



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

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Volume 64, Issue 10 October, 2017

## OCTOBER CLUB HAPPENINGS

### Club Meeting

St. Peter's Episcopal Church,  
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis  
September 12, 2017 7:00 PM

### Program

Mike Johnson WO9B talk about FT8 mode  
Dave Garnier WB9OWN on his park Activations  
Steve Dryja NO9B on Maker Fair

**Johnny V's Classic Café, 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

### Sunshine Committee

If you know of a member who  
could use a bit of cheer or  
support,

Barb Garnier (KD9HPS) is  
now the Sunshine Committee  
Chair.

You can get hold of her at  
414-529-3536 or  
barbsewsblue@gmail.com.

### Save The Date

W.A.R.A.C. Awards Dinner will be held  
at New Berlin Hills on October 29th at  
5:00 PM. Cake for dessert

### Speaker

Lynn Olenik from the Humane Animal Welfare  
Society (HAWs) of Waukesha.

**Sign up sheet page 7**

### WARAC 2-meter net

Every Wednesday at 8pm

SEWFARS K9ABC Repeater 146.820 standard (-)offset  
127.3 Hz CTCSS

if repeater down try 146.55 simplex

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 October 2017*

Are you enjoying this summer-like October weather? I hope so because before we know it, the ground will turn white.

October also means it's **WARAC election** time. We have some offices to fill since two incumbent office-holders in the club have decided not to seek reelection. They are yours truly, President Tom Macon and Secretary Erwin von der Ehe. The remaining officers, Vice President Steve Dryja, Treasurer Howard Smith and two-year Board member Frank Humpal are willing to run for reelection.

So we need at least two new candidates. Please seriously consider running for any of these offices. **Your club needs you!**

As for myself, I have enjoyed the being President but I feel it's time for someone else to take over. I've held the job for seven years and my predecessor held it for twelve consecutive years. I think the club will benefit from fresh ideas that a new president will bring.

It's coming up fast! That's our **Annual Dinner is Sunday, October 29**, so get your reservations (and \$) in soon if you haven't already done so. The upcoming meeting is an excellent opportunity to take care of this. Look for the sign-up sheet elsewhere in this issue of Hamtrix and **please note the change of location**, and that there's no Packer game that day.

Referred to by the ARRL as the latest bright shiny object in the Amateur Radio digital world, the new **FT8 digital mode** is attracting a lot of attention. At the upcoming meeting, Mike Johnson, WO9B, will tell us about his experiences with this new

mode.

Also, we will have two more presentations. Dave Garnier, WB9OWN, will tell us about his **recent park activation experiences** and Steve, NO9B, will tell us about the **Maker Faire** on September 23 and 24. As always, please chime in with your own questions and experiences on any topic presented.

For our November meeting, we will have a guest presenter, Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT, who will talk about the History of **Morse Keys and Keyers**. As you know, Gary is an experienced presenter and always has great, in-depth coverage of any topic he presents.

Don't forget our usual before-meeting dinner at **Johnny V's Classic Café, 1650 S. 84th St.** at 5:00PM. Also, remember our **Wednesday night 2-meter nets**. Every week at 8:00PM. See you at the meeting! Bring a friend! Tom, K9BTQ

### **From the Editor**

Another month is gone. I'm not sure the weather was informed of this fact but hopefully it will get the word one of these days!

Judy and me took a tour of the Nova Scotia area for about a week. We had a fun time. I did take an end fed antenna along with the FT-817. I only found time and opportunity for one set up. I fed an antenna out a window and wrapped it around a tree. I was able to hear some South American countries but they couldn't hear me. That seems to be the fate of QRP in this sunspot cycle.

I'm not claiming to be any kind of expert. But here are a couple of things I found out while traveling. Even though they tell you you don't have to take your radio (FT-817 in this case) out of the bag take it out. Twice they have swiped it for explosives when I had it x-rayed in the bag. When it was out, there was no problem.

I have found the ARRL's International Operating web page has lots of useful information for goto pg 9

# **WARAC General Meeting Minutes**

## **September 12, 2017**

### **Introduction**

The meeting was called to order at 19:05 by President, Tom Macon (K9BTQ). Overall meeting attendance was 17 members, plus 0 visitors.

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

- Repair experience stories/nightmares. Who fixes radios? Troubleshooting? Bad experiences?: Mike Johnson (WO9B) gave a presentation and moderated repair stories
- Eclipse experiences – Tom Macon (K9BTQ) showed some pictures from the total zone.
- Tom Macon (K9BTQ) gave preliminary results of the Wisconsin QSO Party (WIQP)

### **Future Programs**

October '17: Election of Club officers – need a new secretary

November '17:

### **Announcements**

- Scholarship recipient is Erik J. Maplethorpe (KC9PDU) of Round Lake, IL. Howard Smith (WA9AXQ) is trying to get additional contact information.
- Awards Dinner: October 29, 2017 at 17:00 at New Berlin Hills Golf Course

### **Business**

- August meeting minutes were voted on and approved.
- Club trailer was parked on the street for member inspection. Thanks to Steve Dryja (NO9B).
- Ladder proposal – Steve Dryja (NO9B) – Investigated options are Little Giant and Warner. Each has advantages, and (6) members recommended each. Field Day chairman will be consulted.
- Equipment sales (baseball cards, vacuum tubes)– Steve Dryja (NO9B)'s wife is looking up the baseball cards to determine values.
- Facebook page is up. A “walk-through” will be given later. – Chris Kelling (KC9UXC)
- Swapfest – Flyers are printed and distribution has begun. Tickets are due back from the printer by this Friday. ARRL sanction is approved.

### **Group Discussion**

- HRO Superfest – Last Friday & Saturday in September - approximately same as AES in previous years. - Chuck Dellis (W9WLX)
- Maker Faire – 10:00 September 23 & 24

The meeting was adjourned at 21:30.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV)  
Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.  
2017-09-12

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

**September 26, 2017**

Howard Smith (WA9AXQ) called the meeting to order at 19:03.

Present: Tom Macon (K9BTQ), Howard Smith (WA9AXQ), Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV), Steve Dryja (NO9B), Frank Humpal (KA9FZR), Dave Garnier (WB9OWN), Mike Johnson (WO9B).

- Howard Smith (WA9AXQ) presented the monthly Treasurer's report and the Club equipment and liability insurance status.
- The Club trailer is paid for, insurance is arranged, and is in use. Steve Dryja (NO9B) reports that it pulls well and facilitates Swapfest sales.
- New Field Day ladder purchase is on hold.
- Dave Garnier (WB9OWN) presented options for a replacement video projector at the last meeting, board members reviewed and recommended his primary option.
- Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV) gave a 2018 Swapfest update.
- Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV), Steve Dryja (NO9B), and Mike Johnson (WO9B) gave status of the 2017 Awards Dinner.
- HRO 2017 Superfest on September 29th & 30th – HRO opens and we can set up our table at 09:00 both days. We need volunteers to attend to the table.
- Mike Johnson (WO9B) is investigating the concept of having the January, 2018 meeting as a holiday party at a restaurant.

## **Programs**

October, 2017: Elections & Activation story & FT8: The New Digital Mode

November, 2017: Morse code

December, 2017: 2018 Swapfest & Storytelling

## **Future Program Ideas**

CW Skimmer / CW Decoders

Learning CW / Building CW skills

Contest operations for the fall: SS, 10 Meter Contest, CQ WW

Story-telling night

Careers?

Ham Radio Outlet – New radio products

DMR Radios

## **Other Items**

Meeting was adjourned at 21:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV)

Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.

2017-09-26



Scott (W9MRI) sent these pictures from his trek out to Wyoming.





Trailer in use at  
Belevdere Swapfest



# WARAC Annual Awards Dinner

Sunday, October 29, 2017

5:00 PM QSO Time – 6:00 PM Dinner

New Berlin Hills Golf Course

13175 W. Graham St., New Berlin, WI

43.004824°, -88.077598°

## WARAC Activities

the year in review

- Swapfest
- Field Day
- WIQP
- 10m Contest
- *more*

## Presentation of:

- 2017 Scholarship
- Years of Membership Awards
- Contest Awards
- 2017 Member of the Year

## Dinner Menu

**Tenderloin tips w/Gravy, Marinated Baked Chicken Breasts**

Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans w/Almonds, Salad, and Dinner Rolls.

Tax and gratuity included. Cash bar.

## Program

Our Community's Animals by Linda Olenik, Executive Director of HAWS, Waukesha

### Awards Dinner Reservation Form

Sunday, October 29, 2017

5:00 PM QSO Time – 6:00 PM Dinner

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ Amount (\$18 Each) \_\_\_\_\_

Sign up Deadline: October 23

Make checks payable to:  
W.A.R.A.C, Inc.

Bring form and money to club  
meeting or mail to:

Howard Smith  
4760 S Woodlawn Pl  
Greenfield, WI 53228

Erwin made the ARRL.org FB page.



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international operating. The other useful things they have are Internet pages for each country (equivalent to the ARRL) helpful info is also found there.

If any one has traveled and has tips to add to these let me know and I will be glad to pass them along.

As far as the tour, it was good. Lots to see and of course great seafood. Over all a good time.

73

Frank KA9FZR

**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

Mike Johnson WO9B

**Newsletter Editor**

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR  
fhump@milwpc.com

**Webmaster**

Tom Macon, K9BTQ

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## WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC.

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Milwaukee, WI 53201  
W9FK  
<http://www.warac.org>

***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.