



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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

Volume 69, Issue 12 December, 2020

DECEMBER 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.
Contact her: 414-529-3536 or barbsewsblue@gmail.com.

Club Meeting Tuesday December 8, 2020 7:pm

Presentation Stories

Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6474845588?pwd=WjRRQ3E5bHVlbDY5aGNhazNwZlh0dz09>

Meeting ID: 647 484 5588

Passcode: warac

Zoom phone in info on page 13

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

WARC Cw practice net

Every Monday 8 pm
Meet on the 147.135+ 141.3 repeater
CW will be done on HF 10 meter 28,060 MHZ
See page 11 for more info

Index

President's shack	2	The Chase Chuck competition..	10
Minutes	3	CW Practice.....	11
DX/contest update.....	5	Club renew membership/.....	11
2020 FD results.....	6		
Jack Purdum W8TE.....	7		
Hamtrix Sales Corner.....	8		

From The President's Shack

December the last month of the exciting (to say the least) year of 2020. Luckily our life here has been quiet in spite of the year.

I mentioned I had purchased a screwdriver antenna from the club. Hopefully, if we can go on trips again, I will be able to use it while traveling. I am well on the way to having a setup I can use in the car. Will have more info at the meeting.

As you may have noticed we are starting a CW practice net. Hopefully, it will give you a place to get your receiving and sending up to speed so you are comfortable getting on the bands and using this ancient/modern form of communication.

I find CW interesting: it has a long history; is still in use in amateur radio and other things. I did need to learn it to get my novice and general license. Looking back I wish I had taken the time to practice it regularly. It doesn't seem to be a skill you learn once and your done! Continual use is the best way to keep your skill up.

My morning nut net breakfast shack HI HI



From the Editor

No editorial due to being occupied by the President's Shack

That said join us some Monday! See if we can help each other get back on the CW portion of the band.

73

Frank KA9FZR

WARAC Club Meeting Minuets

November 10, 2020

Due to the nature of the COVID-19 crisis and Governor Tony Evers “Emergency Order #12 Safer At Home Order”, Chuck W9WLX hosted the Zoom Meeting.

The club meeting was called to order 7:00 pm by Frank KA9FZR.

Approximately 17 virtual club members were identified by the Secretary Dave WB9OWN and two visitors, Paul VA6MPM and Jeff KJ7IXV.

Club Presentation: Summits On The Air (SOTA) by Paul Mower, VA6MPM.

Hiking the mountain ranges in Alberta Canada has been a pastime of Paul’s.

Most Alberta peaks are in the 10-11K range, and at first these sound difficult but they are accessible off road, and these are single to multi-day hikes. Don’t let this dissuade you these summits/peaks are quite doable because of the “back county huts” operated by the Alpine Club Of Canada.

<https://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/web/>

Paul has been such a frequent visitor to the huts that the Alpine Club has asked him to maintain the ones he visits.

Paul became interested in Ham Radio when he had a close-call outside normal cellphone coverage. Paul earned his “Amateur Radio Operator Certificate” and then found out about SOTA. What is SOTA? SOTA is world wide program, operate ham radio from a peak or a summit. <https://www.sota.org.uk/>

Briefly the world is divided up into sections based along their radio prefixes.

“Wisconsin even has registered summits,” go out and activate! <https://summits.sota.org.uk/region/W9/WI>

To view Wisconsin’s summits, <https://www.sotamaps.org/>

Choose association “W9 – USA” - then choose “W9/WI – Wisconsin.”

Paul’s SOTA Expedition presentation is on YouTube: <http://www.caarc.ca/author/va6mpm>

Paul’s Ending: SOTA is “the Marrying of Ham Radio with the love of outdoors.”

Second Club Presentation: A WARAC club member was a big winner on the TV show Jeopardy. With the recent passing of the Jeopardy’s game show host Alex Trebek, Mike Falk AA9RK, agreed to discuss his game show experience in a Q & A with Tom Macon K9BTQ. Tom presented a couple show videos, Mike’s commentary on his strategy used was fascinating... Funny story. Mike has a Master in Meteorology and at the time was working as researcher modeling precipitation in UWM’s Meteorology Department, Mike was at home with the flu (but work called) when the local TV station showed up with the prize check!

Watch one of Mike’s winnings on YouTube,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_GfUVGehsO0

Club Discussion, Steve Dryja’s NO9B SWR 6 meter SWR experiment.

General meeting was adjourned about 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Garnier WB9OWN

Secretary WARAC, November 10, 2020

NOTE: Please check attendance sheet for errors or omissions!! • — • — •

**West Allis Radio Amateur Club – Sign In Sheet
11/10/20 Zoom Log-on Listing**

1 Frank Humpal KA9FZR
2 Bill Dargis KD9BJZ
3 Chuck Dellis W9WLX
4 Steve Dryja NO9B
5 Dave Engelmann WB9GZP
6 Mike Falk AA9RK
7 David Garnier WB9OWN
8 Phill Gural W9NAW
9 Al Hovey WA9BZW

10 Mike Johnson WO9B
11 Tom Macon K9BTQ
12 Bill Reed N9KPH
13 Paul Sperbeck W9PCS
14 Bob Scrip WD9ANY
15 Lee Todd K9HCW
16 Phil Tollefson WA9AQL
17 Erwin von de Ehe WI9EV
18 Paul Mower VA6MPM
19 Jeff Riedel KJ7IXV

**Here are some pictures of Mike and his wife Courtney
when he did a program at the 2006 WARAC Awards
Dinner.**

More pictures page 9



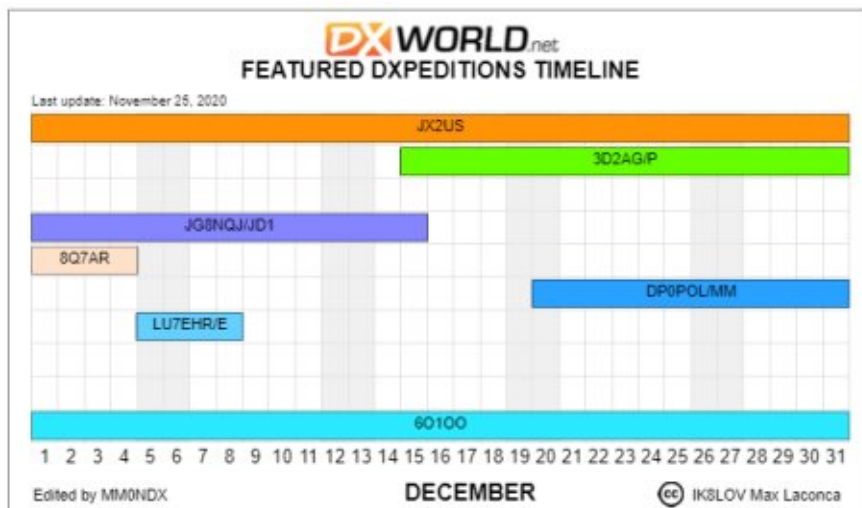
DX UPDATE:

JX2US: Jan Mayen Island continues thru Mar 21

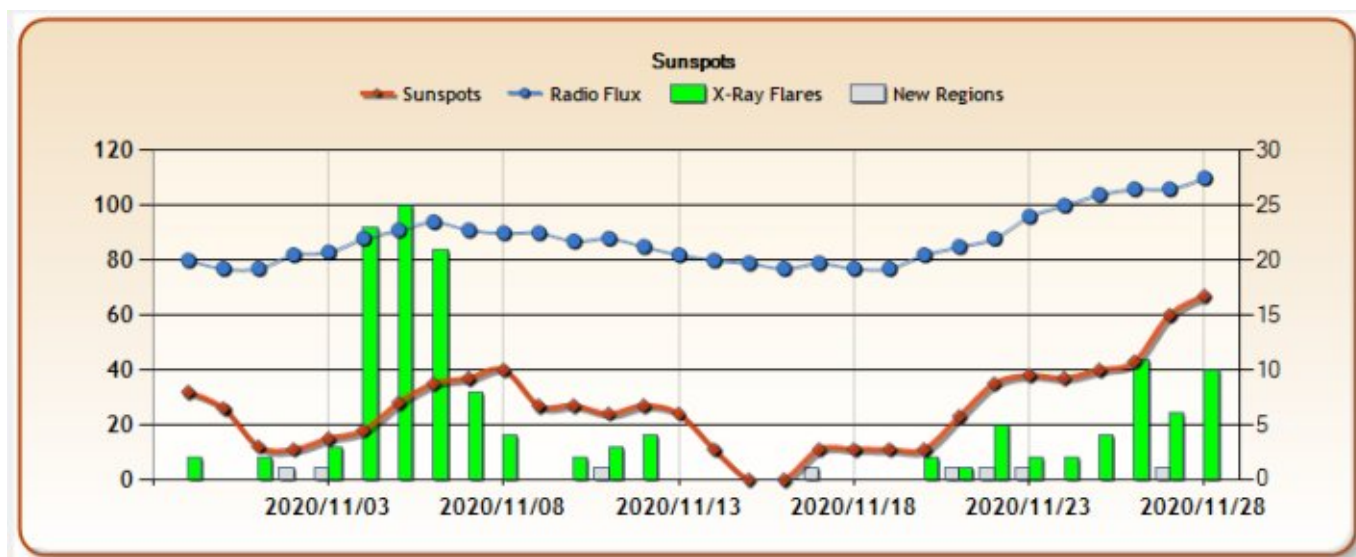
6O100: Somalia, on-going, all bands & FT8

3D2AG/P: Rotuma, fingers crossed, but on track

DP0POL: Antarctica, speculative.



Sunspots: Whoa Boy!! The sun is back. Activity is finally “on the charts”. After of year of zero, Sunspot hit 60+ and SFI is at 110...and this is not an anomaly. The bands are really back so put 10, 12, 15 and 17 back on your dial. As a point of reference, last month sunspots were <=20 and SFI was 70. And we thought those numbers were good. Hang on the ride is just beginning.



CONTEST UPDATE:

We’ve just completed a series of major contests, which sets us up for the end-of-year events we all love to play with. The following are great events, one and all. See the write up for the 1st Annual Chase Chuck Competition. The others are just fun to jump in and out of. Lots of activity without blistering rates or wild station requirements. Fire up the rig and have some fun for an hour or two.

- ARRL 160 Mtr Contest: 12/4 to 12/6
- Chase Chuck Competition (ARRL 10 Mtr Contest) 10/12 - 10/13
- RAC Winter Contest: 12/19
- Straight Key Night: 12/31 - 1/1 • —• —••

2020 ARRL Field Day Results

Chuck Dellis W9WLX

The ARRL Field Day results for 2020 have been published. They are available on their website and published in QST. The West Allis RAC had 11 stations with 13 participants enter the ARRL portion of the event. Below are tables showing our club results and a handful of clubs across the state.

Thanks to everyone! No doubt this will be one for the amateur radio history books. Let's hope 2021 brings a positive change!

Call Sign	QSOs	Power	# of Participants	Total Score
W9WLX	557	5-150	1	2014
WO9B	117	≤ 5w	1	1820
AA9RK	118	5-150	3	620
NO9B	108	5-150	1	482
K9BTQ	101	5-150	1	452
KA9JCP	128	5-150	1	306
W9JCP	51	5-150	1	252
WA9AXQ	81	5-150	1	212
W9NAW	50	5-150	1	150
WI9EV	45	5-150	1	140
WB9GZP	30	5-150	1	110
Total Club Score	1386		13	6558

Club	Score	# of Participants
Ozaukee RC	18592	11
W/K ARC of Greater Milwaukee	14554	9
West Allis RAC	6558	11
Fox Cities ARC	4110	3
Wisconsin ARC	3822	8
Green Bay Mike & Key	3245	6
Milwaukee Radio Amateur Club	3190	5
Riverland ARC	2506	6
Sheboygan Co ARC	1982	5
Westside ARC	1768	2
Eau Claire ARC	1634	1
MAARS	1600	2
Fond du Lac ARC	1386	3
MVARC	1270	1
Milwaukee Repeater Club	784	3
Badger Contesters	94	1

73, Chuck
W9WLX

Several years ago I met Jack Purdum, W8TEE at the Dayton (Xenia) Hamfest.

Jack is a retired Purdue University Professor who has written more than 30 books about the ‘C’ programming language. He, along with Al Peter, AC8GY, have recently published a new book, “**Microcontroller Projects for Amateur Radio**”, published by the ARRL.

I recently purchased this book because two of the projects involved Digital Signal Processing (DSP). One was a post processor that did filtering, notching, etc, on the RX audio output. The second one implemented an audio mic processor. I actually decided to implement a third project, a Morse Code Tutor.

The Morse Code Tutor provides several methods to assist in learning Morse Code. I have always wanted to get my speed up to 30 wpm, and be able to copy ‘in my head’. This looks like a great way to do that. The Morse Code Tutor can send letters, numbers, or both. It can also do call signs, and contest exchanges. Finally, it can also do words. Learning to recognize words seems to be the way to get to 30 wpm and hear the words rather than the dots and dashes, or the letters in the words. It can also help with your sending, and has a copycat mode where you send what you have heard.

The project uses the STM32 processor and the familiar Arduino IDE. The design has very few parts, the processor, a graphics screen, a pot, an encoder, an audio amplifier, and a speaker. And all of that can be purchased on the web for \$25-\$50.

I will provide a later article telling my journey of putting this together, and probably a presentation at a future meeting.

When I purchased the book from ARRL, they shipped me a second copy in error. They did not want me to return the second book, so I have donated it to WARAC. Frank has to decide what to do with it. Sell it? Auction it? Raffle it? Something else?

The picture is one implementation. The blue box was 3D printed.
73..

Howard, WA9AXQ



Picture from LA3FY.

Hamtrix Sale Corner

FOR SALE: AIRSPY HF+ DUAL PORT SDR

Recently acquired this Airspy HF+ Dual Port unit to replace an older SDRplay. I'm totally blown away with this device. See the full specifications at <https://airspy.com/airspy-hf-plus/> This a real "brick" compared to the SDRplay with a full metal case and incredible performance.

Device works perfectly and has been plugged in continuously for the past month or so. Does not include USB cable or SMA cable/adaptor.



Offering this to club members for \$135.00. This will go on QRZ for \$150.00 after Dec 15th.

Call (262-923-6194) or email (mike@palomonet.com).

Microcontroller Projects for Amateur Radio

All the information you need to build fascinating projects using the Arduino, STM32 ("Blue Pill"), ESP32, and Teensy 4.0 micro-controllers.

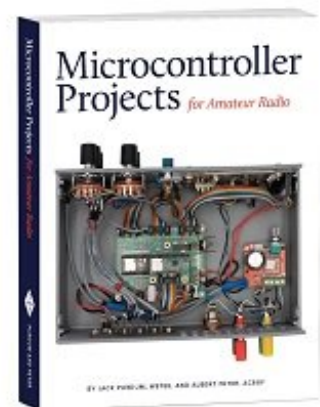
Unfamiliar with C or C++ programming? No problem. Microcontroller Projects for Amateur Radio provides all the introduction you need to build projects such as a programmable power supply, a signal generator, a DSP mic processor, and more!

Some of the practical hands-on projects featured:

- The Morse Code Tutor - learn and practice sending and receiving methods, with or without Farnworth encoding.
- The CW Messenger allows you to send up to 50 "canned" CW messages, that are completely changeable in the field without a PC.
- The Mini Dummy Load is small enough to fit in a shirt pocket, can handle up to 30W, includes an OLED display that shows RF power, yet can be built for around \$20!
- The Double-Double Magnetic Loop antenna sets a new standard for small (3' diameter), multi-band operation and includes remote tuning.

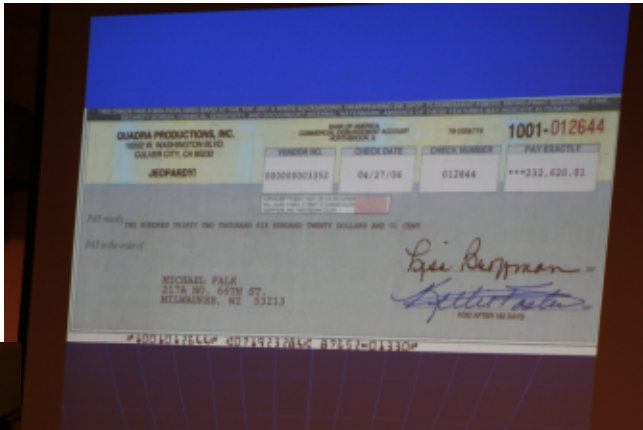
Special Member Price! Only \$34.95 (regular \$39.95)

Product Details
Softcover: 400 pages



One Copy
New
Price \$25.00
Donated to club by
Howard WA9AXQ

Call or email Frank
KA9FZR
KA9FZR@gmail.com
414-425-0794



The airdate (eventually) came...

- About 40 people watched the tournament finale at my parents' house

Michael Falk \$250,000.00
Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars
The Tournament of Champions Winner

ANNOUNCING THE RETURN OF THE
ANNUAL WARAC DEC 10 METER CONTEST



THE CHASE CHUCK COMPETITION



DEC 12, 0000Z TO 2400Z DEC 13

Same Friendly Club Contest ...with a Twist

Traditionally, WARAC sponsors a friendly club competition using the ARRL 10 Meter contest as a back drop. With 10 meters being so poor the past few years, interest in this December tradition fell off. But now that sun spots are back in play, time to pick up where we left off and restart the game. Are you ready???

The Rules

To enter the competition, follow the rules for the ARRL 10 Meter Contest found at www.arrl.org/10-meter. The contest supports SSB and CW, so whatever wets your whistle, go for it. The contest runs from Friday, Dec 11th at 6:00 PM until Sunday, Dec 13th at 6:00 PM. Work as much as you wish (36 hours is allowed). When you complete the contest, email a Cabrillo Log file of your effort to Mike Johnson, WO9B (mike@palomonet.com) by Jan 1st, 2021. Mike will compile the scores and share the results at the January Club Meeting. Don't have a Cabrillo logger? Manually enter your log into the ARRL 10 Meter Cabrillo generator at www.b4h.net/cabforms/arrl10_cab3.php

The Twist

The club will bestow upon the winners an official WARAC Coffee mug. Delivered to your Door!!! To win, all you need to do is beat our own Chuck Dellis, W9WLX's score!!. FYI, the last time we ran this contest Chuck finished, well, not quite last. Who doesn't want a new WARAC coffee mug to start the New Year?

WIN



ME

CW Practice

One of the best and maybe the only way to get better at CW is practice. Having someone else who also wants to practice also helps. Just makes it more fun.

The West Allis Radio Club is going to try to help. We are running a CW practice net on Monday at 8pm
The repeater is 147.135+ 141.35 the CW portion is on HF 28.060 MHZ

Mike WO9B has been joining me and setting up some practice but we are open for suggestions on where to go with this. Come join us. • —• —••

WARAC Members:

The club's new fiscal year began November 1st, which means that dues for the 2020 to 2021 year are payable now.

Since we are not holding physical meetings due to the COVID 19 virus, we are asking that you handle your membership in one of the following ways:

Life Members

- Please mail the club (PO Box 511381, New Berlin, WI 53151) a completed application so that we can update our membership records.

Other Members

- The preferred method of payment would be via PayPal using the "Friends and Family" option. By using this option, the club does not incur the usual PayPal transfer fee. Use this address:

waracpp@warac.org.

- Mail a check payable to WARAC at PO Box 511381, New Berlin, WI 53151.

- If you prefer, you can mail a cash payment to this address as well. A receipt will be emailed to you at your address of record

- **Whichever option you choose, we would appreciate having a completed application mailed to us so that we can ensure that our membership records are up to date.**

And please, please, please try to take care of your dues payment by the end of December. We will be publishing a new electronic membership directory early next year, and if we haven't received your dues by this date, your name will not be included in the directory.

Thanks in advance for your help! • —• —••



West Allis Radio Amateur Club, Inc. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ **Call** _____ **Handle** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Email Address** _____

Spouse's Name _____ **Wedding Ann.** _____ **Birthday** _____

License Class _____ **Expiration** _____ **Licensed Since** _____

Membership In ARRL ARSST Other

Operational Station Fixed Mobile **Bands:** _____

Would You Be Willing To Serve On A Committee? As An Officer?

Club Activities You Would Like To Participate In

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field Day | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweepst | <input type="checkbox"/> Hamtrix |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elmer | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunshine | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship | <input type="checkbox"/> QSO Party | |

Class Of Membership: Full Associate New Renewal

Dues Paid: Full \$15.00 Associate \$10.00
 Family \$18.00 Student \$10.00
 Retired \$10.00

I hereby apply for membership in the West Allis Radio Amateur Club, Inc. in the membership class indicated above. I agree to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the club and any rules or conditions that may be set forth in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws.

Applicant _____ **Date** _____

Secretary _____ **Date** _____

Treasurer _____ **Date** _____

Accepted for Membership _____ **Date** _____

Meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at:
 New Berlin Community Center
 14750 W Cleveland Avenue

Bring your completed application to a club meeting or mail with dues payment to this address:
 West Allis Radio Amateur Club, Inc.
 P. O. Box 511381
 New Berlin, WI 53151-1381



ww1-radio
A U.S. Army portable radio transmitting station in Germany, 1919.
(Image: © U.S. Army)

----Zoom Telephone info----

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 647 484 5588

Passcode: 434973 • —• —••

Officers and Board
President
Frank Humpal KA9FZR

Vice President
Steve Dryja, NO9B

Secretary
Dave Garnier WB9OWN

Treasurer
Bill Reed N9KPH

Directors
Tom Macon K9BTQ
Phil Tollefson, WA9AQL

Newsletter Editor
Frank Humpal, KA9FZR
fhump@milwpc.com

Webmaster past president
Mike Johnson WO9B

West Allis Radio Amateur Club
P. O. box 511381
New Berlin, WI 53151-1381

**West Allis Radio Club
PO Box 511381
New Berlin, WI 53151-1381**