



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

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## JUNE CLUB HAPPENINGS

### Note new place

Premeeting dinner  
at 5:15pm  
[Cleveland Pub at  
Sunnyslope and  
Cleveland](#)

**WAARC 2026 ARRL  
Field Day is  
June 27**

**Valley View Park  
New Berlin**

### MEETING INFORMATION

Join us 7:00 pm June 9th

Presentations:

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Field Day Prep

Dave Garnier [WB9OWN](#)

DLARC\* Archiving of WARAC

Tom Macon [K9BTQ](#)



\*Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications

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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



# It's FIELD DAY MONTH



Field Day is just around the corner. For hams, that is the dinner bell ringing!! Field Day is the original POTA op only bigger and better. Whether you operate, help set up, man the grill or just hang out with the club there is a spot for you. As I've done for the past 5 years or so, my Field Day adventure will be taking me camping in the UP on a solo FD expedition. This year I'll be in a tent the whole time just off the shores of Lake Superior near Marquette. Fingers crossed on the weather. I keep hoping to work W9FK but it can be a challenge since I use QRP CW only. Still 40 meters holds the possibilities.....

Dave, WB9OWN, will be presenting the final plans for this year's W9FK soiree. The club has secured a really nice picnic shelter at New Berlin's Valley View Park. It is a convenient location and an absolutely top notch radio location. This should be a really nice year. So jump in and grab an armload of fun.

On a side note, I want to thank the members that volunteered their time and talent to make the Sendik's Grill May edition a success. The club netted almost \$400 for those efforts on what turned out to be an spectacular spring day. Thanks to Frank, KA9FZR for organizing the event.

Finally, you don't want to miss the new club logo discussion. I appreciate the comments received. I've modified the options for your presentation and approval. It's a cool opportunity that doesn't come up all that often. That's it.... Hope to see you all at the meeting and even dinner beforehand.

## WARAC General Meeting Minutes - May 12, 2026

Called to order by Mike Johnson, WO9B @ 7:08 pm.

Attendance: 27 - 25 Member's, 2 Visitor.

Cleveland Pub: 2 members said the food was good.

Trunk to Trunk: For a change we had no rain.

April Meeting was canceled: Mike sent out emails to members, to the WARAC groups.io after New Berlin canceled opening the building. Sign up for Groups.io. Members, please sign up to our groups.io for up to date notices.

2026 Directory was sent out to current members.

### **Operating events:**

Dayton - who's going. Al Hovey, Gil & Donna Van Blaricom.  
6M Sporadic E in starting wide open during the day.

**Key Restoration:** Mike bought a book on key restoration and 1927 Vibropelx Original Bug.

**Publication of the Month:** Open Research Institute, .

### **Hamfests:** .

Not going to Dayton - May 16 @ HRO. Parking lot sales and Auction.  
Green Bay M&K May 30<sup>th</sup>.  
July South Milwaukee swap fest - July 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Treasurer's Report Jerry:** Income - \$42. Expenses - \$140 Field Day site permit.

**Meeting room TV replacement:** We have a contact in the rec. center. We are moving forward.

**Club re branding Logo/Name:** Mike showed 4 Logo ideas that the Board disused, about changing the club's name to just "WARAC". Mike will send out an email to members for feedback and ideas.

**Sendik's - Frank:** May 16<sup>th</sup> 11-4pm, New Berlin location. Sign-up sheet was passed around.

**Field Day Dave WB9OWN:** June 27<sup>th</sup> at Valley View Park, New Berlin. Shelter #1. Site size ~ 240' by 400'. Battery operation. There is a lot of parking. Online meeting 5-19-26 @ 7pm.

**Presentation by Chuck W9WLX: WIQP 2026 results.** Next WIQSO Party is March 14,2027.

Committee members: Chuck W9WLK, Tom K9BTQ, Howard WA9AXQ, Jeff W9JSP.  
2026 has to be one of the worst years ever. We had bad weather all over the state.

Propagation was mediocre to average, participation was down. We received 389 total logs, 258 were from out of state. 28,500 total QSO's. 60 County's (13 had no logs.) of the 72 County's plus all 50 states, 13 Providence were activate. Plus 2 DX logs were received representing Poland and Slovak Republic. 11 WARAC members participated. 118 Certificates have been sent out. The 9 Plaque's are on order. Results are published on the Website. Still need to sent plaque's. Schedule 2027 WIQSO Party meetings. Do software enhancements. Full information @ [rac.org/wqp/wqp.htm](http://rac.org/wqp/wqp.htm).

**Presentation by Phil W9NAW: Heathkit Origins Presented over Jitsi.**

The Heath Company was founded as an aircraft company in 1911, 1926 kit planes. 1945 after WWII, with 4-5 box cars full of electronic war surplus parts, Heath Company moved to making electronic kits. In 1947 the Heath O1 oscilloscope kit @ \$39.50. Heath took the time to create a very detailed instruction manual on assembling and use the O1 kit. The O1 become a success. Heath started on the path to teach electronics to the world using kits. Many different Test equipment kits and other use full electronics kits were produced. Heath produced over 300 difference kits over the years. Part of the following YouTube: Was played.

**June program:** Field Day, DLARC Archiving Project.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 pm.  
Respectfully Submitted  
Bill Dargis KD9BJZ  
Secretary WARAC, May 12, 2026

**Question—Where is this?:**

Lat:42.9514  
Lon:-88.091975  
Elevation 281 m / 922f2  
Grid: EN52WW88X  
ITU Zone:8  
CQ Zone:4

**Answer—Valley View Park New Berlin, where the WARAC  
2026 Field Day will be held!**





**Contest Corner and DX Report**  
**Michael Falk, AA9RK**

**Welcome to June! Lots is going on!**

**June 6-7**, the big event is the **ARRL International Digital Contest**. This is an event focusing on the WSJT modes (specifically FT8 and FT4), but you can use any digital mode except RTTY (which has its own event). It's a 30 hour event taking place on 160 through 6 meters. That weekend, you can also get on the Kentucky or Atlantic Canada QSO Parties, or various other countries' Field Days. Also check out the PODXS 070 Club's PSK event running all weekend (Friday night through Monday night).

**June 13-14** is one of my favorite events, the **ARRL June VHF contest**. Make contacts on any mode, any band, from 6 meters on up to light. Unfortunately, you can only contact stations once per band (not once per mode per band), which means that unless there are some phenomenal band openings, the great majority of the activity will be on digital. (I think that the improvements that have been made by the Spring and Fall Sprints, allowing VHF+ stations to work stations once per band per mode, encourages people to use both digital and analog.) There is an analog only entry category, but I don't know that that significantly impacts the activity levels on phone or CW. Around here, being analog only for a 30-plus hour VHF+ contest is a lonely proposition.

**June 20-21** features an **SKCC QSO Party** for those who prefer their CW with a straight key, along with the West Virginia QSO Party, ARRL Kids Day (not really a contest), and the Stew Perry Topband Challenge, which is a 160 meters only CW contest. You get more points for longer-distance QSOs, which is a unique feature of that particular quarterly event.

Pretty much everything else stops for **ARRL Field Day, June 27 and 28**. Check out W9FK's effort in New Berlin. You can operate as a home station (on emergency or mains power; the rules are slightly different if you're not on emergency power), but it's more fun with the club. (Or, do what I do; join the club on Saturday, and put together a home, emergency power, QRP operation for a couple hours on Sunday.)

## On the DX side...

FP/KV1J will be operating as a one-man DXpedition from St. Pierre and Miquelon, the French territory just off Newfoundland in Canada. He'll be on from June 27 until July 13, participating in the IARU HF Contest, and favoring 12, 10, and 6 meters (though he'll also be on 60 meters some). SSB, CW, FT modes.

5H1KB will activate Zanzibar in Tanzania from June 3-12, focusing on 6 meters but also active on HF. He'll be on digital modes for sure.

There are activations planned in Rwanda, Mozambique, and Cape Verde in June, but most are holiday style (1 person and 1 radio, on a couple hours per day). Lots are active in the FT8 multistream modes (MSHV, Fox/Hound modes). See [dx-world.net](http://dx-world.net) for details.

See you next month,  
-Michael AA9RK

## WARAC Group.IO info

The WARAC Group.IO is up and running with some activity. At this writing we have 23 WARAC members signed up as members.

If you are a WARAC member and want to sign up send me a note at KA9FZR@gmail.com and I will send you an invitation.

## Editorial

Started down another path playing with antennas. I bought a Nano spectrum analyzer. It is a good affordable piece of test equipment. Especially compared to the ones I worked with at the FAA!

Only had time for a short test. It was interesting not what I expected and bought up more questions than answers. More to come.

This year it looks like I will be able to get out to Field day. Always fun with or without operating.

So hope to see you some time in June

73  
Frank editor

## OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE MODEM CALLED A VARA REPLACEMENT

(Source: [Amateur Radio Newline Report 05/14/2026](#))

Submitted by Pierre KD9SSY, permission granted

Developers have announced the release of Mercury, an open-source software modem that they are calling a replacement for Vara. Mercury is a digital radio OFDM protocol, which can be used for HF broadcast and peer-to-peer ARQ connections with compatible TCP interfaces.

According to Peter Bloom, general coordinator of the developer Rhizomatica, Mercury is compatible with Windows, Linux and a number of non-Intel architectures.

Peter told Newline that Mercury, the newest element of Rhizomatica's HERMES software suite, it is built for reliable store-and-forward email and file transfer over HF radio links. He said it is compatible with most HF transceivers and it complies with ham radio use. The project coordinator is Rafael Diniz, PU2UIT.

He said that Mercury has a number of advantages over Vara, including improved performance over high-SNR links.

There is no license fee. For more information: <https://www.rhizomatica.org/rhizomatica-releases-mercury-a-fully-open-source-modem-for-data-communications-on-hf/>

## Interesting Projects

RADIANT brings Delay-Tolerant Networking (DTN) to amateur radio, enabling store-and-forward messaging across disrupted links from terrestrial ground stations to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and ultimately to cislunar space.

The project implements Bundle Protocol version 7 (BPv7) over amateur radio links using LTP wrapped directly in KISS framing. The architecture is DTN-implementation-agnostic — a common abstraction layer supports multiple DTN engines (NASA Glenn's HDTN, JPL's ION-DTN,  $\mu$ D3TN, and Hardy) through a unified interface, allowing operators to select the engine best suited to their platform and mission phase. Station identification is achieved through callsign-embedded DTN Endpoint Identifiers (e.g. dtn://g4dpz/spacecraft) carried in every bundle's metadata, ensuring regulatory compliance while using numeric ipn:// addresses for efficient routing.

See: <https://radiant.amsat-uk.org/>

**MOONRF** An open space communications hardware & software initiative empowering the public to connect across the world by bouncing signals off the Moon—and more!  
<https://moonrf.com/>

**QuadRF** 4-antenna / 4x4 MIMO SDR tile. One exciting thing about QuadRF is that it moves software-defined radio beyond **time** and **frequency** and into the **spatial domain**.

This is most obvious in the real-time RF camera mode, **that gives an augmented-reality heat-map of all the RF signals around you**. Check out the video - <https://youtu.be/zdJ9Tbm8ALg?t=584>



March 2026 \* Hamtrix \* By Michael Johnson, WO9B

### Pi Time

I've been in the shack remodeling mode for the past month or so. The process is moving in starts and stops and I am committing the major sin of remodeling by not following the proven method of Plan > Construct > Adjust > Complete. No, that is not my process this time around. I'm doing the daring (stupid??) method of Conceptualizing > Trials > Reiterate > Confirmation > Construct. It is a dangerous process, but being a construction professional, I'm all in.

A major goal is to reduce the haystack of wires around my desk as I ultimately want to end up with an island desk in the middle of the room and that leads me to the realization that I will need to figure out all about remote operations with my gear. Or at least some of it. And that is what got me looking into the current list of Raspberry Pi's.

As I started looking around, it was evident the RPi market had changed. Availability is "iffy" and the price has risen. Hmmmm. As luck would have it, last week's Random Wire had an article on exactly that subject, "[Why are Raspberry Pis so Expensive?](#)" The article references a RPi price and availability agglomerator called [rpilocator](#). That alone is worth reading the article.

Country: US

SKU	Description	Link	Update Status	Vendor	In Stock	Last Stock	Price
SC0510	Raspberry Pi Zero 2 W	<a href="#">Link</a>	⊗	Digi-Key (US)	Yes	02-Jun-26	(USD) <a href="#">15.00</a>
SC0020WH	Raspberry Pi Zero W (w/ headers)	<a href="#">Link</a>	⊙	Adafruit (US)	Yes	02-Jun-26	(USD) <a href="#">16.00</a>
SC0020	Raspberry Pi Zero W	<a href="#">Link</a>	⊙	Adafruit (US)	Yes	02-Jun-26	(USD) <a href="#">15.00</a>
RPI5-8GB	RPi 5 - 8GB RAM	<a href="#">Link</a>	⊗	Digi-Key (US)	Yes	02-Jun-26	(USD) <a href="#">80.00</a>

Depending on how capable I end up making this device, the next hurdle will be memory and storage. "Why are Raspberry Pis so Expensive? There are also a bunch of pi-hats that are of interest. All are priced outside of the bargain bin these days. So even for a budget device, the price has risen into the hundreds. To be fair, the capabilities have gone exponential so perhaps the value proposition still remains.

My first hurdle is to remote my Elecraft Tuner which runs on a 2013 Windows network program. The AI programming tools will be very helpful in converting it to a linux run program. Maybe.



**America Worked All States (WAS) is a year-long event**, calling all radio amateurs worldwide to make contact with all 50 US states in honor of America's 250th Anniversary. ARRL will produce a basic achievement award for amateur radio operators who meet the challenge. There are also 3 endorsements. Each week several W1AW states are on the air calling cq on different modes and bands. This week the states of Colorado W1AW/0 and Montana W1AW/7 are on the air. These contacts will be confirmed on Log Book of the World.

In April Gil, myself and a group of hams from Wisconsin operated as W1AW/9. We assigned ourselves two hour shifts on a shared spreadsheet for a mode and band. The Wisconsin Team made over 5,000 qso's. To participate check out the [America250 on the ARRL website](#). View the schedule weekly to see the states and operators calls. Wisconsin W1AW/9 is scheduled again the week of October 21, 2026. Our lead operator is W9XT Gary Sutcliffe. There is still an opportunity to work all 50 states until the end of the this year.

73 Donna WB9TFF and Gil WB9TFH

## Sendik's fund raiser Thank YOU

To all who helped with the May Sendik's fund raiser: 'Thanks for your time and companionship'. I want to know who got to order the weather. They have a pernmnrnt job it was the best I can remember.

**Remember we have another one on September 12**

**Thanks again**

Frank KA9FZR

**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.

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