



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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Volume 72, Issue 10 October , 2023

OCTOBER 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
October,10, 2023 7pm
New Berlin Community Center
14750 W. Cleveland Ave.
New Berlin, WI
Between Moorland and Sunnyslope

Presentation
Gary Sutcliffe, W8XT
“Low Band Antennas”
Election of Officers
Vote on resolutions **See page 12**

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

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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 General Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2023

Club Meeting called to order by Feroz WU9N @ 7pm.

Attendance: 23 – 22 Members, 1 Visitor.

Tom M K9BTQ: **Club History ppt Presentation.**

- Club was founded in 1954. The clubs call sign started as W9FLP, changed to W9FK in 1968. Meetings were held twice a month at the McKinley field house. 1000 S. 72nd St. West Allis. Meeting changed to once a month in the mid 70's.
- Field day has always been a important activity of the club from the beginning.
- Swap fest started at Hart Park in 1973. In 1975 the swap fest moved to Waukesha Expo grounds. (4H bldg., Sq. bldg., Arena bldg.. After 48 years, 2020 was the last swap fest.
- The Annual Award Dinner started as a Christmas party, then moved to the Packers Bi-week Sunday. There was dinner, a program, meeting the Scholarship recipient, Award - club contest certificates and member of the year plus door prizes.
- The **David Knaus Memorial Scholarship** started in 1987, with \$500 a scholarship. Some years had 3 scholarship's awarded. The club went for 501(c)(3) status to make it easier for scholarship tax-deductible donations. The West Allis Radio Amateur Club has awarded over \$66,000 in Scholarships to qualified radio amateurs since 1988.
- Hamtrix newsletter started April 1956, started on paper (dido), printer, computer printed and now email.
- Special event station W9C, W9D - Circus train. Did mobile operations at stops. Made 73 contacts in 1 day.
- ARRL Central Division convention 1976, 1979. Held @ Red Carpet Inn by Mitchell Field Airport. With a Wouff Hong initiation ceremony.
- WARAC WIQSO Party started sponsoring in 1979, a 7hr. short form state QSO party contest, on the 2nd Sunday of March. 1980 – 1990's paper logs, around 2000 started switching to all computer logs.
- Third weekend in October the club gets involved with the Boy Scouts Jamboree on the air. Getting scouts interested I ham radio.
- Mobile hunts on 10m. License class's.
- A tribute to some of our club member Silent Keys.

Feroz WU9N: - did intro's.

Last month there was no meeting, but we did have a great pizza party.

Minutes: July GM, Aug. BM was Published but not voted on.

Treasury Report – Bill N9KPH: Sendiks ~ \$342.

3 resolutions were presented to the membership for an October vote.

1. Club sponsored activities and club liability.

New - Proposed Language for Club Sanctioned/Approved Activities

“Any proposed club activity that has the potential to expose the club to any kind of liability must be reviewed and approved by the Board. This includes acceptance of donations that involve or require dismantling of equipment where there could be a risk of liability to the club.”

Contest Corner and DX Report

Contest season is heating up as the weather cools down. Here's what you'll hear when you spin the dial:

The 10-10 International 10-10 Day Sprint is on the air on, well, 10-10 (October 10th). It's all modes on 10 meters. As you know if you've been on lately, when 10 is good, it's really, really good. When it's not, well, you need to QSY. Let's hope for good 10 meter condx that day. The 10-10 CW Fall Contest is October 21 and 22, by the way.

The weekend of the 14th and 15th, you will find the Nevada, Arizona, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota QSO Parties on the air. Check out contestcalendar.com for details on each of those.

ARRL's School Club Roundup starts that week, on October 16th, and runs for 5 days. We hope to hear many university, high school, and other clubs on the air.

Kind of a niche event is the Telephone Pioneer QSO Party, which has been running since the 1960s. It is run by a club out of Alabama which focuses on current and former employees of telephone companies, but all hams are invited to participate. CW, digital, and phone, on Friday-Saturday, October 20-21.

Of course, the marquee event that weekend is on Sunday, October 22nd, the Illinois QSO Party. It runs for eight hours, from noon until 8 PM. Watch the spots – the KA9FZR team (Frank, Mike WO9B, and myself) will be operating mobile CW for the first half of the event, and if you work us in at least eight different counties, Mike will buy you dinner at the Bosch afterward.

Perhaps the biggest worldwide contest this month is the CQ Worldwide (SSB), the weekend of October 28-29. (The CW event is in late November.) You don't get QSO credit for working people in your own country, but you score QSO points for other countries on your continent, and more credit for transcontinental contacts. This contest more than any other has bolstered my meager DXCC list; when 15 meters opens up, my 40 meter dipole and 100 watts are enough to work a ton (well, a metric tonne) of Europeans.

Looking ahead into November, the ARRL Sweepstakes is on November 4-6 (CW) and November 18-20 (phone). Sweepstakes focuses only on the US and Canada, and is legendary (infamous?) for only giving credit for working stations one time, regardless of band, and for its long exchange. (Serial number, precedence, call, check [first year licensed], and ARRL section; I might be "001 U AA9RK 94 WI". See? Infamous.) It is one of my favorite contests, though, and I'll probably operate both modes for at least a while. Working 100 stations in the Sweepstakes earns you a collectible pin, and working all of the US/Canada sections earns you a "clean sweep" coffee mug. My 1995 pin is a prized possession of mine, gained when I was 16 years old and fairly new to ham radio. I shouted into my Astatic D-104 for hours to will that pin into my hands.

On the DX side...

- TX6D in French Polynesia is QRV right now – right now! – from October 2-15, from 160 to 10 meters, all modes. They are activating 60m, possibly for the first time. With everyone confined to one center frequency,

From the presidents shack

It is going to be a jam packed exciting monthly meeting on the 10 th . We have three major activities that happen this month.

The first is: Our Annual Meeting. The meeting where your participation will choose the next leadership team to run the Club for the coming year. We do have a slate of candidates who have been recommended by the Board and the slate will be presented at the meeting for your approval. Now, this is the easy way out – to approve a slate of candidates with little to no objection. At this point in time one of the non-officer Board Members will be up for election.

Each member has the right to exercise their vote to determine the future of our Club. I say that we come together and challenge the status quo with the well-intentioned goal of making things better and pushing for change for the better. We do have a rich pool of talent who can not only increase the activity levels of the club in a fiscally responsible manner, but also ensure the sustainability of our club for the future. It is unrealistic to expect the same group of people to do the same things and expect different results. Change is the biggest driver and motivator for us to move ahead. For this our Club needs new blood, younger blood, new ideas and a general shot in the arm! Be the change and come join us!

I urge you to stop by at the meeting, listen to the presentation, select your candidates and cast your vote/ approval for the team who will take our Club forward into 2024!

The second is: We have a guest speaker addressing us. Gary Sutcliffe, W8XT will be at our monthly meeting giving us a presentation on “Low Band Antennas”. I am confident that his presentation will pique your interest in working on the low bands and or improving transmission on the low bands. 80, 160 and lower bands have always been of interest to me personally. However, I do not know much about effective systems for these frequencies and as such am looking forward to Gary’s presentation. Gary will be at the Club meeting in person! I believe he will be joining the “Before the Meeting Dinner Club” folk for a bite to eat before he graces our meeting

The third item is: Three Board recommended resolutions will be before you (Will be published in this issue per the bylaws) for your approval.

1. Policy on Club Sponsored Activity
2. Streamlining Club Membership Guidelines (Sec. 4) and Increase in Annual Dues (by \$5 per year).
3. Revising the terms of and reinstating our The Dave Knaus scholarship.

OM Ron Gorski N9AU made a generous donation to our Club. We appreciate this and thank him for his magnanimous gesture. Ron’s donation will indeed be put to good use. Thank You Ron from all of us at the West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Traditionally, we do not have a meeting in January (2024). Instead, we will have a holiday gathering. I believe this will be held at the New Berlin Ale house. Stay tuned for more details on this. It is a time for us to have good fellowship, meet and greet each other and our spouses (always welcome).

Yours in the spirit of Ham Radio,

Feroz, WU9N



October 2023

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Hamtrix

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By Michael Johnson, WO9B

More Legacy Digital Modes

Last month was all about PSK. Ah how fun and renewing it is to go back to your digital roots. Did you give it a try? Reacquainting yourself with those modes that got us here is quite fun. Who knew that opening up FLdigi would still be a thing one month later. In truth, I have been spending a fair amount of my on-air time messing with a few of the “old” modes. So here are a few modes and cheats to get you started....or is that restarted?

PSK: As discussed last month, PSK31 is alive and well. I continue to make regular QSO’s with little difficulty. If you can get on during the day, 14.070 to 14.073 is the watering hole. At night 7.070 can produce QSO’s, but no where near as good as 20 meters. Set up a keyboard macro and call CQ if you don’t hear/see anything on the waterfall. I’m running 30 to 40 watts into a dipole, which is pretty typical of the ops I’ve chatted with. Unlike FT8, you will need to actually discuss/exchange info. The typing speed is brisk and you will need to work to keep up. No time limits. Decent error correction, but fading is a problem. It’s just like a real QSO. Welcome back.

Olivia: This is an interesting mode. More of a niche than PSK. It occupies pretty much the same band segments as PSK, but not as popular. The Olivia QSO’s tend to take place mostly on 20 meters in or around 14.072. It is distinctive on the waterfall as it is a much wider channel than PSK. There are a number of modulation options for Olivia, but it seems the popular choice is Olivia 8-250. This mode features error correction and excellent weak signal capability. You don’t need much signal to have a 100% copy QSO. The typing speed is much slower than PSK so if that is a concern, this might be a good mode for you. I find it a bit too slow, everyone brews their tea differently.

Feld-Hell: You gotta try this mode. What a gas. I have made just one QSO with a Canadian ham....it was a first for both of us. How did I do it? We were chatting in Olivia and I mentioned I always wanted to try Feld-Hell. Five minutes later we were FH’ing it. The mode is a graphical mode with reads like two identical lines of ticker-tape printing. It is very snappy and friendly for varied typing speeds. I ran at 100 watts to enhance my signal. It is not a 100% duty cycle mode so your power meter will fluctuate in the same fashion as a SSB modulation. I can’t tell you where to find the Feld-Hell hot spot on the bands as I don’t think there are many. Your best bet is to look for a Feld-Hell group on Facebook or GroupsIO and start sniffing around. This is definitely a specialty mode, but well worth the experience. You will be smiling as you send 73.

JT-65 / JT-9: We are finally venturing away from FLdigi and back to the WSJT-X modes here. Do you recognize the JT modes? They are still available in all the versions of WSJT, which has been dominated by the FT modes. That doesn’t mean there is no activity, but you will have to look for it. My latest experience

DIGITAL next page

DIGITAL

was with a contest/coordinated event hosted by a Russian Digital Organization who sponsors the JT-9 Activity Day. After you make the adjustment to the incredibly long transmission cycle (30 seconds long) it sort of becomes charming, in a weird way. You can find this limited activity on your WSJT frequency list. Again, your best bet is to look for coordinated activities or contests via Facebook or GroupsIO.

The point of all this: Try something different. You'll have a bit of hair pulling, but at the end of the day, expanding your digital chops is just a lot of fun. Ham fun. • — • —••



**Louie's W9GSV
95th Birthday**

**Louie got all
Ninety-Five Candles**



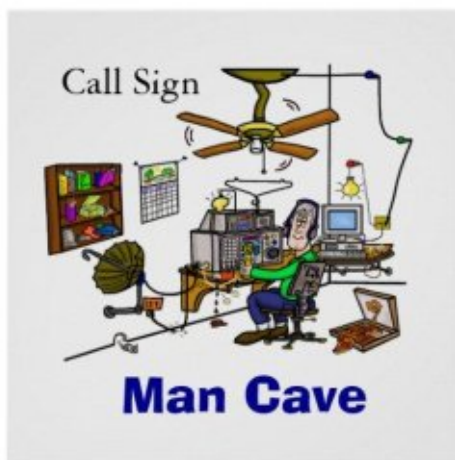
DX from page 4

I can't imagine what the pileups will sound like there.

- 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



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

Field Day 2023 Results & Observations

TOTAL 320 Q's

40 meters	FT4/FT8	89 Q's	Phone = 1 Point CW = 2 points Digital = 2 points	178
	CW	11 Q's		22
20 meters	CW	200 Q's		400
	PHONE	0 Q's		0
6 meters	PHONE	2 Q's		2
	FT8	18Q's		36
GOTA Q's don't count	PHONE	32 Q's		0
			Sub Total	638
Power Multiplier 100W = 2X points			Total	1276

Thank You to Gil WB9TFH & Donna WB9TFF (non club members) for bring their VHF station and operated under W9FK call.

Bonus Points

100% Emergency Power	100 per transmitter	2 stations (free VHF)	200
Public Location	DJ Mackie		100
Public Information Table	Visitor's log or ARRL handouts		100
W1AW Field Day Message	WO9B supplied		100
Youth Participation	20 per youth QSO		0
Educational Activity	Morse code beads		100
Social Media	FaceBook: ARRL FD group posting		100
Safety Officer	Barb KD9HPS		100
			Bonus Points
			800

Approximate Total 1976

Takeaways

- DJ Mackie's 120 Vac leakage problem docked GOTA 3 hours of operating time!
- GOTA interference became a problem, cannot happen again. Different ant polarities?
- Different operators somehow missed added their initials to the log.
- For simplicity, different operators kept their own log! Haha on me.
- Need more youth, Need more non ham visitors.
- Lacked operators for the solar bonus.
- Band heads need to plan for redundancy.
- Need a full time photographer to documents the bonus points check off.

Meeting**2. Proposed change/Increase in Annual Dues****Existing language.**

“Section 4 DUES: Membership dues shall be \$15.00 per year except for full time day school students and associate members, which shall be \$10.00. Full members who are retired or on fixed income may pay dues at the rate of \$10.00 per year. Family membership shall be available to families with two or more licensed amateurs in the same household at the rate of \$18.00 per year. Dues for any member may be waived at the discretion of the Board.

A grace period of one month from the start of a new club year shall be extended to all club members. Late payment of dues shall be in full. A new member who joins during the fiscal year will have his or her dues prorated quarterly.

Life membership shall be awarded after 25 of years membership or approval of the Board.”

Proposed language.

“Section 4 DUES: Membership dues shall be \$20.00 per year including Family Membership. Dues for any member may be waived at the discretion of the Board.

A grace period of one month from the start of a new club year shall be extended to all club members. Late payment of dues shall be in full.”

3. Proposed resumption of Dave Knauss Scholarship (after a hiatus of 1 Year)

We propose the following:

1. The Scholarship be funded for the sum of \$2,000.00 to be disbursed by the ARRL Foundation.
2. The Board be authorized to fund any shortfall of funds as a result of poor fund performance not to exceed \$2,000.00. The said funds to be withdrawn from the Scholarship Fund maintained by the Club.

Howard WA9AXQ: - The terms of reference with the ARRL would need to be amended to change the Scholarship. As of June, the fund return is ~ \$2,700. At this point the fund looks like it on track, but we have to wait for Dec. to see the results. Howard received a call about Louie G. 95th Birthday party on Saturday Sept. 16 - 12-4 @ Willow Brook Golf Club.

Bill N9KPH: Question was asked “What is the clubs annual budget?” ~\$1k /yr.

Mike WO9B: Put together a current members phone directory. Which he will distribute.

Feroz – October is annual Election's. If your interested in joining the leadership team. Come run for a position.

Howard – Superfest is September 22nd, 23rd.

Dave WB9OWN: 10Ghz. Contest is coming up. Talk to Dave.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Bill Dargis KD9BJZ

Secretary WARAC, September 13,2023



2023 October Notes

2023 Wednesday Park Ops is officially in the books. A big thank you to everyone that showed up and made these weekly outings so much fun. We've been doing this for 4 or so years now and you'd think it would be getting old. But that is not the case. New people pop in and regulars make room in their Wednesdays to come out and have a social hour. Marvelous.

The final event was at the favorite Root River Parkway Picnic Area #2. An odd name, but a great spot. The weather did not cooperate at all. Rain was prevalent throughout, but despite that, the group was undeterred. Three radios were set up and contacts made. Actually the bands were in very good shape.

We will be back again next year. Buff up your portable ops capabilities over the winter and join the parade. We also do a pop-up activation from time to time in the off season. Keep your eyes open. These go off with short notice due to weather, mood and opportunity. You never know.

See you in the Spring!!!

From Editor

Judy and me went on a 2 week bus tour out west to the Grand Canyon area and saw some of the many National parks! Being optimistic I took my Park activation set up. Hoping to get time and a place to play radio.

That didn't work out. The hotels we stayed in were relatively new. Only trees were in the parking lot islands. We only stayed one night at most of them. And got back late so not much time to explore. So I didn't get to play radio. Every trip is different.

It is fun to solve problems like that if time permits. Too bad they don't have windows in your room that open to the outside that would have made some possibilities

Modern radios make the possibility much closer. The biggest need is the high efficient compact self supporting HF antenna. I'll have to see if that ever becomes a reality.

October means the end of our club sponsored park activation's which are a great place to test equipment, meet friends and get to see parks. I see no reason it won't be back next year.

See you at the meeting
Frank KA9FZR

Proposed Changes to Bylaws Approved by the Board To be Voted on in October 2023

Proposed Language for Club Sanctioned/Approved Activities

Any proposed club activity that has the potential to expose the club to any kind of liability must be reviewed and approved by the Board. This includes acceptance of donations that involve or require dismantling of equipment where there could be a risk of liability to the club.

Proposed Increase in Annual Dues for 2023 & Streamlining of Membership Criteria (Amendment to the by-laws/rules.

Section 4 DUES: Membership dues shall be \$20.00 per year including Family Membership. Dues for any member may be waived at the discretion of the Board.

A grace period of one month from the start of a new club year shall be extended to all club members. Late payment of dues shall be in full.

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ELMER

by Rich Regent, K9GDF



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

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