



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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

Volume 65, Issue 9 September, 2018

SEPTEMBER 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

St. Peter's Episcopal Church,

7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis

September 11, 2018 7:00 PM

Chuck W9WLX will talk on Digital modes

Premeeting dinner

Johnny V's Classic Café, 1650 S. 84th St. at 5:00PM.

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

2018 Awards Dinner

October 21, 2018 at 5:00pm

See Page 7 for signup sheet

Speaking of Swapfests...

Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR), primary contact for the Ozaukee Radio Club (ORC) Swapfest, reminds us that their 13th Annual Fall Swapfest happens on September 8th 2018 (this Saturday!) at Fireman's Park in Cedarburg WI from 6AM until noon and only \$5 per person admission. Sell from your vehicle outside or buy a table (as available) inside the exhibit hall for \$10, or just browse and visit. ORC looks forward to a sunny morning and seeing you there at Fireman's Park. Flyer is available at www.ozaukeeradioclub.org.

The President's Shack September 2018

The calendar says we have officially crossed into the fall season. I can tell because the fall Wisconsin phenom known as the Green Bay Packers is making headlines and affecting our weekend schedules and, if all goes well, our Monday morning mood as well. And I've been basking the last few days of summer weather. Won't be long now.....

The seasonal changes bring changes to our favorite hobby too. Some good and others a bit meh. I've been pondering the lack luster performance of the HF bands. Are we at the solar minimum just yet? It sure feels that way. If this isn't the bottom, my goodness. I don't spend much time in the phone bands, but spinning the dial on CW can be a little lonely. If not for FT8 springing to the rescue, my DX activities would be equaling the sunspots in vitality.

Well, if you've not yet sampled the wonders of FT8 and other digital modes, have we got a program this month for you. Our own Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, will be bringing us up to speed on digital modes. I'm looking forward to hearing about the latest. And that's a tall order. Personally, DMR has proven to be an exciting mode for me. I just enjoyed a short trip to MN and used just my little DMR HT the whole way. Amazing stuff and once you get past the startup stuff, remarkably robust.

Additional club business is also on the agenda. First up is the Club's Awards Dinner. Sign up!! It will be another great evening at the New Berlin Hills Golf Club. Sunday, October 21st at 5:00 PM. It's an evening to celebrate the club's year. Not to mention a really nice facility and a very nice meal. Check out the sign up sheet in this Hamtrix.

Also, next month's meeting will be our annual elections. Who wants to jump into the pool? The

more the merrier and we can use your input. Many hands make for light lifting, as the saying goes. What do you say?

On my personal projects list is a couple of beat the weather antenna projects. I'd really like to get a new wire up in the trees, oh just a little higher. That's a project that is never over. I'd also like to improve my vhf/uhf antenna. Oh and that 1929'r transmitter keeps calling out to me.

The fall operating events are just kicking off too. Lots of State QSO Party events just about every weekend. And of course the major contest season is starting off. How about the Route 66 operating event? Who's taking a stroll down that most storied road?

Don't forget the pre-meeting dinner at Johnny V's (did I spell that correctly?) See you all on Tuesday.

73's

MJ,W09B

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

From the Editor

As usual I'm working on the editorial near bed time. This after an appointment about left elbow fracture. I took a fall when my dog and me tried to dance together! May also be me having a twenty year old brain in a seventy year old body!

Anyway it will have a plate and screw placed to put it back together and I should be back to normal functionality. It would be my left elbow and I'm left handed.

I did get my FT-817 hooked up to work on FT-8 and other digital modes. Just in time to hear what Chuck W9WLX says about digital modes at the next meeting.

So not much more to say or type.

73

Frank

WARAC General Meeting Minutes **August 14, 2014**

The customary General Meeting was replaced by an informal portable station activation held at Pro Healthcare park. An FT8 station was provided by club President, Mike Johnson (WO9B). A 40 meter SSB/CW station was provided by Chuck Dellis (W9WLX).

A formal meeting with agenda was not held. The event was purely social in nature and attendance was not taken.

We had numerous guests (approximately ten to fifteen) from the Miller Valley ARC.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Reed, N9KPH
WARAC Treasurer
August 20, 2018

WARAC Board Meeting **August 28th, 2018**

Due to a number of reasons, the August Board Meeting was canceled.

Two board members were not going to attend, one board member had been home sick that day, and the whole area was under a severe thunderstorm warning. I did not want to be in the Church, and have another lightning strike set the steeple on fire.

Respectfully submitted,
Howard Smith, WA9AXQ
Secretary, WARAC
September 4th, 2018

Special Event Corner **September, 2018**

By Bill Reed/N9KPH

Here's a listing of only a few events that will occur during September and early October. There are MANY other unique events that occur throughout October. Check them out at http://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:1/model:Event

State QSO Parties

Washington: 9/15 to 9/16

Maine: 9/22 to 9/23

Texas: 9/29 to 9/30

California: 10/6 to 10/7

If you're looking for a target rich environment, my experience suggests spending time on the CA and TX parties.

General Interest Events:

- Route 66 On The Air

Sep 8-Sep 16, 0001Z-2359Z Come celebrate the history of this great highway that help build America and join the clubs across the nation participating in this event using the call signs of W6A - W6U. www.w6jbt.org

Personally, I don't think that this event has been very well run in the past, but it's still fun to use whatever contacts you make to help learn more about this historic route.

- POW MIA Recognition Day

Sep 14-Sep 23, 0000Z-2359Z, K4MIA This will be the 10th year this special event station has been activated. The day was established to honor our prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. There will be sister stations K4MIA/5 K4MIA/7 K4MIA/8 in operation some days.
www.qrz.com/db/k4mia

- First Annual Wisconsin Parks on the Air

Sep 15, 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM Local This designed to promote public awareness of ham radio within Wisconsin's beautiful state park system. The objective of WIPOTA is to have competing stations operate from as many Wisconsin parks as possible and work hams in other WI parks, as well as hams not located in a park in any state, province or country. Rules and frequency suggestions can be found at www.wipota.com



Hamtrix Sale Corner

A few years ago WARAC received a Diamond CP-725H antenna. A decision was made to take a look at all the parts and to assemble it. After some head scratchen and errors, the assembly was completed. It was mounted on the antenna test stand on my sun room roof. The next step was to determine resonant frequencies and make the necessary adjustments. Much to my surprise, the 40M, 15M, 10M and 6M vertical tuned up fairly easily. All the SWR readings are less the 2:1. A few contacts were made and, as I expected, it has less gain than my Delta skywire antenna!

This compact, light weight HF antenna is now for sale. Club member price is \$50. Included is the manual and some assembly pictures.

For additional information please contact Phil, W9NAW, 414-617-7029.

Phil W9NAW 5 Sept 2018

Diamond CP-725H

DX / CONTEST UPDATE

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

DX: As we enter the fall season, look for those expected changes. It looks like we are on the cusp of the new solar cycle. Hmmmmm. The RI0B IOTA operation looks very interesting. Also get on FT8 and bag some DX. I can't tell you how little you need to get a QSO in that mode. It's not a lock, but for sure and fighting chance. For those with a SSB preference, the WAE SSB contest is this weekend. That is always active and makes getting those Euro countries a snap.

DXPEDITIONS & CONTEST SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2018																														www.hamradioweb.org		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
EX0PL																																
										A5A																						
FG/HGOR								WH0RU												CQWW RTTY												
ALL ASIAN TEST SSB		RI0B IOTA date NOT sure AS-054-121-104-68-87-004																														
								WAE SSB TEST				T32AH UNTIL 1/10...								9X0T..Y →												
												7Q7ELA										5W0GC →										
DU1JST/9 OC-174				PJ7/K5SL										3DA0AO										VK9XT →								
										FY/DL5FAB SA-020																						
										3B8/PA3HGT										3W9JK/P AS-162 (3W9JK 22-27/9)												
TF/VE2DX																																

Contests: There is a ton of accessible contests now that school is back in session. From Russian RTTY to State QSO Parties to CW Sprints, ARRL VHF Contest, QRP.... Too many to name. Check out the link below and put a few Q's out on the ether.

Full Contest Schedule check: <http://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html>

Swapfest Is Coming!!

The West Allis Radio Amateur Club's 47th annual midwinter Swapfest is coming January 05, 2019 – four months from now! During the next few months, we'll need to sell advance tickets, distribute flyers, arrange volunteers, and many other tasks required for success.

This year, we're offering a Sponsorship program, whereby a company can donate goods, certificates, or (preferably) cash to help our Swapfest be a success. We need your help finding and contacting companies where you live to participate. We've held the ticket prices constant for several years now, while costs have increased. Company sponsorships will help our bottom line while giving them exposure to the approximately 700 Swapfest attendees.

Please open the W.A.R.A.C. Swapfest web page (<http://www.warac.org/swap/index.htm>) to download & view a memo which introduces the sponsorship program, as well as a Sponsorship Guidelines document, which explains the various levels of sponsorship. Feel free to give these documents to company representatives. Please think of a company you are familiar with, and approach them for sponsorship. If you have questions, please contact me, as indicated on the Swapfest web page.

You'll hear more about Swapfest in the next months!

73,

Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV)

Chairman, West Allis Radio Amateur Club Swapfest Committee



WARAC Annual Awards Dinner

Sunday, October 21, 2018
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

TBA

Awards Dinner Reservation Form

Sunday, October 21, 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:

Bill Reed
3380 S Russel Road
New Berlin, WI 53151

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.

Roasting

“I remember when the first German liner appeared in these waters after the war. We had a young chap here like Sargent, just out of the navy and full of hot steam and ginger. We had a few messages, for the German and our boy had a fine time roasting the ears off the German’s junior op. The chap kept asking for repeats, and finally our wonder boy cracked off ‘Get another op.’ That’s the ultimate insult in this business, you understand. Well, the German fetched his chief, who turned out to be an old hand at the game. He copied our messages all right and then announced he had some stuff for retransmission to New York. His apparatus was one of those Telefunken outfits that warble like a canary, and he had something like two hundred messages, nearly all in German.

“He screwed down his key to the least possible working gap and he zipped those messages at our hero in bunches of ten, going a blue streak. Clinnett—the wonder boy—was sweating blood inside five minutes. He couldn’t use the station typewriter because the signals weren’t loud enough, so it was pencil and pad, with a duplicate to be made for every message, a carbon sheet to be whipped into place for each new message, and the completed messages to be torn off and marked with the time of receipt—and all that with the German sailing straight on at about thirty words a minute. I know, because I was here in the room and so was Matt, and we plugged in to hear the German’s side of the game. The air was quiet. You could sense dozens of other chaps, ship and shore, listening in—because everyone knew what was up.

“At the end of the fourth or fifth group Clinnett had to ask for a repeat—a signature here, a word or two there. At the end of the seventh he was asking for whole phrases. You could fairly see the German grinning. And then it came, a curt little service message in perfect English, addressed to the O-in-C, Marina, demanding ‘Please use capable operator.’ There was dead silence in the phones for a moment, and then you could hear ships up and down the coast piping ‘Hi-hi-hi’—the signal for a laugh. And the laugh was on us, on Marina, you see. Matt was furious, with Clinnett as much as the Hun.”

“What happened?” Isabel asked.

“Matt took over the watch himself, tapping out ‘O.I.C. here’ in his slow way and telling the Hun to go on with his messages in groups of ten. By that time everyone on the coast had stopped to listen, for they all knew Carney’s fist—and they knew what was coming next. A lot of smart ship ops have been fooled by that fist of Matt’s. They think they’ve got a slow chum at the other end of the line and they screw down their keys and try to roast him. Well, Matt’s been in this game so long that the codes his native language—he thinks in dots and dashes. And nothing bothers him—interference, static, speed—nothing. He can read the Stuff by instinct, and faster than any human hand could send it. Everyone on the coast knew that, but the German didn’t and away he went like greased lightning with his next ten messages.

“At the end of them Matt gave him ‘R’ for the lot, and added ‘Send faster.’ The German zipped off another group; and again Matt said ‘Send faster.’ The Hun was good, mind you; he was sending as fast as any man could go. But he couldn’t keep up that pace. His wrist was getting tired. When he tried to cram on a bit more speed it was fatal. He began to make mistakes, falling all over himself, going back and repeating. Another group, and Matt cracked off, in that

same slow fist, mind you, ‘Send much faster. Have other traffic to clear.’ There was a pause, and the German came on again, going at a terrific rate. But when he got to the third or fourth message in the group he stumbled badly, went back and repeated, zipped on for a bit, and stumbled again.

“At the end of the group it was rather pitiful—like watching a good penman ruin his fist by trying to write too fast. And of course there was nothing the German could do or say about the speed—he was dealing with a shore station, and a shore station in its own official range is practically the Almighty; its word is law. By the time he got to his twelfth group the Hun was stumbling and fumbling, making a stuttering mess of it; and then Matt put an end to it, tapping out in his calm way, slow and merciless like the cold wrath of God, ‘Use recognized code or get someone who can.’

“You should have heard the chorus in the phones—every op in the area snickering out ‘Hi-hi—hi.’ Even Clinnett laughed, standing there beside Matt with a pair of phones plugged in. And then in the silence before the German’s junior op came on again, sending at Matt’s own rate, a bit over twenty, no more, Matt got out of the chair and motioned Clinnett towards the pencil and the message pads. ‘Take over,’ he said. ‘And after this don’t act the damned fool at my key.’ Can’t you hear him saying that?”

“Yes,” Isabel said. “My key, my station, my island—they’re all his, really, aren’t they? How that would touch his pride! But it all sounds a bit childish, if you’ll forgive me—like a lot of little boys showing off and giggling in a crowded room. I thought this was a serious business.”

Skane grinned. “It is, most of the time. That’s why we like a bit of fun now and then.” “Something to do!”

He glanced at her curiously. “You don’t like that expression, do you?”





Pictures from the August meeting at Pro Health park



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!

Archive of Radio Constructor magazine,
a UK mag that ran from from 1947 to 1981.

https://www.americanradiohistory.com/Radio_Constructor_Magazine.htm



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.