



Hamtrix

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The President's Shack

by Howard Smith,
WA9AXQ

October is always a very important month for the West Allis Radio Amateur Club. The annual Election of Officers and Board Members occurs at the membership meeting and, most years, the Annual Awards Dinner also occurs during October. This year is an exception, as the dinner will be on December 6th. More about this later.

The club has four elected officers, two board members and a position of Past President. The officers are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These positions have term of one year. The Board member positions have a term of two years, so one board member is elected each year. The Past President position is for the outgoing president and is there to help provide continuity in the club management. Some years ago, the person holding that position resigned and the Board decided to treat it as a one-year elected position.

The nomination committee has been working to identify people who may be
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Important Meeting — October 13

Election of Officers

Program by Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT

Be There!

Meetings & Events



October 13

Club Meeting

Program:

Contesting

by Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT

Annual Election of Officers

7:00 PM Church Basement

.....
October 27

Board Meeting

7:00 PM Church Office

.....

November 1

Material Due for Next

Hamtrix

.....

November 10

Next Club Meeting

HOWARD'S TOWER

By Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

In my monthly column a few months ago, I said that summer was ending quickly, and that I had to get the concrete base for the crankup tower that I acquired done before summer ended. The hole as excavated on October 1st, inspected by the

City of Greenfield on Oct. 2nd, and the concrete was poured on October 5th.

It all seems so simple, but it was a lot more involved than I thought. I talked to a representative of US Tower, the maker of the TM433S tower, at Dayton in May. He said that I needed to talk with somebody who does concrete work to do the base. After asking around, Phil, W9NAW, suggested GCA Services. Gary, owner of GCA Services, had



The TM433S crank-up tower waiting for it's new home.

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From the Minutes...

By Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR
Secretary

**Minutes of the General Meeting
September 8, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Howard Smith. There were two visitors, Rob Pasko (no license) and Frank Humpal, KA9FZR.

Minutes –A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as published in Hamtrix.

Awards Dinner - Howard announced that the program for the annual WARAC Awards Dinner has not been confirmed. Until the program is confirmed, the date for the dinner cannot be set.

Nominating Committee - Howard also announced that the club elections will be held at the October meeting and that there have been no additional volunteers for the Nominating Committee. He stated that he feels that the committee should have three members. It was also announced that Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT, has agreed to present a program at the October meeting.

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR, was accepted as a new member by vote of the membership.

Club Repeater - The topic of the club repeater was then brought up. Howard summarized the repeater situation, including the motions passed at the August meeting and the September Hamtrix article. John Zach, K9IAC, made a motion that the repeater be shut down permanently because of lack of use and lack of volunteers to be control operators. The motion was seconded by Louie Golembiewski, W9GSV. After some discussion, the motion was passed on a hand vote, 11 in favor and 2 opposed.

Program – Howard then turned the meeting over to Dick Wood, W9JBE, for his program on the Buddipole antenna. Dick began by describing the antenna, which he had set up in the club room. He demonstrated the loading coils and extendable elements and also mentioned that there is a kit available to add wire element extensions.

Upon completing this, he then presented a DX-pedition video to Saba Island in the Netherlands Antilles where both vertical and horizontal Buddipole antennas were used.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM, followed by refreshments and eyeball QSO's.

Respectfully submitted,

For the Secretary,
Tom Macon, K9BTQ

**Minutes of the Board Meeting
September 22, 2009**

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

The meeting was held in the kitchen in the church basement since the office was not accessible and the artists were using the basement meeting room. Board members present were: Howard Smith, Charles Craven, Tom Macon, George Dunco and Dick Wood.

Awards Dinner - Howard announced that the program for the Awards Dinner had been confirmed for December 6 and that Bob Z. has checked with the Machine Shed and that date is still available. The program is to be presented by Jim Maletta on behalf of Focus on Energy. The subject will be home energy conservation.

Audit Of Club Books – Howard restated the need to complete the 2008 audit of the club books as soon as possible, and that the 2009 audit will need to be completed as soon as possible after the end of the fiscal year. This is because Dick is not running for reelection as Treasurer and the audit needs to be done before the new Treasurer takes over. Howard will attempt to schedule a meeting as soon as possible.

Nominating Committee – The committee, consisting of Bob, KC9AGX, and Chuck, W9WLX, will contact members in search of candidates for office for the upcoming election. Tom, K9BTQ, said he would provide a list of member phone numbers for the committee.

WAS challenge - Howard noted that there was not much

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WARAC Officers and Board			Hamtrix – Editor & Publisher
President	J. Howard Smith, WA9AXQ	414.425-5626	Submit newsletter material to: Tom Macon, K9BTQ 3547 S. 95 St Milwaukee, WI 53228 414 543-3878 tmacon@wi.rr.com
Vice President	Thomas W. Macon, K9BTQ	414.543-3878	
Secretary	Lynn C. Tamblyn, K9KR	262.534-9655	
Treasurer	Richard M. Wood, W9JBE	262.542-5118	
Director (2009)	George Dunco, AA9SR	262.782-6325	
Director (2010)	Chuck Craven, WB9PUB	262.642-7628	
Director (1 year)	Robert F Zach, KC9AGX	414.427-0333	
Board Chairperson	J. Howard Smith, WA9AXQ	414.425-5626	

WRONG ANTENNA?

by Tom Macon, K9BTQ

How many times have called another stations using the wrong antenna?

Last winter's program on *Setting Up Your Station for Contesting* got me thinking. I decided that the antenna selection process at my station was a good candidate for simplification.

After a little thought, I realized that it shouldn't be hard to make my antenna selection completely automatic. I have an advantage in that my Ten-Tec Omni VI+ has individual control lines for each band available on a rear panel connector. This is nice because no BCD or other type of decoder would be needed.

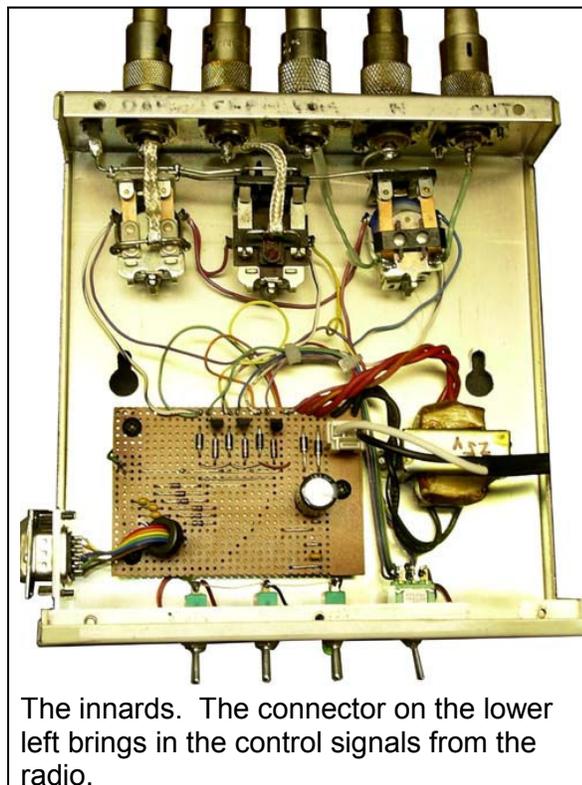
I use just two antennas in a contest. On 20/15/10 meters I use a DAP rotary dipole and for 80 and 40 meters, a two-band trap antenna – let's call them the *DAP* and the *trap* for short. The trap needs an antenna tuner on 80 but not on 40. The DAP does not need to be tuned at all.

For the actual switching, I would need three relays – one each for the two antennas and one to bypass the tuner. For control logic, all that's needed is to "OR" the control lines from the Omni into two groups – one for the DAP and one for the trap. The 80m line from the radio could be used directly for the tuner relay, since it would need to be energized only for that band.

A little research on the Omni VI+ confirmed that the band control lines were 12-volts positive-true and enough current was available (about 1ma) to drive a 2N4401 transistor, which would pull in a 12-volt relay coil that draws about 100ma. So all I would need is one transistor to drive each relay plus some diodes to perform the OR logic.

My junk box yielded pretty much everything that was needed except the 2N4401's, and they are available at Radio Shack for cheap. I mounted the small components, which included a 12 volt supply, the 2N4401's, diodes and a few other parts, on a piece of perf board.

I wanted a fairly low-profile box that could be mounted on the bottom of a shelf that's above the radio in my shack, and I was able to make a suitable box by bending up the ends of an aluminum plate salvaged from some piece of junk. As can be seen from the picture, all the coax connectors are on one end of the box (back) and the LED's and switches are on



The innards. The connector on the lower left brings in the control signals from the radio.

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Ham Happenings

Around the area

Ozaukee Radio Club

Wed, October 14

7:30PM

Grafton Senior Center

1665 7th. Ave.

Grafton

CQ3TUE Lunch

Tues. October 20

11:15AM

Old Country Buffet

16750 W Bluemound Rd

Wisconsin Amateur

Radio Club

Wed. October 28

7:30PM

Germantown Police Dept

Germantown

Milwaukee Radio Amateur Club (MRAC)

Thurs, October 29

7:00PM

Redemption Lutheran Church

4057 N. Mayfair Rd

South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Wed. November 4

7:00PM

Legion Post 434

9327 S Shepard Ave

Oak Creek

Amateur Radio Testing

Saturday, October 31

9:30AM

Amateur Electronic Supply

5720 W Good Hope Rd

NOTE

Please do not contact meeting places for information.

Don't forget . . .

Club Meetings

Now Start at

7:00 PM

Meeting Room Opens at 6:30 -
Come Early!

**WARAC David Knaus
Memorial Scholarship**

Available to licensed Amateurs who are Wisconsin residents pursuing an Associate, Bachelor's or Graduate degree in any course of study. The application deadline is May 1, 2010.

Visit the [FAR website](#) for additional information and application forms.

Congratulations

to our 2009

**WARAC Dave Knaus, N9QA,
Memorial Scholarship
Winner!**

**James Markstrom
KB9MMA**

of Racine, who is in the Masters of Education program at the University of Phoenix.

**More information next
month!**

Thanks!



Thanks and a tip of the editor's hat to the following contributors to this month's issue of **Hamtrix**

Howard Smith, WA9AXQ



**Write an Article
This means
You!
Please??**

Scuttlebutt...

- After months of harassment by Milwaukee-Florida net members, **John, K9IAC**, recently traded in his DAP antenna for a TA33-Junior tribander. He definitely hears Florida stations better but, since his rotator isn't working, performance in other directions has yet to be determined.
- **Phil, W9NAW**, has removed a large tree behind his house and is planting a Cushcraft R7000 vertical antenna in it's place. Don't forget to water it, Phil.
- **Bob, KC9AGX**, and **Tom, K9BTQ**, recently hitched a ride with **Leon, K9GCF**, in his Twin Comanche for a one-day trip to Rhinelander. They visited **John, K9IAC**, at his northern Wisconsin hang-out along with two other hams: **Bill, K9BTP**, of Rhinelander and **Walter, WA9ISG** of St Germain.
- We have not yet been able to contact our 2009 scholarship winner to get information for a Hamtrix article to introduce him. Stay tuned.

Do you have news that isn't listed here? It won't be here if ye editor doesn't know about it - call or email Tom, K9BTQ!

For Sale

The following items have been donated to WARAC and are for sale:

- Cushcraft A4S triband beam, very good condition, with manual, \$250 (price reduced again).

Please contact Phil, W9NAW, for additional information and availability. Proceeds go to the WARAC scholarship fund.

Upcoming Meeting Programs

**October 13
Contesting
by Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT**

Gary is a columnist for *National Contest Journal* and is also the man behind *Unified Microsystems*, manufacturer of various contesting accessories.



**November 10
Robotics Presentation
by MORE Community Robotics Team**

The *Thomas More Community Robotics* is a group of young people who engage in robotics competition. More info next month.

**December 8
Getting Started in Contesting Video
CQ Magazine**

**Program suggestions?
Let us know - Contact a Board member!**

WARAC ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2009

5:00PM QSO TIME — 6:00PM DINNER



THE MACHINE SHED RESTAURANT
N14 W24145 TOWER PL
(I-94 & HWY J, EXIT 294)



<p>WARAC Activities <i>the year in review</i></p> <p>Swapfest WIQP</p> <p>Field Day <i>more</i></p>	<p>Presentation of:</p> <p>2009 Scholarship Certificate</p> <p>Years of Membership Awards</p> <p>Contest Awards</p> <p>2009 Member of the Year Award</p>
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Program

Home Performance
with the
Energy Star Program

Jim Maletta of North Star Energy Consulting

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, DECEMBER 6, 2009

5:00PM QSO TIME — 6:00PM DINNER

Name _____	Call _____
Number of people attending _____	Amount (\$16 each) _____

Sign-Up Deadline: December 1

Bring form and money to club meeting or mail to:

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

Dick Wood, W9JBE
S46 W22328 Tansdale Rd
Waukesha, WI 53189

Howard's Tower

(Continued from page 1)

done a tower base before so he knew what needed to be done.



The freshly poured concrete base with the US Tower mounting hardware.

Also, I asked a friend who was a structural engineer to review the base drawing that US Tower provided, and he made changes to consider the soil conditions and also the winter frost issues. The size of the base grew a little and was now a 4.5-foot cube of solid concrete with a rebar frame inside. His design was submitted to the city of Greenfield, who said that a minimum permit was needed and that they would inspect the rebar frame before the concrete could be poured.

Now I waited to get into Gary's schedule and work with the weather issues. Fortunately, the rains were minimal, and the digging and pouring went as planned. There is more than seven yards of concrete in the base, so I don't think wind or frost will cause it to move.

Well, the project is not finished. While the concrete cures, I need to refurbish my HyGain TH3 Mk2 tri-bander and have the Ham-M rotator serviced by Phil, W9NAW. I guess the next milestone should be Thanksgiving. The goal is to have the tower up, the tri-bander on top, and be ready for our club competition in the ARRL 10 Meter contest.

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With the summer over, **QSO Party Season** is now in full swing. Rules vary! Check the websites for complete information. Note that both Iowa and New York parties are coming back this year after being absent for some years.

State	Date	Start Time	Hours	Website
Pennsylvania	Oct 10	1600Z	*22	http://nittany-arc.net/paqso.htm
Arizona	Oct 10	1600Z	*24	http://www.azqsoparty.org/
Iowa	Oct 11	1400Z	9	http://www.wa0dx.org/iaqsoparty.html
New York	Oct 17	1800Z	12	http://www.nyqp.org/
Illinois	Oct 18	1700Z	8	http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP.html
Kentucky	Nov 14	1400Z	12	http://www.wkdx.com/mainsite/

* This party has two time segments—See Rules on their website for details.

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Wrong Antenna

(Continued from page 3)

the other end (front).

The goal was to automatically switch antennas, but I knew there would be times when I would want to have manual control, so I added a AUTO/MAN switch to the front panel along with an individual switch for each relay, plus LED indicators.

Upon completion, the project met expectations. I press

a button for the desired band on the Omni and - *click* - the antenna selection and tuner bypass selection is all done. Now, the only thing I need to remember to do is to tune the tuner when on 80 meters.

Because of space limitations, the schematic is not published here. Let me know if you'd like one.

Phase II of this project would be to move the antenna switching relays out to the base of the tower and have just one coax from there to the shack. Someday, the good Lord willing.

.....



October 5 - Chuck Dellis, W9WEX
 October 20 - Wes Andersen, N9UE

*Wedding
 Anniversaries*

October 16 - Tom and Debbie Liebe
 October 20 - Wes and Sharon Andersen
 October 22 - Mike and Victoria Bauer
 October 26 - Louie and Alice Mae Golembiewski
 October 26 - Phil and Janet Gural
 November 4 - Tom and Mary Ann Macon



www.warac.org

Minutes

(Continued from page 2)

participation in the club WAS challenge and offered some ideas for improving it. After some discussion, the Board agreed to table planning of the next club challenge until January 2010.

Programs - The October program will be on Contesting by Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT. A Robotics demonstration by the MORE Robotics Group is tentatively scheduled for the November meeting. The December program will be video from the CQ Getting Started in Contesting DVD that was purchased before Field Day. Tentative future programs include Airport Electronics by Frank Humpal, KA9FZR, and Packet/RTTY by John Welty, W9ISC.

Repeater - Howard announced that the repeater has

been shut down as directed by the vote at the last meeting. Two unsolicited offers for the equipment have already been received from Glenn, W9IQ, and Emil, N9FBF. Howard said he will make a list of the repeater components. Several members have expressed an interest in helping to determine the value of those components.

2-Meter Net - There was a discussion regarding the future of the club's off-Tuesday net. Chuck suggested 147.42 as a simplex frequency that is not heavily used. It was agreed that we should try it on next week's net.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

*For the Secretary,
 Tom Macon, K9BTQ*

WARAC 2-Meter Net

The permanent shutdown of our club repeater has left our off-Tuesday club net homeless. In the past, we have used the repeater output frequency on simplex but we should no longer do that because those frequencies will probably be reassigned soon.

Chuck, WB9PUB, suggested using 147.42 MHz as our net frequency. We tried it on September 29 and it seems to work fine, so this is the frequency we will use. So make a note of it..

7:00 PM, 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays, 147.42 simplex

President's Shack

(Continued from page 1)

interested in holding one of these positions. Are you interested? Please let one of officers or board members know. Or, even easier, just nominate yourself at the meeting. Too bashful to do that? Then ask another club member to do it for you. I would like to see more people involved in the management of the club. This is your chance to step up. I hope you will.

The Annual Awards Dinner will be held on December 6th at The Machine Shed Restaurant in Pewaukee. The speaker will be Jim Maletta of North Star Energy Consulting, which is a partner with Focus on Energy. Jim's talk will be "Home Performance with the ENERGY STAR Program". There is a signup sheet included in this Hamtrix, so please bring it with you to the meeting.

Dick, W9JBE, will be collecting them along with your check.

The program will be presented by Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT. The topic will be "Contesting", and will provide contesting tips for both the new contestee as well as the experienced contestee. Gary writes a monthly column for the National Contest Journal, and is the owner of Unified Microsystems. This program is just in time to help prepare for the ARRL 10 meter contest, which we use for our friendly competition between club members.

This is the most important club meeting of the year. It is a must attend meeting for all members. Be There!

See you at the meeting.

Howard Smith, WA9AXQ

West Allis Radio Amateur Club, Inc.
Tom Macon, K9BTQ
3547 S. 95 St
Milwaukee, WI 53228



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PO Box 1072
Milwaukee, WI 53201
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.