



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

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Volume 61, Issue 7 July, 2014

## JULY CLUB HAPPENINGS

### Club Meeting

St. Peter's Episcopal Church,  
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis  
July 8, 2014 **7:00pm**

#### Program

Hearing Aids

Steve Dryja, NO9B and Bill Reed, N9KPH presenters

**Join us for a pre-meeting dinner  
at Johnny V's Classic Cafe  
1650 S 84th St at 5:00pm**



#### NUT NET

3.985mhz

Monday-Saturday

8:15am CT

#### Milwaukee-Florida Net

Every Day on 14.290 Mhz

7:00AM - 9:15AM ET

6:00AM - 8:15AM CT

### Mark your calenders

#### 2014 Awards Dinner

November 2, 2014



**WARAC 2-meter net**  
Every Wednesday at 8pm  
MATC repeater 147.045 standard offset  
127.3 Hz CTCSS

**NEW** club jackets and hats!  
Go to club Web site and click on  
The GOLD MEDAL IDEAS block  
**For more info or click here**



# *The President's Shack July 2014*

Another Field Day has come and gone, and it was a good one. The highlight, I think, was the participation of a number of newer members. They really made a difference. Our setup and takedown went very quickly and we had a lot more operators than in recent years, especially over night. But most importantly, they got some good operating experience. Overall, we all had fun, and that's what it's all about.

Thanks to Chairman Chuck, W9WLX, and thanks to everyone who helped prepare for and participate in Field Day. Also thanks to all those who supplied equipment and other resources that made it all work. A job well done, everyone.

In ham radio publications we see lots of articles on how to improve the sounds that come out of our radios, but less often do we see anything on how our ears process those sounds. And what do we do if our ears don't work as well as they should? At our July meeting, two of our members who have experience with hearing aids will impart their knowledge to us. This should be of interest to all, but especially those of us are faced with some sort of hearing loss. Steve Dryja, NO9B and Bill Reed, N9KPH, will present.

We need programs for our club meetings! Suggestions? Do you have anything you'd like to present? Please contact me or another board member.

We have a few months until November 2, the date of our 60th Anniversary Awards Dinner, but these things have a habit of sneaking up. Mark your calendar. This year's committee, Chuck Dellis, Frank Humpal

and Paul Hass, is starting the process of putting this event together. You can help by providing your stories and mementos of our club's history. Stay tuned for details.

John Zach, K9IAC, had back surgery on July 1, and is recovering. We wish him well and hope to see him back in action soon.

Radio Merit Badge? Erwin von der Ehe, WI9EV, has connected with some Scout leaders and is laying the groundwork for us to present a Radio Merit Badge clinic. We've done this in the past, most recently in 2006 (see June, 2006 Hamtrix). More details as things develop.

As always, please bring your stories, on-air activities, travel experiences, etc. for the open discussion portion of our meeting. And don't forget our usual before-meeting dinner at Johnny V's Classic Café, 1650 S. 84th St. at 5:00PM.

Have a Happy and Safe Fourth of July!  
See you at the meeting! Bring a friend!  
Tom, K9BTQ

## **From the Editor**

I was able to make my first full Field Day this year! In years past I had a conflict with another event that always fell on the same weekend. For some reason this year they were on different weekends.

I was there from set up to tear down and had a good time. I did some operating. My impression: The bands were very crowded, with some noise; you had to work to find stations that would hear you. It might have been conditions or maybe the operator. It was a good experience either way. I heard that the six meter station wished they had that problem.

Going through field day one sees how much easier this is when you have experienced people around. They remember to bring the small things one tends to forget, or not even known are important. (*go to pg 9*)

# **WARAC General Meeting Minutes**

## **June 10, 2014**

### **Introduction**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by President, Tom Macon, K9BTQ. Overall meeting attendance was 22 with no visitors.

### **Program**

The evening's program was the club's Field Day plans and demonstration of mast set up using a scaled model.

### **Business**

Motion was made and accepted to approve the May meeting minutes as published in Hamtrix.

Steve Dryja presented information about the Badger Weather Net. Please see Steve if you are interested in equipment. A group discount is available.

ARRL Foundation announced the WARAC scholarship award. Hunter Clark, KC9LGG, from Pewaukee, WI.

Swapfest flyers for the WARAC 2015 event are available. See Phil Gural, W9NAW.

Next month's program will be What You Need to Know About Hearing Aids, given by Steve Dryja.

### **Announcements**

2014 is WARAC's 60th anniversary. The membership was solicited for interest in making the Awards Dinner an anniversary event too.

2 meter net every Wednesday at 8:00 pm on 147.045, + offset, PL 127.3. Join in!

CQ Tuesday, 1:00 pm, 3rd Tuesday, in Waukesha at the New China Buffet.

The Nut Net breakfast is at Genesis Restaurant, 8:30 am, 4th Tuesday of the month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX  
Secretary WARAC

# **WARAC Board Meeting**

## **June 24, 2014**

Howard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Present: Tom Macon, K9BTQ, Steve Dryja, NO9B, Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, Howard Smith, WA9AXQ, Frank Humpal, KA9FZR, Leroy Hass, KC9NST, and Ervin von der Ehe, WI9EV.

**WIQP**

WIQP table results sent out for review. Write up still needs to be completed. Target for completion is week of June 25 and ready for presentation at the July club meeting.

**Field Day Planning**

Field Day planning is on track. Phil Gural will need to leave early. VHF station may need to be disassembled early. Open item is food. Howard and Chuck to close on menu this week.

**Awards Dinner, 60th Anniversary**

Original date, November 2, will be the date of the dinner. 60th anniversary theme will be part of the dinner. Tom Macon and Howard Smith will assist in pulling together the extra parts for the club's 60th celebration.

**Scholarship**

Scholarship winner for this year is Hunter Clark, KC9LGG, from Pewaukee, WI.

**Programs**

- July – Hearing Aids 101, Steve Dryja, NO9B
- August – confirming TS990 presentation/review
- September –
- October –

**Future Programs**

- Yeastu System Fusion
- Echolink
- DX Operating
- DX Suite Software Demo
- Rebuilding Rotators/Bird Wattmeters
- Antenna Programs
- 3 Phase Power Monitors
- Tower service presentation

**2014 Budget**

Budget was reviewed.

**2011 Audit**

No report

**Club Operations Manual**

No updates.

**2012 and 2013 Audit**

Tom Macon to appoint audit committee

**Other Items**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Dellis, W9WLX  
Secretary WARAC

# Field Day 2014

*By Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, Field Day Chairman*

Field Day 2014 is now in the history books! The club had another successful event, thanks to everyone who participated. Station setups were similar to last year, running 2A.

The weather cooperated with the event this year. It was clear and dry for setup and teardown, making the activity a pleasant one. There was a bit of rain during the overnight and some threatening clouds that never quite developed. Unfortunately the active weather pattern did take its toll on the QRN level. Welcome to summer on the low bands!

Setup began at 8 am and went very well. Thanks to the team for a great execution! The stations were ready to go well ahead of schedule, with test QSOs being made by 11am. Antennas this year were slightly different than last year. The 80/20 meter station ran all bands on an 80 meter loop fed with ladder line. Two trees and one mast supported the antenna with an average height of about 50 feet. The 40/15 meter station used an Alpha Delta DXCC multi-band dipole in a flat top configuration with a single 40 foot mast and a tree as supports. The VHF station ran a 6 meter Yagi on a single rotatable mast.

The N1MM logging program did the bulk of the logging this year, covering all HF operations. There was interest in working PSK31 and the N1MM program integrates very nicely with the digital modes. This is the third year the club has used N1MM Logger with the users adapting well to the interface. It will likely be the Field Day de facto standard moving forward.

Total contacts were 694 this year, down 21% over last year. QSOs were down due to propagation and QRN. There were some technical issues that slowed the rate down as well. The field day team is ready for a repeat of 2011 where 245 Qs were logged on 6 meters. The Sporadic E that was predicted for 10 meters did not happen and with the active weather pattern, 6 meter propagation was expected, but didn't occur. 80 meters had some very noisy periods on Saturday evening until about 2 am Sunday morning, making operation difficult. Though QSOs were down, the event was a success for the club. Several new Field Day operators got on the air this year in true Field Day spirit. Congratulations!

Thanks to Tom Macon, K9BTQ, Phil Gural, W9NAW, and Howard Smith, WA9AXQ for helping with site planning, to Phil Gural W9NAW for securing campers for two stations, and to Howard Smith for coordinating the food. Thanks to Jim Kehoss, KC9RNY, for the use of his camper, and generator at the third station, John Westimayer, N9LGD, for the use of his tent, Steve Dryja, NO9B for his help hauling equipment, as well as George Dunco, AA9SR, for his generator.

73, Chuck W9WLX

## Leon Rediske, K9GCF, SK

*Adapted from the ORC Newsletter*

by Tom Macon, K9BTQ

Leon Rediske, K9GCF, well known ham and aviator around Milwaukee passed away in on May 4th, 2014 in Ft Myers, Florida.

During his high school years Leon got interested in electronics and earned his first amateur radio license in 1957. He attended UW in Madison in 1959, then transferred to Milwaukee Institute of Technology (now MATC) where he earned a degree in broadcast engineering. In the late 60's he worked for Allis Chalmers Electronics for several years.



Leon's dad, Ed, started Rainbow Airport in Franklin in 1946 and made it into a full-time business by 1956. During this time, Leon grew up, became a pilot and learned the airport business. When Ed retired in 1973, Leon bought the business and continued to operate it until 1996 when Rainbow closed permanently. In addition to his private pilot's license, Leon was a Certified Flight Instructor and A&P aircraft mechanic. He logged over 20,000 hours in the air. After moving to Grafton, Leon continued to fly his Piper Comanche out of Timmerman field and West Bend airport.

Leon was a WARAC member in his earlier years until he took over the airport. After Rainbow closed, he and his wife, Jane (originally KB9SYI, now KK4HQG), moved to Grafton and Leon became active in the Ozaukee Radio Club, where he was a five term president and Field Day chairman. He was also active with OZARES (Ozaukee Amateur Radio Emergency Services), the Milwaukee Fox Hunter's group and, at their winter home, with the Ft. Meyers Amateur Radio Club and the Florida Contest Group. In recent years he was a regular check-in on the Milwaukee-Florida Net and also the 75-meter Nut Net when he was in Wisconsin.

Was it all flying and amateur radio? No, he and Jane took particular pleasure in their Corvettes (one in Wisconsin, one in Florida) driving them in various events and parades with the Corvette Club.

Thanks, Leon. We certainly miss K9-Good-Clean-Fun in Greater Grafton.

Thanks to Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR, for permission to reprint



## 2014 Field day Pictures



Field day gathering space, and dining fly

Nice tower in the background wonder if it would count as a tree for a nice long wire. Not sure how the owner would take seeing someone aiming a slingshot up into its branches



20/80 meter operation station operated by Jim Laures KC9ZUG

Chuck W9WLX operating the 15/40 meter station





Steve NO9B operating the 6 meter station

Experience shows with small details like tents over the generators



Tom K9BTQ and Frank KA9FZR operating the 20/80 meter station

The mast were put up and plumbed



Lunch

## Ham Radio on the Internet

[http://digital.wirelessdesignmag.com/wirelessdesignanddevelopment/november\\_december\\_2013?pg=12&pm=2&fs=1#pg12](http://digital.wirelessdesignmag.com/wirelessdesignanddevelopment/november_december_2013?pg=12&pm=2&fs=1#pg12)

Oragami Antennas... submitted by Steve NO9B

Anyone can submit websites for this column. I'll check them out and include them. The editor

From the editor cont.

I did have one thought--- with all the re-bar we use for stakes we might consider getting some caps to put on the tops. One of my neighbors fell on one at his job and impaled himself. He was lucky and didn't damage any organs but is still healing from the winter accident.

Frank KA9FZR



### Officers and Board

President

Tom Macon, K9BTQ

Vice President

Steve Dryja, NO9B

Secretary

Chuck Dellis, W9WLX

Treasurer

Howard Smith WA9AXO

Directors

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR

Erwin von der Ehe, WI9EV

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W9FK  
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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.