

Official Publication of the West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 74, Issue 3 March, 2025

MARCH CLUB HAPPENINGS



NUT NET 3.985mhz Monday-Saturday 8:15am CT

WARAC 4th Tuesday Breakfast At the Forum Layton & Hyw 100 at 8:30am

The Milwaukee-Florida Net time is:

7:15 – 8:00AM Central 8:15 – 9:00AM Eastern Mon through Sat Meeting
Tuesday March 11, 2025 7:00 pm
Community Center
14750 W. Cleveland Ave.
New Berlin, WI
Between Moorland and Sunnyslope

Presentation: Pierre, KD9SSY:
Silent Signals:
The Hidden Cyber Threats in Amateur
Radio see pg 14

Secondary Discussion: WIQP Post Event Stories

Premeeting dinner New Berlin Ale House 5:15pm 16000 W. Cleveland Ave



See page 13 for more info

Wisconsin QSO Party March 9, 2025 1:00pm CDT to 8:00pm CDT

Sendik's Grill fundraiser May 17, 2025 September 6, 2025 11:00 to 4:00 pm At the New Berlin store

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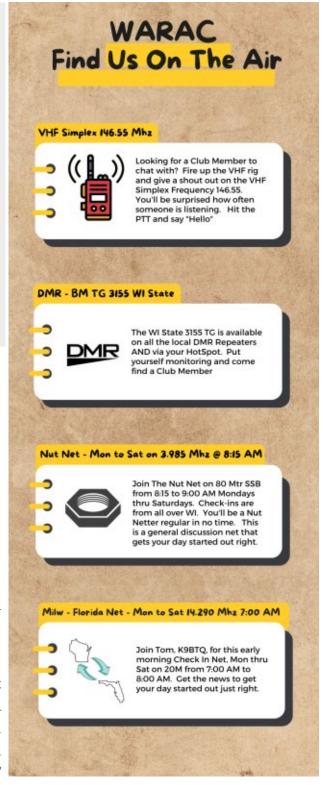


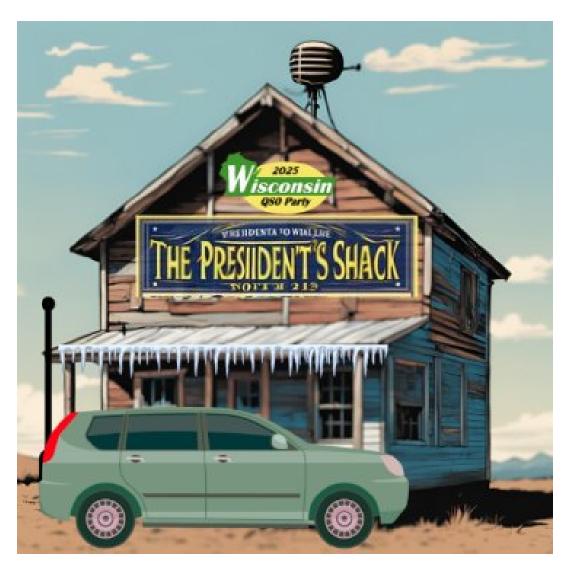
WARAC 4th Tuesday Breakfast

NOTE NEW LOCATION

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 meet at **The Forum Restaurant, corner of HWY 100 and Layton, Greenfield, WI**. Looking forward to seeing you, mark your calendar.





It's March ...

I'm thinking that winter has lost it's punch for this year. Yea!! One can't be too sure, but I glanced at the long range weather forecast for March and it certainly did not look like the lion part will have a full set of claws this year.

The big for event March The is Wisconsin QSO Party. It is very early this year, so by the time this month's meeting comes around, we will have stories to tell and logs to forward. Can't vou strong enough to get on the air and make some OSO's. Even a few contacts help the club and help the OSO party. For my part, we will be doing another

mobile op covering a bunch of counties in SE Wisconsin. Hoping the weather holds and we can have a nice safe trip. This year the WO9B Mobile team has added a 3rd CW operator to the mix, Max, KD9NZB, so we are hoping for a lot of activity.

For those so inclined, don't forget the After the QSO Party get together at the Hale House restaurant. It is located on Forest Home just east of Hwy 100. We plan to get their as close to 8:00 PM as possible and grab a post party burger. See the info graphic a few pages into this edition. Everyone is invited!!

Club Meeting Info: We've had a reschedule for the planned meeting. Jim Burns from the City of New Berlin had a last minute schedule conflict. We are working with Jim for a Plan B date. Stand by. The good news is that with a bit of luck, our own Pierre, KD9SSY has stepped up to fill the gap and will be bringing us up to speed on Cyber Sercurity for Hams. I salute his willingness to take on a presentation on such short notice. I assured him that the price of fruit will insure his personal safety on the evening's stage.

Finally, I'm not sure everyone saw the news, but we sadly have to report that another long time club member, Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR, became a silent key last week. Newer members probably won't know him, but Lynn was a very active member of WARAC from the 1960's until 10-12 years ago. At one time or another, he held most offices in the club and was selected Member of the Year in 2007. He was also WIQP chairman in the early 2000's until 2012.

WARAC General Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2025

Called to order by Mike Johnson WO9B @ 7 pm.

Attendance: 28 – 27 Member's, 1 Visitor.

Mike – Did intro's.

New Membership Directory is out.

Ron Gorski SK – January 16, 2025

January Board Meeting Synopsis:

Temporary moving FTP file to google drive.

Bill Reed is looking at Charles Schwab for better rates on investments.

Treasurers report: No big changes. Miller Valley club made a donation to our scholarship fund of \$1k.

Scholarship – Howard: Arrl reported our secondary fund has recovered The fund is good for \$2k. Bill Reed sent a \$1k check to the Arrl fund, so we have a \$3k scholarship for 2025.

Sendix's – Frank H.: The 2 dates for 2025 are May 17 and September 6.

Field Day – Dave G.: June 28-29. @ Colonel Heg Memorial Park-Norway. Planning meeting to start soon.

Tri - County Swapfest March 16th, Dayton is May 16th,17th.

Presentation - Brayden KD9YVG: Civil Air Patrol – Fox Hunt.

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is the volunteer civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force (USAF). It was created in 1941 and serves as the official auxiliary of the USAF. CAP missions are Emergency Services, Cadet Programs and Aerospace Education, help with coastal and southern border patrols. Emergency Services, finding downed aircraft. ELT radio directional finding. Brayden has written a proposal and submitted to CAP for training on radio directional finding(Foxhunt). He has not received a response back. He is trying for a weekend during spring or summer at Henry Miller park in Oak Creek. If approved, Brayden is ask for the clubs assistance with equipment, explanation of Ham radio and radio directional finding to his CAP group and do a fox hunt with them.

Presentation - Tom K9BTQ: WIQSO Party March 9th 1 PM – 8 PM CDT. 7 Hours of fun. Committee members - Chuck W9WLX., Tom K9BTQ, Howard WA9AXQ, Jeff W9JSP. New 2025 plaque – Highest score phone only "Single Operator". Sponsored by Wolf River Coil. W9FK (Club call will be active cw, phone). 7 modes of operation. Single Op Fixed (SOF), Single Op Mobile (SOM), Single Op Rookie (SOR), Multi Op Fixed (MOF), Multi Op Mobile (MOM), Multi Xmtr/Multi Op Fixed (MMF), Multi Xmtr/Multi Op Mobile (MMM). **Remember to pay attention to WI county abbreviations. Full rules @. Wisconsin QSO Party (warac.org) rac.org/wqp/wqp.htm

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm. Respectfully Submitted Bill Dargis KD9BJZ Secretary WARAC, February 11, 2025

Contest Corner and DX Report Michael Falk, AA9RK

It's March! There are some big events coming up on the calendar, so let's start this weekend.

Obviously, for us here at WARAC, the Wisconsin QSO Party is the main event. On Sunday, March 9th, from 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM local (taking into account the time change), the 72 Wisconsin counties become sought-after multipliers. People outside the state can only contact Wisconsin stations for points. We in Wisconsin can contact anyone, and for us, the 72 counties are multipliers along with all of the states and provinces. There should be a lot of activity on 20 meters but also 40 meters during the day, with 80 (and 160?) making an appearance after sundown. There is activity on all bands, even up to VHF and beyond. I will be out mobile as part of the WO9B team, along with WO9B, KA9FZR, and KD9NZB, so please look for us if you operate CW.

The same weekend, try the North American Sprint (RTTY) on Saturday night from 6:00 until 10:00. I've extolled the virtues of both sprinting and RTTY in recent months; this is a fun event and you should give it a look. Also look for the Oklahoma QSO Party and Idaho QSO Party (both Saturday and Sunday). There is also the YOTA (Youth on the Air) contest early on Sunday and the Stew Perry Topband Challenge (160 meters only) on both weekend days.

March 15/16 and 22/23 are quieter on the airwaves. Look for the Virginia QSO Party on both Saturday and Sunday, the 15th and 16th, along with a PODXS 070 Club contest the entire UTC day on Saturday. That club focuses on PSK (especially PSK31) and sponsors monthly activity contests to encourage people to operate that mode.

On Saturday the 22nd, the North American Sprint (SSB) is on the air from 7:00 until 11:00 PM. (It's the same UTC times as the RTTY sprint; there's just a Daylight Savings change in there.) It's the same story as the other sprints; answer a CQ and the frequency becomes yours; call CQ and give up your frequency to the station calling you. You don't need to know CW for this one or have any software or computer skills; you just have to have a microphone and know how to talk.

There's one big main event running for 48 hours on March 29 and 30 UTC – the CQ Worldwide WPX Contest (SSB). WPX is Worked All Prefixes. Every unique prefix you work is a multiplier. Everybody works everybody else, and the exchange is a serial number. There should be a ton of activity on all bands. Get on the air and work some new countries!

April 5th and 6th are a great weekend for state QSO parties: Louisiana, Mississippi, and Missouri all host their events, plus there will be Georgia and Florida State Parks On The Air events. There is another PODXS 070 event on the PSK31 mode on Saturday, April 5th.

One more thing I'd like to plug here is the weekly Slow Speed Test. For anyone who is interested in learning or improving their Morse Code skills, this event is a low-pressure, relaxed, high-activity, great way to do it. After Daylight Savings begins, the event will take place on Sunday nights from 7:00-8:00 PM and on Friday afternoons from 3:00-4:00 PM local. All you need to do is send your name and state, and the other operator will do the same. The "speed limit" is 20 WPM, but stations call CQ as slowly as 10 WPM, and almost everyone will match your speed.

Here are your MarchDxpeditions, featuring lots of tiny islands:

Atlantic:

VP8TXF and VP8CIW are activating the Falkland Islands off of South America this week until March 10th. Their goal is the RSGB Commonwealth Contest but they are making lots of other QSOs too.

Indian:

D68Z in the Comoros islands will be active until March 18th on HF bands, all modes. Elvira IV3FSG is the operator, and she is operating split on all modes (and MSHV on FT8) as she mentors some YOTA (Youth on the Air) operators.

VK9CU is active now through March 11 on Cocos Keeling Island, an Australian territory in the Indian Ocean. The islands are actually closer to Indonesia than to Australia, and they will be QRV 24/7 all bands and all modes (RTTY and FT8 Fox and Hounds for digital modes).

3B9DJ will be on Rodrigues Island, off Mauritius in the Indian Ocean, with 4 operators from March 24th until April 5th. They'll be on all HF bands, CW, SSB, and FT8.

Caribbean:

TO1P will be active during that CQ WPX Contest, and will be active as FJ/SP9FIH before and after the contest, from the tiny country of Saint Barthélemy ("St. Barts") in the French West Indies.

Pacific:

V6WG is operating from Kosrae, in Micronesia, in the South Pacific. The op is Rikk WE9G, on all HF bands, primarily digital (FT8 using MSHV and SuperFox) with some analog modes sprinkled in.

And one on a continent:

5H3MB is the second holiday-style Tanzanian activation in two months. Maurizio IK2GZU will be on the SSB, CW, RTTY, and FT8 modes.

See you next month,

-Michael AA9RK

Hamfest 2025

Buy/Sell Amateur Radio Equipment, Electronics and Computer Gear



Sunday March 16, 2025

Free Parking!

ADVANCE SALES: Admission: \$8 8' Table Space - \$15/ea AT THE DOOR: Admission: \$10 8' Table Space - \$25/ea

Amateur Volunteer Exams will NOT be offered this year Check in at the TCARC table for other local testing options



Presented by: TRI-COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - W9MQB Talk-in on the 145.49- Repeater (CTCSS 123.0)

JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIR PARK ACTIVITY CENTER 503 NORTH JACKSON AVE JEFFERSON, WI 53549

- Vendors will be admitted at 6:30 AM
- · Vendors-only unloading zone on West side
- · Food and beverages available
- · General Admission and Sales begin at 8:00AM



Take 194 to Exit 267 (Johnson Creek), Head South on 26 to the Hwy 18 Exit. Exit East on Hwy 18 and turn left onto Jackson Ave. Look for the Fair Park sign.

Next year's date: March 15, 2026



8					
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Register online at https://www.W9MQB.org/SwapFest

Mail-In Reservations require that we receive your payment BY MARCH 1" with a self-addressed, stamped envelope at:

TCARC Hamfest 2025, P.O. Box 321, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Questions? Call Michael Zore (A E9 MZ) at 414-455-549 3 or Email: ha mfest @w9mq b.org

The Ozaukee Radio Club presents its 45th Annual Spring Indoor Amateur Radio, Electronics & Computer



Total Amount:

SWAPFEST

featuring TOWER ELECTRONICS!

Saturday, April 26, 2025

Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Center (Milwaukee Curling Club) W67N890 Washington Ave., Cedarburg, WI 53012

Talk-in: 146.97 MHz – PL 127.3 Hz Door Prizes! Free WIFI

Food sold by Cub Scout Pack 516

Admission: \$7.00 at the gate

Children 12 and under FREE, with a paid adult admission

6 ft. Tables: \$12.00 in advance, \$15.00 at the door, if available

Use the Order Form below, email, or call Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY at 262-421-6351 Email: swapfest@ozaukeeradioclub.org

More information: http://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org/ or http://www.facebook.com/orcviv

Save the date for **2026**: April 25, 2026 !!

(Please make checks payable to ORC)

Name:	Call sign:		
Address:			
Phone number:	Email:		
No. of Tickets:X \$7 =	(Advance tickets are double stub)		
No. of Tables: X \$12 =	Electricity: Yes (Add \$5) No		



Green Bay Hamfest

Saturday May 31, 2025 from 8 'til Noon

At the Our Saviour Lutheran Church 120 South Henry St.



Exit 183

E. Mason

On Green Bay's East Side, just off Main St. at the corner of Deckner Ave. and Henry St.

Entrance tickets \$5 per person

Great Commercial Vendors Featuring Tower Electronics

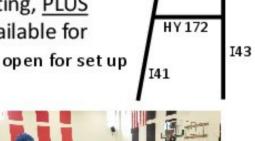
Your one stop shop for all the radio and antenna accessories that keep your shack on the air.

Wolf River Coils offering a variety of products for mobile, portable, and base station needs.

C3 Electronics providing Bandpass Filters for your favorite HF bands.

OTHER COMMERCIAL VENDORS INVITED

Huge parking lot for trunk sales/tailgating, <u>PLUS</u> plenty of space indoors with tables available for only \$10 a piece! (Parking lot and facility open for set up at 6:00 AM)



Deckner

Henry

E. Mason

Be part of the fun!

- ✓ Food available on site
- √ 50/50 Raffle
- ✓ "Bucket Drawings"
- ✓ Estate Sale Items
- ✓ Meet our ARRL Section Manager
- ✓ Great Door Prizes
- ✓ Commercial Vendors
- ✓ Lots of Vintage Electronics
- ✓ Grand Prize Drawing (Must be present to win.)
- √ Trunk Sales/Tailgating
- ✓ FCC License Testing (Registration 8:45; must be registered by 9:00. Testing promptly at 9:00. Contact ks9wi@mail.com prior to May 26 to register.)

Don't miss out!

For more information and to reserve a table or parking lot sales space, contact Todd Clausen, W9GRB, toddw9grb@gmail.com or 414-455-6374.

at RER

Sponsored by the Green Bay Mike & Key Club



TALK-IN: 147.120 PL 107.2



On the Bench This Month

ASL Update: The All Star Link node(s) continue to impress. We've reached that point in the relationship where both the nodes and I have settled into a pattern where neither one wants to upset the tenuous equilibrium we've accomplished. As a reminder, Node 603810 is the Shari Node running off a Pi Zero 2W and is my main RF node which connects my HT to the ASL node universe. Node 60384 in the Pi4B node connected to a Yaesu Mobile radio which is permanently on 146.55 Simplex. The 60384 Node is available for anyone to connect too. I am surprised at the number of hams showing up on 146.55 Simplex. Try it out.

Field Day 2025 Winlink Bonus Point Quest: My Field Day plans for 2025 are yet another trip to the UP to run a QRP CW op. Last year was a disaster, but hope springs eternal. The plan this year is to do a beach setup on a little used section of Lake Superior. It is a short hike in, so equipment is very limited. Despite the overall disaster from last year, there was one bright spot: Winlink bonus points. Like 200 bonus points for sending via Winlink ICS 213 forms to the Section Manager and 10 random ham friends. The equipment used last year was an FT-891 and HUGE battery. That isn't possible for the 2025 expedition. So up pops the QDX to the rescue.



The QDX is a tiny (think pack of playing cards) digital transceiver designed for single tone digital modes (i.e. FT8, RTTY, Olivia...). It is not designed for Multi FSK type modes such as VARA HF. Undaunted, the clever hackers over at QRPlabs figured out a way to adjust the QDX settings to allow it to perform at minimal operational level for VARA HF, thus Winlink emails are possible. This caught my attention as the QDX fits perfectly into my Field Day 2025 eco-system.

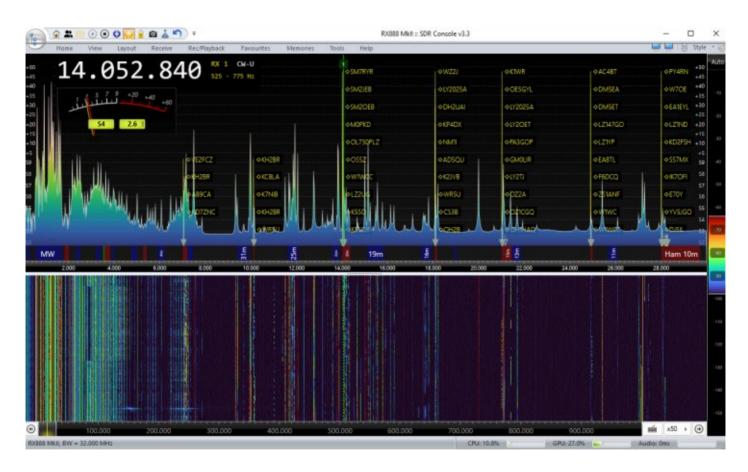
I've spent the last week testing the QDX VARA HF operation. Last year's Winlink success was on 40 meters, but with a fully capable digital modem, albeit running QRP. I had little problem making a decent connection and the messages, all 11 of them, were sent in a roughly 20 minute session. Viola. The initial connection attempts with the QDX were far less successful. The message is roughly 1.3 Kbs. It took 10 minutes or so to send. This was unacceptable both from a time as well as battery use standpoint.

In the next attempt, I experimented with other Winlink Nodes at various distances, hence SNR's. I failed to note the original station's SNR, but for this round, stations with an SNR > 10 consistently produced message transfers in 90 seconds. The SNR=10 threshold seems to be the magic formula as greater SNR's did not shorten the transfer time. Looks like the QDX may just work out.

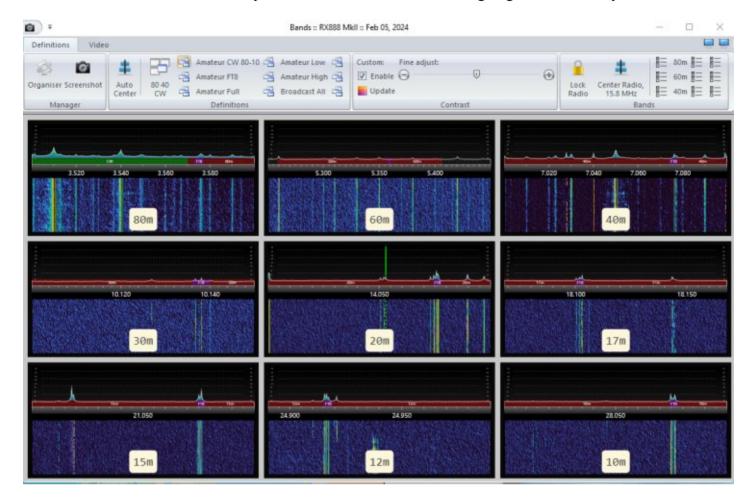
New SDR, RX-888 MKII: recently picked up a new SDR as a bump to my station. I use an SDR to provide pan adaptor capabilities. My existing SDR is the SDRplay RSP1A model which has been in place working like a charm for several years. What caught my attention on the unit is that it has a banRX-888 MKII dwidth of 64 Mhz compared to 10 Mhz for the RSP1A. 64 Mhz more than covers the entire HF band. The other charming feature is that it is supported by my SDR software of choice, . I plan to do a more i SDR Consolendepth review down the road, but so far, my experience with the device is positive. There are a couple of gotcha's concerning the 64 Mhz bandwidth, but I can attest to its ability to deliver 32 Mhz, which of course is the HF band. The entire HF band. Here are a couple of screen shots, just to whet your whistle.:



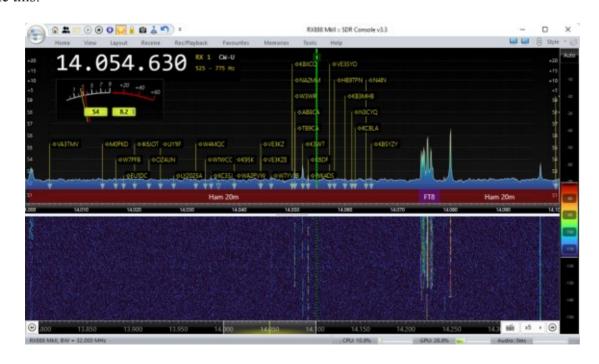
This screen grab shows the entire HF band. The SDR Console software has a DX cluster running which displays the spots on the spectrum window. The listed spots show where most of the ham bands fall in this 30 Mhz bandwidth. As interesting as this is, it is not really very helpful for ham use.



The second screenshot shows the CW portions of the 80 through 10 meter bands. This is SDR Console's Multi-Band view and is intended to provide a "live" window of what's going on across the spectrum.



Clicking on any of the band windows, brings that band to the main spectrum screen. For instance, 20 meters looks like this:





Wisconsin QSO
Party
More info
at
http://warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm

Give it a try you may like it. HI HI



14 Editorial

March already and time for our Wisconsin QSO party. This year we are adding a new member to the WO9B Mobile team. Max KD9NZB will be joining us. Should be fun to have him along.

I have no idea how to do it, especially with modern things to do, but having heard so many stories of current members and other Hams joining the adults for field day QSO parties etc. helped make them life time hams.

On a personal note my broken leg bone is healing and I don't have to wear the boot. I do have my own personal cane to carry around for a short time. Does that mean I have hit old age? That reminds me of a story I heard of a civil war vet's letter about what type of wood he would use if he needed a peg leg. Pine would be good to carve on, oak you could spend your time polishing etc. I always thought if I needed a long time cane, I would try to make a creative one. HI HI My daughter gave me a very nice diamond willow walking stick (looks like it could be a wizards stick), which might be a starting point. I may even add spooky lights HI HI

Well I hope our mobile QSO party team makes contact with you. Remember even one contact can be sent in to be logged

73

Frank KA9FZR





2024 Challenge for our membership. Have someone you meet, Ham or Ham wannabe come to a meeting this year!

Obituary of

Lynn C. Tamblyn, K9KR

December 7, 1939 ~ February 22, 2025 85 Years Old

Lynn C. Tamblyn, 85, crossed over to eternal life peacefully at home on February 22, 2025. He was a resident of Waterford for 50 years.

Lynn was born in New Jersey on December 7, 1939, the son of Earl and Charlotte. He married his wife, Joanne, on April 8, 1961. The couple lived in Milwaukee until 1965 when they purchased a home in St. Francis and later moved to Waterford in 1975.

Lynn worked as an electrical technician for Wisconsin Electric for 30 years. In his later years, he served as the treasurer for the Western Racine County Sewer District.

An amateur radio operator with the call sign K9KR, Lynn is now a silent key. He was passionate about helping others, dedicating countless hours of volunteer work at the St. Thomas Aquinas Food Pantry and being a regular usher at Sunday Mass.

He is survived by his son Mark (Laurie), grandchildren Zach, Jessica (Carlos) Dutan, and Nicole (David) Vitt, son Mike (Mandy), grandchildren Calvin and Connor, son Jeff (Mary), and grandson Cooper. He is also survived by three great-grandchildren Liliana, Bryson, and Delanie.

Lynn was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Joanne, and his sister Judy.

Services for Lynn will be held at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, (305 S 1st St., Waterford, WI 53185) on Tuesday, March 4th, 2025. Visitation will be held from 12:00pm until time of mass at 1:50pm. Immediately following service Lynn will be laid to rest at Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Cemetery, (621 Beck Dr., Waterford, WI 53185).

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the St. Thomas Food Pantry to help continue supporting those in need.

-from https://www.integrityfamilies.net/obituary/Lynn-Tamblyn

https://www.integrityfamilies.net/obituary/Lynn-Tamblyn





Know a high school senior who isn't a Ham but is interested in the environment? Wehr Nature Center has a scholarship opportunity with an application deadline of April 1, 2025

Environmental Studies Scholarship

To be eligible for the Deb McRae Scholarship for Environmental Studies, applicants must:

• Be a graduating high school senior accepted as a full-time undergraduate degree seeking student at an accredited 4-year college or university.

• Be a current resident of Wisconsin.

• Be pursuing a major in a field related to the environment (such as, but not limited to, environmental science, environmental education, environmental engineering, sustainability, natural resources, wildlife conservation, and environmental policy)

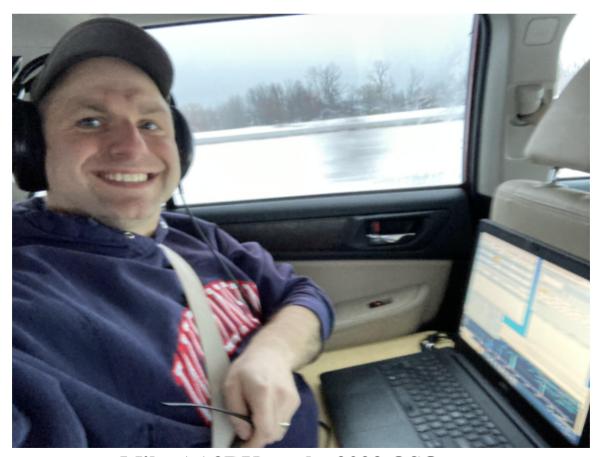
• Exhibit dedication to the environment through community service

activities and extracurricular involvement.

Application Instructions

Application Form

Barb Garnier, KD9HPS



Mike AA9RK on the 2023 QSO party

DON'T KEY LIKE A PHONE MAN



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 147.045+ 127.3 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 President: Mike Johnson WO9B

Vice-President
Pierre Porter KD9SSY

Treasure:
Bill Reed N9KPH

Secretary: Bill Dargis KD9BJZ

Committee member(2) Jeff Pahl W9JSP Tom Macon K9BTQ

Past President: Feroz Ghouse WU9N

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