



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 71, Issue 3 March, 2022

MARCH 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.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Meeting

March 8, 2022 7pm

New Berlin Community Center

14750 W. Cleveland Ave.

New Berlin, WI

Between Moorland and Sunnyslope

QSO Party Chuck Dellis W9WLX

Club Fundraiser Project

Frank KA9FZR

Premeeting dinner

New Berlin Ale House 5:15pm

16000 W. Cleveland Ave

West of Moorland Rd.

2022 Challenge for our membership. Have someone you meet, Ham or Ham wantabe come to a meeting this year!

The Club election of Officers will be held at this meeting.

We have no candidates for President

The Club needs YOU!

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Editor's Corner

We have a skinny Hamtrix this month. I was busy and had only few articles submitted. Don't be surprised if I walk around asking if any of you have something interesting to share.

This is your paper, so use it to share you knowledge, stories etc. The writing doesn't have to be perfect. It can be fixed. Don't forget to thank the people who contribute to the Hamtrix. They like to know that they are being read.

The Slow Speed CW QSO Net is at least helping my CW quest. Just the weekly live practice helps. Join us some Monday and let us know what you need to help. If you want to learn basic cw you're welcome to come and ask questions but we are not the place to learn the basics. There are loads of ways to do that from the old records to the many computer apps.

Mike WO9B has an idea for a ongoing club fundraiser, I will be explaining more at the meeting.

Club president

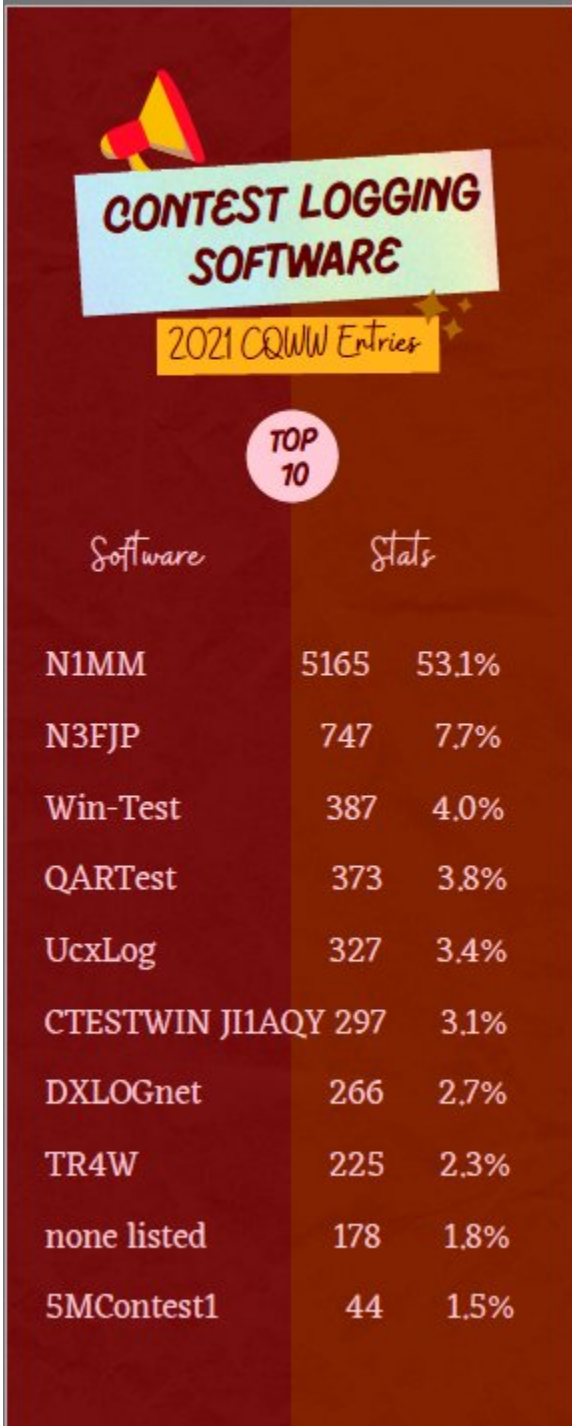
we are still in need of one. Think about how you can help. You will not be leading alone, as past president and long time board member I'll be there to help so will the rest of the board members. Think about it.

You will see Mike WO9B is starting to think about starting his warm weather parks activations. They were well attended last year, hope the same for this year.

The club is your club please bring ideas and thoughts to board members. We are here to make the club better.

73

Frank KA9FZR



A chart titled "CONTEST LOGGING SOFTWARE" with a subtitle "2021 CQWW Entries". It features a megaphone icon and a "TOP 10" badge. The chart displays a list of software programs and their corresponding statistics.

Software	Entries	Percentage
N1MM	5165	53.1%
N3FJP	747	7.7%
Win-Test	387	4.0%
QARTest	373	3.8%
UcxLog	327	3.4%
CTESTWIN J11AQY	297	3.1%
DXLOGnet	266	2.7%
TR4W	225	2.3%
none listed	178	1.8%
5MContest1	44	1.5%



WARAC Club Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2022

Club meeting @ New Berlin Center was called to order by Feroz Ghose WU9N at 7:05 pm.

Attendance was 17 club members with no visitors noted.

Minutes of from January 11, 2022 club meeting were approved, (regardless of some capitalization's problems per MJ.)

Only changes in the financials was the sale of TS2000 per Bill Reed N9KPH.

WI-QSO party discussion was brief, Tom Macon discussed changes to digital rules, RTTY, PSK32, no FT-8. Contest time Sunday March 13, 1 pm to 8 pm. See web-link for information.

http://warac.org/wqp/wiqp_rules.htm

Field Day Status by Dave WB9OWN. The 2022 FD site DJ Mackie Picnic Area was briefly presented. It has a Shelter with AC power, has restrooms and is secluded. DJ Mackie Picnic Area is located in Southern Kettle Moraine unit nearby HW 67 & County Rd ZZ.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=42.942569,-88.452753>

WARAC Sendik's Fundraising Dates, New Berlin Store, May 28th and September 10th.

Remote Radio Status Made contact with Richard AA9L @ MSOE club. Rich is an MSOE employee, he's 85 and has no intention on retiring. My plan is to develop a club to club relationship and see what things we have in common.

Club Program: – Measuring SWR with Nano VNA by Frank KA9FZR.

An excellent program was presented.

Slow speed CW net is meeting Mondays at 8pm. WB0AFB repeater 147.045 is being used for net coordination frequency. All are welcomed.

Election of club President was discussed Nobody has stepped forward to assume this position.

Meeting ended @ 8:05pm

Respectfully Submitted

David Garnier WB9OWN

Secretary WARAC, March 2, 2022

Odds & Ends – Wisconsin's online auctions

<https://wisconsinsurplus.com/>

<https://swap.wisc.edu/>

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2022 Season Begins

March kicks off the Early Park Ops season. Of course it is a bit cold. A bit snowy. Maybe a bit too much, but for sure it has been a long winter and we are all chomping at the bit to get outside and have some fun.

The formula this year will be much like last year: 2:00 PM Wednesday at a different park each week. Of course we will go to our favorite haunts. We will always try to find a spot that has a shelter, close by parking and of lots of room to spread out.

Notifications this year will be pretty much the same. I'll continue to post via the WARAC Facebook group. That seems to work for a lot of you. Additionally, I can put out an email to alert those non-Facebook participants where we are planning to go. If that is of interest, send me your email address and I will add you to the email list. Let me know: mike@palomonet.com

OK, so March is the pre-season. The real season begins May 4th, that's when we will start the rain/snow/hail go no matter what regimen. This year I plan to incorporate some legitimate POTA activations. Should be a good change of pace.

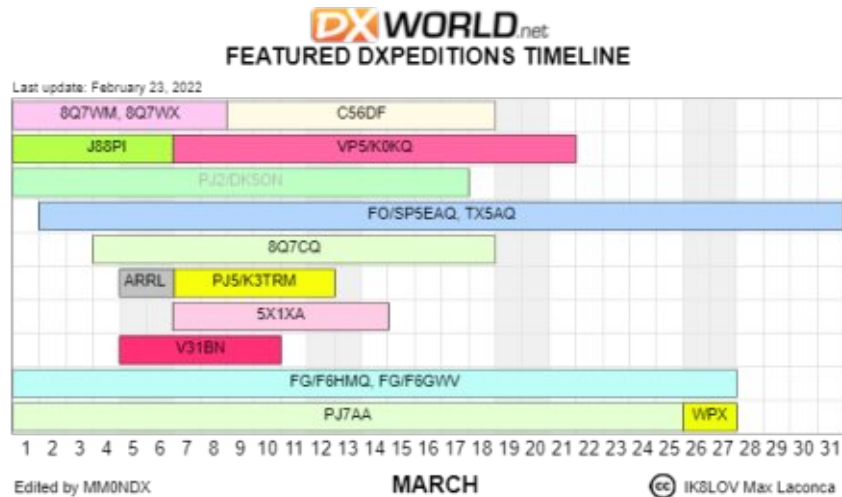
So get ready. Join the fun. Come on out and say hello. It's only an hour!!!





DX UPDATE:

As you probably have heard by now amateur radio is now banned in the Ukraine. My thoughts go out to the 144 Ukrainian contacts I have made on 160-10 meters. With Solar Cycle 25 on the rise 12 and 10 meters have been booming. There are some major contests for DX that are happening this month. Check out the ARRL International SSB and CQ WPX under contesting. Other notable DX is listed in the chart below.



Contesting:

Of course this month is the Wisconsin QSO Party on March 13 from 1-8 PM which is covered elsewhere in Hamtrix. Other contests that might interest you are:

- ARRL International DX SSB 0000Z March 5 to 2400Z March 6
- OK QSO Party 1500Z March 12 to 0200Z March 13 and 1500Z to 2100Z March 13
- ID QSO Party 1900Z March 12 to 1900 March 13
- **WISCONSIN QSO PARTY 1800Z March 13 to 0100Z March 14**
- VA QSO Party 1400Z March 19 to 0400Z March 20 and 1200Z to 2400Z March 20
- CQ WPX Contest 0000Z March 26 to 2359Z March 27

There are MANY more contests in March. Check the link below.

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

Special Event Station that might interest you:

• BY1CRA/WO22 is the special event station for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. It will be active until March 13 on all bands and modes.

For more special event station listings (there are many) check out:

<https://www.425dxn.org/index.php?op=wcal>

If you have further ideas or suggestions for this page please let WA9BZW (Al) know.

wa9bzw@arrl.net • _ _ • _ _ •



Mar 2022 * Hamtrix * By Michael Johnson, WO9B

APRS

APRS, what is it good for? Had to steal that line from the old song, but you can't get through the specs for any of our digital radios without running into APRS as a feature. A few years back, the Anytone 868 gained APRS capability via a firmware update and it was A BIG DEAL. Today you have to look pretty far down the list to find a radio that doesn't do APRS. So this month we are talking about this must-have but little used (from what I can discern) feature of your digital radio. As always, the terminology used will be directed at the Anytone radios, the brand I happen to own.

APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System) has been around for a long time and is primarily used for reporting locations and other real time data (weather data is a biggie) to a centralized internet network. The network consists of receiving stations (digipeater) and gateways (internet access points) configured in an ad hoc fashion. The easiest way to see the data is at the website <http://APRS.FI> Up will pop a map with all manner of icons. The primary feature of APRS is position tracking and reporting, as in your lat/long coordinates. Since almost all digital radios have GPS as a built-in capability, the jump to having an APRS feature is very short and quite natural.

All APRS is not exactly equal. When looking over your radio's specs you need to know that some radios are "Digital" APRS capable and some are "Standard" APRS capable while still others offer both. There is one other distinction that is now offered in the latest radio models which is the ability to not just send APRS packets, but also receive them, i.e. to act like a digipeater. So what is the difference and does it matter to you?

Digital APRS capability is not an over-the-air mode. When enabled, it will send packets into the APRS network via the internet. This mode will require a Digital Mode Hotspot in order to function. Given the ease of setting up digital hotspots via cell data, this is not really much of a challenge. I've used Digital APRS to track my course over several WIQP mobile events. It works great.

Standard APRS mode is an over-the-air mode. APRS packets are sent out via 2 meters (144.39 Mhz). Unlike TCP packets, there is no error correction or acknowledgement. The packet simply is sent and you have no idea if it was received or not. For HT's with their limited range, that is an issue. For more powerful mobile radios with mobile antennas, this tends to be very workable. However, the availability and capability of receiving digipeaters and gateways is unknown. You gets what you gets.

If this is a capability you are interested in exploring, YouTube is literally awash with How-To's so go hit up Google and get busy. You will need to do some code plug configuration, but as with all DMR radios, that is expected and not very difficult. So literally, go find yourself and activate your radio's APRS mode. It's really neat.

Next Month: Crossmode Hotspots

Radio is Magic

- If you aren't impressed by the fact that you can wobble a few electrons in a wire and thereby wobble a few electrons in a wire half way around the world, you have no soul.



Nut Net Breakfast to start, AGAIN

Several years ago there was talk among Nut Net members that we should get to meet each other. A breakfast get together idea was started. It was open to all hams, XYL/partners and anyone who wanted to learn about amateur radio. Even visiting OM/XYL couples joined us.

So, on the fourth Tuesday each month at 8:30 am we will once again meet at Gensis Restaurant, corner of HWY 100 and Beloit Road, Greenfield, WI. Looking forward to seeing you, mark your calendar.

Phil, W9NAW

The Ozaukee Radio Club presents its 42nd Annual Spring Indoor
Amateur Radio, Electronics & Computer



SWAPFEST



Saturday, April 30, 2022 – 8 AM to 12 PM (Setup begins at 6 AM)

featuring TOWER ELECTRONICS!

Columbia St. Mary's Center – W67N890 Washington St. Cedarburg, WI

Talk-in: 146.97 – PL 127.3



Like us on
Facebook

www.ozaukeeradio.org

Location: Jefferson, WI

**NEW DATE! Check the website below
for more information**

03/27/2022 - Jefferson Hamfest 2022

Type: ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor: Tri-County Amateur Radio
Club - W9MQB**

Website: <http://w9mqb.org>



Table Spaces

Buy 1 Ticket

Use Order Form below

Email: swapfest@ozaukeeradio.org

For Advance Tickets, send check with self-addressed stamped **Business-Size Envelope** to:

Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY – W69N905 Evergreen Ct N, #202, Cedarburg WI 53012

Admission Tickets just \$5 (Please make checks payable to ORC)

Company Name: _____ Phone# _____

Contact Person: _____ Call Sign: _____

Address: _____ e-mail: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

No. of Tickets: _____ X \$5 = _____ Electricity: Yes (Add \$5) _____ No _____

No. of Tables: _____ X \$10 = _____ Total Amount Enclosed: _____

(For Official Use Only)

Ticket(s) # _____ Table(s) # _____ Init: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Vendor Entrance Used (Circle one): **1** **2** **3**

Tuning a Mobile Antenna

Dave Garnier WB9OWN

Do you remember Frank's NanoVNA presentation where I walked over to Frank's demonstration antenna, nearly touching the antenna rod caused the SWR to change?

What I demonstrated was Larsen's antenna tuning procedure whereby the user trimmed or shortened his mobile antenna to resonance.

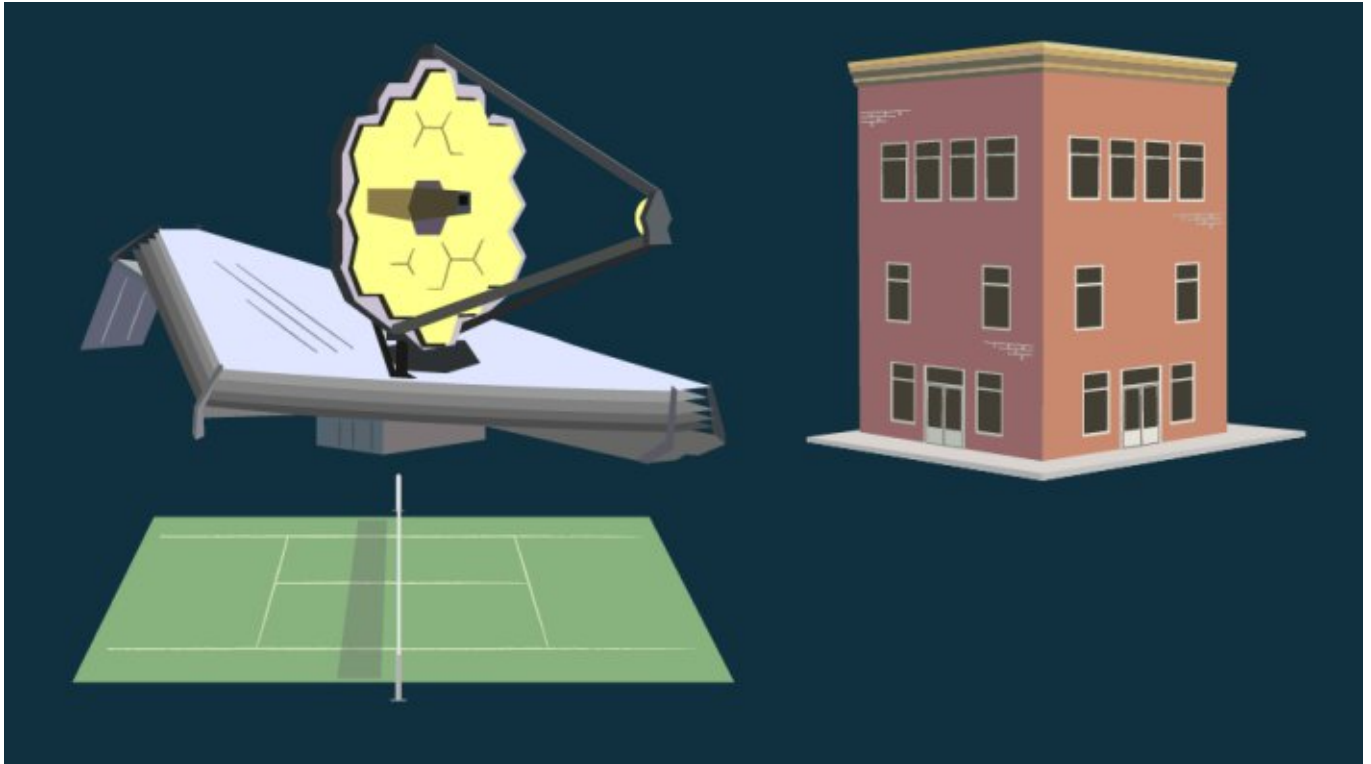
Larsen supplied a slightly longer whip whereby the user would shorten the length for lowest SWR (reverse power).

Here's Larsen's instructions.

Tuning a Mobile Antenna

REFLECTED POWER

Normal reflected power will be less than 1 watt out of 20 going in typical installations. Higher values indicate either incorrect rod length or a faulty coax mount condition. Check rod length by moving hand toward the loading coil. If the reflected power increases, rod is too long. Remove 3/8" lengths until an acceptable value is obtained. If the reflected power decreases to a minimum, then rises, the rod is too short.



It is very, very big.

The Webb telescope is as tall as a 3-story building and as long as a tennis court! It is so big that it has to fold origami-style to fit inside the rocket to launch. The telescope will unfold, sunshield first, once in space.



NEW

New Repeater

SLOW SPEED CW QSO NET

Monday's - 8:00 PM - WB0AFB 147.045 Repeater

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

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.

Officers and Board
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Feeroz Ghose WU9N

Secretary
Dave Garnier WB9OWN

Treasurer
Bill Reed N9KPH

Directors
Tom Macon K9BTQ

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