



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

Volume 75, Issue 1 January, 2026

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

## JANUARY CLUB HAPPENINGS



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

**See pages 11 and 12 for  
more info and Menu**

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

**See page 7 for info on the  
upcoming WARAC GROUPS- IO**

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

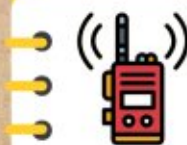
Several years ago there was talk among Nut Net members that we should get to meet each other. A breakfast get together idea was started. It was open to all hams, XYL/partners and anyone who wanted to learn about amateur radio. Even visiting OM/XYL couples joined us.

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.



# Happy New Year WARAC



*Christmas has slipped into January, and our holiday snow has retreated—at least for now. This is shaping up to be a typical Milwaukee winter, though I'm betting the snow will return soon enough to remind us that truly nice weather is still a ways off. I hope everyone survived the holidays and enjoyed time with family and friends. We certainly did, and we ate very well in the process.*

*The mid-week Christmas and*

*New Year's holidays really threw off my internal clock. I kept thinking Friday was Sunday. I'm happy to report that the recovery is complete. 2026 awaits. Our January Holiday Party is all set and will replace the regular monthly meeting. Despite some vocal support for Pizza Ranch, we've made arrangements at a slightly more appropriate destination: the Machine Shed Restaurant in Pewaukee. The club has a positive history there—back in our annual Awards Banquet days, I recall the Machine Shed hosting us more than once.*

*We're scheduled to meet on **Tuesday, January 13th at 6:30 PM**. Just ask at the host stand for the West Allis Radio Club and they'll point you in the right direction. We're working on a separate-bill arrangement, so grab a chair, an appropriate beverage, and enjoy a relaxed evening together.*

*Other club business is fairly light this month. The only significant item is an upcoming Board Meeting, tentatively scheduled for **Monday, January 26th at 7:00 PM**. We'll be meeting via Jitsi, so if you'd like to attend, let me know and I'll forward the invitation and connection details. Nothing exciting on the agenda—just normal club business.*

*As a follow-up to an item from the November meeting, I've submitted a proposal to the City of New Berlin for a large-screen TV to replace the existing unit in our new meeting room. Before launching any fundraising effort for the "monster," I wanted to gather our benefactor's thoughts and preferences. Personally, I'd really like to retire the practice of dragging a projector screen around.*

*That's it for this month. I'm looking forward to a great dinner—and no presentation—this Tuesday!!*

## **WARAC General Meeting Minutes - December 9, 2025**

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

Attendance: 24 - 20 Member's, 4 Visitor.

**Its Christmas time!!! Wish everyone a happy and joyful Christmas Season.**

ARRL sent the club one of their 2026 calendars.

**New Pre-Meeting location:** December - Senor Luna's. Keep an eye on Hamtrix for February's location.

**Club Archives Initiative to the DLARC:** Bill Reed and Scott Sherer, volunteered to upload the club clubs collection of Hamtrix to the DLARC. We are looking for a volunteer to go through Tom Macon's 2 filing cabinets of club's documents and see which docs should be uploaded.

Frank, KA9FZR, is working on setting up the clubs new GroupsIO. More info to follow.

Zero Retries: The GEOS satellite project. AMSAT-DL proposal for an Amateur Radio Geosynchronous Satellite.

Operating Events: 10 Meter Contest, begins Fri. @ 6pm for 48 hours. SSB, CW. 12 Days of Christmas Special event runs, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> - Dec.26<sup>th</sup>. Lord's a Leaping certificate.

**Special ELECTION - Treasurer Results:  
Treasurer: Jerry Roeder, K9HOG**

General Meeting Minutes: November - Approved.

Board Meeting Minutes: November - Approved.

November Board Meeting Highlights: Working on a Goals and Operational Map for 2026.

Treasurer's Report: No big changes. Approved.

Scholarship Chairman: Gery Beier, KD9VGL is on the job.

Hamtrix: Frank asked for articles. If you have anything interesting, write it up and send it to Frank.

WIQP, Chuck: Getting ready for 2026.

Membership Renewal: 2026 New Club Directory. You need to be a paid member in good standing to be included. If you have any changes in your information. Send to Bill Dargis @ bill.dargis@yahoo.com

**Presentation by Jeff Pahl, W9JSP: NEW Berlin High School Robotics Group**

The students are given a list of the current years competitions goals. And are given a list of approved materials, parts. They then have 6 weeks as a group to design, construct and test there robots. They then compete with other teams in Wisconsin and the USA for awards. We where shown a short video of a competition. They demonstrated one of their past robots, and showed some of its ability. For safety, they where limited in what they could Demo with in our meeting space. The robots are Fast, large and heavy and could cause damage or injuries.

January: Holiday Dinner, place to be determined. Watch Hamtrix.

February: New Berlin Emergency Government – The New Berlin Flood.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Bill Dargis KD9BJZ

Secretary WARAC, December 9, 2025



## Equipment for Sale

Arrow II satellite antenna, never used

MFJ Versa V induction tuner used very little

Chimney antenna mount, never used

Heathkit Warrior amplifier

Heathkit RX-1 Mohawk receiver

Heathkit TX-1 Apache transmitter

Note, Mohawk and Apache may need re-capping. All Heathkit very well built. Do plan to bring a buddy when you come get it all. Amplifier is heavy and located in a downstairs shack. Was originally planned for a "boat anchor" shack, but will not happen now for me. As a member of WARAC, I would ask \$350 obo for the lot. Of that, \$100 will be donated to the WARAC scholarship fund. Thank you for considering. Tom KD9FPC

Email [kd9fpc@yahoo.com](mailto:kd9fpc@yahoo.com) or Cell 414.254.7845.

**MFJ Versa V  
induction tuner**



**Heathkit Warrior  
amplifier**



**Heathkit  
RX-1  
Mohawk  
receiver**



**Heathkit TX-1  
Apache  
transmitter**



# Coming Soon: WARAC Groups.io - A New Way to Stay Connected

7

Over the years, many of us have experienced the same familiar scenario: you hear after the fact that one of your ham radio buddies was on the air, and you just missed the chance to make a contact. That got us thinking—could there be a simple way to let fellow club members know when someone is active and on the air, in real time?

After some discussion and a bit of planning, one possible solution emerged: setting up a Groups.io group for the West Allis Radio Amateur Club. As many of you already know, Groups.io allows a single message to be sent to many members at once, making it a powerful and flexible communication tool.

We're pleased to announce that Groups.io now has a new group called "WARAC." Later this month, current club members will receive an email invitation to join the group. Simply reply to the invitation, and you'll be added. If you prefer not to participate, no action is required—this is strictly optional.

At this time, membership will be limited to WARAC members only. Initially, this will be something of an experiment, and we're excited to see how members choose to use it—whether for on-the-air activity notices, quick updates, or other club-related communication.

We hope this becomes a fun and useful addition to how we stay connected as a club. Please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas once the group is live—and as always, have fun!

## Editorial

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As I have been doing for a long while, I'm still trying to be a good cw operator.. I have a new tool to help with this. This time with my sending rather than receiving. I always thought it would be fun to send to a code reader and see what it sees when I send. Never spent a lot of time working on it. (maybe I didn't want to really know HI HI) Anyway the other Monday at our code practice session Mike WO9B said it might help to send to a machne. Of course I said it was a good idea but I haven't found time to do it.

Mike said there are programs for your cell phone that would do it. A fast look found one named "Morse Code reader" so now I had something to play with.

It has been informative. I was so bad I thought maybe the program wasn't that good. Then I came up with the idea of testing it on some practice morse code from the ARRL Well it wasn't the program, it did good with perfect code!

Back to practicing. The best way I have found to do it if you're using your radio, is plug the radio into a dummy load then find the BK-IN option on your transceiver so no signal goes out.

I will say the practice is helping me see what's happening, I'm too often leaving extra space between the dits and dahs. I am making progress so there is hope HI HI and having fun.

Have great New Year

Frank KA9FZR





Contest Corner and DX Report  
Michael Falk, AA9RK

Happy New Year, ham friends, and good health and good DX to you in the coming year.

Over my Christmas break, when the weather was nice, I was able to adjust the placement of my backyard doublet antenna and hoist it another few feet higher. Will I reap the benefits this contest season? Well, it can't hurt... right? The RTTY Roundup was as fun as promised. I got on for about 100 QSOs and I know Mike WO9B went for about 150 on that ARRL event the first weekend of January.

Some fun events are coming up the second weekend in January. From noon to midnight on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, is the North American QSO Party (NAQP), CW edition. Your exchange is your name and state – easy to copy – and stations may be re-worked (and multipliers counted again!) on each band. The twelve hour time frame is nice for those who don't have 48 hours of BIC (butt-in-chair) time in them. If CW isn't your thing, there is a BPSK63 (!!) digital contest this weekend. It's sponsored by Belgium's national radio organization, but there should be activity on this side of the ocean too.

On the weekend of the 17th-19th, the NAQP is back with its SSB edition (but with the same basic rules – twelve hours on Saturday from noon to midnight, name and state, contacts and multipliers count per band). The North American Collegiate Championship SSB runs concurrently with the NAQP. There is also the PRO Digi Contest, using the RTTY, FT4, and BPSK63 modes. I've never taken part in this contest before but it sounds like a lot of fun. It runs 24 hours from our Friday morning until our Saturday morning. As if that isn't enough, if you are a VHF+ operator, the ARRL January VHF Contest takes place from Saturday afternoon until Sunday night. I've gone on and on about this topic before, but these contests tend to be mostly digital (specifically FT8) and, while FT8 on VHF+ is interesting, it's not the only interesting mode or the only interesting way to make contacts. Rules changes have been tried to encourage more activity in other modes. Specifically the ARRL has created more analog-only entry classes, and CQWW split their VHF contests into



analog and digital editions on separate weekends. We'll see if it makes any difference. Especially in January and September, there are long stretches of time with no propagation enhancement, so if it weren't for digital, there'd be virtually no contacts at all. I guess we'll see if any sporadic-E or aurora liven up that contest.

The two big events on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> are the CQ 160-meter contest (CW) and Winter Field Day. I can't say much about the 160 meter contest, since it would take an electrical miracle for me to even be able to fit a 160 meter antenna on my tiny city property, let alone load it up. Winter Field Day has tinkered with their rules in recent years; some people like the changes and some despise them. At any rate there is a ton of activity on the bands, all bands, all modes, and it's fun to take part even if you're not planning on submitting a log. Just keep in mind you can't use a (summer) Field Day logging program (the exchange is different). If you are operating by yourself from home, your exchange would be "1H WI".

On Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, it's the North American Sprint (SSB) for four hours on Saturday evening. When you call CQ and someone responds, you give up the frequency to them; that's the Sprint gimmick. It's wild. It's fun. It's stressful. Listen for a while and give it a shot if you're interested. (If you do want to try it, read up a little bit on the exchange and why the order changes between the CQing station and the responding station. I'd go into it here but Frank would have to add two pages to Hamtrix.)

Then, on February 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>, there are suddenly a ton of events again. The North American Sprint (CW edition) is running. There are the Minnesota, Vermont, and British Columbia QSO Parties, the 10-10 International Winter Contest (SSB), a Mexican RTTY Contest, and a bunch of smaller (mostly QRP CW) events.

This month, I'm focusing on two rarely heard American prefixes.

**Desecheo Island:** Don't worry, I'd never heard of it either. It's actually an American territory, an uninhabited island west of Puerto Rico, run by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. It's less than a square mile in area, but hilly, with a 700-foot mountain in the middle. This is the first time Desecheo has been activated since 2009. They plan to be on the air around the clock as KP5/NP3VI, on 160-6 meters, on CW, SSB, and FT8, starting somewhere in the January 12-14 window and then for 30 days after that.

**Manu'a Island:** A new one to my ears, Manu'a is part of American Samoa in the Pacific Ocean. This is KH8/VK4MAP, but it is a one-man operation. Darren will be on 10-80 meters through January 11<sup>th</sup>, SSB, on 10-80 meters.

See you next month,  
-Michael AA9RK



January 2026  
WO9B

\*

Hamtrix

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By Michael Johnson,

## MFSK on Short Wave

Here is a new spin on an old niche in our hobby. The Hay Day of Short Wave Radio stations has come and gone, but make no mistake, SWL'rs are alive and well. I admit to paying little attention to this capability of our HF radios, but of late it is getting harder and harder to ignore. Yes, there are broadcasts a plenty on the Short Wave bands. Foreign stations, news, music, country, religious programming just like in the old days. But there is a newish fad which is catching on which broadcasts MFSK modulated photo's between songs or as the theme du jour. It's kind of crazy, but I have to admit I've gotten sucked into this weird corner of our hobby.

It is an easy game to play. Most of us have the necessary tools at hand to participate. MFSK is one of those modes in the popular FLdigi suite of digital programs. It is quite easy to tune your radio to the right frequency at the right time and you'll find yourself in the game. Ah, but wait, there is certainly more than one way to play. What if reception at your QTH is poor? No worries, punch up one of the hundreds of online SDR's (think KiwiSDR for instance) and now you can



find an online SDR that has 59+ reception. Ain't the internet wonderful? Did you miss the broadcast window? Even that is no problem as you just might be able to punch up the streamed online rebroadcast from the SW Station's website. Amazing.

To get you started, the [SWRadiogram Program](#) is the easiest place to start. If you look around their website, you'll find a streamed rebroadcast. The second place to check out is [Pop Shop Radio](#) but you can get the streamed rebroadcast from the webpage.

Both programs use the same

Shortwave Radiogram Transmission Schedule			
UTC Day	UTC Time	Frequency kHz	Transmitter
Friday	0030-0100	9265	WINB Pennsylvania
Saturday	0330-0400	9265	WINB Pennsylvania
Saturday	2300-2330	9455	WRMI Florida
Sunday	1530-1600	9955	WRMI Florida
Monday	0800-0830	5850	WRMI Florida
Wednesday	1330-1400	15770	WRMI Florida
Thursday	0930-1000	7780	WRMI Florida

commercial broadcast service. That's a story in itself, well worth reading up on. [WRMI](#) is out of Florida and makes its living by selling broadcast time. Just WOW.

# WARAC Holiday Dinner



Tuesday, January 13  
6:30 PM

**Machine Shed Restaurant**  
N14W24145 Tower PL  
Pewaukee, WI

Join us for our **annual Holiday Dinner**, a relaxed evening of good food, great conversation, and club camaraderie as we kick off the new year together. This special event will **replace our regular January meeting**, so bring your appetite—and your stories from the holidays!

The Machine Shed is a familiar favorite with a bit of club history and a reputation for hearty, classic Midwest fare. It's the perfect setting to reconnect after the holidays and toast the year ahead.

[Google Maps Directions](#)

**No radios required—just good company!**

We hope to see you there.

# West Allis Radio Club

## **Classic Fried Chicken - \$19.99**

A large four-piece portion of chicken prepared with secret spices. Served with mashed potatoes with gravy and a vegetable medley.

## **Plowman's Meatloaf - 17.99**

Parmesan-crusted sourdough bread, grilled onions, meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and beef gravy, piled high, and all topped with fried onion strings. Served with a vegetable medley.

## **Classic Cheeseburger - \$16.49**

Cooked to your liking, with cheddar cheese. Served with French fries.

## **Bacon Chicken Dijon Sandwich - \$16.49**

Grilled chicken breast, Swiss cheese, bacon, the Shed's dijonaise, spring greens, and fresh tomatoes, on a ciabatta bun. Served with French fries.

## **Cobb Salad - \$16.49**

Crispy salad greens topped with a grilled chicken breast, avocado, cheddar cheese, olives, tomatoes, bacon, red onion, diced egg, bleu cheese crumble, and your choice of dressing.

## **Sauteed Savory Shrimp - \$23.99**

Plump shrimp sauteed with Old Bay Seasoning and fresh garlic, then baked with white wine, lemon juice, and Asiago cheese. Served with hot toasted bread for dipping, wild rice, and a vegetable medley.

## **Grilled Chicken Breast Dinner - \$16.99**

Tender boneless grilled chicken breasts, served with wild rice and steamed broccoli.

**Cup of Soup - \$4.49**

**Side Salad - \$3.99**



## FCC

### Allocates 60-Meter World-Wide Amateur Band Approved at WRC-15

(Source: <https://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-allocates-60-meter-world-wide-amateur-band-approved-at-wrc-15-continues-amateur-use-of-four-addi>.)

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12/11/2025

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on December 9, 2025, released a long-awaited Report and Order adopting a new amateur radio spectrum allocation in the 60-meter band that was approved for world-wide use on a secondary basis in the WRC-15 (World Radiocommunication Conference 2015) Final Acts. The Commission also agreed with a petition from ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® to continue to allow amateur operations on four existing 60-meter channels outside the international allocation with a full 100 watts. The new rules will go into effect 30 days after publication in the Federal Register, when amateurs may then begin using the allocation.

Specifically, the Commission allocated 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz (60 meters) to the amateur service on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 9.15 watts ERP. The Commission also authorized amateurs to continue using four existing channels outside of the 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz band centered on 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 100 watts ERP. There are no antenna restrictions but antenna gain must be used to calculate ERP.

### ARDC Launches 44Net Connect

(Source: <https://daily.hamweekly.com/2025/12/ardc-launches-44net-connect-easy-access-to-44net-ip-addresses/>)

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ARDC (Amateur Radio Digital Communications) has launched 44Net Connect, a new portal designed to make it easier for ham radio operators to gain access to and experiment with subnets of the 44.0.0.0/8 IP address space. Through the portal, hams can apply for VPN access to 44Net which comes with a dedicated 44Net IP address. Tunnel services are provided through WireGuard with options to add IP networks and autonomous system numbers. Proof of ham radio license is required.

Hams can get started at <https://connect.44net.cloud/>. An overview of 44Net is available on the 44Net Wiki.

### FOR RADIO GEEKS - ka9q-radio

(Source, <https://ka9q-radio.org/>, <https://deepwiki.com/ka9q/ka9q-radio>)

Ka9q-radio is a Linux-based software-defined radio (SDR) system designed for efficient multichannel reception. The system's primary innovation is using IP multicast for all inter-component communication, enabling a modular architecture where processing components can run on the same host or distributed across a network. The core daemon radiod can simultaneously demodulate hundreds of channels from a single SDR frontend on modest hardware.

Design Philosophy and Problem Domain

Ka9q-radio solves the problem of efficiently monitoring many radio channels simultaneously. Traditional SDR applications focus on interactive, single-channel reception with graphical interfaces. Ka9q-radio instead operates as a set of background daemons (radiod, packetd, etc.) optimized for applications requiring multichannel operation:

- **APRS gateways:** Monitoring multiple packet radio channels
- **Repeater monitoring:** Recording all channels on a VHF/UHF band

- **Digital mode skimming:** Simultaneous WSPR, FT8, FT4 monitoring across multiple bands
- **Propagation research:** Wideband spectrum analysis and beacon monitoring
- **WebSDR operations:** Supporting hundreds of concurrent users

The multicast-centric design allows applications to consume output streams without radiod having direct knowledge of them. Components can be started, stopped, and restarted independently without affecting the rest of the system.

### Videos For your Next Turing Test

Here are a couple of short AI videos to help you pass your next Turing Test:

The Alpha Invention - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwpZdPwaSpo>

Sci-Fi Short Film: "Intelligentia" | DUST - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7i9THVcueQ>



Historical Antenna G1, a curtain array, at Hörby shortwave station operated by Radio Sweden. It consists of 16 horizontal wire dipoles in a 4x4 array, suspended in front of a wire screen. Each of the 4 columns of dipoles is fed by a separate open-wire transmission line, which can be seen exiting at an angle from the center of each column. The diagonal wires in the foreground are guy wires. The CCIR designation for this type of antenna (below) is HR 4/4/0.5. Demolished on 2 April 2011

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:

Jerry Roeder K9HOG

Secretary:

Bill Dargis KD9BJZ

Committee member(2)

Scott Sherer, KC9WPS

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