



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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APRIL CLUB HAPPENINGS

Meeting

April 11, 2023 7pm

New Berlin Community Center

14750 W. Cleveland Ave.

New Berlin, WI

Between Moorland and Sunnyslope

Presentations

**Ham Shack Computer: Selection and
Configuration Considerations, Feroz WU9N**

**See Page 13 For Scholrsrship discusion and
vote**

Premeeting dinner

New Berlin Ale House 5:15pm

16000 W. Cleveland Ave

MAY MEETING

Will be another

Trunk to Trunk Mini swapfest.

Start filling your trunk NOW

Sendik's Grill Fundraiser

Will be on May 27, 2023 and September 9, 2023

Save the dates and join us.



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

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The President's Shack

The Club faces a major decision this month. The markets have been brutal, and that has resulted in our earnings fund, at the ARRL for our annual Scholarship, getting depleted. Our endowment is intact – and that is a good thing! That being said our revenue fund is depleted. This brings us to the question as to the feasibility of awarding a scholarship for 2023. This decision is before the membership at the April general meeting.

We have three options before us. First, Suspend the awarding of the Scholarship for 2023. This will allow our revenue fund at the ARRL to recover and thereby maintain the endowment in its entirety. Second, award the Scholarship by making up the shortfall utilizing current Club finds. Third, Award the Scholarship by dipping into the endowment.

It is my opinion, as President of the Club, that we consider the fiscally responsible option and strive to maintain the endowment in its entirety for the future. It is the legacy the WARAC leaves behind. In keeping with this the Board agreed to recommend suspending the Scholarship for 2023 with further evaluation taking place later in the year. It is my hope that the markets recover and thereby the fund does too.

This is your club and your vote does matter!

The month of May will feature the Trunk-to-Trunk mini swap fest. Bring your trunk full of your stuff and take back another trunk full of stuff. The activity will be held before the meeting. Stay tuned for details. Also, June (in addition to Brides) features Field Day. The Club will sponsor its annual one-day field day activity at D.J. Mackie Picnic Area in Waukesha County. Come join the Club bring and see how prepared you are to make a few QSOs under unusual conditions. It is usually a good time!

73,
Feroz WU9N • —• —••

WARAC


Find Us On The Air

VHF Simplex 146.55 Mhz




Looking for a Club Member to chat with? Fire up the VHF rig and give a shout out on the VHF Simplex Frequency 146.55. You'll be surprised how often someone is listening. Hit the PTT and say "Hello"

DMR - BM TG 3155 WI State



The WI State 3155 TG is available on all the local DMR Repeaters AND via your HotSpot. Put yourself monitoring and come find a Club Member

Nut Net - Mon to Sat on 3.985 Mhz @ 8:15 AM



Join The Nut Net on 80 Mtr SSB from 8:15 to 9:00 AM Mondays thru Saturdays. Check-ins are from all over WI. You'll be a Nut Netter regular in no time. This is a general discussion net that gets your day started out right.

Milw - Florida Net - Mon to Sat 14.290 Mhz 7:00 AM



Join Tom, K9BTQ, for this early morning Check In Net, Mon thru Sat on 20M from 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM. Get the news to get your day started out just right.

6 Meter Chat - Wed, Fri 50.160 Mhz @ 9:30 AM



Paul, W9PCS, hosts this informal 6m online get together on Wed and Fri starting at 9:30 AM. This is a round table discussion and everyone is welcome to drop by and join in.

WARAC General Meeting Minutes – March 14, 2023

Club Meeting called to order by Mike WO9B @ 7:04 pm.

Attendance: 18 -- 13 Members, 5 Visitors.

Meeting Minutes: Approved.

Treasury Report: Cash on hand \$22,822.

Committee Reports:

Frank KA9FZR:

Hamtrix: Any questions? 1 person with problem reading in pdf viewer.

Sendik's Brat event set for May 27, Sept. 9. Moorland location, sign up sheets are coming. Fun and easy event. - Talk ham radio and sell food. Easy cleanup - Sendik's does the cleanup.

Dick Wood W9JBE passed away Feb. 15, 2023. The club sent flowers.

Mike WO9B:

Wednesday Park Op's. Starts 1st Wednesday of May. 2PM for ~ 1hr. Bring a radio or just show up, have fun. Park location is posted on club Facebook page, Mike also does a email notification. See Mike if you don't do Facebook.

Balloon Launch: Trying for beginning of July launch. Mike WO9B - working on solar panels. Does anyone know about solder paste and solar cells. Paul W9PCS– working on balloons/ lift calculations and hydrogen supply. Bill KD9BJZ – working on programming QRP-labs U4B tracker. 20M and wspr.

Trunk to trunk right before May's meeting.

Slow Speed CW net. Monday at 8pm The repeater is 147.045+ 127.3 the CW portion is on HF.

Field Day – Dave WB9OWN: DJ Mackie site. Rule changes - computers powered by mains. Computer can't control tx with rig on batteries. Talking about buying field day filters, grounding, the need for photo release (ARRL or other publishing). Field day zoom meeting are planed.

ARRL scholarship fund – Howard WA9AXQ: The market when down which affected the fund. We need to pay to keep the scholarship at it's current amount or change the amount. The Board is having a meeting, will publish in April's Hamtrix for a vote at the April 11th meeting. ARRL needs an answer by April 12.

WIQSO Party Chuck W9WLX: 387 logs received as of the meeting. Most bands where active (cw, phone). Some people where self-spotting. Some think self-spotting is controversial.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Bill Dargis KD9BJZ

Secretary WARAC, March 14, 2023



April 2023 Update

A decidedly unproductive month for our balloon project. Not much progress as everyone just seemed distracted with real life events.

Held our monthly meeting on April 6th. Getting through the hemming and hawing part, Bill D discussed the tracking protocol used by the QRP-Labs folks. Their website hosts a number of existing balloons which anyone can check out at <https://qrp-labs.com/tracking.html>.

The tracking for W9FK-1 will be via 20 meter WSPR. The tracker uses a channelized approach which is selectable via programming. Bill is working out the nuances and is just itching to get a solar cell in his hands.

Solar cells will consist of three 6 or 7 cell units packaged in a foam pyramid. This is a well documented and proven approach. MJ needs to get a couple of fabricated cells over to Bill.

That's about it for this month. The project moves ahead at a glacial pace. I guess some months we get a little more melting than snowing. Lets see how we do next month. . _ . _ . .

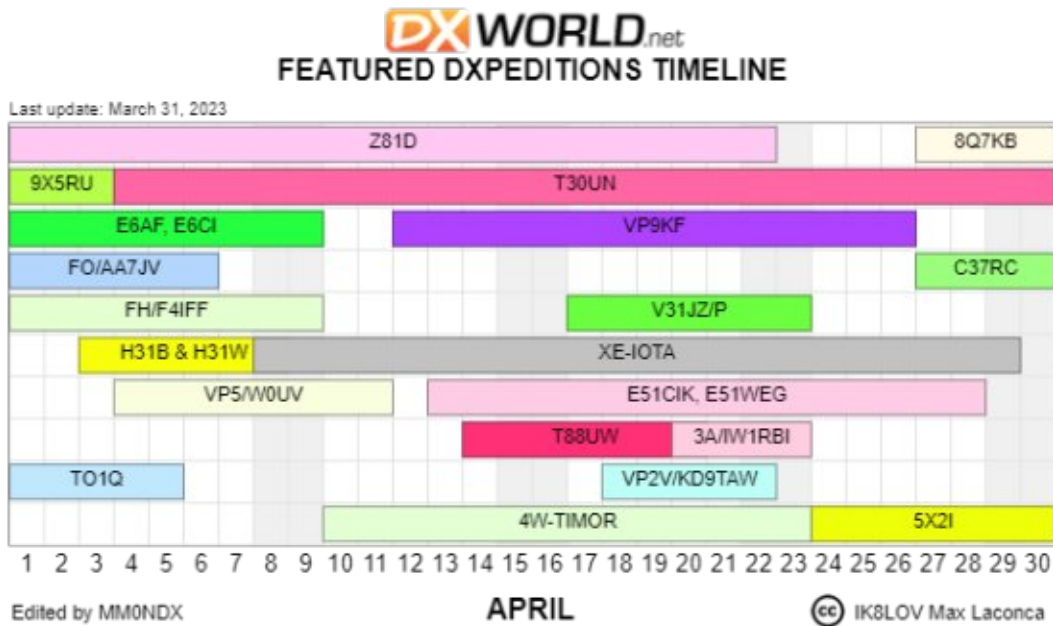


DX Update:

3A8AB, Monaco is on as a special event station commemorating the 10th anniversary of the first trans Atlantic contact. Between F8AB in Nice, France and U1MO in Hartford, CT.

Many DXpeditions are wrapping up the first part of April, but one never knows some good ones pop up.

Looking ahead in late July to August look for C21TS - Nauru



Contesting:

QSO Parties this month:

A busy month. This past weekend was LA, MS, and MO. Eight more coming up as follows:

New Mexico and Georgia April 8-9

Nebraska, Michigan, and North Dakota April 15-16

Quebec April 16

Florida April 29-30

May 6-7 is 7th area QSO Party as well as New England QSO Party

Checkout the Contest Corral on page 84 in the April, 2023 QST for **MANY MORE** contests.

For even more contests worldwide check out: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

Special Event Stations:

For 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

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Apr 2023 * Hamtrix * By Michael Johnson, WO9B

Pot Pourri Edition

Some items that have crossed my desk of late:

FT8CN: In the realm of cutting edge software here is a little something for those with Android devices looking to participate in FT8 communication. . <https://github.com/N0BOY/FT8CN> Make no mistake this is software with adventure at its core. The reports indicate it will run on an Android smartphone, tablets, ect. The interface is interesting and quite different from the WSJT-X world. Documentation is scant. Success is far from assured. Excitement is absolutely guaranteed. Will it work? Download it and give it a try. I have an old Samsung Phone that is just begging for something to do. This could be just the thing to bring the battery up to charge.



Icom IC-905: How about the new Icom super VHF/UHF/SHF all everything radio? Have to salute Icom for breaking with industry standards and actually releasing a new radio they announced only a few months ago. And what a radio it is covering 144, 430, 1200, 2400, and 5600 MHz (and optional 10 GHz). The price tag is in the \$3500 range so this is not a casual purchase item. Still, Icom continues to set the standard for innovation and performance. This is a gutsy product release and for those inclined to work those bands, there is just nothing else like it in the market. Well done Icom.



WARAC Board Meeting Minutes – March 21, 2023

Board meeting was called to order by Feroz Ghose WU9N @ 7:02PM.

Present: Feroz Ghose WU9N, Mike Johnson WO9B, Bill Dargis KD9BJZ, Bill Reed N9KPH, Tom Macon K9BTQ, Frank Humpal KA9FZR, Howard Smith WA9AXQ.

Howard:

Presented the information from the ARRL on the ARRL Scholarship Fund current status. The Fund did not have a 4% or greater return in the market last year to support awarding a scholarship in 2023. (The Bonds and Market “50/50” had a negative return.)

Options presented.

1. Do not award a Scholarship this year.
2. The Club comes up with the \$3K to award a Scholarship. -Where does the Club get the money?
3. The ARRL recommended, reduce the scholarship to \$2K for the future. - Based on normal market returns.

After discussion, the Board recommended to present to the membership for a vote, the following.
“To suspend awarding the scholarship for this year, and re-evaluate the for the future.”

Howard will do a write-up to publish in Hamtrix, for a possible vote at the April 11th meeting.

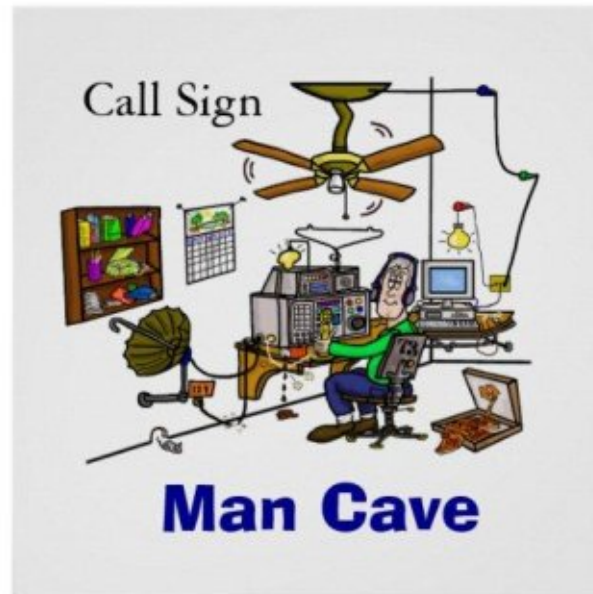
Meeting Adjourned at 7:48PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Bill Dargis KD9BJZ

WARAC Secretary, March 21, 2023

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



Nut Net Breakfast

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 Gensis Restaurant, corner of HWY 100 and Beloit Road, Greenfield, WI. Looking forward to seeing you, mark your calendar.

Phil, W9NAW

52nd Annual

Madison Hamfest



Sponsored by MARA, the Madison Area Repeater Association
A Non-Profit Organization

Saturday April 15, 2023

8:00 AM until 12:00 PM

The MARA Hamfest features vendors of new and used equipment for Amateur Radio, Electronics, Computers, computer parts and software. Come see our huge Flea Market in the Mandt Community Center's spacious 26,000 sq ft main hall.

VE testing starts at 10:00 AM.

Vendor space is sold on a "**first come, first served bases**"

Location: Mandt Community Center (Same location since 2000)
GPS: North 42.91157 West 89.21647
Address: 400 Mandt Parkway, Stoughton, Wisconsin
Directions: Take US Hwy 51 South from Madison to downtown Stoughton, WI.
Turn South on 4th Street and the Mandt Center is 3 blocks ahead on the left
Talk in: MARA's Wide Area Repeater 147.150 MHz (+600) pi 123.0
Parking: Free
Seller Setup: Friday night 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and Saturday morning, 6:00 AM

Ticket, Table and Chair Prices

Tables are limited to availability!

Hamfest general admission tickets:	Purchased on website	\$8.00 per person
Ages 12 and younger: FREE	At the door CASH ONLY!	\$10.00 per person
Eight-foot vendor table fees	Purchased by April 1st	\$20.00
Admission tickets are NOT included	After April 1st	\$25.00
In the price of tables		
Chairs		\$5.00
AC Service		\$30.00
Admission ticket along with table rental is Required		At the door is CASH ONLY

MARA is not responsible for theft or damage. All orders are final -- No refunds.
 Hamfest tickets, and vendor table space can be purchased at the MARA website: www.w9hsy.org If you have questions about purchasing tickets, chairs, table space. Please check the web page or contact us by e-mail at hamfest@w9hsy.org or call 608-205-1994

**Looking for a tower
Check this out**

50' Rohn 4-10' sections
1-10' to mount abea, onto it's tapered,
Will make an offer you can't refuse

Bob Garske
1-608-513-2268 cell
1-608-635-4503 home
Poynette, WI

Michael AA9RK in the radio seat.



Motion Regarding Funding the David Knauss Memorial Scholarship for 2023

In accordance with the Club's By-Laws for prior notification and for membership approval pertaining to extraordinary expenditures, the following motion is being presented at the April 11th Monthly Meeting for a vote by the membership:

DISCUSSION: On or about December 31st each year the ARRL Foundation reviews the 'Earnings Account' for each endowed scholarship. If the amount of money in the earnings account is larger than the scholarship grant amount, then the scholarship will be funded via the endowment. If the amount is less than the grant amount, the scholarship sponsor is given the opportunity to directly provide the grant amount to fund the scholarship. If the sponsor does not provide the grant amount, then the scholarship will not be issued for that year.

On December 31, 2022, the ARRL Foundation found that our 'Earnings Account' was \$625.49 negative. This means that the Foundation will not be able to fund the 2023 scholarship, and they have asked if WARAC wants to provide the \$3,000 amount, or another amount, in order to fund the 2023 scholarship. They need WARAC's response by April 12th, 2023.

MOTION: Should WARAC provide an additional \$3,000 to the ARRL Foundation to fund the 2023 David Knaus Scholarship?

WARAC Board Recommendation: The WARAC Board held a special meeting to discuss this, and voted to NOT provide \$3,000 for the 2023 scholarship.

ELMER

by Rich Regent, K9GDF





2023 April Notes

Well March was as difficult a month as I've seen. One activation. One. I snuck it in with no notice way back early on. The park of choice was Valley View in New Berlin. That is such a nice park, particularly given the close proximity of the parking lot to the trees. The elevation is very high as well so propagation is a no brainer.

The day was not great. In fact it was cold, which could describe all the Wednesdays in March. I went to the usual park shelter just south of the tennis courts. I was literally the only car maneuvering for parking spots. I was anxious to try out a new antenna that I'd been working on. I've got a new Spark Plug 9:1 with a counterpoise lug coming out and I needed to wind it up to see how it played. I have not used a 9:1 in years so my experience with them is on the low side. I was really looking forward to putting 30 meters in the rotation with the usual 20 and 40 meter bands. That was the plan.

As it turned out, about the only thing that went well was 20 meter CW. I managed the usual 20 meter harvest of 10 QSO's in the CWops 1900 CWT. The antenna deployment actually went pretty well, but setting the antenna was kind of rough. My sling arm is not up to mid-season form, that's for sure. I was also using 41' of wire for the antenna and 15' for the counterpoise. I picked up an autotuner from China Inc over the winter and it worked very well. A bit of a battery hog, but it tuned up on all bands. I was feeling pretty good before Murphy popped up.

The re-emergence of sunspots, while generally great news, has really smacked daytime 40 meters. 40 just ain't what it used to be and I could not dredge up so much as one contact. I think it is more the situation where 40 is still producing near-in contacts, but everyone is having way too much fun on 15 and 10 meters. Unfortunately my Mountain Topper doesn't have those bands available. Ah well.

No worries, this is where 30 meter FT8 will come to the rescue. And I'm sure it would, except the QDX FT8 QRP rig needs a USB cable to connect to the computer. It really helps if you remember to bring one along. Just as well, I also managed to lose my GPS dongle so getting a time sync would have been very difficult. So no 30 meter FT8 for me.

Fear not, there is always another Wednesday. I will post on Facebook if/when I manage to go out again. It will probably be the morning of so there won't be much forewarning.

If you aren't on the mailing list, send your request to mike@palomonet.com and you'll get the email.

DON'T KEY LIKE A PHONE MAN



SLOW SPEED CW QSO NET

Monday's - 8:00 PM - WBOAFB Repeater 147.045 + 127.3 Tone

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
FEROZ GHOUSE WU9N

Vice President
MikeJohnson WO9B

Secretary
William Dargis KD9BJZ

Treasurer
Bill Reed N9KPH

Directors
Tom Macon K9BTQ
Erwin von der Ehe Wi9EV

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