



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 62, Issue 9 September, 2015

SEPTEMBER CLUB HAPPENINGS

Club Meeting

St. Peter's Episcopal Church,
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis
September 8, 2015 **7:00pm**

Program

Show and Tell Night
(see The Presidents shack for more info)

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

Anniversary Awards Dinner October 25, 2015 See page 5

WARAC 2-meter net

Every Wednesday at 8pm

MATC repeater 147.045 standard offset
127.3 Hz CTCSS



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 September 2015

We're going to try something new for this month's program - a Show and Tell Night, or maybe Potpourri Night is a better name. Basically, bring anything you want to talk about to the meeting and talk about it. A few topics already on the list are: a \$12 electronic component analyzer (NO9B); demo of the RigExpert AA-30 antenna analyzer (K9BTQ); experiences operating QRP (KA9FZR).

So your topic can be just about anything, new or old. A new gizmo, trick or technique for your shack. An old gizmo from your archives. An antenna you tried, or want to try. On the air experiences. Elmer Questions. You name it. You don't even need to bring it - just talk about it.

If you have questions or need some help preparing what you want to talk about, give me a call. Also, if you want to use the computer/projector at the meeting, let me know so we can make sure things run smoothly.

Our tour of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society observatory has been delayed until October due to scheduling issues. More about this at the upcoming meeting.

The sign-up sheet for our Annual Awards Dinner is in this issue of Hamtrix. October 25. Don't forget to send it in! This year's committee, Frank Humpal, Paul Hass and Erwin von der Ehe, is putting this event together. Important note - this is a bye weekend for the Packers.

As you know, October is our annual election of officers. We could use some competition. How about you?? In addition to the four primary

offices, we will be electing two Board members, one for a one-year term and one for a two-year term. Please consider giving something back to your club and volunteer!

The next WIQP will be on March 13, 2016. It's not too early to start thinking about your operating strategy for the 2016 party, especially if you're thinking of new antennas or going mobile. You don't want to be putting this stuff together in the middle of winter, right?

Don't forget our usual before-meeting dinner at Johnny V's Classic Café, 1650 S. 84th St. at 5:00PM. Also, remember our Wednesday night 2-meter nets. Every week at 8:00PM.

See you at the meeting! Bring a friend!
Tom, K9BTQ

From the editor

September is with us although you can't tell it by the temperature outside. I'm sure that will change in due time. Not much is going on here. At least ham radio wise. I did key my pixie on the air and it was heard in town. So I will have to play with it some more. The power is low. So it is a real challenge

I also tried a few CW calls with my main QRP rig. So far no bites. I'll keep trying and know it will come.

I used to enjoy CW found it relaxing once I got comfortable with it. It sure increases your effective power and the equipment can be very simple. My most memorable CW contact was with my Elmer. I had taken my Heathkit HW-8 out to California with a 15 meter dipole. One evening I set the Dipole up in my hotel room and we had a short QSO with him back in here in Milwaukee. That amazed both of us. One fun thing of many with Ham Radio.

The other interesting thing I did was assist with a presentation on the History of Ham radio to some retired Boy Scout volunteers. These Yountimers meet monthly. It went well, with good questions to keep us thinking.

Frank KA9FZR

WARAC General Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2015

Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President, Tom Macon, K9BTQ. Overall meeting attendance was 17 with 0 visitors.

Program

The evening's program topics included:

Rig Control Techniques by Tom K9BTQ, Steve NO9B and Mike WO9B

Wisconsin QSO Party Results presented by Tom K9BTQ

Business

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

Sept's Program will be on LOTW and Oct will be on Erwin's Pan Scope Development project. Milw Observatory Tour is still in the works for Sept, but will be on a special night. Info to come

Annual Awards Dinner: October 25th at Carl's Catering. Save the date.

The WARAC Swap Fest Flyer is now available. Take some, put them up.

Reminder for the Wednesday evening 2 meter net. Everyone is welcome

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Johnson, WO9B

WARAC Board Meeting

Aug 25, 2015

Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Tom Macon, K9BTQ, Steve Dryja, NO9B, Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, Frank Humpal, KA9ZWF, Al Hovey, WA9BZW and Mike Johnson, WO9B.

2016 Budget Planning

Howard distributed the Budget Package for review. Howard will make changes per discussion and present the final budget next meeting.

Programs

Sept – Gizmo & Elmer Night, Milwaukee Astronomical Society separate trip

Sep – 3-D Printing or LOTW
Oct – Elections, Panadaptor with Dongle
Nov –
Dec -

Future Program Ideas

Spotting – W9XT
FM38 Operations
DSP presentation
Yaesu Fusion System
Kreg Jig Fastener System
SO2R
AMSAT

Club Operations Manual

Tom is updating the WIQP Manual.

2012 , 2013 and 2014 Audit

2012 & 2013 were packaged to Bill, N9KPH. Howard wants to pass along the 2014 version.

Awards Dinner

Work continues

Other Items

2 meter net continues and needs some more check-ins.

Meeting was adjourned 9:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Johnson, WO9B
Secretary WARAC

WARAC Annual Awards Dinner

Sunday, October 25, 2015
5:00 PM QSO Time – 6:00 PM Dinner

Carl's Catering and Banquet
5110 Loomis Road
Greendale, WI

WARAC Activities the year in review

Swapfest WIQP
Field Day *more*

Presentation of:

2015 Scholarship
Years of Membership Awards
Contest Awards
2015 Member of the Year

Dinner Menu

Beef Tenderloin Tips and Stuffed Chicken Breast

Served buffet style with potato, vegetable, assortment of salads, bread, beverage, and dessert. Tax and gratuity included. Cash bar.

Program

A History of Zoos by David Loosen

Awards Dinner Reservation Form

Sunday, October 25, 2015
5:00 PM QSO Time – 6:00 PM Dinner

Name _____	Call _____
Number attending _____	Amount (\$16 Each) _____

Sign up Deadline: October 16

Make checks payable to:
W.A.R.A.C, Inc.

Bring form and money to club
meeting or mail to:

Howard Smith
4760 S Woodlawn Pl
Greenfield, WI 53228

Ham Radio News Feed Reader

By Mike Johnson, WO9B

The scream heard 'round the world. That was me. Let me explain. Turns out I am a bit of a news junkie and the internet is my mode of choice. The problem is there are so many various websites, it is impossible to keep up with them all. My obsessive behavior naturally led me into the dark allies of Ham Radio web sites. Life suddenly got really hard. It is just an impossible task to visit all these sites. I wouldn't even try it.

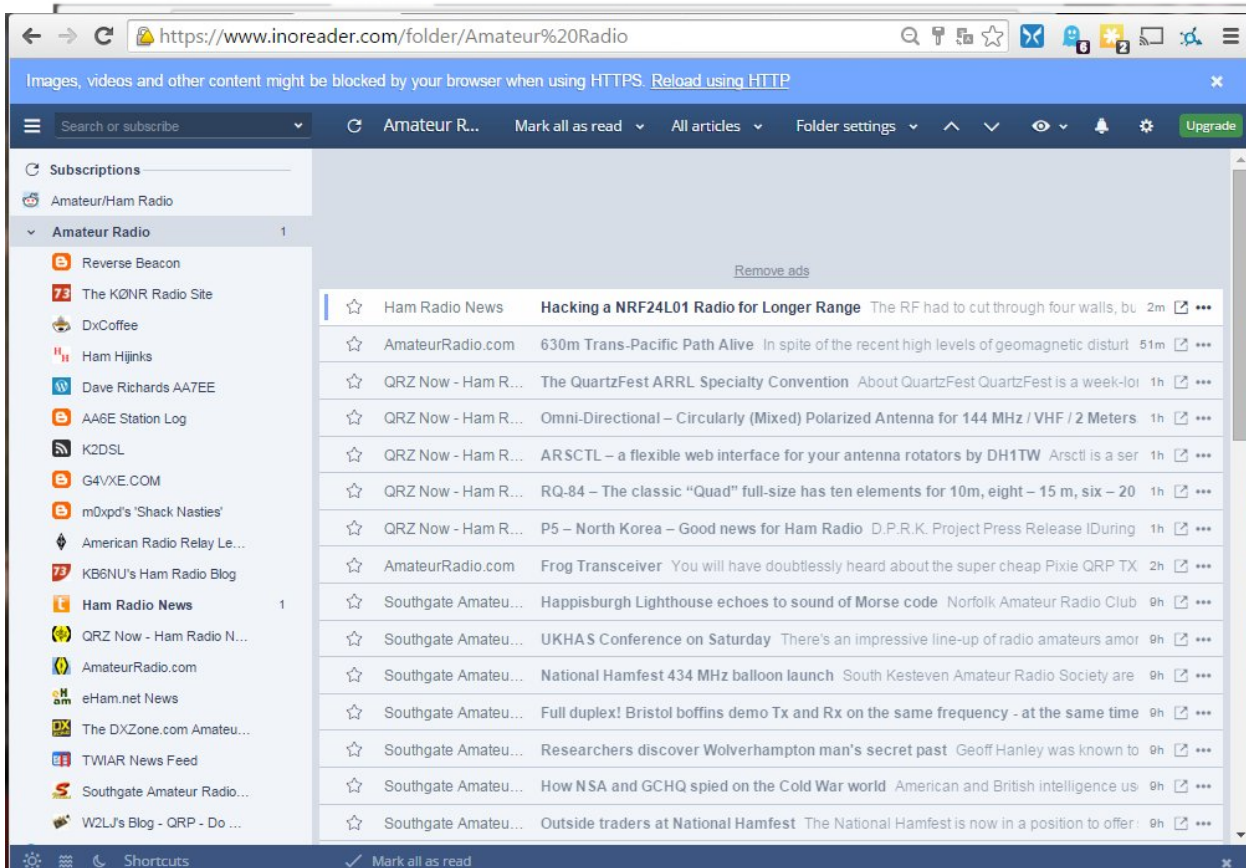
But alas this is the internet. The place where the solution already exists to your problem. Or at least that is what the advertising wants you believe.

My fist attempt was decidedly main stream. If you look around there are a bunch of customizable news agglomerater's that can be sort of customized to provide the feeds you crave. They can be slick and very catchy. I am thinking of the likes of Flipboard as an example. <https://flipboard.com/> The problem is that control of the feeds is pretty difficult and then there is the advertising. I hate the advertising. It just feels like they are sticking there nose in my business.

I was looking for something a little more "Old School". Then it struck me what I wanted was an old fashioned RSS Feed Reader. The search lead me to Inoreader (<https://www.inoreader.com/>) and I have been using it since.

So what is an RSS Feed Reader. Well, most web sites have an automatically generated RSS Feed that updates when the web site publishes a new story, blog entry, document, etc. That information is then read by the RSS Feed Reader, Inoreader in my case, and it shows up as a new story for me to read if it interests me.

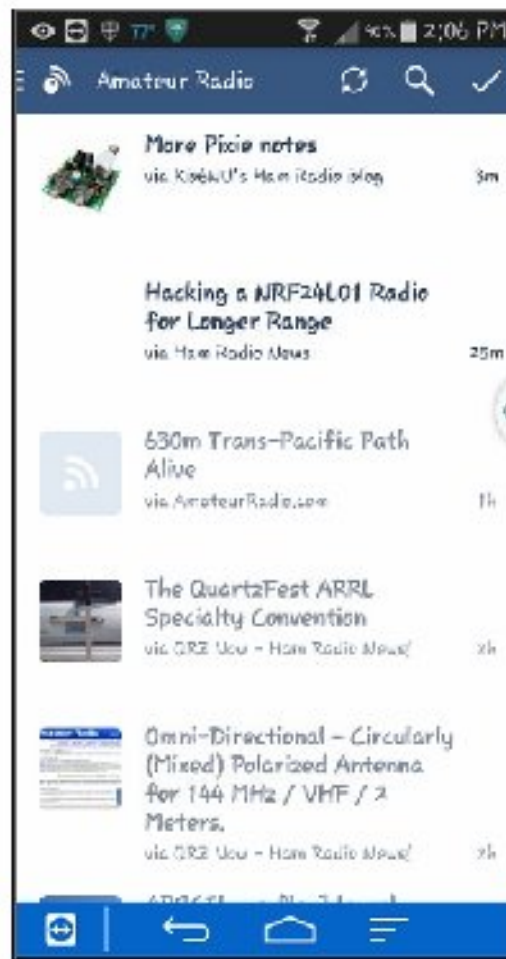
Here is what it looks like:



Turns out, over the past several months, my little feeder monitors 19 different web sites all related to Ham Radio topics. All I have to do is sign into the website and it brings up all my subscriptions and tells me what the new stories are. I can even search the feeds for topics and key words. So now, by just signing in, I can get all the latest from these sites and never have to actually go to them. Every once in a while, I will stumble onto a new site I have never heard of. If the site is interesting I look for their RSS Feed and subscribe to it, adding it to my list. It is really just that easy. Just today, the site DxCoffee.com was added to my list.

If you give it a try, there are tons of RSS Readers available. Most are free and if you use Ghostery, they will be pretty much ad free. There is a really shallow learning curve to using these things, so with only reasonable effort, you can set one up to do all the web surfing for you. And, naturally, they work on all manner of subjects, not just Ham Radio. It is a very efficient way to stay in touch with the web sites you use. So whether it is News, Ham Radio, Automobiles, Cooking or whatever, here is a tool you can customize to your needs.

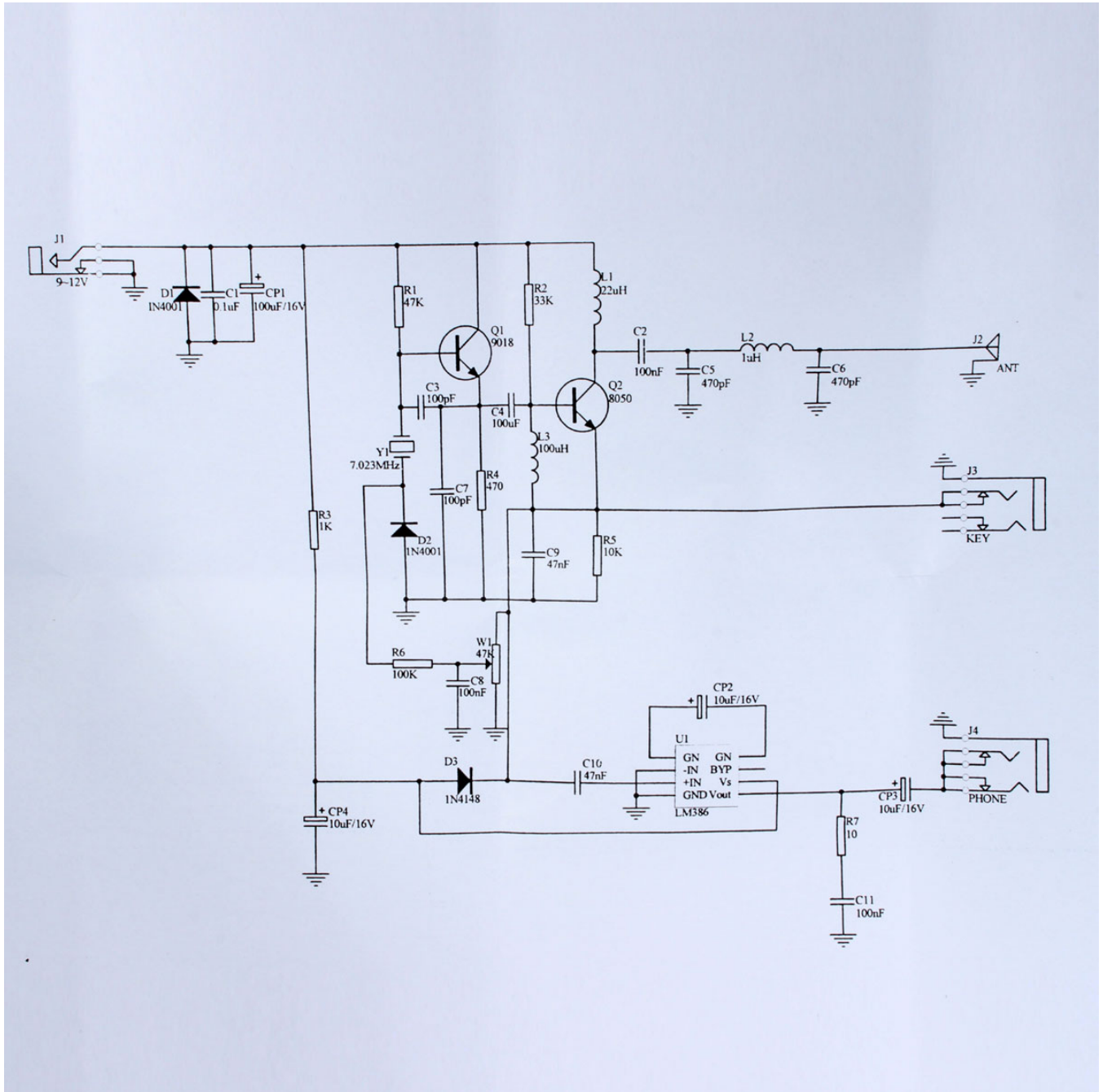
If you have an Android or iPhone, that's right, there is an app for that. It is very convenient.



Give it a try.

KA9FZR's pixie

Here is the schematic of the little PIXIE transceiver kit I'm playing with. It is very tiny and very low cost (under ten dollars). It fits in an Altoids box with room for a 9 volt battery!



Ham Radio on the Internet
(click on red web address)

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

"The New DXer's Handbook"
Second Edition
<http://www.k7ua.com/>

Pictures from the international space station
stitched together to a high definition view of the
inside.
<http://esamultimedia.esa.int/multimedia/virtual-tour-iss/>

Interesting article on a new camera at the
space station. Also a video of how micro
gravity affects water.
http://www.wirelessdesignmag.com/news/2015/07/red-epic-dragon-camera-captures-riveting-images-space-station?et_cid=4698399&et_rid=353748193&location=top

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.