



Official Publication of the
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Hamtrix

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SEPTEMBER CLUB HAPPENINGS



Sendik's Grill fundraiser
September 6, 2025
11:00 to 4:00 pm
At the New Berlin store



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

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

Meeting
starts
7:00pm
More info
on page 8

September 9th 2025 Meeting

Brian Ganiere, AD9AL presents:
The Milwaukee Astronomical Society –
93 years of Amateur Astronomy in Milwaukee
With a Connection to Amateur Radio

Important Note!

We *will* be meeting at the Milwaukee
Astronomical Society:

18850 W. Observatory Rd, New Berlin

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

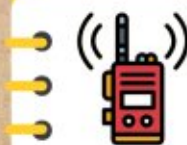
Several years ago there was talk among Nut Net members that we should get to meet each other. A breakfast get together idea was started. It was open to all hams, XYL/partners and anyone who wanted to learn about amateur radio. Even visiting OM/XYL couples joined us.

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.

WARAC End of Summer..

Things are moving quickly in these post Dog Dayz of Summer. Labor Day has come and gone with an end of summer weekend that was absolutely beautiful. I hope everyone



took advantage and soaked up a bit of the sun and nice temperatures. I spent the 3-day weekend in the UP. It was great to get out and about, but even better to make it home safe and sound.

We have a bunch of club news to chat about. Up first is the final round of the Sendik's Grill Fundraiser for this Saturday, September 6th from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. As usual it will be at the Sendik's store in New

Berlin at National Ave and Moorland. This one kind of snuck up on us, but Chairman Frank, KA9FZR, runs a good show and by now I think we all know the drill. It is a great time, easy work, lots of socializing and the club makes a few dollars for our efforts. What could be better. Hope you can make it, if but to grab a fistful of bratwurst and chips.

Next up is the September Monthly Meeting. As we all know, our cherished home for the past several years at the old New Berlin Community Center is kaputz. Our new home at the Hickory Grove Community Center at the corner of Sunnyslope and Cleveland Ave's in New Berlin is, well, not quite ready for business at this time. Rather than push our luck we are moving the September Meeting to the Milwaukee Astronomical Society facility at 18850 W Observatory Road, New Berlin. This was the idea of Brain Ganiere, AD9AL who will be doing a bang up presentation as well. We talked about doing an offsite meeting at the Observatory, but it just never came together. So see you a there at the usual 7:00 PM meeting time.

In the sad news department, I hope everyone will remember in their prayers long, long time member Louie Golembiewski, W9GSV who passed away on August 22nd. I knew Louie only as a back row curmudgeon when I first joined the club. He would hold court with the other senior club members and would toss out unprompted quips during meetings. I liked that a lot. Louie's service was this past weekend. You can catch Tom Macon's write up a couple pages deeper in this issue.

Finally, a quick mention that club elections will be held at the next meeting. At this time it seems most of the officers will be running for re-election, with the notable exception of Treasurer. Bill Reed, N9KPH, has indicated he will be stepping back after a bunch of years. Tough shoes to fill. If you have an itch to jump into the frey, let me know. We welcome new participation and only good things come from getting new people and ideas into action. Think about it.

CU Tuesday!! And Saturday to flip a few brats!!!

August pizza meeting minutes

WARAC Pizza Social - August 12, 2025

New Berlin, WI 53151

WARAC Pizza Social - August 12, 2025

Lions Park shelter #2
14900 W Overland Trail
New Berlin, WI 53151

Attendance 19. 16 Members, 3 Visitors.

Started at 6:00pm and went after 8pm.
We socialized, enjoyed pizza. And Michael and Max provided a 2M Fox hunt.

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We socialized, enjoyed pizza. And Michael and Max provided a 2M Fox hunt.

Respectfully Submitted
Bill Dargis KD9BJZ
Secretary WARAC, August 12, 2025

Contest Corner and DX Report

Michael Falk, AA9RK

Last month I said that summer is going by too fast; today I'll say that it went by too fast. It was great to see many of you at the park meeting, and we hope you enjoyed the foxhunt. Brayden and Max found the transmitter first – they've gotten a lot of practice recently – but I think everyone who hunted was successful in finding it.

September 6 and 7, I think the marquee event is the CWOps CW Open. It is much like the NAQP but only 4 hours long, with three different 4 hour events on the same weekend. They run from 7-11 PM local on Friday, from 7-11 AM local on Saturday, and 3-7 PM local on Saturday. You can participate in one, two, or all three events, though you will maximize your score if you concentrate your QSOs in one event. Exchange is name and serial number, and speeds tend to be fast. There is also the Wake-Up! QRP Sprint on this weekend, various Field Day events from other parts of the world, Ohio State Parks on the Air, a PODXS 070 event on the PSK31 mode, and the Tennessee QSO Party.

On September 13 and 14, there is another marquee CW event, the North American Sprint. It's four hours long on Saturday evening local time, and it uses that quirky rule where once you call CQ, you give up the frequency to the person who called you. It's challenging but enjoyable. Speeds are, again, pretty high. For the VHF/UHF crowd, the ARRL September VHF Contest also runs that weekend, from Saturday afternoon until Sunday evening local, along with the ARRL EME contest if you are into bouncing signals off the moon. The Worked All Europe SSB DX contest is also running, along with the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) Weekend Sprintathon (which is CW, like the Sprint, but focusing on straight keys and therefore at much more moderate speeds).

The 20th and 21st of September bring many state QSO parties – Iowa, Texas, New Jersey, New Hampshire, and the Washington State Salmon Run – along with the Wisconsin Parks on the Air event. (Check out wipota.com for info on that Wisconsin event.) There is also a Saturday night Sprint event that weekend, but on RTTY instead of CW. (That's a thing about RTTY – everyone goes the same speed!) There's also the BARTG PSK63 contest, sponsored by a British digital group, along with a whole mess of QRP events (Walk for the Bacon [slow speed], Run for the Bacon [fast speed], and the ARS Flight of the Bumblebees) which have their own nuances and quirks. The following Monday (September 22) there is an evening 144 MHz Fall Sprint (which is not a Sprint in the “give up your CQ frequency” sense, but in the “4 hours long” sense).

The last weekend in September brings the Maine QSO Party along with the CQ Worldwide DX Contest (RTTY). There aren't an awful lot of SSB contests in September, it seems. October will treat the phone ops better.

What DX is on the air? Well...

XW4YY in Laos, with an IC-7300 and verticals, is on 40-10 meters until September 11th. He is on SSB and FT8.

A35JK in Tonga is QRV until September 12th. He is on 80 through 6 meters, active local evenings and weekends.

u, 160-6 meters plus satellites, truly all modes (CW, phone, FT modes, RTTY, Slow Scan, plus rocks [meteor scatter].)

WE9G/KH2 gets to activate Guam from September 11-26. He's primarily FT8 but will work CW and phone also. He's going to try 160-6 meters.

V6D is a big one. German ops **are activating** Micronesia (Chuuk) from September 22 until October 6. 160 to 6 meters, CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8. Check out their website at v6d.mydx.de for frequencies and details. They have Elecraft transceivers, amplifiers, Spiderbeams, verticals, and rhombic loops. They are well stocked and I hope they will have big signals.

Scandinavia! OJ0W and OJ0YL are activating tiny treeless island Market Reef, shared between Sweden and Finland, from September 20-26. 160-6 meters (emphasis on low bands), all modes, around the clock ops with amplifiers.

More Scandinavia! JW0B is running a mini-DXpedition from Svalbard (off Norway), focusing on high bands CW and RTTY, from September 24-28.

See you next month,
-Michael AA9RK





September 2025

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Hamtrix

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By Michael Johnson, WO9B

TIDRadio H3 Mods

Several months ago, I shared my pickup of the uber hackable **H3 TIDRadio**. As is the way of these things, its popularity has proven to be short-lived and the festival of inexpensive quasi-disposable UHF/VHF import radios has moved on to other shiny radio baubles. At the last meeting (I think???) someone mentioned that Prime Day pricing was an irresistible \$20 or so. I know a few club members picked one up...maybe more than one. Personally, I've got two and have found them to be wonderfully useful for around the house duty. They are built to acceptable durability standards and are reasonably capable. They are not a "Big Three" level of radio quality, but for my minimal use, they are more than enough. I thought I'd share a couple of Hack Experiences. Maybe you'll get an idea or two.



1. Hacked Firmware: The firmware mod replaces TID's stock firmware with a custom version produced by a UK ham. It is very much superior to the original but is not well documented and is sort of casually organized. Fear not, it won't brick your radio so in the event of misfortune, it can be undone and restored to factory. The author goes by the name **NICsure** and his work effort is available via his [Patreon page](#): You will find it in the nicFW H3 Releases Collection. I am running the latest version 2.52.22 and can vouch for it. I would not go back to the stock version because:

- a. DTMF Memories that make interfacing with my AllStar node a snap
- b. Simplifies the dual PTT buttons and lets you program how they are used
- c. Enhances the BlueTooth capability and usability for code plug updates and cloning.
- d. Offers very fine grain setup capabilities including power modes, squelch, audio deviation
- e. Adds Group tagging and sorting to the channels which is actually very useful.

2. Hacked Firmware Documentation: Documentation is not NICsure's strong suit. Neither is support. If you choose to do this, you will pretty much be on your own. At one point a user prepared a very good [user's manual for the 2.52.11 firmware version](#) but that is no longer on the NICsure site. Despite it being a bit out of date, the updates have been mostly bugfixes and small feature requests, so the linked manual is very very useful.

3. Stubby Antenna: Get a [stubby antenna](#). The range is surprisingly useful and long. We went camping last weekend and it covered the entire 80 acre campsite. Car to Car communication worked for maybe 100 yards or so. This is based on running at ½ watt power. If you insist on using the radio to chat on local repeaters from your easychair, you may want to stick with the stock antennas, but, well, that's your choice.

All in all, this has been a really good, fun, satisfying little radio. I'm glad I jumped in and picked it up.



September 9th 2025 Meeting, 7pm

Brian Ganiere, AD9AL presents:

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society –

93 years of Amateur Astronomy in Milwaukee

With a Connection to Amateur Radio

**Weather permitting we can do some stargazing through
the telescope in spite of a nearly full moon**

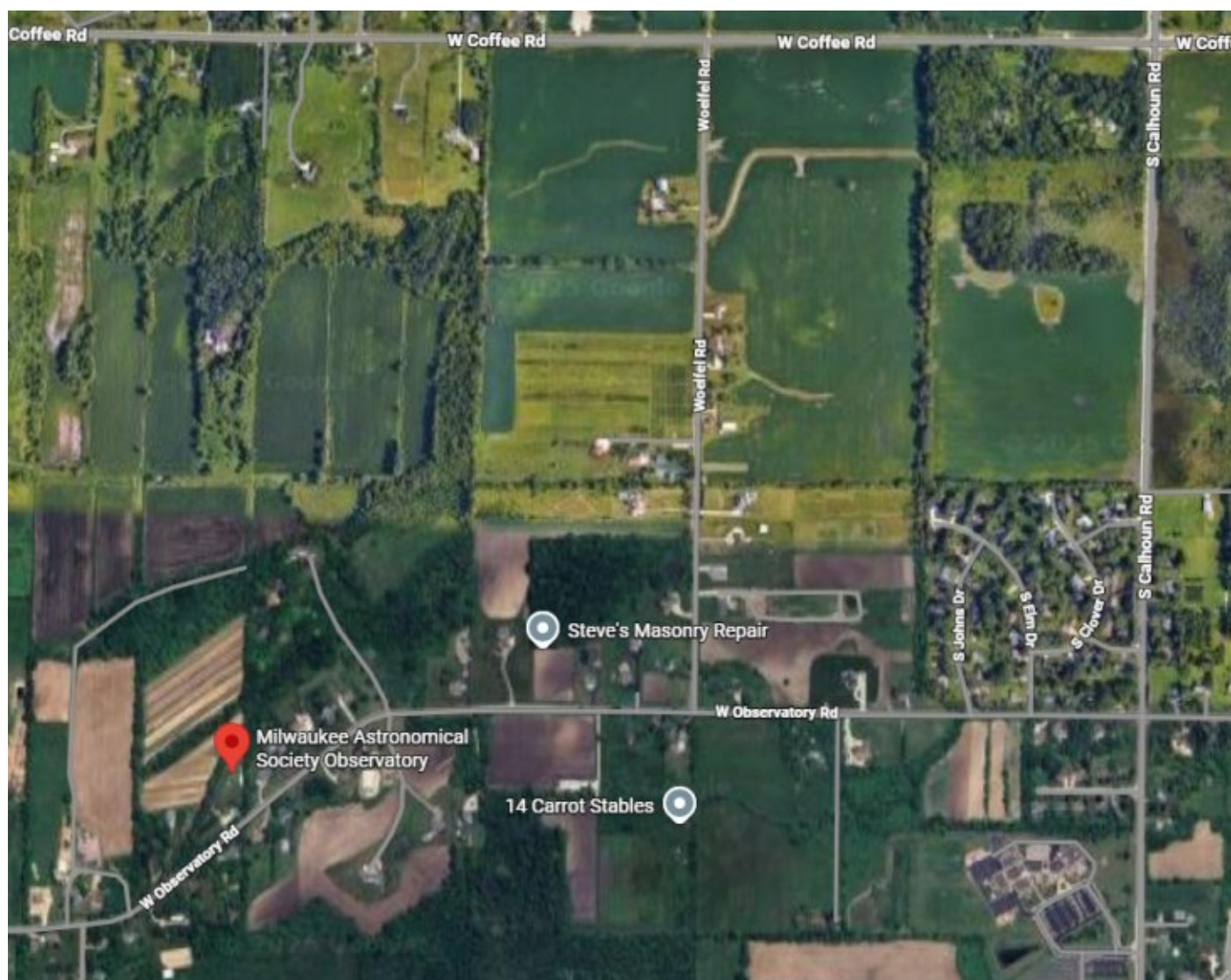
Important Note!

We will be meeting at the **Milwaukee Astronomical Society at 7pm:**

18850 W. Observatory Rd, New Berlin

One mile West of S. Calhoun Rd, .7 miles east of S. Racine Avenue

Click on the map below:



Louie Golembiewski, W9GSV

Silent Key

September 16, 1928 - August 22, 2025

A long-time WARAC member became a Silent Key on August 22 with the passing of Louie Golembiewski, W9GSV. Club records from the early days are sketchy, but there is a picture of a shirtless young Louie in 1956 WARAC Field Day pictures, so he was a very early member of our club (which was formed in 1954). Also, his name shows up in a 1961 membership roster.

Louie grew up on Milwaukee's south side and graduated from the old Boy's Tech High School in 1947, where he learned the electrician trade. He then began an apprenticeship at the Milwaukee Road railroad but was drafted into the Army a few months later. He completed his 3½ year apprenticeship in 1956 after returning from military service.

His military experience took him into combat in the Korean War where he was an artillery spotter. Louie was very proud of his Army service and often told stories about his experiences. He married his wife Alice in 1958 and they settled near 94th and Greenfield in West Allis, where they raised three daughters and a son.

Louie's ham radio activity focused on CW - he was rarely heard on phone. Over the years he worked many DX stations but was not contest-oriented. He also liked tinkering with and selling old electrical and electronic stuff, and he enjoyed swapfesting. A unique sideline was building

CW keys out of miscellaneous parts from old lamps and the like (below left).

Below center is a picture of Louie at his 95th birthday party with his grandson, Liam Bennett, KC9NGW. Liam has expressed an interest in obtaining Louie's W9GSV callsign. Alice and Louie were long-time active members of St Aloysius Catholic Parish at 92nd and Greenfield and it's ironic that demolition of the old church was completed on the day of Louie's funeral. The end of two eras.



UNITED STATES CRYPTOLOGIC HISTORY

SECRET MESSENGERS

Disseminating
SIGINT in the
Second World War:

The Story of the British
SLUs and American SSOs



SERIES IV: WORLD WAR II | VOLUME 12 | 2025
CENTER FOR CRYPTOLOGIC HISTORY

**Interesting book on how monitoring and sharing
info helped shorten WW II. [Click here to go to a
web site where a free pdf is available](#)**

Editorial

September already! What happened to Summer? I look at fall as the time to do preventive maintenance on my outdoor antennas. Being outside 24/7 they all get damaged. Sun, freezing, rain, wind and animals can all contribute to preventing them from operating correctly.

When I worked for the FAA we had annual pm's. We also had a luxury of backups. Our radio sites all had multiple windmill towers, with mutable antennas at the top. One idea I came up with was to have enough spare antennas. I also ensured that they were spread between the towers. This may have looked a little like overkill. But one day we had all the coax going to one tower cut while some construction was being done. We were back up at a hundred percent operation within maybe half an hour.

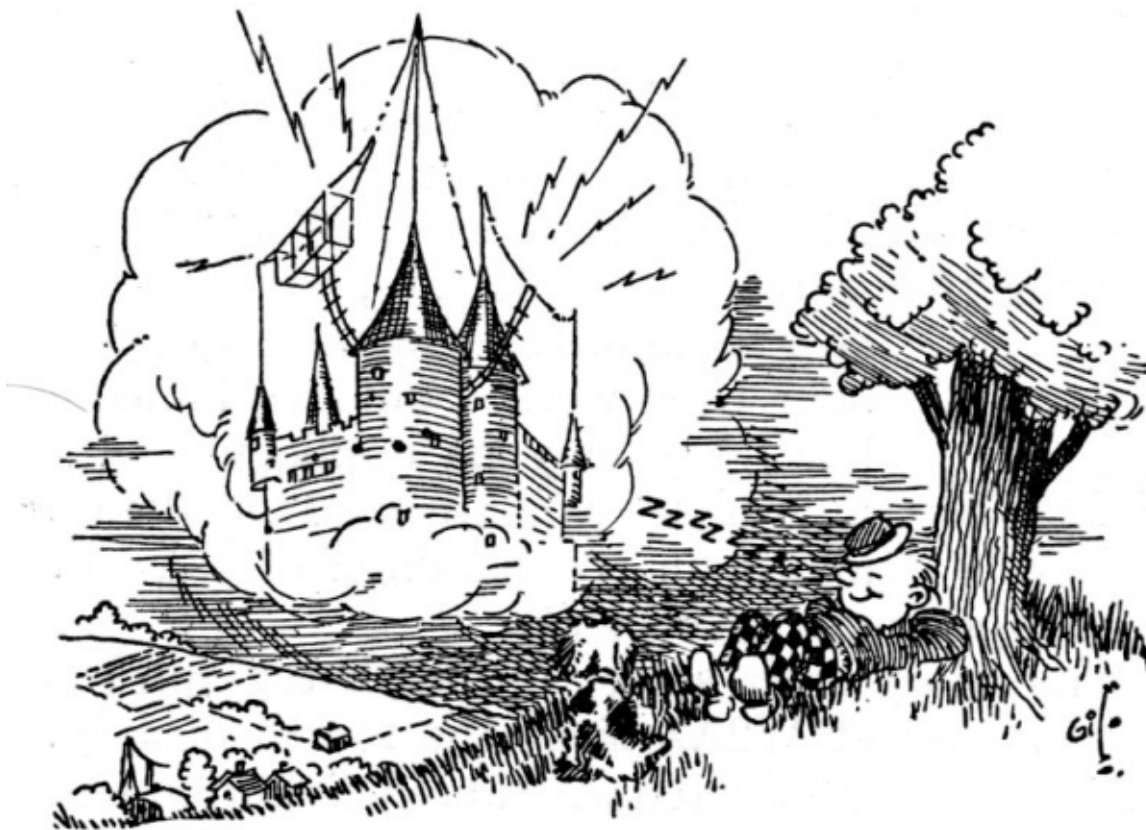
Now most of us don't have the space and money to have that type of back up. But we can think like that, with a "what if" eye. Can I get a wire antenna up in the middle of winter? Can we use alternate antennas to stay on the air? A tuner on a wire antenna will get you out!

Things that might help, if checked: Check if lines are conducting with an ohm meter; A megger, looks for how the insulation is; If you have the equipment and the help, check the power lost on you coax and SWR. If all is good it will be better if you write down the reading from year to year!

Remember it's a Sendiks fund raiser Saturday 6 September on Moorland . Come to eat, Work and/or talk.

73

Frank



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
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Mike Johnson WO9B

Vice-President
Pierre Porter KD9SSY

Treasure:
Bill Reed N9KPH

Secretary:
Bill Dargis KD9BJZ

Committee member(2)
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