



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

Volume 74, Issue 12 December, 2025

[click here to go to web site](#)

DECEMBER CLUB HAPPENINGS



**Meeting 7pm at new building
December 9, 2025 7:00 pm**

Location:

Hickory Grove Community Center

**2600 S Sunnyslope Road Rm 310
New Berlin**

Program

**What's Happening with Robotics in
our Schools**

Presented by Jeff Pahl, W9JSP



NUT NET
3.985mhz
Monday-Saturday
8:15am CT

WARAC 4th Tuesday
Breakfast
At the Forum
Layton & Hyw 100 at
8:30am

**Premeeting dinner at
5:15pm**

Note New Location
**Senor Luna's on Calhoun,
just south of Greenfield Ave**

**[https://senorluna.com/
contact-senor-luna/](https://senorluna.com/contact-senor-luna/)**

The Milwaukee-Florida
Net time is:
7:15 - 8:00AM Central
8:15 - 9:00AM Eastern
Mon through Sat

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WARAC 4th Tuesday Breakfast

NOTE NEW LOCATION

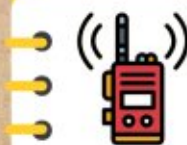
Several years ago there was talk among Nut Net members that we should get to meet each other. A breakfast get together idea was started. It was open to all hams, XYL/partners and anyone who wanted to learn about amateur radio. Even visiting OM/XYL couples joined us.

So, on the fourth Tuesday each month at 8:30 am we meet at [The Forum Restaurant](#), corner of HWY 100 and Layton, Greenfield, WI. Looking forward to seeing you, mark your calendar.

Phil, W9NAW

WARAC Find Us On The Air

VHF Simplex 146.55 Mhz & AllStar #63584



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 / Allstar 63584. 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.

Merry WARAC Christmas



We have finally arrived at the festive time of year. Seems we've slid right into the Christmas Season...albeit a bit earlier than I'd like, but there you have it. It has been a few years since We've gone from Thanksgiving to shoveling snow in the same weekend. Monday I was bagging the final leaves of the year and Saturday the snow blower was churning away. Seems to me that is a little old school. I hope everyone enjoyed

Turkey Day. We had a house full of hungry guests and had a wonderful time.

Turning to the business of radio, if you are HF active at all, you might think about taking a spin on the very fun "12 Days of Christmas" radio special event. It runs from December 14th through Christmas Day and involves 12+ special event stations. Read all about it [HERE](#)

On a secondary note, the wonderful ARRL 10 Meter contest is on Dec 12th & 13th. The 10 meter bands are hot still...so this should be very active. This is a very easy, fun contest with phone and CW on the menu. With an active band, even after the sun goes down, the propagation gods still provide for those who persist. Dit Dit.

This months presentation promises to be a banger good time. Jeff Pahl, W9JSP, and his New Berlin High School team members will be sharing their experience with Robotics. Every year disappears from Jan thru March as he coaches the team. Perhaps this will be the State Champs for 2026!! Let's find out.

Finally, for those who partake in the pre-meeting dinner, we have a new hang out for December. Senor Luna's on Calhoun, just south of Greenfield Ave will be the new venue. Let's see how it goes and if it becomes our new favorite. Margarita happy hour?? Hmmmmm.

On a personal note, I'm looking forward to the holidays. I've been overly busy of late with scant time for all things radio. I plan to find a couple of days to get busy on our new website. So to everyone, have as wonderful a Christmas as you can!! Enjoy!!

WARAC General Meeting Minutes - October 14, 2025

Called to order by Mike Johnson, WO9B @ 7 pm.

Attendance: 26 – 25 Member's, 1 Visitor.

ARRL HOA letter: Send your letters.

Pre-Meeting Dinner Location: Exploring new options.

Publication of the month: Rpi 4, Case, Hat, Preloaded for \$150..

General Meeting Minutes: July, August, September – Approved.

Board Meeting Minutes: July – Approved.

Treasurer's Report, Bill Reed: Bottom line. Our income exceeded budget and our expenses were under budget. The club has about \$25k cash assets, with a little over half for the scholarship funds. We have a 2026 budget that was disgusted and approved by the Board. Which mirrors what we had for this year.

Bill Reed is stepping down as treasurer.

FUNDING AUTHORIZATION REQUEST: “WARAC will be authorizing a \$3,000 scholarship amount for 2026. The normal endowed funding typically supports a \$2,000 scholarship amount.

We are requesting the membership approve a disbursement not to exceed \$1,000 from the

club's scholarship accounts for WARAC's portion of the 2026 scholarship.”

Approved. *** Howard is stepping down as Scholarship Chairman.

Club Status Synopsis:

Issues that we face:

1. Membership:
 - a. Membership numbers remain steady.
 - b. Members are getting older.
 - c. Membership Growth has been organic.
2. Budget:

Excellent condition. Currently, income (Due's, fund raisers, donations) exceeds our expenses. (WIQP, Field Day, pizza party, internet, insurance.)
3. Staffing mandated club officer positions.

In 1988 the club incorporated in to a 501 3c non profit organization.
This requires a board of directors, officer regiment.

 - a. We need a treasurer. And at the end of 2026 we will need a President and Secretary.
4. Staffing on going Operations.
 - a. Field Day: Dave is still Chairman for 2026. Dave need people to help.
 - b. Hamtrix: Frank remains at the helm. Frank needs people to submit material to print.
 - c. WIQP: Chuck can't do it alone. Anyone interested. Talk to Chuck.
 - d. Webpage: Tom Macon is the one who knows the webpage.

If interested in assisting with the webpage talk to Tom.

Solutions to Consider -MJ: The club has some challenges ahead.

We have a great club with top notch members.

Staffing: We can't leave open positions. This creates legal problems.

Officers can not hold multiple positions.

No treasurer: Do we fill from outside the club? Will it cost us money?

President: Change the Meeting Format,

Club Growth: Scott Sherer KC9WPS - Marketing and Growth Techniques.

Scott has done startups of business's, been on company boards. He see's the club as a 3 Alarm Fire going on. "You are going to close you doors in 12 months. If you don't do something. That doesn't mean you cant meet once a month in this building as Ham's. But WARAC is done in 12 months". Not be able to have volunteers to run is only the tip of the iceberg. The fact that you have surplus in the Treasury is a catastrophe. You have more money then expenses, means you don't have a single dreamer. No body with goals, or visions, or dreams, or hope for the next generation. If we want to keep this club going. We need energy. We need enthusiasm. We need participation. We need ideas. Need an active Board and officers. Also a business plan with a vision with dreams and hopes. And accountability to get things done. Marketing is important and hard work. There are Grant's out there. Which takes time and effort to find, apply for. And wait to see if you get accepted. There are Schools, industry out there that we could work with. Even senior in this center and community. How about if you use some of the club scholarship fund to buy a station to try and put in to a High school. Now you have 50 or more kids learning about Ham radio. Ham's are intelligent people, who have or had interesting professions. If we want to keep this club going to give to future generations. We Need Vision, Dreams, and Do the Hard Work to keep the club moving into the future. We all need to work as a Team to get it done. A different club used our club's idea of setting up a club remote radio system for members to use. They increased their membership. We missed that opportunity. The membership should gather their thoughts / ideas and bring them to the next meeting. MJ will talk with the membership.

ELECTIONS Results:

President: Mike Johnson, WO9B

Vice President: Pierre Porter, KD9SSY

Secretary: Bill Dargis, KD9BJZ

Treasurer: Open Position

Open Board Position: Scott Sherer, KC9WPS

Remaining in Board Position: Tom Macon, K9BTQ

Presentation by Dave, WB9OWN - Bird Song with a Pi.

Dave is a bird watcher. He took a Ornithology course. For the last year and a half one of the members from Schlitz Audubon has a raspberry pi setup to listen to bird song and identifying the birds. Merlin bird app "Cornell University", has recorded 6,000 bird calls all over the world. Raspberry Pi (4 or 5) has 2 program to identify bird calls. BirdNet-Pi,

it has been out about 6 years. Not to many bells and whistles. BirdNet-Go, easy to install. Simple cut and paste from github. Has pie charts, analysis data, logs. There can be false positives. Police sirens.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Bill Dargis KD9BJZ

Secretary WARAC, October 14, 2025

WARAC Board Meeting Minutes - October 7, 2025

Board meeting called to order by Mike Johnson WO9B @ 7:05PM.

Present: Mike Johnson, WO9B, Pierre Porter, KD9SSY, Bill Reed, N9KPH, Bill Dargis, KD9BJZ, Jeff Pahl, W9JSP, Feroz Ghouse, WU9N, Tom Macon, K9BTQ, Howard Smith, WA9AXQ.

Treasurers report - Bill Reed: Approved.

Field Day: 2026 Site selected.

Scholarship: Arrl scholarship fund is in excellent shape as of July. MJ proposed a Membership Scholarship funding proposal. For pre-approval of up to \$1k to add to the Arrl fund of expected \$2k. To maintain a \$3k Scholarship when we hear from the fund in January. Board approved to go for membership vote. Howard will talk to the fund to see what is needed to fully fund a \$3k scholarship from the fund. Howard mentioned that we would need to have \$75k in the Arrl fund to possibly produce \$3k just from the fund. The secondary account must have twice the amount of the scholarship. Howard will be stepping down from the scholarship.

Symposium: - Feroz: On hold.

Website: MJ, Feroz to collaborate.

Meeting place status: With the help of Pierre we have a permit to use the Hickory Grove location thru April 2026. Looking at changing pre-meeting meal location. Do we have access to internet, screen, projector, white board, TV?

FTP site replacement: Issue - Google Drive with updated security standards. You need a user name, password, 2 factor authentication. How do we share with the Board members.

Elections: - October: Bill Reed is stepping down as treasurer. People willing to stay another year. Mike, Pierre, Bill D, Tom, Jeff. Bill D. Would like 2026 to be his last year serving. Club members can run for any position. We need a new Treasurer.

Clubs Future (Structure and Direction) - MJ: The club has settled into a pattern. We are not doing new things as a club. We sponsor the WIQP. We publish a newsletter Hamtrix. The club does Field Day. We have the Scholarship. If the club disappeared tomorrow the scholarship would continue. We do monthly meetings with programs.

Coming up with interesting subjects and finding people to do presentations is a lot of work. Financially we are in great shape. The club is not getting younger members to participate in the clubs actives and run for positions. Where is the club heading. What are we really doing, what do we want to do, and what are we capable of doing. The membership is getting older. How do we get new members. The club needs to grow. Will bring this to the membership.

Oct. - Elections, Bird Song with a Pi.

Nov. - Portable Antenna Selection and Performance.

Dec. -

Jan. - Holiday Party.

We need program ideas for 2026. Thing about interesting ideas and possible presenters, and report back.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Bill Dargis KD9BJZ

WARAC Secretary, October 7, 2025

From the Editor

December is already here, unbelievable! Michael AA9RK who writes our contest and DX monthly article did a great job as usual. I thought I would add one more non-contest contest HI HI. The Straight key night January first from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC. More info found at this web site .

Last year I got started early enough to actually get on the air and got a few contacts. It was fun. You could actually hold a little conversation.

When I got my license they were still requiring knowing CW. At that time you answered multiple choice questions. I had heard that at one time you had to produce copy with only a few errors and earlier than then that they tested you sending.

I was lucky my Elmer, Ray W9ONN(sk) was patient and willing to practice with me most nights until I could pass. It worked. Before I knew it I had a general license. I did make some contacts even a few with my Heathkit HW-8. One from California in an motel room and a indoor 15 meter antenna back to Ray. We were both surprised.

As with many of us other things (family, work etc.) got in the way of operating so my skill slipped. After retirement I picked it up again and made some improvement with a lot of practice

So it's fun to go back to the time when most hams used a straight key, bugs were for high speed operators, Keyers did exist but were as big as my HW-8 and cost as much. HI HI

Everyone have a Happy and safe Holiday season how ever you celebrate.

73

Frank



Poor Frank. All he needs is a little contest column from me, and I go into full Op-Ed mode all over your issue of Hamtrix. He has to read and edit all my pontificating. I'm sorry, but only a little sorry. Read on to see what got me going this month.

Christmas, St. Nick, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Festivus, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve, my mom's birthday... December is full of celebrations. If you can tear yourself away from the family for a few hours:

As I mentioned last month, the **first weekend in December** brings some specialty contests. One is the ARRL 160-meter contest – great if you have the real estate for 160-meter antennas and the patience and skill for Top Band – and another is the FT Challenge, a weekend-long FT8/FT4 event on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters.

December 12th-14th will be home to the ARRL 10-meter contest – 48 hours of fun times on CW and SSB but only IF propagation allows. Your exchange is RS(T) and your state. If you prefer digital, or other bands, there are some specialty events, like the PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint (a PSK31 event on 160, 80, and 40 meters), an SKCC Weekend Sprintathon (a straight key CW event – good if you are intelligible with a straight key, so not me if the speed tops about 12 WPM), and a QRP CW event (the ARCI Holiday Spirits Sprint). Most of the activity will be on the 10-meter contest (IF propagation allows).

December 20th is the date of the Radio Amateurs of Canada Winter Contest, which is one of my favorites. Everybody works everybody, but you get more points for working Canadians, and a lot more points for working their special event stations in each call area (VE1RAC, VE2RAC, and so on). Activity is good, operators are friendly, and it's worth your time. There's also an ARRL Rookie Roundup on CW for six hours in the afternoon on December 21st, but it seems like most rookies don't get into CW nowadays, or at least not right away, when they're still rookies.

*(**Editorial:** This is dangerous territory for me, talking about how rookies don't get on CW anymore, or how you can't get a Novice license anymore, since the license restructuring of the year 2000. I certainly have become a CW evangelist in the past five years or so – it has absolutely become my favorite mode -- but I think I'm an exception among hams my age. It's also funny talking about hams "my age". I've been licensed for more than 30 years now, but at 46 I am still often the youngest ham in the room at events. For better or for worse, it's undeniable that the Rookie Roundup doesn't have the cachet, or participation, that it once did. New hams don't start out on CW much anymore. They come to it later.)*

*(**Another editorial:** This might be where you want to insert your own rant with nostalgia for rockbound novice rigs, complaints about incentive licensing, or starry-eyed, wistful memories of the propagation of Solar Cycle 19 back in 1957. If you don't know what I'm talking about, look it up. I can't really join in with the rant, though. I never held a Novice license. I'm one of the no-code Technicians of the 1990s who's going to ruin ham radio. I like FT8, too.)*

The weekend after Christmas is pretty quiet on the air, but if you liked the ARRL 160-meter contest, you might also like the Stew Perry Topband Challenge. It's 160 meters only, CW only, and exchange your Maidenhead grid square (so, in my case, EN53).

Finally, the first weekend of the January, there are a bunch of smaller contests going on, but I really want to highlight the ARRL RTTY Roundup on January 3 and 4. My loyal readers will know that I really enjoy RTTY contesting and recommend it to everyone I know. It's not something you can pick up on the fly. You really need to test it out beforehand, and having macros programmed into your software will make your life much easier. A RTTY contest is, to me, the most enjoyable kind of digital contest. If you want to practice beforehand, there is a 30 minute RTTY contest every Thursday night that is a low pressure, fun event with good activity levels. Search up "Weekly RTTY Test" to find out some details.

This month I'm focusing on some interesting activations in Asia:

Kutubdia Island, Bangladesh: The S21DX team has 5 ops and plans to operate full time on HF, SSB and FT8. Look for them between December 21-27.

Maldives: From now through December 10th, 8Q7HT will be on 40-10 meters in a holiday-style DXpedition.

Palau: T88AC is on the air from Palau in the western Pacific, east of the Philippines and north of Indonesia, from December 10-17, focusing on the ARRL 10 meter contest on the weekend, and lower bands before and after the contest.

See you next month,
-Michael AA9RK



"The Night Before Christmas", Ham Radio-style

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the town,
The snowstorm was raging, the phone lines were down;
The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack,
I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to turn back.
The wife making cookies, the kids making noise,
While away in the shack, by my rig I was poised.
The finals were glowing, the mike gain was set,
I was chasing DX to see what I could get.
The bands were all empty, the frequencies clear,
Except one lone station that sounded quite near.
He was calling CQ and my interest did pique,
When he ended transmission with the words,
"Old St. Nick".
I answered back quickly, I used great dispatch,
If this were St. Nicholas, good God, what a catch!
We exchanged information, it was really quite graphic,
Then he came back and said,
"I've emergency traffic!"
His reindeer were tired, his elves in a grump,
If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he would dump.
I thought very carefully, I thought very hard,
Then I gave him directions to my snow covered yard.
As he flew past my window, his hair like a mane,
He reined in his chargers and called them by name:
"Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa, Zener! Whoa, Diode!
Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak! Stop, Bias! Stop, Triode!
You're flying too low! you're flying too fast!
Look out, you dumb reindeer, his antenna mast!"
So into the backyard the reindeer did drop,
St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went kerplop!
Then at the back door, I heard this loud knocking,
"Open up in there, or I won't fill your stocking!"
As I turned off the light and was leaving the shack,
Into the house Saint Nicholas came from the back--
His two-meter rig held to his hip with a strap,
"Hams do it in the shack" on the front of his cap.
The sack that he carried made his aged brow furrow,
And he handed me a card that read,
"QSL Via Bureau".
His clothes were all sooty, from his shoes to his vest;
I felt like a novice taking his test.
His fingers were calloused and from what I could tell,
This came from a straight key that I'll bet he used well.
I offered him coffee, I offered him smokes,

**I tried easing the tension by telling ham jokes.
Then he nodded his head and raised up his thumb,
He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel dumb.
He grabbed up his sack and went straight for the tree,
And placed in it a large present for me.
When he finished his work, he stood up, took a bow,
Then out the back door to his team he did plow.
But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er the land,
"Beware the FCC, friend, we were both out of band!"**

Merry Christmas from my house to yours!

**Return to Humor section's front page
Return to the foyer**

Found at
https://myplace.frontier.com/~longrj2/humor/nb_hams.html



NEURAL CODEC CALLED 'MILESTONE' FOR DIGITAL VOICE

(Source: [Amateur Radio Newsline Report 2508 11/21/2025](#))

Submitted by Pierre KD9SSY, permission granted

A digital voice milestone was announced at the recent acoustics and speech conference in California when the Free DV Project's David Rowe VK5DGR copresented a paper describing a neural network that replaces traditional signal processing with machine learning.

In a recent post on the FreeDV website, David called the development: [quote] "the first known real-world deployment of a neural codec – an important milestone that the Ham community can be proud of." [endquote] He and programmer Jean-Marc Valin presented the details to attendees at the IEEE Signal Processing Society conference where David said it was well-received.

Instead of using the fixed algorithms of traditional digital voice, the FreeDV Radio Encoder, known as RADE V1, employs fully adaptive machine learning, producing a higher-quality result, developed using open source software.

Writing as a guest contributor to the Amateur Radio Digital Communications website in October, David noted that the technology [quote] "provides unprecedented speech quality and robustness for VHF/UHF land mobile radio applications." [endquote] The FreeDV project has been doing this work with grant support from ARDC.

PROPOSED SATELLITE WOULD PROVIDE 'SUNLIGHT ON DEMAND'

(Source: [Amateur Radio Newsline Report 2506 for Friday, November 7th, 2025](#))

Submitted by Pierre KD9SSY, permission granted

The FCC's Space Bureau has been asked to approve a proposed launch next April for a satellite in non-geostationary orbit that will deploy mirrors to provide "sunlight on demand," according to the company's website.

Reflect Orbital, a startup company based in California, filed its application this past summer for a license for what it hopes will be the first of 4,000 mirrored satellites that it wants to place in low-Earth orbit by 2030. The April launch is being eyed for a demonstration satellite which will carry a mirror that measures 18-by-18 meters, or 60-by-60 feet. Sunlight's reflection by that envisioned constellation would extend daylight beyond twilight by as much as four hours, increasing solar-power production to locations where Reflect Global has customers.

The company says that its technology supports clean-energy generation - but astronomers, biologists and other scientists have raised questions about the prospect of light pollution on human and animal health and the ability to study the skies effectively.

Astronomers in particular have said that lighting up dark skies would impede their work, which uses sensitive cameras. According to published reports, Reflect Orbital recently began working with astronomers to minimize the mirrors' impact on them. Meanwhile, scientists have observed how nocturnal species' lives can be disrupted and perhaps imperiled by artificial light during the night.

This past May, the US Air Force awarded the project a \$1.25 million Small Business Innovation Research contract to support its progress.

Pierre's (KD9SSY) comment: Yeah...what could go wrong?

Recommended: Movies Featuring Amateur Radio

For those chilly winter evenings when propagation is poor, why not curl up and enjoy a couple of films that highlight amateur radio? Here are a couple of recommendations:

Frequency (2000, not the 2016 made for TV remake).

An oldie, but goodie. Enjoyable movie. You'll never look at an aurora the same. Realistic? No. That's not what you watch it for. Nonetheless, the amateur radio aspect is not too poorly portrayed considering it is Hollywood. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0186151/> Among other venues it can be found on Amazon Prime.

Voskhod

This is a short film from DUST. Again, amateur radio plays a predominate role and its portrayal is also fairly decent. This one is free to watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnMqT8QbvaM>

Do you have any recommendations of family friendly movies featuring amateur radio? Send your recommendations to WARAC.VP@gmail.com



2024 Challenge for our membership. Have someone you meet, Ham or Ham wannabe come to a meeting this

DON'T KEY LIKE A PHONE MAN



SLOW SPEED CW QSO NET

Monday's - 8:00 PM - 146.55 Simplex and AllStar Node #63584

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:

Mike Johnson WO9B

Vice-President

Pierre Porter KD9SSY

Treasure:

Bill Reed N9KPH

Secretary:

Bill Dargis KD9BJZ

Committee member(2)

Jeff Pahl W9JSP

Tom Macon K9BTQ

Past President:

Feroz Ghouse WU9N

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