



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 70, Issue 8 August, 2021

AUGUST CLUB HAPPENINGS

CLUB HAPPENINGS

Club Meeting August 10, 2021 6:00 pm

This month's meeting is going to be our "InthePark" get together.

We will meet at ProHealthcare Park, 2950 S Sunny Slope Rd, New Berlin, WI 53151. It is located on Sunnyslope between National and Cleveland. Nice pavilion with all sorts of power outlets. Kind of a quiet park, which is good for us.

Pizza will be served. No premeeting dinner this month.

Next Sendik's Grill Fund raiser date

Saturday September 11, 2021 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Note the nut net monthly breakfast will begin this month at Genesis Family Restaurant at Highway 100 and Beloit (more info page 9)



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.

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 Presidents Shack

We had a fun fund raiser at Sendik's raising \$350.00 for our coffers. Don't forget we will run another one on September 11, 2021. Sign up sheets will be passed around at the park meeting

Other good news is David Garnier, WB9OWN has agreed to head up the field day committee for next year. Thank you David.

Since it is early in the planing of field day. I will just write some thoughts on field day. Nothing in these thoughts has to be done but I would like them to be part of an early discussion.

Field day is a fun thing to do on a June weekend. The club has a long history of putting one on. Many things have changed during that time. Our club has become a club of mostly elders who maybe should be using our brains rather than our muscles!

Some things to think about:

How many Stations can we operate with the operators we have?

How long should we operate?

Is it worthwhile having a 24 hour operation or would we enjoy a Saturday only operation?

What type of antennas do we need? Can we use antennas

which are easy to set up? End fed come to mind as an option.

What power sources do we have available. Can we run on batteries? How long. Maybe only one generator needed?

Can we operate out of a small party tent with side curtains? That would open up our operation stations for both operators and for visitors.

I hope these thoughts generate some discussion so we can have a fun and safe field day next year.

I'm still working on my CW on Monday, getting out to the parks on Wednesday. Having fun at both.

So hope the weather is fine next Tuesday should be fun.

73

Frank KA9FZR • — • — ••



My morning nut net breakfast shack HI HI

• — • — ••

WARAC Club Meeting Minutes – July 13, 2021

1st Face 2 Face Club Meeting at the New Berlin Community Center in 15 months!!!

The club meeting was called to order 7:00 pm by Frank KA9FZR, (the club secretary arrived late at 7:04pm)

20 club members were signed in per Dave WB9OWN. There were 3 visitors, Cherri Riedel K9WOC, Jerry Riedel K9FI & Keith Beckmann K9GL. **Welcome Back All!**

- June general meeting minutes were approved.

- Sendik's Brat & Burger fund raising: July 24th 11AM – 4PM at the Sendik's store 79th & Layton Avenue. Sign up sheet was passed around.

- Steve sold \$390 dollars of WARAC club material at South Milwaukee Hamfest, July 10th.

“Sold lots of stuff.” “Any price was taken” within reason. General comments on the South Milwaukee Hamfest: Attendance were positive, people thought the attendance was up compared to pre-Covid-19 numbers. Almost the best weather in recent memory.

- Scholarship Update by Howard Smith WA9AXQ.

“This is the 3rd time in 10 years that the ARRL took a candidate outside of Wisconsin.”

“The club needs to change the terms of the award contract to mandate a Wisconsin person,”

“This scholarship must be a Wisconsin person!”

HRO is still looking for people per Howard WA9AXQ, “If you want a job.” ;-)

- Weekly POTA Activations are drawing people and everyone is enjoying themselves per Mike WO9B .

- Weekly Monday Night CW The practice frequency has moved to 6 Meters, 50.100 Mhz unless others cannot be heard per Mike WO9B.

- Club Presentation - Annual Club Auction by Steve NO9B. Started at 7:15pm and ended 8:30pm. Our treasurer Bill Reed K9KPH counted a total profit of \$172 dollars. Thank you Steve for another entertaining auction, always a good time!

- July 27th WARAC Board Meeting. The secretary has requested a change of date due to wedding anniversary conflict.

- August 10th WARAC Club Meeting & Pizza will be held in a park, location to be announced!

- WARAC elections are coming up, more later.

The general meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm - coffee, donuts & Eyeball QSO's followed!!!

Respectfully Submitted,

David Garnier WB9OWN

Secretary WARAC, July 30, 2021

West Allis Radio Amateur Club – Sign In Sheet

Name	Call	Member	Name	Call	Member
			Bill Reed	N9KPH	Yes
General Meeting Zoom Call Listing 07/13/21			Howard Smith	WA9AXQ	Yes
			Tom Seizer	K9SQU	
Frank Humpal	KA9FZR	Yes	Phil Tollefson	WA9AQL	Yes
Bill Dargis	KD9BJZ	Yes	Jim Nickel	KF9K	Yes
Steve Dryja	NO9B	Yes	Ewin Von de Ehe	WI9EV	Yes
Mike Falk	AA9RK	Yes	Cherry Riedel	K9WOC	no
George Dunco	AA9SR	Yes	Jerry Riedel	K9FI	no
David Garnier	WB9OWN	Yes	Ron Gorski	N9AU	Yes
Feroz, Ghouse	WU9N	Yes	Jim Choroszy	NG9X	Yes
Phil Gural	W9NAW	Yes	Charles Craven	WB9PUB	Yes
Al Hovey	WA9BZW	Yes	Ken Brown	KB9EX	Yes
Mike Johnson	WO9B	Yes	Paul Sperburg	W9PCS	Yes
Tom Macon	K9BTQ	Yes	Jeff Pahl	W9JSP	Yes
			Keith Beckmann	K9GL	no

WARAC Quarterly Board Meeting, July 20, 2021

Frank K9FZR hosted the virtual online Jitsi Meeting. <https://meet.jit.si>

The board meeting was called to order 7:12 pm by Frank KA9FZR.

WARAC Board Members Present

Frank Humpal KA9FZR, Bill Reed N9KPH, Phil Tollefson WA9AQL, Dave Garnier WB9OWN, Mike Johnson WO9B, Steve Dryja NO9B, Tom Macon K9BTQ. Two visitors was present Howard Smith WA9AXQ and Joe Seifert N9JOS.

Meeting Agenda**Swap-fest 2022 Update by Mike WO9B.**

- 1) WARAC to hand off swap-fest operation to another group... My idea is to hold their hand throughout the project, pay reservation fees & split the profits, then they have monies for next year to run the swap-fest without us...
- 2) Mike WO9B isn't going to be the chairman for 2022 and "There's no club enthusiasm for taking over my position." "Midwinter swap-fest and the club have parted ways defacto."
- 3) Does the board have the authority to do this? No. Maybe requires membership notification and a vote especially if we are going to provide some "reservation seed money."
- 4) Give Mike WO9B permission to advertise our "swap-fest calendar spot" as being "for-sale." 5) Motion was made, a vote was taken granting Mike permission to speak for the club.

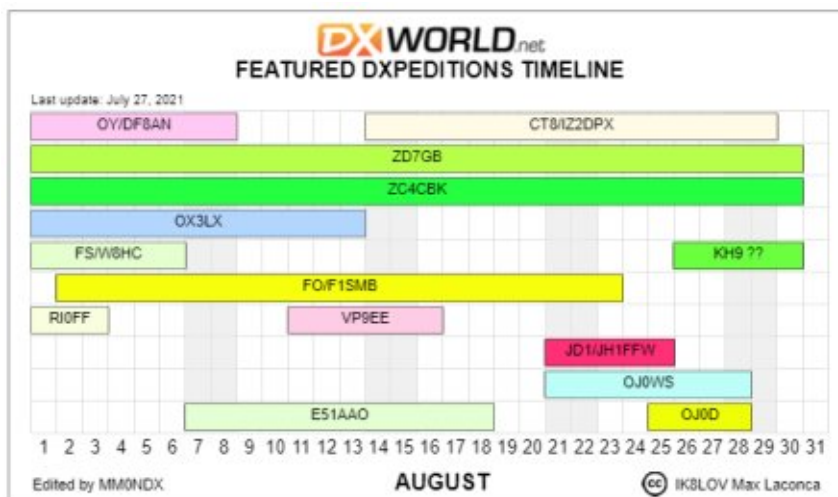
2021 Membership Booklet, Dave WB9OWN, "There are 2 known mistakes in the roster, I will be sending out an updated club roster soon."

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DXing and Contesting - August 2021

DX UPDATE:

DX Operations: DX conditions are GOOD.. Operations remain very active and propagation is alive to literally all regions. Of particular note, 20 meters has returned to near 24 hour activity AND 17 meters is providing worldwide opportunities almost daily. The summer VHF season is on the wane, but spot activity can still provide some thrills. FT8 mode is the easy choice for DX participation, but don't forget the traditional SSB and CW hotspots as well. DX WORLD is a great place to keep current.



Solar: August seems to be taking a break, at least to start. SS #'s currently are zero or nearly so. SFI however remains in the 70's and 80's. Storm conditions are unsettled but not threatening. These could break out at any time, but the predictions are more of the same throughout the month.

Meteor Scatter: Time to get your VHF meteor scatter hats on. The Perseid's are expected to peak on Aug 11th thru 13th. Prime time for MS contacts.



CONTEST UPDATE:

With the flip of a calendar, the contest hiatus is officially over. Every weekend this month and into Labor Day has an activity beckoning to your radio skills. QSO Parties are back in full force. Take a look at the Portable Operations Challenge. This is a new event with a unique scoring system. Also for the Slow Speed CW players, the NJ QRP Skeeter Hunt is a very nice event.

- North American QSO Party, CW: Aug 7th and 8th
- Maryland-DC QSO Party: Aug 14th and 15th
- NJ QRP Skeeter Hunt: QRP CW Aug 15th
- North American QSO Party, SSB: Aug 21st and 22nd
- Hawaii QSO Party: Aug 28th - 30th
- Ohio QSO Party: Aug 28 - 30th
- Kansas QSO Party: Aug 28th - 29th
- Portable Operations Challenge: Sep 4th, 5th
- TN QSO Party: Sept 5th - 6th
- CO QSO Party: Sept 4th - 5th



Aug 2021 * Hamtrix * By Michael Johnson, WO9B

DMR Networks

If you've been following along with this series, hopefully you have been able to work out that sometimes delicate relationship between your DMR radio and your hotspot. So far the articles have focused on the BrandMeister network.. That does seem to be the popular choice, and for good reason. It has wide popularity to be sure, but at least in our area, it is also widely supported by the local repeater networks. So in the event you are gabbing away at home on your hotspot and then you take your radio on the road, those same Talk Groups that you've been using are typically available on the repeaters you'll be using while mobile. The familiar WI State talkgroup, 3155, is always available on the local BrandMeister repeaters.

But of course, the world of DMR does not stop with just the BrandMeister Talk Groups. Of course not. In the world of digital voice communications, there are many more networks available to you. Your hotspot can be programmed to provide you access to oodles of different networks all supporting dozens and dozens of Talk Groups. The BrandMeister network was originally organized by geographic and language divisions. Not a bad way to do things and get people who are located physically near each other who share a common language to chat away. But what if you wanted to talk to people who shared your particular passion for your niche in ham radio? That might be a worldwide pool of folks. Or how about your interest in virtually anything. Other networks saw this opportunity and offered up Talk Groups based on interests in addition to the usual geographical denotations.

Here are a few of the more popular networks:

TGIF: <https://tgif.network/> TGIF offers 667 Talk Groups with most being issue or activity related. Sure there are the usual state and country spots, but you'll find a large number of rather specific groups. TGIF does not offer much in the line of crossover Talk Groups, so most of the TGIF groups will only be found on the TGIF network. It's a great network, give it a listen.

DMR+: <https://dmr-marc.net/> DMR+ is the original DMR network. It is primarily organized by geographic areas, but it also operates slightly differently. You need to bring up a talk group, activate it by hitting the PTT and then switch to a different Talk Group to actually talk. There are local repeaters available for use. The big selling point for DMR + repeaters is that the user can choose the Talk Groups, which is very different from BrandMeister repeaters.

Cross Over Modes: The digital operators have been super busy trying to level the playing field between the various digital voice modes (D-Star, DMR, Fusion). As such there are Talk Groups which have access to some or all the DV modes. Quad Net is probably the best known. But there are a ton of them. Your hot spot supports DMR2YSF modes (YSF = Yaesu System Fusion) giving you access to YSF and FCS Fusion reflectors. D-Star crossovers are not so common, but stand by. There is always next week.

**Next Month: DMR
Gateway**

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Treasurer's Report by Bill N9KPH.

- 1) No questions raised on 11/1/2019 to 7/27/20 spreadsheet. (End date should be 2021)
- 2) Discussion of what to do with our ever increasing scholarship funds?
- 3) Joe's N9JOS discussion on club's 501C3 handling of clubs money... "The money belongs to the club, we are stewards of the money." (This is based upon the club's mission statement which is in the Preamble of the WARAC constitution.)
- 4) ARRL (WARAC) Scholarship Fund per Howard WA9AXQ. ARRL fund supplies the base \$1500, we the club may decide to increase that by X amount per year we will have to change the wording of our ARRL agreement. (Howard is going to change the terms of ARRL agreement to specify "The applicant must be a resident of Wisconsin.")
- 5) A motion was made to increase the scholarship from \$500 to \$3000 dollars. The motion passed. (This will be presented to membership in August or September time-frame.)

HF remote station by Steve NO9B Flex radio platforms are the way to go. All the ham-clubs are looking into this per conversation with Flex. Flex Radio is answering many questions about remote controlling Flex is writing a white paper to be published in August...

2K Flex – 2 Slice Receivers

4K Flex – 4 Slice Receivers with bandpass filtering. This 4K Flex model "Has all the options you would have to buy for the 2K Flex."

Club Plaques

Action. The awards committee will send out nice printed award certificates to WARAC members who participated in WIQSO Party.

Swap-fest Sales by Steve NO9B

- 1) I am not running for VP in November.
- 2) By years end I am no longer going to be doing swap-fests. I need to have an empty garage for my cars.
- 3) At some time in the future I would like to hand over possession of the club trailer. (This includes the storage of the trailer on my property.)

Thank you Steve for doing the Swap-fests, Auctions, keeping the club trailer.

Field Day 2022 Dave WB9OWN has volunteered to take this position. "The concept is to use Chucks W9WLX FD plan as a starting point." "I will talk to all parties who have done this before." "I own one car, a Camry without a trailer hitch." "So I'm going to need your help on obtaining and towing trailers and club material to FD site." "I can't do it without you."

Where is the club going?

Need to start an ongoing conversations to get new members. How?

Joe Seifert N9JOS had an interesting conversation with Alberta Canada operator about their ham radio club... "Over 500 members, active over 124 members, about the size of Milwaukee." Joe asks "Why do they have such a large membership and why do they keep getting new members?" "Joe, we provide for

our members what nobody else does,” “We have about a dozen antennas we have a small building and we spend quite a bit of money on it, we enabled our members to use those antennas and that equipment remotely from wherever they are.” “Well, how busy is it?” “It’s really popular and it’s really busy and so people have to reserve it for an hour at a time” and he attributed that fact because they have such an active membership and they keep getting new members all the time... Joe speaking, “I was convinced after talking with him that *this really is an ideal enticement for younger members to be able to do something that they couldn’t afford to do.*” “I’m older and I can afford a nice radio and antennas but not a lot of younger people can’t.” “If we want to keep our club from getting older and dying I thought this conversation is a good place to start.” “That’s why I brought this to Steve NO9B to talk about.

Steve NO9B pointed out “The only fly in the ointment” is:
Remote Hams - <https://www.remotehams.com/>

Meeting Ended @ 9:10pm

Respectfully submitted,
David Garnier WB9OWN
Secretary WARAC, July 30, 2021

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QSO TODAY VIRTUAL HAM EXPO 2021 AUGUST 14 & 15
register now & join us at the EXPO!

HAMS YOU KNOW IN THIS MONTH'S EXPO!!!

SOTA IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES - SATURDAY, AUG 14TH @ 3:00PM
Paul Mower, VA6MPM, talks about his mountain adventures in pursuit of SOTA fame.
Introduction by Mike Johnson, W09B

CONTESTING, THE SECOND STEP- SATURDAY, AUG 14TH @ 10:00AM
Gary Sutcliff, W9XT, shares his contesting accumin with tips and techniques to increase your contest performance.

NOTE: Double check the presentation times with the final schedule.

Hamtrix Sales Corner

Microcontroller Projects for Amateur Radio

All the information you need to build fascinating projects using the Arduino, STM32 (“Blue Pill”), ESP32, and Teensy 4.0 micro-controllers.

Unfamiliar with C or C++ programming? No problem. Microcontroller Projects for Amateur Radio provides all the introduction you need to build projects such as a programmable power supply, a signal generator, a DSP mic processor, and more!

Some of the practical hands-on projects featured:

- The Morse Code Tutor - learn and practice sending and receiving methods, with or without Farnworth encoding.
- The CW Messenger allows you to send up to 50 “canned” CW messages, that are completely changeable in the field without a PC.
- The Mini Dummy Load is small enough to fit in a shirt pocket, can handle up to 30W, includes an OLED display that shows RF power, yet can be built for around \$20!
- The Double-Double Magnetic Loop antenna sets a new standard for small (3' diameter), multi-band operation and includes remote tuning.

Special Member Price! Only \$34.95 (regular \$39.95)

Product Details

Softcover: 400 pages

Nut Net Breakfast to start, AGAIN

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.

Then COVID-19 showed up on the scene and the breakfast meeting was put on hold.

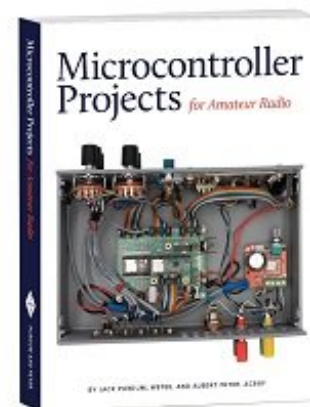
That was about March 2019 when we stopped this enjoyable gathering. We are now ready to start it AGAIN.

So, on the fourth Tuesday each month at 8:30 am we will once again meet at Gensis Restaurant, corner of HWY 100 and Beloit Road, Greenfield, WI. Looking forward to seeing you, mark your calendar.

Phil, W9NAW • — • —••

One Copy
New
Price \$25.00
Donated to club by
Howard WA9AXQ

Call or email Frank
KA9FZR
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HAMFESTS

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

08/07/2021 - Hamfest 2021

Location: Jefferson, WI Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: TCARC / Jefcares
Website: <http://w9mqb.com>

08/07/2021 - Riverland Amateur Radio Club Swapfest

Location: Onalaska, WI
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: ARRL
Website: <http://rarc.qth.com>

08/21/2021 - Northwoods Hamfest

Location: Tomahawk, WI
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Tomahawk Repeater Assoc. & Rhinelander Repeater Assoc.

08/28/2021 - Circus City Swapfest

Location: Baraboo, WI
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://yellowthunder.org>

08/28/2021 - MRAC & MAARS Interclub Swapfest

Location: Milwaukee, WI
Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club & Milwaukee Area Amateur Radio Society
Website: <https://www.w9rh.org/club-events/swapfest/>

09/11/2021 - Ozaukee Radio Club Regional Fall Swapfest

Location: Cedarburg, WI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club (ORC)

Website: <http://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org>

10/16/2021 - Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference, ARRL Wisconsin State Convention

Location: Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: WeComm Ltd

Website: <http://www.wi-aresraces.org>

Project HamHigh
Circumnavigating the World
May 17, 2021
 from Brian - K9WIS

I am sorry to report that we have not received any location reports from HamHigh since May 14th at 6:32 AM CDT. The projected path of HamHigh would place it over the Pacific Ocean today and if it was still functioning should have been heard by ham radio operators in Japan, Australia, Hawaii and the West Coast of the USA.

After discussions with other Pico Balloonist enthusiasts on the internet our best guess is that HamHigh did not have enough altitude to make over the top of the Himalaya mountains, or it encountered one of the big storms brewing over Asia.

It was an interesting and exciting journey. HamHigh took the Polar Express Tour up to Greenland and Iceland, then the long way down the Northern Atlantic to cross over into Europe near Spain. There were many skeptics that thought crossing the Atlantic wouldn't be possible.

Once entering Europe, HamHigh headed North again flying over Europe and the Scandinavian countries, finally turning East floating over Northern Russia. We call this path the Northern Lights Tour.

HamHigh then headed back South floating over the 'stan' countries. Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, near the Iranian Border. This was the last place we heard from HamHigh before the jet stream would have taken it further East.

Standing in its way was the Himalayan Mountain range that includes Mount Everest. HamHigh was last reported as flying at 8,000 meter (26,500 feet). Mount Everest stands at 9000 meters (29,850 feet). There were also some towering storm clouds in the area over India and Tibet, cloud tops over 12,000 meters (41,000 feet). This is the area where we think HamHigh met its match.

HamHigh did travel over 22,275 Kilometers (13,842 miles) on its journey over 8 days and 14 hours, The circumference of the Earth around the equator is 40,075 Km (24,901 miles). If it did cross over into Mongolia before coming down it would have traveled half-way around the world. (longitude 88 degrees W to longitude 92 degrees E). That's quite an accomplishment!

So as of today, 5/17/2021, we are going to declare the mission over and a partial success. Watch the planetarium web page for a future planetarium show focused on Project HamHigh that will feature a display of the new and improved HamHigh II.

This is HamHigh Mission Control.....signing off!





Irish Fest Comms

2021 Irish Fest Volunteer Amateur Radio Communications Team

We are looking for Amateur Radio volunteers for this year's 2021 Irish Fest, a 501(c)3 organization. MCTS will NOT be running free transit buses so it's up to us to monitor, coordinate, dispatch and schedule buses for the festival. We are taking COVID-19 seriously and encourage masks for this event. Please use your best judgement to stay safe. Masks and disinfectant will be available.

- * We will be in charge of 3 Coaches and 1 School Bus.
- * We do not know power availability on the buses yet.
- * Antennas will likely be available to connect onto (details coming soon).
- * ALL HAM EQUIPMENT will need to be pulled from each bus at the end of each day and brought in to Net Control.
- * We will need APRS equipment, voice equipment, and headsets/earpieces for the duration of the festival.
 - We have not yet finalized our frequency list, we will likely operate analog on either VHF or UHF.
- * Emil has offered FM38 and can disconnect remote sites outside of MKE for the weekend so the entire state isn't listening to our communications traffic. The ARES repeater on the US Bank building is undergoing maintenance.

We need 5 Amateur Radio operators per time slot to staff each of the 4 buses and net control - before, during, and a bit after each day of the festival on August 20, 21, and 22.

Net Control equipment is provided by AC9BT and/or ARES, and will be stationed on the festival grounds, in the festival main office.

The MKE ARES van is not available (and not needed) for this event.

We have A LOT of 1 hour time slots available (each needing 5 people) and we would like you to checkmark to help out for 4-5 hour shifts at a time, if possible. Each bus route loop lasts about 1 hour. Please plan to arrive 30min prior to your chosen start time. We will email a final schedule and instructions prior, late-morning on August 19th, and we may reach out to you for additional times if we end up with empty areas that need coverage.



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 147.135+ 141.35 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
- President
Frank Humpal KA9FZR
- Vice President
Steve Dryja, NO9B
- Secretary
Dave Garnier WB9OWN
- Treasurer
Bill Reed N9KPH
- Directors
Tom Macon K9BTQ
Phil Tollefson, WA9AQL
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