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Meetings & Events

September 14
Club Meeting
Home Brew Challenge
by Chuck Craven, WB9PUB
7:00 PM Church Basement

September 28
Board Meeting
7:00 PM Church Basement

October 3
Material Due for Next Hamtrix

October 12
Next Club Meeting

November 14
Annual Awards Dinner

The President’s Shack
by Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

I am happy to announce the winner of the 2010 West Allis Radio Amateur Club’s Dave Knaus, N9QA, Memorial Scholarship, is Eric Haskins, KC9JVH. Eric is from Elkhorn, WI, and will be a freshman at Milwaukee School of Engineering this fall. His major will be software engineering. Congratulations, Eric.

The WARAC 2Meter Repeater Net has a new home. We will be using the MATC RC repeater on 147.045. It has a PL of 127.3, and the offset is +600.KHz. This has been tried a couple of times, and has worked out very well. Remember, the net meets at 7:00pm on the first, third and fifth Tuesdays of the month. Why not stop by and say, “Hi”.

The Annual Awards Dinner is on Sunday, November 14th, at 5:00pm at The Machine Shed in Pewaukee. The signup sheet is in this month's Hamtrix, and I encourage you to bring the form and your check or cash and give it to Chuck, WB9PUB, the club treasurer. Please mark (Continued on page 7)

Home Brew Night—September 14
Bring a project to demonstrate at this club meeting.

To kick off the upcoming Home Brew Challenge, please bring a past home brew project to this meeting. Be prepared to give a short description of your project.

Also, start thinking about your project for this new Challenge. See Chuck’s article on page 3 and talk to him about your plans.

2010 Scholarship Winner Announced

Congratulations to this year’s winner of the WARAC’s Dave Knaus Memorial Scholarship, Eric Haskins, KC9JVH. Eric is from Elkhorn, Wisconsin and will be a freshman this fall at Milwaukee School of Engineering, seeking a degree in Software Engineering. He was home schooled and has taken classes at Gateway Technical College. Eric has a Technician license and has 2 meter capability.

Stay tuned for more about Eric as it becomes available.

Important Meeting — October 12

Election of Officers - and - Program by Dave Schank, KA9WXN

Digital TV - An Update
Minutes of the General Meeting
August 10, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 PM by President Howard Smith.

Visitor – Jim Kehoss, KC9RNY introduced himself. Members then introduced themselves.

New Member – the membership approved Jim Kehoss, KC9RNY, as a new WARAC member. Welcome aboard Jim.

Minutes – By motion, minutes were approved as published in the latest issue of Hamtrix.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fond Du Lac Radio Club Picnic – an announcement was made that the FDL ARC had extended an invitation to attend to members of WARAC. The picnic is to be held August 14. There is a map and information in August Hamtrix for those interested.

Awards Dinner – The WARAC annual dinner is going to be held November 14. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Nominating Committee – Howard indicated that he was still looking for a second person for the committee. He mentioned that the board representative was Chuck, W9WLX. Nominations will be needed for the October election meeting.

September Homebrew Night – Charles Craven, WB9PUB, encouraged club members to bring in homebrew projects for our September regular meeting. He also spoke about his “homebrew challenge project,” that is to kickoff at that meeting. He will be doing a Hamtrix article about the rules.

Two Meter Club Net - WARAC has been offered the use of a 2M repeater for the off-week 2M nets. The repeater is on 147.05. After discussion, it was decided to try the repeater during the Aug 17 net.

Program – Desecheo Island DXpedition. Ron Gorski, N9AU, gave the membership a few background details about this DXpedition to this island, February 12 to 26, 2009. The uninhabited island was one of the most wanted locations for DXers. It is located 14 west of Puerto Rico, under control of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The membership then viewed a video about the K5D operation. After the video, Ron spoke about some specific details, including physical properties of the island. He said that over the 12-day window of operations, the 22 operators made 115,787 total contacts, using 12M, 15M, 17M, 20M, 30M, 40M, 80M and 160M. Further information mentioned 23,835 CW contacts, 15,486 phone contacts, and 2,462 RTTY contacts. The highest number of Qs was on 20M, followed by 17M, 30M, 40M, 80M, 15M, 160M and 12M. There was some 6M operation. The DXpedition lead by K4UEE and W0GJ. There was brief Q & A session to conclude the program.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM, followed by refreshments and eyeball QSO’s.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR

Minutes of the Board Meeting
August 24, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM. by Chairman Howard Smith.

Board members present were: Charles Craven, Chuck Dellis, George Dunco, Frank Humpal, Tom Macon, Howard Smith, and Lynn Tamblyn.

WI QSO Party - Lynn asked if the Board wished him to remain as Chairman. No Board member spoke. Lynn then mentioned, that as Chairman, he did not anticipate any rule changes. He then discussed several suggestions he had received from participants that could affect the award part of WIQP. At this point, the WIQP Committee had not reached any decisions. The matter would be held over till the next Board meeting, to give the Committee and the Board members time to give some thought to how awards are handled, as well as “if” any changes will be

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**HOMEBREW CHALLENGE**

*By Chuck Craven, WB9PUB*

A homebrew challenge “club project” will start at this September’s Club meeting and run until the February Club meeting. At the February 2011 meeting, a final Show and Tell of each participating member’s project will complete the Challenge. Club members that wish to make a project can choose any project that meets the following guidelines.

**Guidelines:** Club members may choose any project they want to build that is Ham radio related. It may be a kit, something scratch built from any publication or from the Internet. The project may be a standalone device, receiver / transmitter / transceiver, an operator interface of any type, analog, digital or computer interface, test equipment or even a power supply. The project must have at least one active device but not more than 30 active devices. Note: See active device definition list. Any number of passive devices may be used. Note: See passive device definition list below. Be a little careful not to pick a large complicated project as it may be difficult to finish your project within the time limit. If you are a first timer, there are many small kit projects that can be built. If you need help in picking a project, just ask someone or ask me.

**Projects that would be out of scope:**

Examples of projects not allowed would be pre-built assemblies, filter modules for an existing radio, an antenna without an active device or a manual antenna tuner. If you have any questions regarding whether your project meets the guidelines, just ask me. I am sure we can figure out a way to make it a conforming project.

**Active device definition list:** Any tube type, any transistor type, analog IC’s, digital IC’s including microprocessor chips, optical isolators and bridge rectifiers / rectifier diodes.

**Passive device definitions list:** Any capacitor type, any resistor type, any inductor / transformer, any diodes that are not used for rectifying AC power, switches, connectors, project boards and boxes and any type of front panel display (LCD, LED, incandescent, Nixie and florescent).

**Registering your project:** To participate in the “Homebrew Challenge project”, no matter how large or small, first timer or old construction-pro, please register your project with me Chuck Craven. I need this information mainly for the final presentation.

**Getting help with your project:** Ask Howard Smith, Chuck Craven or a buddy for help in getting your project started or with troubleshooting problems. If you need a piece of test equipment for troubleshooting, let us know. Don’t hesitate to ask even if you just need a part supplier for your project.

Join in on the fun!
**Write an Article**

_Do you have news that isn’t listed here? It won’t be if ye editor doesn’t know about it - call or email Tom, K9BTQ!_
Forty years ago, Radio Broadcasting needed at least two people to put on a live program, a Broadcast Engineer and an Announcer. Nowadays it can be handled by an announcer, called a Radio Personality, and a computer. Times have changed.

When I first worked at the WTMJ stations in 1963 as a Broadcast Engineer, there were still a few commercials on 78-rpm records that were played on the air. At that speed they would spin very fast on the turntables and they had a high-pitched audio hiss besides the audio.

Years later I noticed a cart full of 78-rpm records was being pushed down the hallway, on their final journey to be donated to the Milwaukee Public Library. So the 45 rpm and 33 rpm long playing records were next the broadcast standard. A record playing list for a particular program would give the title, number, side and track for each tune and be written and attached to the top of a stack of records.

Reel-to-reel 1/4-inch tapes and commercials on records were being replaced with half-inch tape cassettes. This device was called the Automatic Tape Cassette machine. There were eventually several hundred recorded cassettes stacked in organized wall shelves always ready for airing in the ATC’s.

Radio shows required teamwork between the announcer and broadcast engineer, who worked isolated in separate rooms. The engineer would be in a noisy control room, cueing up records, previewing feeds, getting transmitter readings and typing up trouble reports. There were newscasters and weather reporters asking questions or giving their agenda. Meanwhile, in the announce

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WARAC Annual Awards Dinner
Sunday, November 14, 2010
5:00PM QSO time — 6:00PM Dinner

The Machine Shed Restaurant
N14 W24145 Tower Pl
(I-94 & Hwy J, Exit 294)

WARAC Activities
the year in review
Swapfest WIQP
Field Day more

Presentation of:
2010 Scholarship Certificate
Years of Membership Awards
Contest Awards
2010 Member of the Year Award

Dinner Menu
Country Fried Chicken and Ol’ Fashion Pot Roast
Served ‘family style’ with potatoes, vegetables, cole slaw, cottage cheese, bread, beverage and dessert. Tax and gratuity included in $16.00 price.
Cash bar.

Program
(To be announced)

Contact Phil Gural or Tom Macon if you need transportation

Sign-Up sheet below—Fill out and bring to the Club meeting!

AWARDS DINNER
RESERVATION FORM
Sunday, November 14, 2010
5:00PM QSO time — 6:00PM Dinner

Name ____________________________ Call ______________________

Number of people attending __________ Amount ($16 each) __________

Sign-Up Deadline: November 9 Bring form and money to club meeting or mail to:
Chuck Craven, WB9PUB
W2292 Beulah Hgts Rd
East Troy, WI 53120

Make checks payable to:
W.A.R.A.C, Inc.
your calendars for this event.

Club elections are next month. This is the one meeting that you want to attend. The Nomination committee will be making phone calls to ask if you would consider being an officer or a board member. This is your opportunity to serve on the management team for the club. Please give this some serious thought.

The upcoming meeting is about your Homebrew Projects. Each of you need to bring one of your projects, and tell us about it. You do not need to make a fancy presentation; just tell us what you did, why you wanted to do it, and how it came out. I'm sure you will get a couple of questions from other club meetings. This should make for an interesting meeting.

Also, be sure to read the article in this Hamtrix by Chuck, WB9PUB, about the Homebrew Challenge. He will also answer questions that you may have at the meeting. I have also volunteered to be a mentor to anybody who has a project, but needs a little technical assistance.

Unfortunately, I will be visiting my daughter and her family in Costa Rica, so I will not be at the meeting this month. One of the other officers will handle the meeting in my absence.

Howard, WA9AXQ

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President's Shack

(Continued from page 1)

room it was dead quiet. Only the red light and on-the-air sign indicated being on the air.

Between the two rooms was a large double glass window and both team members faced each other. There was an intercom (electrically locked out when the announce microphone was on the air) for discussing changes and revising plans. While in our separate rooms and airing a program, we used plenty of hand signals, like: cut, fade, change volume, OK, and especially cue. Cue means to start something like a record, tape, switch to the Green Bay Packer’s feed, or go to network news. For live programs, obviously the announcer gave most of the cues.

In 1969 I met newcomer announcer Jonathan Green, who had plenty of red hair, wore a bright green jacket and was full of energy. Now, 41 years later, I saw an article in the newspaper about Jonathan retiring this December.

That same morning I decided to go to Wisconsin State Fair. As I came to the Journal building I saw Jon standing outside talking to his radio fans. He now had a shaved head and wore a comfortable black tee shirt with the Radio 620 WTMJ logo. There was a lady who thanked and hugged him and a man gave him retirement advice. Jon said, "I took off a few days this summer to get used to retirement."

It was my turn. I shook Jon’s hand, "Jonathan Green. I’m Richard Regent, a Broadcast Engineer at WTMJ in 1969. I was the first engineer to put you on the air after you gave me a cue."

We talked about the changes at WTMJ. Jon claims, "Those turntables are now hard to find except in a museum." He tells me about his collection of 300 sound effects originally put on cassettes. The station eventually bought a $3,000 system designed to hold all these sounds in a more convenient manner. With current technology, Jon now easily stores them on a tiny flash drive that he can use at work or take home. "Everything is now on the computer," he says.

There were people behind me waiting to talk to Jon, so I said, "You did good."

Jon looked at me, lifted his right hand upward, and then quickly pointed toward me. He said, "For old time’s sake." I recognized his cue and quickly started an imaginary record on a turntable. We both laughed together.
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.

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