



Official Publication of the  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club

# Hamtrix

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Volume 63, Issue 10 October, 2016

## OCTOBER 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

October 11, 2016

### Club Officers election

### Program

**The history of Amateur Electronics, Inc.**

with Ray Grenier, K9KHW

Join us for a pre-meeting dinner

at Johnny V's Classic Café

1650 S 84th St at 5:00pm

## Awards dinner October 23, 2016

[see page 8 for details](#)

## **New Repeater: N9BMH Repeater 146.625 (-)**

### **PL 127.3**

### **WARAC 2-meter net**

Every Wednesday at 8pm

MATC repeater 146.625 standard (-)offset

127.3 Hz CTCSS

if repeater down try 146.55 simplex

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 October 2016*

It's October and our club has two major events coming up.

First, it's **WARAC election** time. All four incumbent office-holders in the club have agreed to run again, so there will be at least one candidate for each of these four offices. And Dave Garnier has agreed to run again for the one-year Board position that he now holds. Of course, additional nominations are always welcome - competition is a good thing! We will need to elect a new Board member. Al Hovey, WA9BZW, is completing a two-year stint on the board and will not seek reelection. So we need candidate(s) for this position. Here's your chance to get more involved in the operation of your club!

Second, our **Annual Dinner** is coming up **Sunday, October 23**. Time is getting short, so get your reservations in soon if you haven't already done so. The upcoming meeting is the ideal time to do this. Look for the sign-up sheet elsewhere in this issue of Hamtrix. And, per our usual tradition, our dinner has been scheduled on a Sunday that has no Packer game.

The program topic for the upcoming meeting is about the history of Amateur Electronics, Inc. with Ray Grenier, K9KHW, who spent a long career with AES. The program will be in a question and answer format so bring your questions for Ray. As I mentioned last month, please read the story on "Radio Ray" in the West Mountain Radio Beacon newsletter at [http://www.westmountainradio.com/pdf/Spring\\_2014\\_Newsletter.pdf](http://www.westmountainradio.com/pdf/Spring_2014_Newsletter.pdf). This article provides a lot of background and should stimulate more questions for Ray.

As you probably know, the results of the 2016 Wisconsin QSO Party have been published on our 2

club website. If you haven't done so, please take a look. Awards will be coming in the next few weeks.

And, as always, please come to the before-meeting dinner at **Johnny V's Classic Café, 1650 S. 84th St.** at 5:00PM.

With the election, this is an important meeting. See you at there, and bring a friend!  
Tom, K9BTQ

## **From the editor.**

I will start out by thanking Mike WO9B for his article on a bunch of sites he discovered while surfing the Internet. Mike has been a regular contributor to Hamtrix.

I welcome all articles. Suggestions could be: thoughts on new equipment you purchased; how hard was it to set up; did you need to call tech support; how helpful were they, etc. Other suggestions might be: old ham radio stories; projects; Hams you have met over the years; maybe how you got started in Ham radio. I'm sure there are other untold stories out there that we would all like to hear.

Don't worry if your spelling and/or grammar aren't the best. I have an in house editor (Judy my wife) who will help clean it up.

Hamtrix is your magazine, feel free to add to it.

73

Frank KA9FZR

# **WARAC General Meeting Minutes**

## **September 13, 2016**

### **Introduction**

The meeting was called to order at 19:00 by President, Tom Macon (K9BTQ). Overall meeting attendance was 21 members, plus 1 visitors.

### **Future Programs:**

- October, 2016: History of Amateur Electronic Supply with Ray (K9KHW)
- November, 2016: FM-38 Repeater System

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

- Review of QSO Party – Tom Macon (K9BTQ)
- Elmer Night – small group discussions regarding items which need solutions

### **Business**

- Motion was made and accepted to approve the August general meeting minutes as published in Hamtrix.
- Mike Johnson (WO9B) gave status of the Wednesday evening net repeater status. We are now using the N9BMH Repeater 146.625 (-) PL 127.3, which worked well last week.
- Club website – please note any issues to Tom Macon (K9BTQ).

### **Announcements**

- Mike Johnson (WO9B) gave National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) club activity update. Persons interested in the next activation should contact Mike for details.
- 2016 Knaus Scholarship winner is Vincent Bensch (KC9JVN) of Madison, WI., who plans to attend the Awards Dinner.

### **Group Discussion**

- Maker Faire is September 24 & 25 at State Fair Park

The meeting was adjourned at 20:42.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV)  
Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.  
2016-09-13

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

### **September 27, 2016**

Howard Smith (WA9AXQ) called the meeting to order at 19:02.

Present: Tom Macon (K9BTQ), Howard Smith (WA9AXQ), Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV), Frank Humpal (KA9FZR), Dave Garnier (WB9OWN), Steve Dryja (NO9B).

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

Proposition/rumor of a repeater available to the Club for "free". Details are in process of discovery.

Tom Macon (K9BTQ) led an in-depth review of the Club manuals. Statuses and responsibilities were updated.

Discussion regarding transferring Club files from ftp to DropBox or another application with synchronization capabilities was discussed.

Next Club officers election was discussed.

Tom (K9BTQ) is working on wrapping up the Wisconsin QSO Party.

Swapfest 2017: Committee is progressing on required actions for January.

Awards Dinner: Date is Sunday, October 23rd. Plaques & door prizes were discussed.

The preliminary 2017 budget was presented for review and discussion at the next meeting.

**Programs**

October, 2016: Elections + AES?  
November, 2016: 10-meter contest & FM38 Repeater System  
December, 2016: Swapfest plans  
January, 2017: ?

**Future Program Ideas**

Kermit, ARRL  
Logger 32 logging software  
SO2R Contest operating  
WE Energies or Time-Warner Cable noise tracking

Constitution & Bylaws update is postponed.

**Other Items**

2-meter net is meeting on repeater 147.045 PL 127.3 on Wednesday evenings at 20:00.  
Replacement of the club video projector was discussed. WiFi connectivity is desirable  
Maker Faire – tour or visit Club

Meeting was adjourned at 22:00.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erwin von der Ehe (WI9EV)  
Secretary, W.A.R.A.C.  
2016-09-27

# Tons 'o Links

**Mike Johnson, WO9B**

Of late, my ham radio pursuits have literally been all over the place. From an operating perspective, the distant horizon consists of operating in the CQ WW and ARRL SS contests. I'll also give the 10 Meter contest a run just because it is really fun. None of these will be serious events for me. It is just fun to spend a few hours taking a swing at the bouncing ball. Oh sure, there will be a few QSO Party contests to have fun in also. And of course, there is the fun of doing a NPOTA activation or two yet.

This past weekend I played with the California QSO Party. It was raining and, well, when your plans are all set for outside, a few hours on a Saturday is well spent making contacts with the Left Coast. I did better than last year, but set no records. What are you going to do with 50 watts and a wire?

What I have been doing is starting to plan the WIQP portable assault for the coming spring. I had a great time running around central WI last year. Planning to do the same type of operation again, but with some improvements. And that is the same story for my home station. So I'm always on the lookout for something that pushes the peanut forward, even just a little.

Without getting too crazy, I've run across a number of internet sources which caught my interest. Some are products. Some are information sites. Some just caught my eye.

- <http://ke9ns.com/flexpage.html#INST> For you PowerSDR users this is the update site for the Flex PowerSDR software. KE9NS releases updates at irregular intervals, so it helps to check in and keep up to date.

- <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/> This is the homepage for the Tuesday/Thursday night QRP Fox Hunt group. Their season is about to start (early Nov), so if QRP CW on 40 & 80 peaks your interest, this is the place.

- Ham Radio Blogs: The following are a few blogs of interest.

- <http://www.dxcoffee.com/eng/> All things DX
- <http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/> SOTA, QRP operating stuff
- <http://www.amateurradio.com/> The kitchen sink of ham info
- <http://www.kb6nu.com/> A bit odd, but good topics of interest
- <http://www.dxzone.com/> Compendium site. Lots of links.
- <http://w2lj.blogspot.com/> W2LJ's QRP / Operating Blog.

- <http://w2eny.com/> All sorts of interface cables. Quick ship. Good quality.
- <http://www.kitsandparts.com/> The Toroid King. Great source, quick ship.
- <http://www.davisrf.com/> RF Davis. Wire, wire, wire.



## Fluke 9010A



**Tom Nickel KC9KEP is looking for a Fluke 9010A to help him resurrect some old microprocessor projects.**

**If anyone can help him contact him at phone 414-708-6397 e-mail [bignick@execpc.com](mailto:bignick@execpc.com)**

Looking for a page filler came across this article on Balun's, I know this isn't the final word on the subject. Let me know what your thoughts are on them. We can start a discussion on them and maybe all learn something.

One experience I had with them is that my ground wave pattern changed when I added one. The skywave propagation didn't seem to change at all.

The editor Frank

## **Is a Balun Needed?**

Complete article at [http://www.k4kio.com/is-a-balun-required/IMG\\_6164bcr2](http://www.k4kio.com/is-a-balun-required/IMG_6164bcr2) Yes, a balun is needed.

All balanced antennas such as dipoles, Yagis and hexagonal beams that are fed with unbalanced feed lines such as coax, require a choke balun. Without a choke balun, common mode RF currents flow on the outside of the coax making the feedline act like another antenna. The radiated RF power this causes will tend to distort the front/back performance or front/side performance of your hexagonal beam. A simple way to greatly reduce this is by use of a good choke balun.

There are several approaches to a choke balun but we recommend the use of ferrite beads on the coax cable itself. A very inexpensive unit such as the ones we sell are quite effective. Other manufacturers such as DX engineering and MFJ also make 1:1 choke baluns that are completely satisfactory.

On our hexagonal beams, we recommend that the choke balun be located at top of the center post and physically strapped to the center post with tape or velcro. If the balun case is metal or if ferrite bead units such as ours are used, they should be electrically insulated from the center post. IMG\_6081-resized

Our ferrite bead baluns are available in different sizes to fit your cable. They can be slipped over your cable before the cable connectors are installed using the slip on beads or they can be snapped on existing cable that has connectors already installed. The slip on beads are less expensive and are shown to the right. But they will not slip over cable connectors so if your cable already has connectors installed, you should consider the snap on beads below. All of our kits contain six ferrite beads and are generally the same electrically; it's just a matter of the size of your cable and IMG\_6289 whether it already has connectors installed.

Make your selection of which type and size ferrite bead choke balun you need in our store.

Note that the coax connectors outdoors should always be wrapped with an appropriate sealant or rubberized tape to keep moisture out of the cable.

# WARAC Annual Awards Dinner

Sunday, October 23, 2016  
5:00 PM QSO Time – 6:00 PM Dinner

Carl's Catering and Banquet  
5110 Loomis Road  
Greendale, WI

## WARAC Activities

the year in review

Swapfest                      WIQP  
Field Day                      *more*

## Presentation of:

2016 Scholarship  
Years of Membership Awards  
Contest Awards  
2016 Member of the Year

## Dinner Menu

*Sliced Roast Beef in au jus and Boneless chicken breast with Honey Dijon glaze*  
Served buffet style with potato, vegetable, assortment of salads, bread, beverage,  
and dessert. Tax and gratuity included. Cash bar.

## Program

Wisconsin Interstate Network by Len Kreyer (N9QIP)

### Awards Dinner Reservation Form

Sunday, October 23, 2016  
5:00 PM QSO Time – 6:00 PM Dinner

Name _____	Call _____
Number attending _____	Amount (\$18 Each) _____

Sign up Deadline: October 18

Make checks payable to:  
W.A.R.A.C, Inc.

Bring form and money to club  
meeting or mail to:

Howard Smith  
4760 S Woodlawn Pl  
Greenfield, WI 53228



Ham Radio on the Internet  
(click on red web address)

Anyone can submit websites for this column. I'll check them out and include them. The editor

Interesting site on thoughts about the lack of sunspots and where the sun is in its life

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/brucedorminey/2016/06/27/sun-has-likely-entered-new-evolutionary-phase-say-astronomers/#7bcc2945278e>

Another propagation site. Sort of fun to watch and to see how it matches to what you hear on the radio.

<http://www.bandconditions.com/>

#### Officers and Board

##### President

Tom Macon, K9BTQ

##### Vice President

Steve Dryja, NO9B

##### Secretary

Erwin von der Ehe, WI9EV

##### Treasurer

Howard Smith WA9AXO

##### Directors

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR

Dave Garnier WB9OWN

Al Hovey, WA9BZW

##### Newsletter Editor

Frank Humpal, KA9FZR

[fhump@milwpc.com](mailto:fhump@milwpc.com)

##### Webmaster

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## WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC.

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W9FK

<http://www.warac.org>

***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.