



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

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Volume 63, Issue 7 July, 2016

## JULY CLUB HAPPENINGS



### 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



### Club Meeting

St. Peter's Episcopal Church,  
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis

July 12, 2016 7:00 pm

### Program

Skywarn

presenter Skip Voros WD9HAS

Join us for a pre-meeting dinner

at Johnny V's Classic Café

1650 S 84th St at 5:00pm

There will be a discussion at the meeting concerning a proposal to raise the yearly dues by 5 dollars. See board meeting minutes for further information.

### WARAC 2-meter net

Every Wednesday at 8pm

MATC repeater 147.045 standard offset  
127.3 Hz CTCSS

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 2016*

Another Field Day is now past and I think everyone involved enjoyed. Except for early Sunday, we were blessed with good weather and the set-up and take-down processes went extremely well. The “Star Wars” station, featuring Chuck’s Flex 6500 attracted a lot of visitors. His air-conditioned camper (actually Jim, KC9RNY’s camper) added to the attraction. Another highlight this year was the return to our traditional Saturday evening menu - chili, brats and burgers, put together by Mike, WO9B, and Howard, WA9AXQ. (And, yes, Phil brought the donuts on Sunday morning). Overall, **I think everyone had fun**, and that’s what it’s all about!

**Thanks again to Chairman Chuck, W9WLX**, for a job well done. See his article in this Hamtrix for more FD details. And thanks to everyone who participated in Field Day in any way, including planning, preparation and by supplying the equipment and other resources that made it all work. Thanks also to those who took pictures, especially Neal Pritchett, KC9SNB, who provided us with 290 excellent pictures. Some of them can be seen on our website at <http://www.warac.org/fd/2016/pix.htm> .

The upcoming meeting will feature a Skywarn severe weather presentation by Skip Voros, WD9HAS. We have had Skip before and we can look forward to another great discussion of this always-interesting topic.

Software-defined radios made by Flex Radio are showing up in more and more shacks these days, so lets find out more! Chuck, W9WLX, and others will demo various Flex products at our August 9 meeting.

Any ideas for programs for our club meetings?

Do you have anything you’d like to present? Please contact myself or another board member.

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.

The South Milwaukee Swapfest is Saturday, July 9. Hope to see you there and at the July 12 meeting!

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

## **From the editor.**

Hope everyone had a good and safe 4th of July holiday.

I was only able to visit our clubs field day site for an hour or two. Except for the part the propagation gods were playing, all seemed to be going well.

Thinking it over I find, in spite of the contest atmosphere that field day seems to be, it is also accomplishing it's intended purpose of getting the club ready for operating an effective communication center off the grid. Even over the short time I have been going to them I have seen the operation setups continue to evolve. This year we had a Flex radio to try at the Starwars (nicknamed) station which also had a Hex beam added to it. Both seemed to add to the ability to operate in the crowded conditions found.

A Halo antenna was added to the 6 meter station this year and seemed to be a welcome addition.

So over time as all good ham operators, we are, learning and pushing boundaries. Hopefully we will never need to use that skill for a real emergency but it's good to know we can if we have to.

There is an INTERNET site on the last page. It talks about the sun and possibilities of whats happening to it. With days with out sunspots being sighted, it is very timely.

Frank KA9FZR

# **WARAC General Meeting Minutes**

## **June 14, 2016**

### **Introduction**

The meeting was called to order at 19:03 by President, Tom Macon (K9BTQ). Overall meeting attendance was 18 members, plus 1 visitor.

### **Tonight's Program:**

Field Day 2016: Chuck Dellis (W9WLX)

Tom Macon (K9BTQ) presided over the following activities:

1. Demonstrated use of the "Magic Rope" for use in placing anchors for antenna mast guys. Several meeting attendees participated.
2. Demonstrated a 40-foot mast raising using a table-top model.
3. Showed a 1972 Field Day video.

### **Future Programs:**

Storm spotting

Repeater

Flex 6500 SDR

### **Business**

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

Mike Johnson (WO9B) is investigating an alternate repeater for use on the Wednesday evening 2m net.

Tom Macon (K9BTQ) announced the scholarship winner

National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) June at Lapham Peak: 8 club members made 19 QSOs. The outing was cut short due to inclement weather.

Howard Smith (WA9AXQ) gave an update on Ten-Tec's efforts to re-establish itself

Mike Johnson (WO9B) gave info regarding the 13 Colonies contest.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:22.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV)  
Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.  
2016-06-14

# **W.A.R.A.C. Board Meeting**

## **June 28, 2016**

Howard Smith (WA9AXQ), called the meeting to order at 19:07.

Present: Tom Macon (K9BTQ), Steve Dryja (NO9B), Howard Smith (WA9AXQ), Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV), Dave Garnier (WB9OWN), Frank Humpal (KA9FZR).

Howard (WA9AXQ) gave the monthly Treasurer's report. The general fund and scholarship fund are in good shape.

Proposed dues changes necessitates a Hamtrix announcement, general meeting presentation, and member vote at subsequent meeting in order to amend the Club bylaws. Proposed annual dues are:

Individual Members: \$20.00

Family Membership: \$25.00

Retired: \$15.00

Associate: \$15.00

Student: \$15.00

A proposal was presented and approved by the Board to present these values to the membership at the July, 2016 General meeting.

2016 Field Day wrap-up was discussed. More than 800 contacts were made. Ideas were discussed regarding a new storage facility for the Field Day paraphernalia.

Tom (K9BTQ) is working on wrapping up the Wisconsin QSO Party.

Swapfest 2017: VE Testing at Crites Field (Waukesha County Airport). Karen is not able to be on the Swapfest Committee due to her being president of the South Milwaukee club. Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV) volunteered to fill the role of co-chair.

Tom Macon (K9BTQ) gave a review of the club manuals. Still need to review latest versions.

Awards Dinner: Date is Sunday, October 23rd. Program is Len Kreyer (N9QIP) Wisconsin Interstate Network.

### **Programs**

July, 2016: SkyWarn (?) or Tools (?)

August, 2016: Flex R6500 Software defined radio

September, 2016: ???

October, 2016: Elections + ???

### **Future Program Ideas**

Kermit, ARRL

FM38 Repeater System  
Badger Weather Net – Sullivan Weather (Spring – April?)  
Logger 32 logging software  
SO2R Contest operating  
“Canned” programs?

### **Other Items**

2-meter net continues and needs some more check-ins.  
Constitution & Bylaws update is postponed.  
Replacement of the club video projector was discussed.  
Meeting was adjourned at 21:07.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV)  
Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.  
2016-06-28

## **Field Day 2016**

### **By Chuck Dellis, W9WLX, Field Day Chairman**

Field Day 2016 is now in the history books! Recent propagation has not been good for opening up the bands and Field Day weekend was no exception. Our overall performance this year is down 46% over last year. This year we did 830 QSOs vs. last year's 1540.

The weather was very good for set up and tear down, though thunderstorms moved through the area during the overnight hours. On two occasions, one around 2 am and the other around 5 am, the stations were shut down for 30-45 minutes due to lightning. In addition to the marginal propagation, the down time further added to the QSO deficit. Fortunately, the stations were well protected in weather tight campers.

Our site was visited by New Berlin Mayor, Dave Ament, and Emergency Management Deputy Director, Jim Burns, KD9CIV. Thanks to Erwin von der Ehe for driving the awareness of Field Day with the New Berlin municipal government. For the second year, a Proclamation to officially recognize and designate June 25 & 26 as Amateur Radio Weekend was made by Mayor Ament.

This year's antenna farm saw a few changes over 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. New for this year was a Hex Beam on the mast for 15 meters. The Hex Beam perform very well, giving us some nice directionality. Too bad the band wasn't in better condition—it would have been nice to give the antenna a real stress test! The VHF station ran 6 meters only using a Yagi on a single rotatable mast. New for this year was a 6 meter loop mounted above the Yagi, allowing monitoring in an omnidirectional pattern.

Also new for this year was the introduction of software defined radio in our Field Day operation. The 40/15 meter station ran a FlexRadio 6500 and the radio performed superbly. With the marginal conditions, many operators migrated to 40 meters leading to very crowded conditions. The receiver did a great job at narrow filtering with good fidelity, pulling out stations 1.5-2 kHz apart on phone. Copy on CW was equally pleasing, using a 50 and 100 Hz filter at times.

Total contacts were 830 this year with 56% CW and 44% phone. No QSOs were made on 10 meters and 80 meter phone. 6 meters was disappointing with no significant band openings. We worked 77 of 83 sections. The six missing sections were Delaware, Ontario North, Virgin Islands, Manitoba, Newfoundland/Labrador, and Northern Territories.

Thanks to the entire WARAC team that help make Field Day 2016 a success! Congratulations!

-73, Chuck, W9WLX

Top 10 QSOs/Sec		Bottom 10 QSOs/Sec	
OH	42	PAC	3
VA	36	MAR	2
WI	34	EB	2
NC	32	PR	2
TN	29	SF	2
EPA	28	SJV	2
MDC	27	AK	1
AL	25	NNY	1
CO	25	NV	1
AZ	22	SK	1

Band	CW	PH	Total
6M	0	48	48
15M	60	78	138
20M	178	123	301
40M	178	119	297
80M	46	0	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>830</b>



**Chuck W9WLX's FlexRadio 6500 setup nicknamed the "StarWars Station"**

# Field day 2016 Pictures





Heathkit test equipment currently in the clubs inventory. If you have any interest in them contact Steve Dryja NO9B email [sd3534@zoho.com](mailto:sd3534@zoho.com) or phone 262-679-1664



Impedance Bridge



FM test oscillator



RF Signal Generator IG-102



Signal Tracer IT-5283



Q Multiplier HD-11



RF Signal Generator IGW-102



Q Multiplier QF-1



Capacitor Checker IT-11



Audio Generator IG-72



VTVM IM-11



Audio Oscillator AO-1



Visual-Aural Signaltracer T-3

Ham Radio on the Internet  
(click on red web address)

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

Interesting site on thoughts about the lack of sunspots and where the sun is in its life

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/brucedorminey/2016/06/27/sun-has-likely-entered-new-evolutionary-phase-say-astronomers/#7bcc2945278e>

Another propagation site. Sort of fun to watch and to see how it matches to what you hear on the radio.

<http://www.bandconditions.com/>

#### Officers and Board

##### President

Tom Macon, K9BTQ

##### Vice President

Steve Dryja, NO9B

##### Secretary

Erwin von der Ehe, WI9EV

##### Treasurer

Howard Smith WA9AXO

##### Directors

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR

Dave Garnier WB9OWN

Al Hovey, WA9BZW

##### Newsletter Editor

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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.