



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 64, Issue 9 September, 2017

SEPTEMBER CLUB HAPPENINGS

Club Meeting

St. Peter's Episcopal Church,
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis
September 12, 2017 6:30 PM

Program

Repair Experiences, Eclipse QSOs

**Johnny V's Classic Café, 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

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.

Save The Date

W.A.R.A.C. Awards Dinner will be held
at New Berlin Hills on October 29th at
5:00 PM.

Speaker

Lynn Olenik from the Humane Animal Welfare
Society (HAWS) of Waukesha.

Sign up sheet page 7

WARAC 2-meter net

Every Wednesday at 8pm

SEWFARS K9ABC Repeater 146.820 standard (-)offset
127.3 Hz CTCSS

if repeater down try 146.55 simplex

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 2017

Our upcoming meeting promises to be busy.

First off, our **new trailer is finished will be on display** before the meeting! Come a little early and check it out. And a huge hats-off the Steve for all the hard work!

Next, the main program this month will be about **your Repair Experiences** This is your chance to tell a story about repairing something – a radio or anything else. It can be about something that you trouble-shot and repaired yourself or about something you had repaired by someone else. Most of us have had a radio quit working – what did you do about it? Would you do it again?

Bring your stories, pictures and any other “evidence” you might have. If you have pictures you can email them to me ahead of time.

After everything is repaired, we will move on to a presentation of the **2017 Wisconsin QSO Party** results. The final report is not completed but tabulation of the results is done. We'll take a look at it! And by the way, the next **WIQP will be on March 11, 2018**.

At least two club members headed south for the **Solar Eclipse**. We'll talk about that and take a look at their pictures. If you have pictures, bring them or email them to me before the meeting.

In addition, an item of business is to replace our Field Day ladder. The ten foot ladder used to assemble and push up our 40 foot masts has been around since the 1980's. Steve NO9B has looked into a replacement and has written a proposal. Look for it elsewhere in this Hamtrix.

If you haven't heard, HRO is having a Superfest event on Friday and Saturday, September 29 and 30. Thanks to Chuck W9WLX, we are signed up for a club PR table there. Of course, that means we'll need some members there to help man the table. We'll talk about this at the upcoming meeting. More about Superfest on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/events/321687028278327/>

WARAC has a Facebook page, thanks to Chris, KC9UXC. Check it out, and let us know what you think. Thanks, Chris, for setting this up!

The 2017 Maker Faire is coming up Saturday and Sunday, September 23 and 24. It runs 10am-7pm on Saturday and 10am-5pm Sunday. Check out <https://milwaukee.makerfaire.com/tickets/>

The **sign-up sheet for our Annual Awards Dinner** is in this issue of Hamtrix. It will be on **October 29**. Don't forget to sign up! This year's committee, Erwin von der Ehe, Steve Dryja and Mike Johnson, is putting this event together. The program for this event will be Lynn Olenik from the Humane Animal Welfare Society (HAWS) of Waukesha. A couple of important notes – (1) we have a new location this year, and, (2) it's a bye weekend for the Packers.

As you know, **October is our annual election of officers**. We will need a new Secretary as Erwin has indicated that he would like to concentrate on the Swapfest and other activities. So how about you?? In addition to the four primary officers, 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!

As mentioned above, the **next WIQP will be on March 11, 2018**. It's not too early to start thinking about your operating strategy for the 2018 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

WARAC General Meeting Minutes

August 08, 2017

Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 19:00 by President, Tom Macon (K9BTQ). Overall meeting attendance was 19 members, plus 1 visitor.

Tonight's Program:

- Home Brew Internet Remote - Don Solberg (K9AQ)
- Solid State Amplifier - Don Solberg (K9AQ)

Future Programs

September '18: Repair experience stories/nightmares
October '17: Election of Club officers

Business

- July meeting minutes were voted on and approved.
- Scholarship recipient is Erik J. Maplethorpe (KC9PDU) of Round Lake, IL. Howard Smith (WA9AXQ) is trying to get additional contact information.
- Club trailer floor is now painted – Tom Macon (K9BTQ) & Steve Dryja (NO9B)
- Sales – we have baseball cards which need sorting and tubes which need testing.
- Swapfest – Will begin distributing flyers when they are printed. Three presenters for free seminars are identified and listed on the flyers.
- HRO Superfest – Last Friday & Saturday in September - approximately same as AES in previous years. - Chuck Dellis (W9WLX)
- Facebook page is up. A “walk-through” will be given later. – Chris Kelling (KC9UXC)
- Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV) gave status of the Awards Dinner, scheduled for August 29, 2017.
- Members can join the Solar Eclipse QSO Party on 2017-08-21. For details, go to <http://hamsci.org/seqp>

The meeting was adjourned at 20:39.

Respectfully submitted,
Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV)
Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.
2017-08-08

W.A.R.A.C. Board Meeting

August 22, 2017

Howard Smith (WA9AXQ) called the meeting to order at 19:04.

Present: Tom Macon (K9BTQ), Howard Smith (WA9AXQ), Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV), Steve Dryja (NO9B), Frank Humpal (KA9FZR), Dave Garnier (WB9OWN), Mike Johnson (WO9B).

- Howard Smith (WA9AXQ) presented the monthly Treasurer's report and the Club equipment and liability insurance status.
- A discussion was had regarding having a December meeting as a holiday party.
- Steve Dryja (NO9B) gave the status of the Club trailer. He also presented a proposal for a safe ladder for use at Field Day. A purchase proposal will be presented at the next general meeting.
- Dave Garnier (WB9OWN) presented options for a replacement video projector.
- Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV) gave a 2018 Swapfest update.
- HRO 2017 Superfest in September – no news.
- Tom Macon (K9BTQ) purchased software from Software One at a discount. SW to be distributed to required board members.
- Mike Johnson (WO9B) is investigating the concept of having the January, 2018 meeting as a holiday party

Programs

September, 2017: Repair Experiences, Eclipse QSOs

October, 2017: Elections

November, 2017: FT8: The New Digital Mode

Future Program Ideas

CW Skimmer / CW Decoders

Contest operations for the fall: SS, 10 Meter Contest, CQ WW

WE Energies or Spectrum Cable Noise Tracking

Story-telling night

Careers?

Ham Radio Outlet – New radio products

DMR Radios

Other Items

- Howard Smith (WA9AXQ) will bring Swapfest registration tickets in preparation for the Swapfest e-blast.

Meeting was adjourned at 21:28.

Respectfully submitted,
Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV)
Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.
2017-08-22

To The Members of WARAC:

I, Steve Dryja, VP of WARAC, am recommending the club purchase a ladder to replace the current wooden ladder used during Field Day setup and tear down. The cost of the ladder is \$409.88.

The reasoning is as follows:

- Currently the existing wooden ladder is not rated for two people at the same time.
- The ladder needs to accommodate two people (one on each side) for setup of the masts. One person cannot telescope the mast by themselves.

Q&A:

Q: Who will be responsible for the ladder?

A: VP of WARAC per the By Laws.

Q: Why can't we just continue to use the wooden ladder?

A: The wooden ladder is only rated for one person at a time. Two people are needed to telescope the masts to their full extension.

This proposal is the result of an internet search of ladders capable of two people and the prices were as high as \$900 for two person ladders, so \$409.88 seems like a good price. I also went to the State Fair and found the Little Giant Ladder to be a good deal and it comes with extras.

<https://www.littlegiantladder.com/quantum/>



Ladder Details:

SIZE	COST	INT. HT.	Max HT.
QUANTUM,M22 TYPE IA ALUM LDR	\$409.88	5' 1" (folded)	19' 0"

STANDARD FEATURES

Model	22
A-Frame max height	9'1"
A-Frame min height	5'1"
Extension max height	19'
Extension min height	11'
Ladder weight	38 lbs
<u>Palm & Hinge System Cast Aluminum and Quad Lock</u>	
Price	\$489.99
Rung Size Single Section Inner:	1.5" Outer: 1"
Spreader System	Hinge Lock
Storage Depth	8"
Storage height	5'7"
Tip & Glide	Yes
Unique Configurations	33
Warranty	Lifetime
Weight capacity	300-lbs.
Width at base	26.5"

WARAC Annual Awards Dinner

Sunday, October 29, 2017

5:00 PM QSO Time – 6:00 PM Dinner

New Berlin Hills Golf Course

13175 W. Graham St., New Berlin, WI

43.004824°, -88.077598°

WARAC Activities

the year in review

- Swapfest
- Field Day
- WIQP
- 10m Contest
- *more*

Presentation of:

- 2017 Scholarship
- Years of Membership Awards
- Contest Awards
- 2017 Member of the Year

Dinner Menu

Tenderloin tips w/Gravy, Marinated Baked Chicken Breasts

Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans w/Almonds, Salad, and Dinner Rolls.

Tax and gratuity included. Cash bar.

Program

Our Community's Animals by Linda Olenik, Executive Director of HAWS, Waukesha

Awards Dinner Reservation Form

Sunday, October 29, 2017

5:00 PM QSO Time – 6:00 PM Dinner

Name _____ Call _____

Number attending _____ Amount (\$18 Each) _____

Sign up Deadline: October 23

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

If no one will talk to you is it still an activation and does it matter.

Thursday August 31 Mike WO9B, Bill N9KPH and me took off to Aztalan State Park for a park activation.

Knowing that propagation has been very interesting lately we decided to set up two rigs to increase our chances of making contacts.

Bill with his FT-857 and buddy pole set up a twenty meter SSB station that seemed to be hearing well. Bill gave it a good shot but could not be heard.

Meanwhile Mike and me went over to another parking lot to set up a forty meter CW station. We used Mike's ladder line fed dipole, strung up into a tree and my FT-817 with an 35 watt amplifier. Again we heard some stations but got no response from them, when calling CQ no answer. Raising the antenna made no difference.

We spent a hour or so playing radio with no luck. Still had a good time testing equipment etc. Mike had his auto tuner, which appeared to work well. The tuner is slated for the next QSO party. Letting the tuner think rather than us will be one less irritation.

Overall a fun trip even if it was found to be important to guide a buddy pole even on a calm day and the fact that wire antennas will take beating much better than a buddy pole.

The way propagation is going we may have to figure out a way to take a full gallon amp portable to be heard. That may be much more interesting to do than I would want it to be!

Frank KA9FZR



After a lot of hard work new trailer is ready to go

From the editor

It seems we misplaced the summer at least in this house. It sure doesn't seem like it should be September yet. I will admit that the weather could make you believe it.

There's not much going on here radio wise. I did go on a park activation with Mike WO9B and Bill N9KPH the other day. Current propagation conditions are going to require different operation times. But that is part of the fun of ham radio.

Judy and me are going on a tour of Nova Scotia next week so I will miss the meeting. My big debate, is it worth it taking a radio along with propagation as it is and being limited to time and space. I'm not sure what I will do. Most hotels really don't encourage opening windows or stringing wires up.

So I'll keep it short this month

73

Frank KA9FZR

Officers and Board

President

Tom Macon, K9BTQ

Vice President

Steve Dryja, NO9B

Secretary

Erwin von der Ehe, WI9EV

Treasurer

Howard Smith WA9AXO

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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.