



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 72, Issue 9 September , 2023

SEPTEMBER 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

Meeting
September,12, 2023 7pm
New Berlin Community Center
14750 W. Cleveland Ave.
New Berlin, WI
Between Moorland and Sunnyslope
Presentation

Club History
Tom Macon KB9BTQ

Premeeting dinner
New Berlin Ale House 5:15pm
16000 W. Cleveland Ave
West of Moorland Rd.



Sendik's Grill Fundraiser
September 9, 2023
Save the dates and join us.

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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 Pizza Social – August 8, 2023

Lions Park shelter #2
14900 W Overland Trail
New Berlin, WI 53151

Attendance: 24

Started at 6:30pm and went to well after 8pm.
We enjoyed pizza. There were 2 radios setup, and Mike - WO9B with his remote connection setup.

Respectfully Submitted
Bill Dargis KD9BJZ
Secretary WARAC, August 8, 2023

WARAC Board Meeting Minutes – August 15, 2023

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

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

May Board Meeting minutes: Approved.

Treasures Report - Bill N9KPH: Checking \$4,619.58 (includes \$450.00 Dick Wood set aside for scholarship CD), CD \$5k, scholarship CD \$12,181.02. We are > \$900 in the red at this time.

Howard, Feroz: Maybe we need to do more fund raisers, or find sponsors.

Fund raising options; Sponsors, projects, others.

- Mike: Maybe the club could build and sells a product. A loop antenna, or something else. Mike said the club could use his site - Sales channel, to sell through. Under his Spark plug branding. Will present the idea to the membership at the next general meeting.

Sept. program – Tom: WARAC club history.

Proposed 2 changes to the rules.

1. Club sponsored activities. Need to publish in Hamtrix for membership vote on Oct/Nov.
2. Membership Due's increase. Mike prepossessed an increase to \$20 for members + family. Students, life members at the discretion of the Board. Reduced or waved for for a time period.

Scholarship funding for 2024: Howard – 3 things we basically need to do.

1. Change the terms of reference to change the scholarship to \$2k. The endowment normally supports a \$2k scholarship.
2. We don't know how the endowment is doing until Dec. when ARRL knows how the fund did.

Contest Corner and DX Report

September! Back to school! Contest season is just around the corner. What's coming up?

The Worked All Europe DX Contest (SSB) is sponsored by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club, and it runs from Friday, September 8 to Sunday, September 10 local. Single ops can put in 36 hours, but multi-op stations can play for all 48 hours. Your multipliers are European countries worked, but their multipliers are DXCC entities and, in large countries like the US, the numbered call areas.

ARRL September VHF Contest is September 9 and 10 local. 6 meters up through the microwaves, all modes, and hopefully a little bit of propagation enhancement, or else you'll be talking to all locals on 12 bands. Rovers will be out in force, handing out rare grids. If you ever work 6m FT8, give it a try during the contest, but also try 2m. You might get just as many contacts that way. Also, if you leave your dial tuned to 50.125 USB, you'll hear CQs as soon as the band opens.

Wisconsin Parks On The Air (WIPOTA) is on the afternoon of Saturday, September 16, from 11 AM until 6 PM. I activated 14 parks this summer, and I'm happy to say that 40 meters has cooperated for making in-state contacts for the last several months. My Door County trip was particularly fruitful for this. For example, on August 14, I had the pleasure of working both Mike WO9B in New Berlin while I was in Newport State Park, and also to work Cameron KD9VGV in Beaver Dam from Peninsula State Park. Both were 599. So, I am hoping you might have some success working Wisconsin stations that day on 40 meters.

The Texas, Iowa, New Hampshire, and New Jersey QSO Parties; the Washington State Salmon Run; and the North American Sprint (RTTY) are all that same weekend of the 16th and 17th of September.

If you are a RTTY op, the following weekend may be of interest to you. The CQ Worldwide DX Contest (RTTY) runs from Friday, September 22 to Sunday, September 24, local. The clatter of the teletype machine may have been replaced by whir of a CPU fan, but it's still a lot of fun to try your hand at RTTY, and the bands will be packed.

On the DX side...

- T32AN, Christmas Island, will be operating 40-6 meters, SSB and CW, from October 4-11.
- TO8FH will be QRV from Mayotte in October, 6-160 meters plus the QO-100 satellite. They have published frequencies for every band (to avoid interfering with other Dxpeditons) and you can get these at www.dx-world.net.
- If you need Wallis and Futuna, FW5N will be on the air in November during the CQ Worldwide contest. They will be CW only. Before and after the contest, they will be on the air as FW2CW and will be focusing on the WARC bands.

What would you like to see in this space? Send me an email: aa9rk@e-falk.com
-Michael AA9RK

From the presidents shack

Hello Everybody,

I would say we have had a pretty good run, so far this year. We had reasonable activity, we picked up a few much-needed new members and we had some fund raisers. Unfortunately, we are finding it extremely challenging to maintain our current levels of activity given our current annual revenue stream.

What we do not want to do is to get into the habit of dipping into our savings to bolster and cover our minimal expenses. Based on this, we, the board voted on a motion to simplify our membership structure and to increase our annual dues by \$5 per member per year. Although the sum collected will not totally cover our expenses, it will certainly help towards offsetting some of the losses we are incurring. We now bring this as a motion before you, the members, to vote on a dues increase beginning with the renewals for 2024.

The Board also decided to and voted on new language to be added to the By-Laws to define and limit “Club Sponsored” activity. This was done primarily to protect the Club against potential liability. What this means is that the all requests for Club Sponsored activity will require approval from the Board of Directors. Approval not being granted would simply mean that the activity would be an individual activity and not a Club activity (sponsored). A gathering of Club members for an activity does not make it a Club Sponsored Activity.

We are living in fast changing times. We need to respond in an expedient manner in order to make sure that we are doing things “right”. We are also living in “Suit Crazy” times. I believe it is one of the responsibilities of the Board to protect our organization and its members to the best of its ability.

We the Board also voted on attempting to reinstate the Scholarship that we decided not to hand out this year. Howard Smith was tasked with reaching out to the ARRL and to find out how our endowment was performing this year. That motion will also be before you for your consideration.

Now, all of this will happen at the September monthly meeting. Please stop by at the meeting and let us your thoughts. Exercise your vote to set a positive direction for our/your Club. I hope to see you there.

73,

Feroz, WU9N



September 2023 * Hamtrix * By Michael Johnson, WO9B

Legacy Digital Modes

To be clear, this month's article is about Soundcard legacy digital, not ancient legacy digital. So no, that leaves CW and RTTY (WEFAX??? Is that in there too??) outside the discussion. Hey, CW is my favorite mode and I just had a ball fiddling with the SARTG RTTY contest this past weekend, so it is nothing like that. With a tip of the hat to the awesomeness of FT8, I have had enough for now with that mode. I am just looking for a bit more involvement with the QSO than hitting the enter key. That's when I decided I needed a walk down Legacy Lane and went looking on my computer for the old reliable FLdigi, the Swiss Army Knife of digital modes software. I had a date with PSK31 and It was time to bust out my dancing shoes.

Back in the day (hahaha which is like 8 years ago) FLdigi was legendary for making the meanest, toughest hams breakdown in total frustration. If it wasn't the menu configuration written by someone with only a passing knowledge of english, it was the incredibly friendly UI which was designed by someone looking backwards in a mirror. But hey, it has been years. Things change. There had to have been a hundred updates. Right?



No, not really. I was kind of looking for something I wouldn't recognize, but this was deja vu. Sure the update moved the version from 2 something to 4.1 something, but this looked pretty much the same. Not a good start.

Despite my misgivings, it only took me a week to get things smoothed out and running. A big shout out to KD9NZB for the advice to use FLrig as the CAT agent. That pushed me over the top and got me up and running like a pro. Max is 12 and knows of what he speaks. I was smart enough to listen and glad I did. I was now armed and dangerous, ready for my PSK31 adventure.

Although FLdigi hasn't changed a whole lot, let me tell you PSK31 is not the same. My farewell QSO's back in the day was with guys who had so many layers of macros, their whole QSO consisted of clicking on the F keys. It was not fun. And the PSK band portion was crammed to the max. When I left, I'm pretty sure I didn't leave a tip for the bartender.

Today it is all different. First the activity seems centered on 20 meters. I have yet to make a QSO on any other band. The activity is low, consistent, but there is no fighting for a frequency. And the macro tsars are gone. Banished from the kingdom. I have had two weeks of amazing QSO's. I am actually looking forward to working guys. And the best part is people actually answer CQ's. Alot. It's amazing, fun and good to be back. • — • —•



September 2023 Update

We are in the process of evaluating the new Zach Tek gear. Nothing definitive to report, but that also means no negatives. We were very encouraged talking to Brian, K9WIS at the last club meeting as he is VERY familiar with the gear. Big thumbs up.

The real issue right now is gas in the bag. W9PCS is figuring out the particulars. We are not attempting anything that is odd for balloon launches. We are marching right down the middle of balloon launch main street so there is a large body of information for us to draw on. That feels good. We just need to cross the T's and dot the I's.

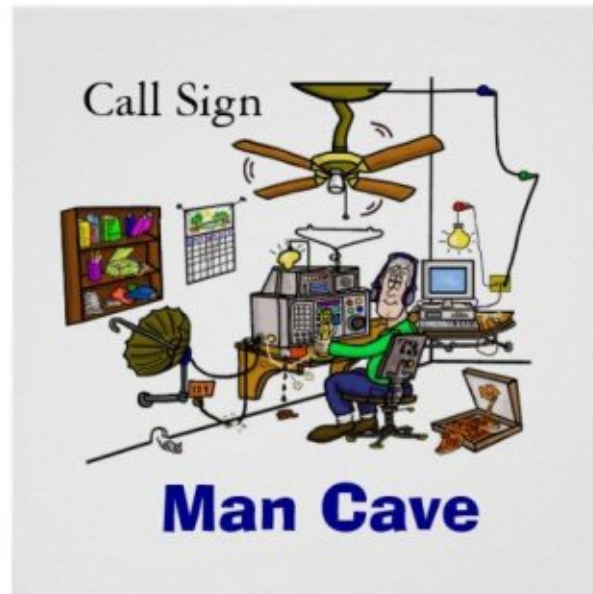
So what will the launch actually look like and more importantly WHEN? Good questions and we don't have good answers at the moment. Roughing out our current thinking, we have nixed the concept of launching at the lakefront. Seems to be a bad idea for a host of reasons. Most likely it will be an inland site with lots of open space. Bong Rec Area comes to mind, but we have other choices available.

A number of members have expressed interest in attending. I'm not sure we will be able to accommodate that request. At best a late September to early October launch will entail narrow and opportunistic weather windows. We simply may not know much more than an hour or two before we give it a try. Secondly the feeling we have is that crowds tend to force the launch decision. Everything we've learned about launches, is that if it isn't just right, the odds of success drop off significantly. The whole game is to get the balloon up to 40K and hang on for the ride. Anything short of that can mean a short trip. So the thought is our ability to cancel the launch is not enhanced by having a cheering group. You guys just may have to be satisfied with the YouTube video!!

Once we get launched we will make the tracking info readily available. You can follow along via the internet, just as we will. Hopefully that will be for more than a few hours.

We will be having an online meeting in the next couple of weeks. If you want to sit in, just let me know.

Mike, WO9B mike@palomonet.com . _ . _ . .



2023 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

NASA Mission Update: Voyager 2 Communications Pause



UPDATE, Aug. 4, 2023: NASA has reestablished full communications with Voyager 2.

The agency's Deep Space Network facility in Canberra, Australia, sent the equivalent of an interstellar "shout" more than 12.3 billion miles (19.9 billion kilometers) to Voyager 2, instructing the spacecraft to reorient itself and turn its antenna back to Earth. With a one-way light time of 18.5 hours for the command to reach Voyager, it took 37 hours for mission controllers to learn whether the command worked. At 12:29 a.m. EDT on Aug. 4, the spacecraft began returning science and telemetry data, indicating it is operating normally and that it remains on its expected trajectory.

UPDATE, Aug. 1, 2023: Using multiple antennas, NASA's Deep Space Network (DSN) was able to detect a carrier signal from Voyager 2. A carrier signal is what the spacecraft uses to send data back to Earth. The signal is too faint for data to be extracted, but the detection confirms that the spacecraft is still operating. The spacecraft also continues on its expected trajectory. Although the mission expects the spacecraft to point its antenna at Earth in mid-October, the team will attempt to command Voyager sooner, while its antenna is still pointed away from Earth. To do this, a DSN antenna will be used to "shout" the command to Voyager to turn its antenna. This intermediary attempt may not work, in which case the team will wait for the spacecraft to automatically reset its orientation in October.

Once the spacecraft's antenna is realigned with Earth, communications should resume.

A series of planned commands sent to NASA's Voyager 2 spacecraft July 21 inadvertently caused the antenna to point 2 degrees away from Earth. As a result, Voyager 2 is currently unable to receive commands or transmit data back to Earth.

Voyager 2 is located more than 12.3 billion miles (19.9 billion kilometers) from Earth, and this change has interrupted communication between Voyager 2 and the ground antennas of NASA's Deep Space Network (DSN). Data being sent by the spacecraft is no longer reaching the DSN, and the spacecraft is not receiving commands from ground controllers.

Voyager 2 is programmed to reset its orientation multiple times each year to keep

its antenna pointing at Earth; the next reset will occur on Oct. 15, which should enable communication to resume. The mission team expects Voyager 2 to remain on its planned trajectory during the quiet period.

Voyager 1, which is almost 15 billion miles (24 billion kilometers) from Earth, continues to operate normally.

[yager-2-communications-pause](#)

Board Meeting

Recommend for 2024 to use \$2k of the clubs scholarship fund and let the endowment increase for 2025.

3. Repeat the process in Dec. 2024 for 2025 Scholarship. And see if the ARRL investment funds are back on track, to go back to normal operations.

Mike: Can we contact the fund to get a snapshot of how the Fund is doing to day, to stay ahead. The next round of Scholarship we don't want to skip. Howard will reach out to the ARRL Fund.

Mike: Website still under development. Mike presented the new menu system and structure of the future site in alpha form. The main landing page, sub pages.

October Annual Meeting:

- Rule changes.
- Dues increases and changes.
- Elections of officers: Need to prepare a list of possible candidates before Oct. meeting.

Any other Business:

- Mike created a Members Directory of current paid members for August 2023, distribute. Mike is recommends retiring the current MS Access db and use a spreadsheet. More people understand Excel more then Access. This would make it easier to use and maintain for the future users.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Bill Dargis KD9BJZ

WARAC Secretary, August 15, 2023

From Editor

There is an article on page 9 about the glitch on the Voyager 2 which lost its lock on the earth. Just thinking about the whole sequence is amazing. Here is something that is so far away it takes 18.5 hours to get a radio command (traveling at the speed of light) to it. Then you have to wait another 18.5 hours to see if it acknowledged your signal Gives you a lot of latency, to say the least.

Then you think about aiming a high gain antenna at some thing that far away. On earth you have to add the fact the the earth is spinning so you only get a short time to send a signal each day.

On top of that, There is telling it to do a reset. When the antennas didn't match up I wonder how much power was aimed at it.

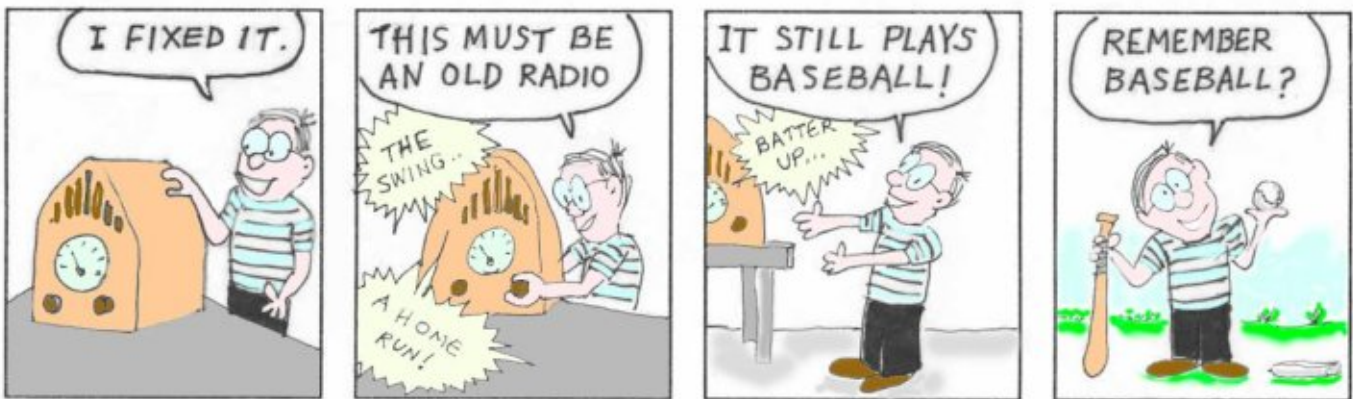
One thing you can say, the planned obsolescence wasn't designed or they weren't very well. HI HI

Not much else going on around here. Staying with my code practice seeing some improvement

Frank

ELMER

by Rich Regent, K9GDF





2023 Sept Notes

This is it. The final month of the 2023 Wednesday Park Ops season. If you've been thinking about attending, best get on and giddy-up before we call it a year. Traditionally we wrap up the published events at the end of September as the weather gets a bit more sporty. Something about rain and 50 degrees that takes a healthy bite out of attendance. We do continue into the October bonus season, but it is very last minute.

So what did we do for August? It's been a mixed bag which has sort of been the story all season long. We picked up a wonderful activation at Buena Park in New Berlin early in August. If you are out looking for a nice spot to head out and sling up an antenna, that is indeed a good choice. Parking is on the street, but the trees are mature and the picnic tables are spread out. Hard to judge crowds, but Wednesday afternoons saw bicycle riders and few others. Ideal.

We also made it to Greenfield Park which is always popular. That is such a nice place to get together. We are wrapping up August at Malone Park in New Berlin. That will only be 3 activations this month due to two weeks of weather related cancellations. Yeah, that has been the story all year long.

For September, in addition to the SW suburban parks we frequent, the plans include one more POTA park in the nearby Northern Kettle Moraine. Right now the choice is for Pike Lake which our ice fishing expert, Herb KC9SND, assures me is a great spot and not much of a drive. The other must do is a trip to Grant Park. That has been a tough choice in the past, but I'm going to keep on plugging it. It is a very nice place.

Time is running out on 2023. Circle a Sept Wednesday and join the gang. You'll have a great time.

Questions? Comments? Let me know... Mike, WO9B mike@palomonet.com

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
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William Dargis KD9BJZ

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