



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

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Volume 64, Issue 5 May, 2017

## MAY CLUB HAPPENINGS



### NUT NET

3.985mhz

Monday-Saturday

8:15am CT

### Milwaukee-Florida Net

Every Day on 14.290 Mhz

7:00AM - 9:15AM ET

6:00AM - 8:15AM CT

### Club Meeting

St. Peter's Episcopal Church,  
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis  
May 9, 2017 6:30 PM

doors open at 6:00pm

**Annual Pizza and Auction Night**

See Page 8 and Presidents Shack for more info.

**Note No Dinner at Johnny V's  
Classic Café this month**

### WARAC 2-meter net

Every Wednesday at 8pm

SEWFARS K9ABC Repeater 146.820 standard (-)offset

127.3 Hz CTCSS

if repeater down try 146.55 simplex



### Field Day

**June 24&25**

**More info**

**Next Month**



Club jackets and hats!

Go to club Web site and click on  
The GOLD MEDAL IDEAS block

**For more info or [click here](#)**



# *The President's Shack May 2017*

The upcoming meeting will be our **Annual Pizza/Auction Meeting!** Rules are simple - you may donate items to be auctioned or you may bring items to be auctioned with a percentage of the proceeds going to our scholarship fund. Look elsewhere in this issue of Hamtrix or on the club website for more information. (page 9)

Please note that the **meeting will start ½ hour earlier (6:30)** and our regular before-meeting dinner at **Johnny V's is cancelled – just for this month.** Doors will open at 6:00. Donations toward the cost of the pizza, soda, etc. will be appreciated.

Our Field Day meeting was held on April 18 with about ten people attending. This year's event will be at the same New Berlin site and we will be in the 2A class, as in recent years. Chairman Chuck, W9WLX, will provide details at the upcoming meeting and at the June meeting. **Field Day weekend is June 24 and 25**, so plan on it!

At our June meeting we will finalize our Field Day plans as usual, but we will also have a special visitor, our **Central Division Director, Kermit Carlson, W9XA.** Kermit will give a report on **Current Issues Facing Amateur Radio and the ARRL.** So be sure to attend this double-header meeting to meet Kermit and help us finalize our Field Day plans.

The Wisconsin QSO Party log submission period ended on March 27 with **309 logs received**, exactly the same number as last year. Logs were received from all 72 Wisconsin counties with four counties, Green, Crawford, Iowa and Shawano, submitting only one log. There was no local activity in these four counties – all Q's were made

by mobiles. And again, no Clean Sweep this year. We hope to have the results finalized by June. Stay tuned!

Don't forget - dinner at Johnny V's Classic Café is **cancelled for May.** We'll be back in June.

See you at the meeting! Come hungry! **Bring stuff to be auctioned. Also bring money** so you can take home some new treasures. Bring a friend, too!  
Tom, K9BTQ

## **From the Editor**

Well I found out that my trouble shooting skills are intact. But my ability to realize that I needed them is a little slow!

What happened was the microphone on FT-817 went out on me. Before I discovered that I went about two weeks. Seems strange but when you consider the propagation on 80 meters for the time it was out was strange to say the least. So with that and the fact that I run QRP I didn't worry too much that I wasn't getting heard the times I tried to check into the Net.

The other time I operated it, Mike WO9B, Bill N9KPH and me went out to operate in Root River Park and test one of Mike's end fed antennas. Again I called and called with no answer. But when Mike tried it with CW he only got one contact. So I didn't think much of it.

The turning point came when I tried to get on the Club's Wednesday 2 meter net. I didn't have any luck but someone mentioned that they heard a radio signal with no audio on the repeater. After that the light slowly turned on so I started doing some testing. No power out on SSB. CW gave full power out. Since I remembered most rigs these day generate CW by using a single tone to generate the rf I was real suspicious of the microphone.

The next day our new candy store (HRO) got a visit. I took the suspicious microphone up and they were

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# **WARAC General Meeting Minutes**

## **April 11, 2017**

### **Introduction**

The meeting was called to order at 19:02 by President, Tom Macon (K9BTQ). Overall meeting attendance was 17 members, plus 00 visitors.

### **Future Programs**

May, '17: Pizza feast & auction

June '17: Current issues facing amateur radio and the American Radio Relay League  
Field Day 2017 introduction

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

- End-fed ½ wave m Antenna for QRP – Dave Garnier (WB9OWN)
- “Story Time” – Ron Gorski (N9AU)
- “Story Time” – Howard Smith (WA9AXQ)
- WIQP Preliminary Data – Tom Macon (K9BTQ)
- Tom Macon (K9BTQ) led a review of John Zach (K9IAC) (SK) club involvement, showing many nostalgic photos.

### **Business**

- Motion was made and accepted to approve the March general meeting minutes as published in Hamtrix.
- The club purchased a trailer in accordance with direction of the board and a favorable vote during the March 14, 2017 general meeting. Steve Dryja (NO9B) transported the trailer from the factory in Indiana to his house. Member input regarding properly outfitting the interior is requested.
- A discussion regarding income from equipment donations revealed that as a significant step toward increasing our scholarship endowment in order to increase our scholarship amount.
- A claim for the “Worked All Wisconsin Counties” award was received and approved. N9KY will be awarded Certificate № 8.

The constitutionally-required financial audit was completed and approved by Bill Reed (N9KPH).

The meeting was adjourned at 20:50.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV)  
Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.  
2017-04-11

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

## **April 25, 2017**

Howard Smith (WA9AXQ) called the meeting to order at 19:04.

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

Howard Smith (WA9AXQ) presented the monthly Treasurer's report.

The 2015 & 2016 audit results were returned as accurate. Our thanks to Bill Reed (N9KPH) for his diligence.

Club web URL – Tom will update the warac.org domain information.

Club trailer has been purchased and currently resides with Steve Dryja (NO9B). Steve is organizing the trailer build-out. Howard is handling the insurance.

Sunshine committee needs to be formalized.

Club operation manual was discussed. Tom updated the ftp site.

### **Programs**

May, 2017: Pizza night & auction  
June, 2017: Field Day Plans, ARRL Challenges  
July, 2017: ?  
August, 2017: ?

### **Other Items**

2 Meter FM Net Wednesdays at 20:00.

### **Future Program Ideas**

Logger 32 logging software  
SO2R Contest operating?  
WE Energies or Time-Warner Cable  
noise tracking  
Feedlines  
Solar weather  
Ham trivia night  
Story night  
Careers  
VHF/UHF Digital Communications

Meeting was adjourned at 20:47.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV)  
Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.  
2017-04-25

## **Origin of the term “Radio”**

### **From “United States Early Radio History” by Thomas H. White**

Radio, currently a synonym for "electromagnetic radiation", actually first came into use before Heinrich Hertz's proof of the existence of radio waves. Originally "radio" was a general prefix meaning "radiant" or "radiation" -- hence "radio-activity" for the alpha, beta, and gamma rays emitted by decaying atoms. In Europe, some of the persons investigating Hertz's discovery began to employ the "radio-" prefix to describe the new phenomenon -- for example, in 1890 Edouard Branly, writing in his native French, called his coherer-receiver a radio-conducteur. This usage spread to other languages, thus, a December 29, 1897 Electrical Review report on "Hertzian Telegraphy in France" noted that "Mr. Branly... calls these receivers 'radio-conducting tubes'." Other compound usages soon followed. A letter in the January 21, 1898 issue of The Electrician (London) suggested that the term "radio-telegraphy" might be preferable to "wireless telegraphy", and the October 24, 1902 issue included an article titled "The Radio-telegraphic Expedition of the H.I.M.S. 'Carlo Alberto'", while "The Wireless Telegraph Conference", in the November 20, 1903 issue of the same magazine, included numerous references to "radio-telegrams", "radiograms", "radiographic stations" and "radio-telegraphy", and a report about Belgium marine applications in the November 19, 1904 Electrical Review noted that "radio-telegraphy has entered into the domain of current practice". The 1906 Berlin Radiotelegraphic Convention helped spread use of this new term to the United States, and the November 10, 1906 issue of Electrical Review reported this conference had dealt with "the growing use of wireless telegraphy -- or rather, radio-telegraphy -- as we suppose we should say now, since this new designation was adopted by the conference". There was some skepticism about the change -- in the preface to the 1910 edition of his book "Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony", William Maver, Jr. wrote: "This author is aware that the authorized designation of wireless telegraphy and telephony is radio-telegraphy and radio-telephony, but for present has adhered to the earlier appellations."

Eventually, compound terms such as "radio-telegraphy" and "radio-telephony" were shortened to just "radio", with perhaps the first example in English being the British Post Office's December 30, 1904 "Post Office Circular", which included instructions for transmitting telegrams that specified that "The word 'Radio'... is sent in the Service Instructions". This practice was adopted internationally two years later by the Berlin Radiotelegraphic Convention, which specified that "Radiotelegrams shall show in the preamble that the service is 'radio'." One of the first persons to popularize this new term in the United States was Lee DeForest -- in early 1907 he incorporated the DeForest Radio Telephone Company, and in a letter about the need for government oversight published in the June 22, 1907 Electrical World, warned that "Radio chaos will certainly be the result until such stringent regulation is enforced." But it was the Navy that did the most to publicize the new word in the U.S., which added "(Radio)" to the title of the 1913 edition of its Manual of Wireless Telegraphy.

Thanks Dave Engelmann WB9GZP for this article



## History of the Nut Net

*"You don't have to be nuts [to join], but it helps!"*

After many years, Bill, K9BTP, and Tom, K9BTQ, reconnected after they retired and one of the reconnections was a weekly sked Wednesday mornings on 75 meters. This happened after Tom got back on the air, and specifically, after he put up a 75 meter antenna in the late winter of 2008.

This once-a-week meeting between two guys grew into a larger group within a few weeks. A stimulus for this was the Milwaukee-Florida Net on 20 meters,



Tom, K9BTQ and Bill, K9BTP

which exists to connect Wisconsin hams in Florida with their buddies back in Wisconsin. Of course 20 meters depends on skip, so people who checked from various parts of Wisconsin and the upper Midwest couldn't hear each other and couldn't communicate directly. So Tom and Bill's sked, which was right after the Mke-Fla net, soon attracted several other Milwaukee and Wisconsin hams and it became a daily rehash of that day's 20 meter net. Among those who joined from the Milwaukee area were Chuck, N9DII; Tom, W9VBQ; and Leon, K9GCF along with several members of the West Allis RAC: John, K9IAC; brother Bob, KC9AGX; Phil, W9NAW; Dick, W9JBE; Gene, W9RYT; and George, AA9SR.

From outside Milwaukee came Walter, WA9ISG, of St Germain; Ted, KD8HYT, of Petersburg, MI (grandson of Bob, W8RZZ, Mke-Fla net member); and Bill, K9IUF, of Portland, MI (son of Bill, W9EQP, longtime net control of the Mke-Fla net).

But it was much more than a rehash of the Mke-Fla net. There was a certain amount of craziness, such as good-natured harassment of "The Doubler" John-9, K9IAC, whose quick foot caused him to often double with others. (There were too many John's on the Florida net, so they were assigned numbers – John-4, John-9, etc.).

A daily highlight was the Blarney Glen Report by Tom (aka Tom-Tom), W9VBQ, which updated the group on the latest goings-on at Malarkey Manor, his 1880's farmhouse just east of Newburg, WI. Tom often added stories on happenings at his (imaginary) massage parlor. Tom's unique brand of humor and Photoshop work were a big part of the early Nut Net.

So where did the name come from? It seemed like a pretty crazy group and it was Bill BTP that said something like, "You don't have to be nuts to join this group, but it helps". Calling it the "Nut Net" just seemed natural. And what about a logo? There was discussion about squirrels, acorns and such, then someone, probably Tom VBQ, chimed in with, "What about a mechanical nut?" That did it – we became mechanical Nuts.

Eye-ball QSO gatherings of Nuts began in 2009, maybe earlier. On September 17, 2009, there was a lunch in Rhinelander attended by six Nuts and their brides. Leon GCF flew his Comanche from West Bend to Rhinelander with Tom BTQ and Bob AGX aboard. Bill BTP, Walter ISG and John-9 IAC (who was at his summer place near Rhinelander) rounded out the gang of six. Also, a monthly breakfast, instigated by Phil NAW, began in the Milwaukee area, probably in late 2008.

Long live the Nut Net!

-Tom, K9BTQ – April 2017



John-9 kissing the Blarney Stone at Malarkey Manor.

# Musings

Mike Johnson, WO9B

May 3, 2017

This is sort of the “shoulder season” for our radio hobby. As we all get ready for the warm weather to descend on us, here are a few things that have caught my interest.

**Armed Forces Day Crossband Communications:** The annual Army/Navy/Air Force crossband communications event is scheduled for Saturday, May 13th. Details are available here:

<http://www.usarmymars.org/home/announcements> Being honest, I’ve attempted this event a couple of times and have yet to hear any of the military stations. If I’m around that day, I’ll give it a try. Maybe the third time is the charm.

**K1EL Keyer:** It isn’t often that I run into an article heralding a piece of equipment that I actually own. So when I ran across this article, <http://www.amateurradio.com/upgrade-to-k1el-winkeyer-usb-2/>, I almost burst a button. If you do CW, then you know how important a good keyer is. Geez, almost every radio has a built in keyer these days so you might wonder just why an external keyer is needed. I bought it primarily to interface my computer to my QRP radio for running the WI QSO Party mobile. I now use it all the time because, gosh, it is a really capable piece of gear. The article paints a pretty good picture of this nicely designed unit. Highly recommended for those of the dit and dot persuasion.

**Adopt Donated Gear:** Here is something we can all do to help our club. Steve, NO9B, our erstwhile VP stewards the equipment donation program. It’s a lot of work and he can really use our help in going through, cleaning up, testing the operation of all the miscellaneous items. Steve spends a ton of his time attending the swap fests disposing of these donations. Frankly, with a little bit of spit and polish, he can get significantly better sales. It is really easy and whatever you can do is appreciated.

**Calling CQ Newsletter:** I recently stumbled on a very nice email newsletter published weekly by Jeff Davis, KE9V titled “Calling CQ”. It arrives every Monday morning in my inbox, just like clockwork. I actually look forward to reading it. It consists of a number of one paragraph subjects, a few internet links of interest and closes with some commentary at the end. It is very pleasant and well done. And it is FREE. Take a look at it, sign up and enjoy: <https://tinyletter.com/ke9v>

**Live Stream Dayton:** Can’t make it to Dayton Hamvention this year? Fear not, you can almost be there by tuning into the various internet live streaming broadcasts. Here are a couple of links to check out:

The official DARALive: <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/daralive>

The W5KUB Live Streaming and Prizes: <http://w5kub.com/>

In the past, the Contest U and the QRP event Four Days in May were live streamed. I have not found those links this year, but maybe as the date approaches that will change. I’ve watched the W5KUB a couple of times. It can be a little lame, but I have to admit to enjoying it. Check them out.

**Out Door Operating:** One thing last year's NPOTA did was to hook me on outdoor operating. Sure, Field Day works, but that is only one weekend. I want to do the outside QSO thing a lot more. Like weekly. Well I've paired my portable equipment down to a nice little go bag, but it really helps to have an event or two to get the juices going. So here you go, a few to plan on:  
WARAC Wednesday Night 2 Meter Beer Garden Net: Date to be determined, meet at Whitnall Park!!

RaDAR - Rapid Amateur Radio Deployment. This is a little different, check out the Google Groups page, <https://plus.google.com/communities/109283065808971118728>

POTA Parks on the Air: Lots-O-Parks, sort of like NPOTA, <https://wwff-kff.com/>

Summits on the Air, SOTA: This is the original, one and only: <http://sota.org.uk/>

## **Pizza - Auction**

As soon as the Pizza is gone, it's Auction time! Here's how it's going to work.

There will be two modes. You may donate your items to the club, or you may have your item auctioned with 10% (or more?) of the selling price going to the club. All club proceeds will go to our scholarship fund.

If you want to donate your items, simply put them on the tables indicated for that when you bring them in. If you want your items auctioned, please mark the items with your name, starting price and minimum selling price and put them on the indicated table.

Come hungry, bring your auction items, plus plenty of money to buy the treasures you will take home. Have a good time! CU there!

- Tom, K9BTQ



Two sites looking at improving signals received and sent.

[https://www.ecnmag.com/news/2017/03/engineers-devise-two-way-radio-single-chip?et\\_cid=5864744&et\\_rid=353748193&type=headline&et\\_cid=5864744&et\\_rid=353748193&linkid=Engineers+Devise+Two-Way+Radio+On+a+Single+Chip](https://www.ecnmag.com/news/2017/03/engineers-devise-two-way-radio-single-chip?et_cid=5864744&et_rid=353748193&type=headline&et_cid=5864744&et_rid=353748193&linkid=Engineers+Devise+Two-Way+Radio+On+a+Single+Chip)

<https://www.ecnmag.com/news/2016/03/engineers-design-next-generation-non-reciprocal-antenna?cmpid=horizontalcontent>

## Editor

very helpful, letting me test it on a FT-817. I was right, it was bad! It's nice when it happens. They had one in stock so I was able to get back on the air.

I hope to at least be able to spend some time at the auction next week. I have another commitment but I might be able to get out early!

73

Frank KA9FZR

### Officers and Board

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Tom Macon, K9BTQ

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***See our Web Page or contact us  
for more information on***

- WARAC Memorial Scholarships
- Wisconsin QSO Party
- Midwinter Swapfest
- Worked all Wisconsin Counties Award
- Amateur Radio Classes

WARAC holds meetings on the second Tuesday of each month and board meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at 7:00 PM at:

**St Peter's Episcopal Church  
7929 W. Lincoln Avenue  
West Allis, WI**

Entry is off the alley at the rear of the church.  
A wheel chair ramp and chair-lift are available.