



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 64, Issue 11 November, 2017

NOVEMBER CLUB HAPPENINGS

Club Meeting

St. Peter's Episcopal Church,
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis
November 14, 2017 7:00 PM

Program

The history of Morse Keys and Keyers

Gary Sutcliff W9XT

premeeting dinner

**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.

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

The President's Shack November 2017

Well, this is a first. I'm starting to understand the half-smile on Tom's face after the elections last month. Oh man, I've got to do the newsletter. Well I am hoping for your patience as I get the hang of doing these darn things.

First and foremost, following the elections last month, there are a couple of persons of note that need recognizing. First, Past President Tom Macon, K9BTQ for all the work and effort he has given the club all these years. He's not exactly riding off into the sunset as he remains on the board, but I'm sure he's not feeling the stress of the newsletter deadline. Hmmmm. Guess that's in my court for now. Secondly, Howard Smith, WA9AXQ has tirelessly been our club Treasurer for, well years, and that is a big, under appreciated job. Finally Erwin von der Ehe, WI9EV has been the club Secretary for two years and wisely opted to focus his talents on the Swapfest as our chairman.

Big thank you to all of you.

So, for the new board: New to the board is Bill Reed, N9KPH who is taking on the awesome job of Treasury. Congrats. And of course Howard Smith, WA9AXQ has moved over to Secretary. Dave Garnier, WB9OWN and Frank Humpal, KA9FZR are back for another year. And last but not least ace trailer design engineer and Vice President Steve Dryja gets one more year in the saddle. The gang is indeed all here.

In the done it, did it category this month, I have to comment on the Award's Dinner held on Sunday, October 29th at the New Berlin Hills Golf Club. We had a great time in a very nice facility. Got to meet this year's David Knaus Scholarship winner,

Erik Maplethorp. Everyone agreed, he is a wonderful choice for the scholarship: Grew up with radios, electrical engineering student at UW Platteville, VP of the school radio club and just a wonderful person to spend the evening with. Special congratulations to Dave Garnier, WB9OWN our 2017 Ham of the Year!!! Dave and Barb have been on a mission to emit RF from as many state parks as they can. They are a picture of how to have fun in our favorite hobby.

Is that enough for now? The presentation this month is the famous Gary Sutcliff, W9XT talking about the history of Morse Keys and Keyers. I'm really looking forward to it. From an operating standpoint, for those not afflicted with the need to activate state parks (ahem... Dave and Barb), the weather is closing out on our outside activities. Fortunately, we are in the midst of contest season and maybe even a little bit of Sporadic-E openings.

Don't forget, the before meeting dinner at Johnny V's Classic Café, 1650 S 84th St at 5:00 PM.

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

From the Editor

Today winter started to make itself known with frost on the ground. Leaves falling. So now is the time to start thinking about rigging the house for winter.

Most important is getting the garage rearranged so I can get the cars in. It saves a lot of energy when you don't have to scrape windows or remove snow.

We did one more park activation last month. This time we used FT-8 It was the first time I saw it in action. On one side I'm amazed at it's ability to dig signals out of the mud. The other side is the lack of any ability to communicate anything by the basic info needed for a contact. For me it has always been the rag chewing which drew me to the hobby. Not that I didn't enjoy the technical

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WARAC General Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2017

Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 19:00 by President, Tom Macon (K9BTQ). Overall meeting attendance was 20 members, plus 0 visitors.

- Election of officers for 2018. Y2018 officers are:
President: Mike Johnson (WO9B)
Vice President: Steve Dryja (NO9B)
Treasurer: Bill Reed (N9KPH)
Secretary: Howard Smith (WA9AXQ)
Director, 2-Yr: Frank Humpal (KA9FZR)
Director, 2-Yr: Dave Garnier (WB9OWN)
 - position vacated by Mike Johnson (WO9B) - 1 yr left of 2-yr term
Director, 1-Yr, Past President: Tom Macon (K9BTQ)
Tonight's Program:
 - FT8 mode: Mike Johnson (WO9B)
 - Park Activations: Dave Garnier (WB9OWN)
 - Maker Fair: Steve Dryja (NO9B)

Future Programs

- November, 2017: Morse code – History of Keys & Keyers
- December, 2017: 2018 Swapfest & Storytelling

Announcements

- Scholarship recipient is Erik J. Maplethorpe (KC9PDU) of Round Lake, IL. Howard Smith (WA9AXQ) is trying to get additional contact information.
- Awards Dinner: October 29, 2017 at 17:00 at New Berlin Hills Golf Course. Awards plaques are completed. The committee is looking for a volunteer to be the official photographer, a.k.a.: picture-taker.

Business

- September meeting minutes were voted on and approved.
- Equipment sales (baseball cards, vacuum tubes)– Steve Dryja (NO9B)'s wife is looking up the baseball cards to determine values. Club trailer is working out well for selling equipment at swapfests.
- Facebook page is up. Report is that it has little activity.
- Swapfest – Flyers are printed and distribution has begun. Tickets are completed. Mailing list for e-blast will be completed shortly.

Group Discussion

- Showed & discussed a slingshot with fishing reel for locating lines in trees.
- Don Soberg showed a Alai FTM Dual QRP rig.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:56.

Respectfully submitted,
Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV)
Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.
2017-10-10

W.A.R.A.C. Board Meeting October 24, 2017

Howard Smith (WA9AXQ) called the meeting to order at 19:00.

Present: Tom Macon (K9BTQ), Howard Smith (WA9AXQ), Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV), Frank Humpal (KA9FZR), Dave Garnier (WB9OWN), Mike Johnson (WO9B), Bill Reed (N9KPH).

- Howard Smith (WA9AXQ) presented the monthly Treasurer’s report and the Club equipment and liability insurance status.
- A lengthy discussion was had regarding reducing expenses in various aspects of Club activity such as rent, Swapfest, Field Day, Awards Dinner, etc.
- Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV) is Swapfest committee chairman & will seek another member.
- HRO Superfest review: We should have a plan for manning the club table for next year.
- Club wear link on web site needs repair.
- Mike Johnson (WO9B) is investigating the concept of having the January, 2018 meeting as a holiday party at a restaurant.

Programs

November, 2017: Morse code
 December, 2017: 2018 Swapfest & Storytelling
 January, 2018:
 February, 2018: QSO Party

Future Program Ideas

CW Skimmer / CW Decoders
 Learning CW / Building CW skills
 Contest operations for the fall: SS, 10
 Meter Contest, CQ WW
 Story-telling night
 Careers?
 Ham Radio Outlet – New radio products
 DMR Radios
 SATERN Patriot Exercises

Other Items

- Club video projector and screen need replacement. Justification to be in Hamtrix for member approval at next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 21:44.

Respectfully submitted,
Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV)
Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.
2017-10-24

2016 WARAC Ten Meter Contest

Wrap Up

Chuck Dellis, W9WLX

The certificates for the 2016 WARAC 10-meter contest were presented at the annual awards dinner on October 29. The club piggy backs on the ARRL 10-meter contest and has a little friendly competition.

The club event has three categories, CW only, Phone only, or Mixed Mode, CW & Phone. If you didn't have a chance to attend the awards dinner, here are the results:

Phone Only

1 st Place	Al Hovey	WA9BZW	457.5 Points
2 nd Place	Ron Crown	KA9JCP	228.5 Points
3 rd Place	Bill Reed	N9KPH	60 Points
4 th Place	Phil Gural	W9NAW	39.5 Points

CW Only

1st Place	Mike Johnson	WO9B	36 Points
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Mixed Mode, CW & Phone

1st Place	Chuck Dellis	W9WLX	59.5 Points
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Hope you had fun. The 2017 event is right around the corner! Watch for details in next month's Hamtrix.



David Shawn Garnier

...

1 min

Recap of the Long Lake Rec area KFF-4260 Nov 5, 2017 activation.

A special shout out goes to all the stateside hams for standing by when requested so I could work the DX pileup, 20% of my activation Q's were with DX, thank you for respecting my request! Wow.

This was a parking lot activation from the car. A magnet mount car vertical with 4 elevated radials were used for 20 and 40 meters. Deployment of the 1/4 wave radials is messy but the VSWR is lower and the antenna tunes without being squirrely.

50 Q's were made in 2 hours which was the capacity of my lead-acid lawn tractor battery. Rig was IC7300 set at 60 watts.

General location comments. Long lake is situated in a pot-shaped depressions, or "kettle" formed by the receding melting glacier. The only view of the horizon was north across Long Lake.

Logs have been uploaded to LOTW and WWFF log is in transit. Thank you to all who chased me.

73's & 44. de wb9own



October 20, 2017 Park activation

I think much to all participants surprise. we were able to do another park activation this year. The weather was perfect.

Mike Johnson WO9B, Frank Humpal KA9FZR, Bill Reed N9KPH, Chris Kelling, KC9UXC, Tom Macom K9BTQ with Mike and Bill's dogs met at Biwer Park in New Berlin. We scheduled for a 1 pm meeting but Mike and me got there around noon and started setting up Mikes ladder line fed dipole.

The antenna set up looked like it was going good untill we realized the picnic table we were going to operate from was chained to the pavilion, out of reach of the ladder line. So we went to an alternate plan. The inverted dipole became a sloped dipole.



Mike had brought his Flex-1500 with amplifier, computer and auto tuner so he set that up and started to give the rest of us a real world demonstration of the FT-8 digital mode. I found it fascinating to watch the computer make contacts with FT-8. This was my first exposure to an operating SDR radio. The waterfall display the of who's out there is amazing. It is a point and click operating mode.

I'm still sorting through the demo and if I should explore digital modes. It sure seems like it is a fast evolving set of modes. I'm sure we will be hearing much more about the digital modes.

Meanwhile Chris brought his Elecraft KX2 with a end fed antenna. He set up and made at least one SSB contact on 20 meters. Much to my surprise he was able to hear in the background when Mikes' set up transmitted in the 20 to 30 watt out on 40 meters. Just to check I put my FT-817 on Chris's antenna. I wasn't able to pick up any signal from Mike. I suspect the KX2 just needed an option set differently to fix the problem.



Over all at least 12 FT-8 contacts and at least 1 SSB contacts were made the hour or two we were out. FT-8 does seem the way to go for contacts even during marginal propagation Fun was had by all.

Is this the last activation of the year who knows weather permitting another one may happen. For me they continual to be fun and a good way to experiment with portable equipment.

Frank KA9FZR

Maybe with a little training we could get Mike or Bills K9 friends to operate our computer may need bigger keys!



from pg 2

end. Just that in my mind the technical was so you could share info.

Anyway I'm still looking at what would be needed to get my FT-817 up on a digital mode. So I may end up trying it and liking it.

Not much else this month

73

Frank KA9FZR

Officers and Board

President

Mike Johnson WO9B

Vice President

Steve Dryja, NO9B

Secretary

Howard Smith WA9AXO

Treasurer

Bill Reed N9KPH

Directors

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR

Dave Garnier WB9OWN

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W9FK
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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.