



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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DECEMBER CLUB HAPPENINGS



December Club meeting

December 11, 2012

Program

N1MM Contest Logging Program

Chuck W9WLX and TOM K9BTQ presenters

Join us for a pre-meeting dinner

at Johnny V's Classic Cafe

1650 S 84th St at 5:00pm

December board meeting canceled

due to conflict with Christmas

WARAC 2-meter net

Every Wednesday at 8pm

MATC repeater 147.045 standard offset

127.3 Hz CTCSS

Club Happenings

Reserve
Jan 5, 2013 for our club Swapfest
see Phil W9NAW for advance
tickets and Posters
article on pg 8

West Allis Radio Amateur Club
QSO Party
March 10, 2013

NEW club jackets and hats!

Go to club Web site and click on

The GOLD MEDAL IDEAS block

For more info



The President's Shack December 2012

A long and dedicated effort on behalf of our club is coming to an end. Elsewhere in this Hamtrix you will see an announcement that Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR, chairman of the Wisconsin QSO Party, has submitted his resignation.

Sponsorship of the QSO Party is an important part of who we are as a club and the Board is committed to continuing to make WIQP be the best QSO party it can be. Replacing Lynn will not be easy. With his many years of experience and knowledge of WIQP, Lynn did much of the work in the background, so his efforts were not highly visible. Running a contest, even a smaller one like a state QSO party, is a lot of work. It will take several people to replace what Lynn was doing. The Board is putting together a new committee and help will be needed in a number of areas. We will be talking about this at the upcoming meeting.

On November 11, we dined and we were crooned. Our club's Annual Awards Dinner was a success by any measure and I think everyone had a good time. Member of the Year Award went to Frank Humpal, KZ9FZR, mainly for his hard work on Hamtrix. Congratulations, Frank! A side benefit of receiving this award is that Frank will join Chuck Craven and Chuck Dellis on the committee that will organize next year's Awards Dinner. Thanks to this year's committee, Howard, Chuck and Chuck, for a superb event.

We don't have a Vice President. We need someone to step up to take this important job. The duties are not demanding – attend Board meetings on the fourth Tuesday, and fill in for the President in the event I'm unable to do it. Please, someone, step up and take this job.

The program for the upcoming meeting will be Chuck W9WLX and myself talking about the N1MM Contest Logging Program. Come find out what this free software can do for you. Our January 8 meeting (three days after the Swapfest) will be about Mobile CW Operation, to be presented by Pat Hoppe, WW9R.

Our Midwinter Swapfest is coming up fast – the first Saturday after New Year's, January 5, 2013. At the upcoming meeting, chairman Phil, W9NAW will talk us through all aspects of the 'fest, including the various jobs that need to be done. We will need a lot of help! Also, please help by selling advance admission tickets. See Phil for tickets.

New member Bill Spellman, who recently obtained his General, has obtained a vanity call and is now W9ASA. Almost-member Steve Mueller has passed his Tech test and is now KC9WXC. Congratulations, gentlemen, CU on the air!

Reminder: Dues are due! Also don't forget our before-meeting dinner at Johnny V's Classic Café, 1650 S. 84th St. at 5:00PM.

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

from the editor

We are getting ready for the holidays as I'm sure everyone else is. While shopping for replacement lights for the decorations at Ace I picked up a "Light Keeper PRO" It's suppose to make it easy to fix those light strings that you can never find the problem with. Much to my surprise it worked! It has a couple of options. The one that was new to me was what I think is a piezoelectric trigger that you hit the light set with while it is plugged in. I'm guessing it cleans out some of the corrosion on the connections. It worked on three out of three sets I tested. Amazing that something works that well (of course it is only for incandescent light sets and cost more than a few dollars).

I'm studying for my extra license. I hope to take the test at the swapfest. We'll see how it goes. I'm beginning to pass the practice tests! If nothing else it will be a good review of whats out there now. There (continued pg 7)

WARAC General Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2012

Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by President, Tom Macon, K9BTQ. Overall meeting attendance was 21 with three visitors.

Program

The evening's program, ARRL 10 meter contesting was given by Chuck Craven, WB9PUB.

Business

Motion was made and accepted to approve the October meetings minutes as published in Hamtrix.

WARAC dues are due. Please see Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, and be sure to include your membership renewal form to insure the club has current information.

See Paul Haas, KC9JET, to pick up a static WARAC poster for your vehicle back window. Please advertise the club.

An order will be placed for club name badges. Please see Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, or indicate your request on the sign in roster. Specify magnetic or pin type. The board will take up the decision on whether the club will pay for the badges.

Announcements

WARAC Swapfest takes place on January 5, 2013. All members are asked to sell advanced tickets.

Mark your calendars; the Wisconsin QSO Party is on March 10, 2013. Prepare your station for 7 hours of fun!

Upcoming programs—January, CW Mobile contesting by Patrick Hoppe, WW9R.

Two new Generals were welcomed, Bill Spellman, W9ASA, and Paul Hass, KC9JET.

Johnny V's is the place for the WARAC pre-meeting dinner. The dinner starts at 5:00 and everyone is encouraged to participate.

Reminder—the Nut Net breakfast takes place on the 4th Tuesday of the month at Genesis restaurant, Highway 100 and Beloit Rd, 8:30 am.

Reminder—the Wednesday night 2 meter net is at 8:00 pm on 147.045, + offset, PL 127.3. Join in!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX
Secretary WARAC

WARAC Board Meeting November 27, 2012

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

Present: Tom Macon, K9BTQ, Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, Leroy Hass, KC9NST, Frank Humpal, KA9FZR, and Dave Schank, KA9WXN.

2012 Awards Dinner

The total costs for the Awards Dinner was \$1004.69. The club funded \$604.69 for the event.

Wisconsin QSO Party

Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR, submitted his resignation as the Wisconsin QSO Party chairman. The board accepted the resignation and Howard Smith will respond to Lynn. The announcement of the resignation and reformation of the WIQP committee will occur at the next general club meeting. An announcement will also be published in Hamtrix and publically announced.

Programs

December: N1MM Contest Logging.

January: CW Mobile Operation.

February: Digital modes demo.

Miscellaneous

Howard Smith was reelected board chairman.

The December Board Meeting has been cancelled since it falls on December 25.

Chuck Dellis will inquire who needs WARAC name badges and order.

Please continue to promote the 2 meter net on Wednesdays at 8:00 pm, 147.045, PL127.3

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX
Secretary WARAC

Lynn, K9KR, Resigns Chairmanship of the Wisconsin QSO Party

Last week our club's Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR, as Chairman of the Wisconsin QSO Party. Lynn has worked tirelessly in support of the QSO Party for over 25 years, over half that time as chairman. During his watch, the short, seven-hour format was introduced, log checking entered the computer age and entries increased dramatically. WIQP would not be what it is today if not for Lynn's efforts. Please extend your thanks to him.

The West Allis Radio Amateur Club is committed to continuing its sponsorship of WIQP and a new committee is being formed. More about this at the upcoming meeting.

The 2013 date for WIQP is March 10.

Getting ready for the next one.

4 November 2012 | by Larry W2LJ

Sandy's visit through the area has taught me a lot. I thought I was prepared; and for the most part, I was. But things can always be improved upon - some points for me to remember, that I think are worth sharing:

1) You can't have enough ice. If you don't have / want / or use an emergency generator, you can't have enough ice. I bought four huge bags last Sunday, the day before the storm hit. I could have used twice that - and I should have been making my own, filling plastic containers with water and sticking them in the freezer. As it was, after the third day, I had begun to run out of ice and all the perishable items in the refrigerator had to be tossed.

2) Generators. Lots of folks purchased generators after their experience with Hurricane Irene last year. That was fine until the gas ran out, then they were in the same boat as me. Most of the gas stations around here had plenty of fuel, but also lacked the electricity they required to pump it. I have ordered an 1100 Watt AC inverter that was mentioned in SolderSmoke and I am going to purchase a couple deep cycle marine batteries and a charger. Once I start using them after a power outage they may not last for long, but at least I will be able to power up the freezer and refrigerator for a while.

Related to this - if you know that a big storm or blizzard is headed your way - gas up those vehicles! All of them! You don't know how long gasoline might be in short supply afterwards. Go and Google "long New Jersey gas lines after Sandy" if you want a dose of stark reality.

3) Candles. You can never have too many. I thought I had an adequate supply; and I did. Our power was out for close to five days. If it had been out much longer, I would have started to reach the "uncomfortable zone" of running out.

Oh, and if you're like me, make sure your emergency candles are the unscented variety. It might have lifted someone else's spirits; but I didn't need the house smelling like a flower shop.

4) Flashlights. Forget the big honker ones that use "D" batteries. I bought some "D" batteries and flashlights, and they are a waste as far as "bang for the buck" goes. I have purchased two LED camping style lanterns that use four "D" batteries each and they will last a lot longer while providing tons more light than normal flashlights. For regular flashlight usage, get the small handheld LED flashlights. I had two of them and am going to get more. Each of these babies used three "AAA" batteries which are still plentiful in the stores (I mean really, most people use "AAA's" for their remotes, right?). They were used throughout this crisis and they were as bright on the final day as the first. Also, those headband LED lights? Some may consider them "dorky", but I am going to purchase a few. They will be invaluable for the times you have to do something in the dark that requires both hands. (I.E. - shaving on the morning darkness with one hand holding the safety razor and the other holding the flashlight was less than ideal. Trying to move ice around from cooler to freezer with one hand - less than ideal).

5) Firewood / Fire logs. I had a small supply left over from the last heating season. I should have laid in a bigger supply. I didn't run out; but was running uncomfortably low, and it was starting to get chilly here. I would wake up in the morning, and go look at the thermostat to see that the house temperature had fallen to 56F (13C) overnight.

6) Charge up everything! All my handhelds, HF radio batteries, cell phones were charged to the max ahead

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2012 Field Day Wrap-up

By Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, FD Chairman



Field Day is the furthest thing from anyone's mind this time of year. With the holiday season upon us, memories of the long June days seem quite distant.

Nonetheless, the Field Day 2012 results were published in the December issue of QST, so it is time to put the final wrapping on the WARAC 2012 event. Pun intended!

To recap our endeavor, we had a total of 958 QSOs, 515 on phone, 419 CW, and 24 Digital. Our QSO score was 2802 plus 650 bonus points, giving a total of 3452 points. We did a decent job of keeping the HF stations in operation for the 24 hour period. Thanks to all involved!

Here is the breakdown of our performance.

Overall, out of 2617 entries, WARAC was 515. That puts us in the top 20% of all participants. Out of all stations operation in the 2A class, WARAC was 110 out of 408, placing in approximately the top quarter of all 2A entries. For the WI Section entries, WARAC was 9 out of 53. A very nice showing, putting us in the top 17% statewide.

And the good news—we get to do it all over again this coming June! Whether you're a new or seasoned operator, join us for Field Day 2013. Setup, tear-down, operating, the food, and the camaraderie; Field Day has something to interest almost every Ham.



The Cream City Croones entertaining us at the Awards Dinner

of time, I also broke out my solar panel and had it ready to charge up 12V gel cells if needed as this wore on. Food and water were no problem We had the stove top available for cooking. The electronic ignitors didn't work; but kitchen matches did the job (I have multiple boxes of those). We had an AM / FM radio for news/entertainment. That was a necessity - however, I want to purchase one of those offered with the built in hand crank generator. This will cut down on the amount of batteries needed and many of these models also have USB ports so that you can use the hand crank generator to charge up your cell phone, kindle, Nook, Kobo, etc.

What did bother me when we would listen to the radio; and the announcers would say, "To report (such and such) please go to this Website" How the heck am I supposed to go to the Internet when there's no electricity? Also, going through my e-mails after the fact yesterday, I saw there were calls for ARES radio volunteers at the Middlesex County hospitals. The requests came via e-mails. How was I supposed to have seen those? I am one of the last persons in the world NOT to have a smartphone and my "18th century" cellphone handles e-mail, well, let's just say "crappily". Maybe that's just a personal problem and I need to get "with it". Not going to sweat that one for now.

The KX3 was invaluable and a God send - thank you Lord, for Elecraft! But seriously, any battery powered HF rig (PFR3, ATS, MTR, Yaesu FT-817, etc) is so essential if for nothing more than to ward off boredom. I would come home after work, eat dinner and then nothing. Too early to turn in, I took afore mentioned LED flashlight and headed down to the basement shack and spent the night on the bands. I worked a fair amount of DX and even had a QSO with DL3GA who commented that "It is nice to hear a station on the air from New Jersey". Hey, how many times have you heard THAT before? Maybe, never? (LOL!)

But I was also able to keep in touch with a lot of my QRP friends, including Jim W1PID who would check in with me every night. Just those brief, continual QSOs did a lot to improve my psyche and moral, knowing that there were folks out there that I personally knew that I could stay in touch with. This is by no means an exhaustive treatise on being prepared for an emergency - it was one of some personal observations.

But do yourself a favor. If you're given enough notice that a big storm / blizzard / whatever, is coming your way - get ready and try not to wait until the very last moment to do so!

72 de Larry W2LJ

used with permission

Editor

sure is a lot of new stuff from when I took my test back in the 70s.

I had a good time at the awards dinner both Judy my xyl, and I enjoyed it. The committee did a fine job. I hope some will say that next year since part of the award of being the member of the year is to be on the committee the next 3 years. If any one has suggestions for next year let me know.

May all of you have a happy and safe holiday season

73

Frank KA9FZR

SWAPFEST 2013

As if we all don't have enough to do at this busy time of year, I want to remind all WARAC members of our upcoming annual fundraiser: WARAC 41ST Annual Midwinter Swapfest, scheduled for Saturday, January 5, 2013.

Pre-event preparations such as caterer, license testing and security have been just about completed and advance table reservation processing is being started. Once again, we will pre number all the tables on the day before and allow some sellers to set up ahead of time on Friday afternoon.

It is also a good time to gather up any unused parts or radio equipment that you may want to sell. Besides making the XYL happy, you will have some extra coins to maybe buy some newer radio items. More about this subject is mentioned below.

We will have ARRL represented again. We are expecting that the Central Division Director and Vice Director as well as the Wisconsin Section Manager will be seen in the South Hall talking with a lot of our buyers/sellers. As time permits, please stop by and say hello to them.

The following information is being included as a review for all club members.

Advance Tickets are available. Club members are encouraged to take some advance tickets and sell them to their fellow ham friends. Besides, they save a \$1 by doing it this way. See Phil at the December club meeting. This helps the overall attendance numbers and provides more income for the club.

Do you want to sell something? There are a couple ways you can do this. If you want to sell equipment, you need to bring it to John, K9IAC, in the South Hall who has tables for this purpose. Otherwise, along the east wall in the East Hall, there are several tables for electronic parts/components with the selling being coordinated by Louie and George. In any case, it is a good idea to provide a write-up sheet providing your name, call, selling price and other details. Also, Louie will take donations for the WARAC Scholarship Fund.

How can you help at this event? We need every WARAC member to be available and willing to help with the many duties that are necessary for this event to be a success. Please talk to Phil at the December general meeting or call him. If you have friends that want to help and don't mind working at 6 AM, bring them along too. We are encouraging members to arrive about 5:30 AM. Please wear your WARAC hat (or one will be provided at the event) and, if available, bring your HT (tuned to 147.42 MHz simplex). All volunteers will be given a door prize ticket and coffee/donuts will be provided as well as a lunch ticket.

The reputation of our Swapfest is well known and we should have another successful event. Thank you for your excellent efforts in making this all happen,

Phil, W9NAW
Swapfest Chairperson



The editor receives his 'Member of the year award

Officers and Board
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Vice President

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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.