike, WO9B. It was a very nice summer evening, and we sat around the picnic table in Mike's back yard.

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

All Board Members were present. There were no guests.

Swapfest Chairman Erwin, WI9EV, emailed his 2019 swapfest report to the board members. This report was discussed by the board. Erwin had tried to promote the idea of sponsorships for the Swapfest as a new means to bring in additional money. This has largely failed. The idea of being able to purchase swapfest tickets, tables, etc. from our website using PayPal is progressing. The Swapfest website is also evolving. A way of seeing many of the swapfest pictures is being implemented. It was recommended that the minimum age requiring a ticket be increased to 16 years and younger to promote larger youth attendance. More discussion is needed about this.

Treasurer Bill, N9KPH, had provided an email with the treasurer spreadsheets. He asked if there were any questions or issues. None were voiced.

Secretary Howard, WA9AXQ, reported that 17 members and no guests attended the July meeting. The request for the Annual Report by the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions has been received. This will be submitted this month. There is a \$10 submission fee. Work is still continuing on the 2019 Membership Handbook.

Equipment Sales Chairman, Steve, NO9B, reported that the sales at the SMARC swapfest were \$304. He also reported that Phil, W9NAW, had sold tower sections for \$125.

With the funds from the Annual Midwest Swapfest continuing to diminish, Mike, WO9B, began a discussion of other ways the club could bring in funds. He presented a potential product that the club could

produce and sell. It is a DMR HotSpot. The cost of the parts was about \$65, and the selling price would be \$99, for a profit of \$34 for each unit sold.

Another possible fund raiser would be the 'Brat Table' at an area Sendiks FoodMarket. This would need a minimum of 4 to 6 club members to man the table. The time required is about 5-6 hours from setup to cleanup. The food is purchased at wholesale prices from Sendiks, and the typical income is between \$100 to \$400 based on location and weather. This would be available during weekends from June to October.

Hamtrix Editor Frank, KA9FXR, had nothing to report.

WIQP Chairman Tom, K9BTQ, indicated that the WIQP committee should meet sometime in Sept. or Oct. to begin the cycle for the 2019 WIQP.

The Awards Dinner committee reminded us that the Awards Dinner is on Sunday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00pm. They are still searching for a speaker, and any suggestions would be appreciated.

The Program for August will be a social meeting at the Pro HealthCare park on Sunnyslope Road just north of National avenue. The meeting will start at 6:00pm. There will not be a dinner at Johnny V's before this meeting.

The board had additional discussions on the frequency of board meetings, and of new meeting locations.

Mike, WO9B, suggested that the 2 Meter Wed net be held at a park sometime during the summer. A park and a date was not chosen.

The meeting ended at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Howard Smith, WA9AXQ  
Secretary, WARAC

August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## Hamtrix Sale Corner

Betty has advised that she has located some more items. Some are at further special reduced prices. Unless otherwise noted, all items are in excellent condition.

- 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
- MFJ Giant SWR/Wattmeter, Model MFJ 868, some scratches on top.

• An accumulation of Motorola business band HT radios with chargers, microphones, cables. Operating frequencies in the VHF range. Good condition. A storage tub full!

- Yaesu FTM-400D dual band transceiver, with speaker, microphone.

Installed in vehicle. Buyer can visually look at the installation and will be required to remove it from the vehicle. A reduced selling price will be provided

- Victor Frequency Counter, model VC-2000, good condition.
- Tools, test equipment, cables and other items of interest are available.

The above list is quite a selection of items that everyone can use. For additional information, what else is included and prices, please contact Betty Junek, 262-510-2423.

WARAC members have something to sell—list it on Hamtrix Sale Corner.  
Contact Phil, W9NAW, or Frank, KA9FZR.

Phil, W9NAW  
7 Aug 2018



# Special Event Corner August, 2018

By Bill Reed/N9KPH

Here's a listing of a few events that will occur during August that may be of interest.

## State QSO Parties

Hawaii - 8/25 to 8/27

Kansas - 8/25 to 8/26

Ohio - 8/25 to 8/26

Alabama - 9/1 to 9/2

Colorado - 9/1 to 9/2

Tennessee - 9/2 to 9/3

## General Interest Events:

The Illinois Bicentennial Challenge - Celebrates the 200th anniversary of the admittance of Illinois to the Union in 1818. The WIARC will offer two award certificates during the Challenge special event period. Contacts made with Illinois stations during the event may be applied to either or both awards where permitted by rule. The two awards are the Illinois Challenge Worked All Counties Award and the Illinois Challenge IL200 Award.

The operating event will take place starting August 9, 2018 with the opening of the 2018 Illinois State Fair and will conclude on December 3, 2018 on the 200th anniversary of Illinois joining the union in 1818. Participating Illinois stations will be on the air multiple times from all 102 Illinois counties during the period using their own calls.

**Additional details can be found at:**

<http://www.w9awe.org/challenge.html>

## 08/09/2018 | Worked All Capitals (Illinois)

Aug 9-Aug 19, 1600Z-0000Z, W9V, Springfield, IL. Sangamon Valley and Lewis and Clark Amateur Radio Clubs, and Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club. 15 20 and 40 meters. Other stations: K9K, W9I, and K9S. Commemorating the three communities that have served as Capital Cities for the state of Illinois. SASE for QSL. Work all four stations and receive a certificate. Work this event and receive 5 bonus points toward the IL200 QSO Party.

## DX / CONTEST UPDATE

<http://www.iz5cml.it/dxschedule>

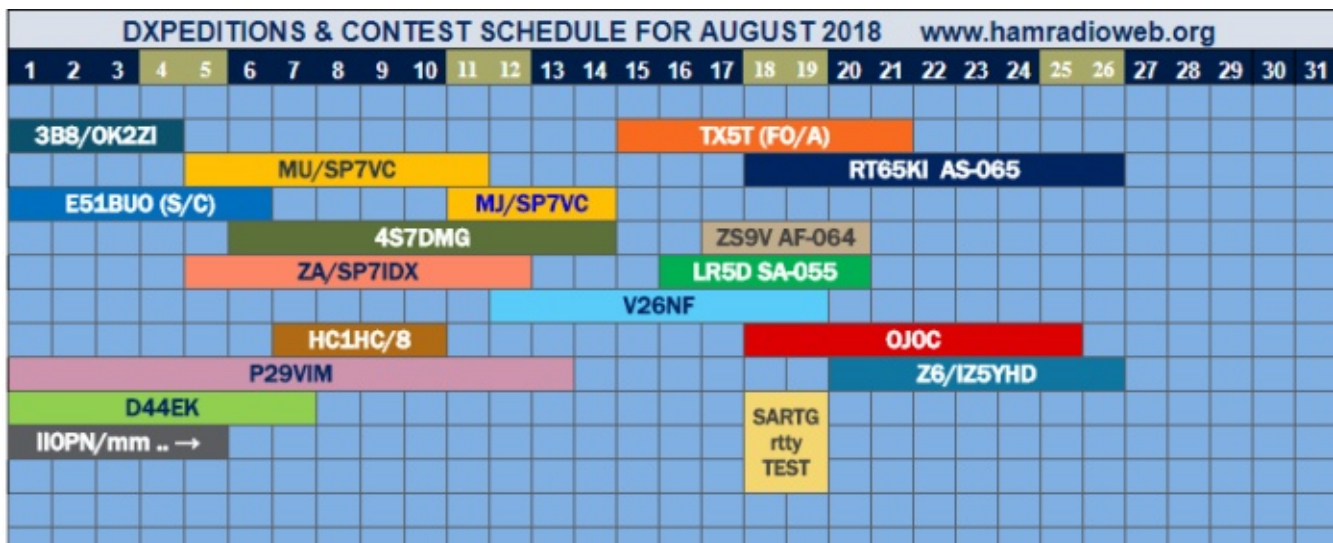
DX: Is this exciting? Not. Still, DX hunting via the digital modes is accessible to everyone. Best advice is keep an eye on the clusters. Also DX aside, the 6 meter meteor season is in full swing. Keep checking the 6 meter beacons.

Contests: Contests are in the summer mode. I have been enjoying the QRP contests and the CWOP's events on Wednesday. I also do the QRP Fox hunts when time allows on Thursdays. BUT here we go. Lock on to this really fun summer contest:

North American QSO Party SSB: Aug 19<sup>th</sup>,

Full Contest Schedule check:

<http://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html>



# WARAC Fireman's Park Activation

## Wales, WI

### July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Jim, WB9IXS, sourced the park, strung the ropes in the trees and set up the HF gear. Perfect weather and a wonderful park. Or as Jim said, "Hey, it's just across the street".



# WARAC AUGUST MEETING CHANGE

At the July Monthly meeting we opted to change the August Meeting. In lieu of meeting at the usual time and place we are going to meet up outside for a park activation meeting. So please note the information below for the change in time and place. This is a one time only deal. Should be a lot of fun!!!

**WHERE: ProHealth Care Park, 2950 S Sunnyslope Road, New Berlin**



Very easy to get to. It is located on Sunnyslope Road between National Ave and Cleveland Ave.



**WHEN: Tuesday, August 14th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

NOTE: Due to this being an outdoor event we are starting a little earlier than normal.

## The What of the Event:

- We are trying a little something different with this deal. There will not be the normal presentations, but it will be 100% about ham radio.
- We have arranged to set up an HF SSB and CW Station, a Digital HF station and will have DMR capability. A real sampling of radio for all attendees to get their hands on.
- You are more than welcome to bring your own radio gear. Word of warning, the adjoining trees are pretty small. We are planning on using Buddi-poles and vertical antenna's. The more RF...the Better!!
- The park has a large covered pavilion with plenty of picnic tables. You can bring a chair if you wish, but for the most part we should be just fine.
- Refreshments: A cooler with water and soda will be provided. As usual, a summertime outdoor treat will also be on hand. No need to bring anything else. Just yourselves.

**What about the Weather????**

See next page

## **WARAC AUGUST MEETING CHANGE**

In the event of a weather cancellation, the alternate plan for the night is to meet at the Cleveland Pub, just up the street at the intersection of Sunnyslope and Cleveland. Plenty of room, good burgers and brews. An email notice will be sent out by 3:00 PM if we are canceling the event.

And finally, due to the early starting time, the Pre-Dinner at Johnnie V's is CANCELED this month.

Hope to see everyone there. Fingers crossed for great weather!!!

73

MJ, WO9B

## **A spark gap story**

This story is from the 1950 book “The Nymph and the Lamp” by Thomas H Raddall. The scene is on a sandbar island about 80 miles north east of Halifax in the turn of the century where spark gap transmitters are still king. The Island has two light houses, several life boat stations and a major relay radio station.

I'll try to put some of this story and one other I copied from the book in the coming months. Both are concerned with radio so seem to fit in with Ham Radio.

### **Story**

The sound of the spark no longer outraged Isabel. She had grown used to it, as Matthew had foretold. Often it wakened her in the night, but now she could turn and burrow into sleep again. She had learned the code. It was not difficult—much easier than shorthand, she pointed out to Matthew. When the days grew short and the evenings intolerably long she fell into the ‘habit of sitting at the instruments with the man on watch. He

would plug in an extra pair of phones for her and explain this point or that in the Babel of dots and dashes that filled her ears.

At first the great passenger liners were beyond her grasp. They shrilled away on high notes like operatic sopranos, and at speeds close to thirty words a minute. The smaller liners and the tramps were more companionable, droning along at twenty or so; and frequently there were trawlers, rolling scuppers-under out there somewhere on the Banks and muttering away to each other at a childish ten or fifteen. The trawlers were Isabel’s kindergarten class, and after a time she could follow the drift of tramp steamer conversations, watching her companion’s pencil for the letters she missed.

She learned to send as well. She cajoled Matthew into rigging a small key and buzzer at the end of the long instrument table, 'and there she practiced with a diligence that surprised the men and somewhat surprised herself. The others helped her, Matthew with indulgence, Sargent with the pleased but somewhat lofty air of a young man who sees a woman trying to play a man’s game; but it was Skane who took the deepest interest. He would sit listening patiently while she spelled out in wobbly Morse whole pages of some stale and tattered magazine, or a chapter from that bible of their craft, the Handbook of Wireless Telegraphy.

“Stop!” he would exclaim. “You’re clipping your dashes again!” Or, “You muffed those dots, ‘H’ has four” . . . “a bit more space between words” . . . “try to get a rhythm into it, as if you were tapping a drum, say.” Or he would snap, “Keep your wrist down.”



“But I can make the dots more sharply when I lift my wrist!”

“Sure! But how long could you keep it up on that big key yonder? You’d have telegrapher’s cramp in twenty minutes, and then you’d be falling all over your message and the chap at the other end would tell you to get another operator—the way kids in the city jeer at a broken-down car and yell ‘Get a horse!’ You want to do it all with your fingers. God gave you a wrist too, or didn’t you know? Forget your fingers. They’re just for holding on to the knob. You’ve got to use your wrist and to some extent your forearm if you want a steady style.”

Matthew, looking on, would smile and say mildly, “After all, Skane, she isn’t planning to go up for a ticket.” And she would cry, “But I want to learn, Matthew! Greg, show me how to hold my hand again.” And Skane would adjust her fingers and press her wrist down to the proper angle, and murmur, “All right. Take it from there—and don’t try for speed. That’ll come with practice. Just concentrate on sending stff that the other fellow can read. It’s like handwriting. Keep your mind on writing a good hand and forget everything else. Now!”

The whimsical attitude of Matthew and Sargent nettled her. She determined to confound them. She had taken it up merely to pass the time but soon it became an obsession. She discovered that she had a knack for it. The nervous skill of wrists and fingers that for years had rattled a typewriter at top speed could be adapted to a telegraph key.

One day when Matthew and Sargent had gone for a walk along the beach she sat at the instruments with Skane, copying word for word with him the messages of a freighter bound for Boston. There

followed a lull in the phones, one of those dull periods that came in every watch, when all the ships and shore stations fell silent together as people sometimes do in a busy room.

“Greg,” she begged, “give me another sending test—now, while- 'the others are out.” Obediently he slipped aside one of the phones, and she moved to the practice key. Skane stared at his wrist watch.

“Okay, go ahead.”

She tapped out a dozen paragraphs of the Handbook, working earnestly, with the tip of her tongue caught between her teeth.

“Well?” she asked eagerly, looking up.

“An average of sixteen words a minute, I’d say, and perfectly done, all but the ‘c’ in ‘inductance’—you bungled that. But you’ve come along. Gosh, you really have!”

She flushed with pleasure. “Don’t tell the others.”

“Why?”

“I’m still not satisfied. What’s top speed?”

“About thirty words, on one of these old—pump handle keys anyhow. That’s fast, mind you. A hundred and fifty letters a minute. When you’re doing that, you’re pounding brass and no fooling. Of course you’ll find—don’t think I’m being superior— you’ll find that fifteen words a minute come fairly easily once ' you’ve learned the code. Then with a bit of practice you reach twenty. After that .every word you add to your speed comes mighty hard. Mind you, twenty’s the minimum for a First Class ticket and most ship ops don’t go any

faster than that. It's different out on busy shore stations and on the big liners, where at times you've got a lot of traffic to clear off." "How fast does Matthew send? I mean when he's not rushed?" "Usually twenty or less. Nobody ever rushed Matt. He's got an easygoing style, nothing fancy, a good clear fist that anyone could copy all day."

"What about Sargent?"

"Depends on how he feels. He's a smart kid. Likes to rattle it off at thirty when he's working a liner like MKC—that's Olympic, —where the ops are topnotch. Usually goes along at twenty-five, though. It's much more comfortable if you've got a lot to send." "And you?" "About the same."

"You're modest. Matthew says you and a chap named Mertonat Cape Race are the crack operators on this coast."

Skane regarded his bony hands and long fingers with the wisps of black hair on their backs. "I can rip it off at thirty, if that's what you mean. But it's only swank to do that when twenty-five or less will handle the traffic. Matt used to say there ought to be a printed motto in every station working ship traffic —Twenty's Plenty. When you're young like Sargent you feel the urge to tear it off as fast as you can, and you get a kick out of it when some poor fumbling Sparks aboard a tramp has to ask for a repeat. Gives you a superior feeling; and you repeat at a painful fifteen or twenty, just to show the chap—and anybody else who may be listening—what a patient wonder you are. It's a game called 'roasting' that every operator knows.



**Continued Next month "Roasting"**

What a FCC action looks like

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-18-801A1.pdf>

Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club, is hosting the Wisconsin Parks on the Air event this September. We also have a website, <http://wipota.com/> with information. The event will take place on September 15th 2018 from 11 am local to 6 pm local. Please go to the web site for more information!

**Editor (continued)**

can experience the fun of doing it. More info on Page 7.  
REMEMBER SUNNY SLOPE RD IS CLOSED AT I43.  
THE BRIDGE IS OUT! SO UNLESS YOU ARE RELATED  
TO EVEL KNIEVEL you will have to take another route.

Hope to see you at the meeting.  
Frank KA9FZR

Officers and Board  
President  
Mike Johnson WO9B  
  
Vice President  
Steve Dryja, NO9B  
  
Secretary  
Howard Smith WA9AXQ  
  
Treasurer  
Bill Reed N9KPH  
  
Directors  
Frank Humpal, KA9FZR  
Dave Garnier WB9OWN  
  
Newsletter Editor  
Frank Humpal, KA9FZR  
fhump@milwpc.com  
  
Webmaster  
Tom Macon, K9BTQ

West Allis Radio Amateur  
Club  
P. O. box 1072  
Milwaukee, WI 53201



## WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC.

PO Box 1072  
Milwaukee, WI 53201  
W9FK  
<http://www.warac.org>

***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.