

MRAC Hamateur Chatter

The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club

September 2016 Volume 24, Issue 9

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs—since 1917

Wisconsin SECTION NEWSLETTER September 19, 2016

WISCONSIN: SM: Patrick Moretti
KA1RB.

We have an opportunity to positively affect Amateur Radio for years to come. H.R. 1301, the Amateur Radio Parity Act, has unanimously passed the House of Representatives and moved on to the Senate for consideration. All you need to do is spend two minutes of your time to send an email to your two Senators supporting the Bill. By doing so, you will have helped the future of Amateur Radio by guaranteeing our ability to have an effective outdoor antenna in a deed-restricted community.

The number of people living in such communities grows exponentially each year. Often, a ham homeowner has no choice but to live in a community restricted by covenants. There are nearly 3/4 of a million licensed hams in the United States, more than ever before. But that may change if we are forced to live in a community that refuses to allow an antenna.

Help yourself and help your fellow hams. Go to this link:

<https://arrrl.rallycongress.net/ctas/urge-senate-to-support-amateur-radio-parity-act>

Enter your zip code and follow the prompts. The letters are there. All you need to do is fill in the blanks, hit save, then send.

That's it. Under 2 minutes and you're done.

If you haven't yet done so, please do so today. Your voice counts!

Also note that if you know some folks who are not ARRL members, please share this information with them. We need their voices heard and it also helps to show them that the ARRL is indeed an organization worthy of their support!

Wisconsin Nets:
BWN 3984 0500-0715 W9IXG.
BEN 3985 1200 NX9K.
WSBN 3985 1700-1800 KB9KEG.
WNN 3555 1800 KB9ROB.
WSSN 3555 1830 N1KSN.
WIN-E 3555 1900 WB9ICH.
WIN-L 3555 2200 W9RTP.
WRACES 3967.0 0800 Sundays
WB9WKO (All times are
Central time)

Here's some information about our
Badger Weather Net:

Badger Weather Net Needs You:
Do you enjoy using your hobby to work for a cause, e.g., ARES/
RACES, SKYWARN, or Public
Service events? If so, here is
another one that could use your
help -- collecting important weather
data at your home for the National
Weather Service, NWS.
Every morning a number of
Wisconsin amateurs check into one
of the nation's oldest NTS nets --
the Badger Weather Net, BWN, on
3984 KHz [or via any of the
Wisconsin WeComm repeaters
<http://wecomm.org/index.php/wecommvoice> or EchoLink (W9YT-R
node)] to report the 24 hour high
and low temperature plus
precipitation and (winter format)
snowfall. This data is used by the
NWS to fine-tune their WSR-88D
radar precipitation estimate
algorithms. It is also used
to provide input to the NWS River
Forecast Models, FEMA (to
determine amount of disaster
relief), FAA, etc. A very worthwhile
public service cause!



MRAC Officers:

Terms Expiring in 2016

- President – Dave, KA9WXN
- V-President– Dan, N9ASA
- Secretary – MBH, KC9CMT
- Treasurer – MBH, KC9CMT

Terms Expiring in 2017

- Director – Al, KC9IJJ
- Director – Vacant
- Director – Tom, W9TJP
- Director--Dale, AB9DW

The Club Phone Number
is: (414) 332-MRAC or

(414) 332- 6 7 2 2

Visit our website at:

www.w9rh.org

Mail correspondence to:

M. R. A. C.

**PO Box 26233
Milwaukee, WI**

53226-0233

Board of directors meeting called to order at 6:58 pm by Dave Shank, KA9WXN club president.

Director's present: Michael KC9CMT, Dave KA9WXN, Dan, N9ASA, Tom W9TJP, Al KC9IJJ, Dale AB9DW.

Absent: Hal KB9OZN

Preliminary Discussion: The Treasurers report for July 2016 was presented by Michael, KC9CMT. The treasurers report was approved as read by KC9CMT, a motion to accept was made by Tom, W9TJP, seconded by Al, KC9IJJ. The July balance ended with \$19,914.67 in Club accounts. Budgetary items were given consideration during this board meeting. It has been speculated that more interest can be made through the Money Market rather than Cd's. The treasurers' report was passed by a vote forwarded through a motion made by Dale, AB9DW, and seconded by Tom, W9TJP. New member certificates will be mailed if not handed out when they become available. Club dues increased to \$20 per year effective April 1st, 2016.

There will be no meetings during July, August and December again this year. The church has been advised of all our meeting dates for 2017.

Meeting Presentations: The Lutheran Redemption Church has been having financial problems. Our access there is still good for the present. It is possible the club may need to look for a new meeting place in 2017 sometime. The next meeting will be in September when the club meetings resume. September will be Makers Faire, with a presentation of the FM simplex award, and a discussion on what's to come during 2017. October could be on Wires X, given by Dale AB9DW. The November meeting will be moved up to the 17th, a week earlier due to the Thanksgiving holiday. There will be no raffle at the November meeting. The January presentation will be conducted by Dave, WB9BWP. Dan, N9ASA will be talking to the ARRL about giving a presentation during the spring of 2017. Fox hunting is an idea brought up as a presentation topic. February may be our food meeting. May 2017 will be the annual club auction. The Ham Radio Outlet retailer has taken over the AES location and is willing to have a out-of-trunk swapfest during May of 2017.

Field Day: Field day went well at the MATC facility. MATC has both port-a-potties and hand wash stations at the location. It's a good location, but may not be available in 2017. The board would like to have a working committee for the field day 2017 effort.

Special Project Committees & Committee reports:

Repeater Report: The club would like more than one repeater control operator. A club repeater control operator should be a extra class operator to have the kind of privileges that are necessary to operate field day to its fullest extent.

New Business: The Board will have to decide by the end-of-year where we will be holding our Board meetings for 2017. Dave, KA9WXN is continuing discussions regarding events for the clubs' 2017 100th anniversary. The guests at the March club meeting, from the ARRL, will be made honorary members of the MRAC, by unanimous vote of the board of director's. It has been decided that Bob Heil will be granted the same honorarium. Each person will receive a certificate and letter of acceptance.

We need to start planning special event stations for the entire year of 2017. Dave, KA9WXN will attempt to generate interest among the membership in forming a committee

to handle planning. The board does want to go ahead with planning a banquet during the 100th anniversary year. Time and place are to be determined. It is important that the club gets going on the planning for 2017 events. There has been some discussion about having an banquet during the Fall.

Swapfest Committee: The date and venue of a 2017 swapfest is still being discussed. The MATC building is very inexpensive and has a large, well lite facility. There are a number of places and dates being considered. There has been some discussion about having a out-of-trunk event using the now HRO grounds sometime during the warm weather months. The idea was forwarded to move the Swapfest to April as a guard against losses due to inclement weather. Name suggestion: "Spring Fling". 2017 will be our 7th annual swapfest.

Special Projects: Special event station will be June 17th, at Greenfield Harley Davidson dealership. The special event will run during the dealerships hours of operations. The club needs someone to take over the FM simplex contest for February of 2017. The club really needs PR and recruitment, business cards have been printed and will be handed out at all club activities. The board of director's has entered discussions regarding the logistics of having a banquet that would be the day before or during the first of April 2017. The club could send out invitations for the banquet. **Work needs to start on the 100th anniversary celebration that falls in 2017.** The club wants a special event callsign to use during the 100th year events. Dave WB9BWP the club trustee would have to request the callsign from the FCC. The club would also like to have a membership drive for new members for 2017. There would be a special certificate for the any new member of the club. There could also be an award for anyone in the club that attracts a certain number of new members. This is still being discussed. The club needs to have some special QSL cards, or ridged certificates printed up for contacts during the calendar year of 2017. The club would like to query members about working on projects for the 100th anniversary. A budgetary figure of \$5000 has been approved for the 2017 100th anniversary activities.

Website update: Club members have been using our PayPal account to renewal their dues. PayPal requires that the money remain in the account for 21 days before the club can transfer it to our club bank account. Money should be transferred on a regular basis. The club also has a Wiki page. Dave, WB9BWP is continuing to work on the club history Wiki page.

Clubs throughout the country need to use the spectrum that they have been given. The 220mhz band is not used very often in the Milwaukee area. A Club calendar is a project that the Board of Directors' would like to pursue. Dave, KA9WXN has been working on this idea. A schedule of upcoming events should be printed in the chatter each month.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm by Dan N9ASA, seconded by Al KC9IJJ. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The Library room will be returned to an orderly condition.

Racine, WI Struck By A Tornado, May 18, 1883

STRUCK BY A TORNADO.
TERRIBLE DEVASTATION AT RACINE, WIS.

25 dead, 100 injured in Racine

TWENTY-FIVE PERSONS KILLED AND ONE HUNDRED HOUSES DESTROYED -- MANY NARROW ESCAPES -- PARTIAL LIST OF THE DEAD.

Racine, Wis., May 18. -- This evening about 7 o'clock Racine was struck by a tornado. The afternoon had been very warm and frequent heavy thunder-storms prevailed. Shortly after 6 o'clock black clouds gathered in the south-west and north-west, and became so threatening that general attention was attracted to them. The black masses gradually closed in, and for half an hour there was not a breath of air stirring and the atmosphere was hot and stifling. When the clouds came together they assumed a funnel shape, and immediately a hissing, rumbling noise was heard and the storm burst upon the city in great fury. It moved easterly from the south-west. The first building struck was HORLICK'S factory, half a mile west of the city limits. In a dwelling near by seven people were seriously injured. From the factory to the Chicago and Northwestern Railway track is about one fourth of a mile. The intervening space is thickly populated by working men, most of whom own their houses. Through this district the devastation is complete, scarcely a house being left standing in the wake of the storm.

It is within bounds to say that at least 100 buildings have been destroyed. From reports already received, it is probable that tomorrow will show a death roll of at least 25, with many more injured. From outlying districts reports come of the death and destruction. For blocks the streets are filled with the remnants of what were this morning neat collages, together with the household furniture, bedding, and wearing apparel. Darkness set in almost immediately after the tornado, and it is impossible to obtain anything like an accurate report of the number of lives lost and the injured. Following is a list of those known to be dead: PAUL KUHLE; ALBERT KUHLE; JOHN KASTAWICK, aged 13; WILLIE KASTAWICK, aged 11; MRS. BARNEY McCARTY; an infant son of AUGUST KESNER; a daughter of BARNEY WILLING. A son of BARNEY WILLING is missing.

The Injured:

MRS. MONTONICK; S. GEESE; MAT LASTIN; children of FRED FALK; MRS. McCARTHY; MRS. KERTZ; infant child of MICHAEL JOCKENS; MRS. JOS. DECKER; MRS. WINOLT; W. A. SPRADEL, leg and two ribs broken; MRS. SPRADEL, hurt internally; MATE LUTZ, twenty-six years old, arm broken and head crushed; MRS. FREDERICK FALK and HERMAN KUHLE were bruised about the head; MRS. ELLRUSE, hurt about the head; four children of MRS. BARSE; MRS. KISNER, chest bone broken and skull fractured; MRS. FLANIGAN and three children, injured; MRS. MARY MULLER, daughter and son,

are badly injured; FRED. ESSMUS, leg and face badly bruised; M. DORNEY, knee broken and one eye knocked out; child of MRS. WINDST, seriously injured; M. JACKHEIM, wife and four children, seriously injured; MR. KINDSON, arm broke; the family of WM. GAIN, all bruised and cut; WM. DEVISHING, head cut; JNO. LUKES, seriously cut in the side; M. LICHTFELDT, wife and boy, badly hurt.

MRS. HOWLAND was blown out of a buggy and badly hurt; WM. SPRADS has both legs broken, and is thought to be fatally injured internally; JNO. STRIPLE, thigh broken; MR. MILLER, had his arm twisted off; JNO. BREGEDMAN and five children were all seriously injured.

The little daughter of BARNEY WILLING was blown fully 50 rods from where the house stood against a wall, and instantly killed. At the house of KASTAWICK a sad spectacle was presented. The house, a two-story brick, was partly blown down, the walls being twisted. Here were found the two young brothers lying side by side dead. Near by was the mother fatally injured.

At the store of MR. PETURA, which was a large, two-story brick building, 14 persons were within the walls when the tornado burst. The building was completely leveled. There was not a hole among the ruins large enough for a man to get his foot in, yet when the dreadful storm had passed, slowly there emerged from the ruins here and there an individual, pulling, digging, and scraping dirt-begrimed and terror stricken. The entire 14 escaped comparatively unscathed. A few yards distant was the cigar factory of WILLIAM LUTZ, which held 12 persons when the tornado began. The building was completely wrecked, but all escaped uninjured. The entire medical force of the city is hard at work caring for the wounded. Later reports indicate that the tornado has wrought immense damage outside the city.

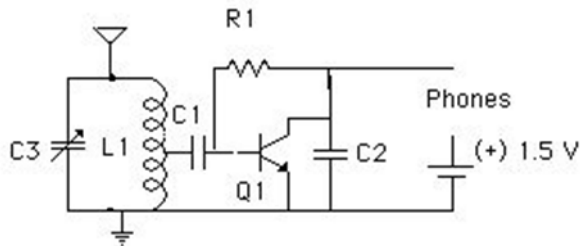
The New York Times New York
1883-05-19



Tornado at Racine, Wis., Aug. 11, 1883. Ruins of a School House. From a Photograph.

AN AUDION RECEIVER

Okay, here is another little radio for you to play with. Doesn't seem like much, but it has some very interesting features, needing only a tiny handful of readily available parts, and having a lot of flexibility in its operation. It is a basic audion design, where the transistor acts as both detector and amplifier. Yes, it is very similar to the amplifier I use in my crystal convertible and super convertible receivers, but with two basic differences: The value of R1 and the addition of C2. Here is the basic schematic of the set, with lots of notes to follow:



First, the parts list:

Q1 can be any of a variety of NPN or PNP (reverse the battery) transistors. I tried successfully a 2N2222, a 2N3906 clone from a Radio Shack bulk pack, a 2SC945, and the 2SA and 2SC transistors from my RS project kit. The schematic I referred to used a BC458.

The tank circuit **L1/C3** is your choice of a resonant circuit. L1 is tapped 20% from the ground. My "student model" used a 220 pF polyfilm variable capacitor, and a 1 3/4 " ferrite core from the Goldmine, with 90 turns of #32 enameled wire close wound on a 5/16" paper form (made by gluing a piece of typing paper around a 5/16" drill bit with some school white glue), with a tap at the 18th turn.

C1 can be from 0.1 uF on up; I used as high as a 10 uF electrolytic (the latter called for in the original design). Less than the minimum value shown affected performance adversely. If you use an electrolytic, observe polarity (positive to the base if NPN, etc)

C2 is a 0.1 uF capacitor - less is worse - I didn't bother with larger.

R1 is 100k ohms. I tried a variety of values using a 1 Mega ohm pot for the different transistors, and the best value kept showing up right around 100 k, so I don't recommend messing with it, unless you want to. I suspect the optimum value might be around 92 k, but you'll never notice, and who has that value laying about anyway?

For the battery, more is not better. In fact, I was using a very used 1.5 V AA with a no load voltage of about 1.2 V - worked fine. This circuit draws about 1 to 1.5 mA, depending on whether you are using a new or used battery. You might be able to sneak it up a little, but go back and check the value of R1 if you do. What R1 does is set the proper bias voltage on the BE junction; you can experiment with it, just listening by ear, to get it right.

Layout and wiring are not critical, and you can go from a neat PC arrangement to "dead bug squashed flat" (my personal favorite).

Now for the fun part:

This little circuit will drive just about anything for phones, with decent results. I was even able to use cheap, insensitive dynamic stereo phones from the Dollar Store with it. It worked best with the phones connected in series to give me 64 ohms dc resistance. I used a stereo jack from RS

(2/\$1.99), and connected the two outside phone connectors only in the circuit, leaving the ground connection alone to do this. The same jack will also accommodate a mono plug when wired this way. I finally found a use for my 1 k ohm dynamic earplug from Mouser - the circuit works well with it. More sensitive phones, of course, work better. To use a high impedance crystal earplug, use a 10k resistor instead of the traditional 47 k. Hey, I even tried a good quality 8 ohm speaker and it worked pretty well, better when I used a matching transformer. I didn't have an 8 ohm earplug, so didn't try it, but think a matching transformer would be useful here.

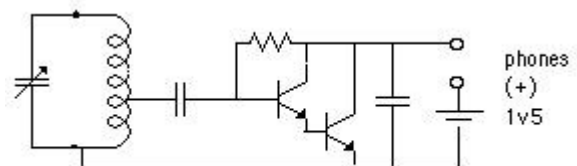
The antenna connection shown is for a short, about 6 foot antenna. With a ground, it gets my locals nicely - see the potential for a kid radio here? For a decent antenna, you have some choices: Try connecting the antenna to the spot shown, but without the ground. Or, you can try a shortest antenna, with ground, to the tap. I wound another 3 turns on the coil after the ground end, and connected a good antenna to the end of that, with nice results. See my caveats below as well.

You can make a semi-serious set of this by using double tuning in the front end or using an antenna tuner. It is really in the "simple set" category as shown, and gets better as you employ standard selectivity and sensitivity techniques used with crystal sets. I feature it since it is reasonably sensitive, has nice drive for a variety of inexpensive phones, and can be used with small antennas. With a larger diameter air core coil, or even a loop in the tank circuit, it will work without an antenna, depending on your rf environment - expect your mileage to vary with location.

Now for the caveats: This is not a wonder rig. The first thing I discovered is that it really likes the more sensitive headphones. Yeah, it will drive a cheap set of walkmans, something the amp in my convertible won't do, but that's its big advantage. Another thing you will find if you try to stretch the antenna is that your tank circuit will immediately take a nose dive in frequency by a few hundred kHz. You can use a "gimmick" capacitor between the antenna and set to bring the frequency back, but you will find that the short antenna curse rules - in other words, if you are intending to use this set for local reception, and a very short antenna doesn't do the trick, then it's time to go for a 50 footer, and put a tap of about 3 turns of wire at the ground end of the coil to connect it to. That's my recommendation, at least.

My compliments to Philip Miller Tate, aka Dr. Whiz, for getting me going on this one. He found it in a recent issue of [Elektor Electronics](#). The author was B. Kainka.

If you want some more headphone drive, then do as Lane Cox suggested, and add another transistor to make the amp a darlington pair. This not only gives more oomph to the headphones, but raises the input impedance of the circuit a bit, so I understand, allowing you to tap a bit higher on the coil. Here is a schematic showing the added component - all part values remain the same:



I used this amp to my regular crystal radio, and it was nice to listen to dx stations using a light and very cheap pair of dollar Walkman type phones. I used a stereo jack, and just connected the outside terminals of it into the circuit. This way, I could plug in either a mono plug or a stereo plug and turn the set on. With the stereo phones, this also puts them in series, raising their impedance.

COMPANY C

A few days before Christmas, 1969, I relinquished my command of Company A -- I was no longer Darkness Alpha 6. I felt that I had done a good job and was satisfied. My company had achieved the highest total body count in the battalion and had suffered the fewest casualties. I like to think that my leadership had something to do with it. I was made an "Assistant Executive Officer, Counter Insurgency." I'm not sure exactly what that meant but I was a REMF once more. The battalion XO was a nice guy and I look forward to an enjoyable month prior to DROSing (Date of Return from Overseas). A day or so after I took over my new job the Charlie company commander was evacuated with malaria. I still had a severe cold that I had contracted on R&R in Taipei and was generally feeling rotten. The battalion commander asked me if I felt well enough to assume temporary command of C Company. I heard myself saying "Yes Sir." I really felt like shit but the mission came first.

Before leaving I went to see the battalion surgeon and asked him for help. He said that he had a special elixir that contained paregoric as well as other mysterious goodies and that it would cure me if it didn't kill me first. Charlie was in the field on daylight ambush patrols. When I arrived I called for the senior platoon leader and told him that I was sick and that he would be in charge while I got better or died. I crawled under a bush and went to sleep. The doc was right. When I woke up that night I felt better.

Soon after I took over Charlie we got word to move up Thunder Road to north of Lai Kae. This was new terrain to the battalion and to the Second Brigade for that matter. There were three fire support bases along Highway 13, north of Lai Khe, Thunder I, II and III. Thunder II was the largest and in the middle so I established my company headquarters there. It would be a new type of duty for me and my company. We would provide base security and security for the daily road clearing operations between the bases. It was really pretty good duty and we were far from the rice paddies of Thu Duc. The countryside was sparsely vegetated and was extremely dry that time of the year.

The Thunder bases were fairly large, especially Thunder II. They were all in the process of being phased out or turned over to the ARVNS. There was a support battalion commander on Thunder II who was the nominal base commander. That was fine with me because there were a lot of ash and trash units on what had been a brigade-sized base camp. We were the only combat units. I reported in to the LTC and asked him if he wanted me to take responsibility for base defense. He was glad to let me as he had to worry about his support mission.

I became immediately unpopular with the tenant units on Thunder II when it became obvious that there were not enough infantry to cover the perimeter. I assigned the most likely avenue of approach to one of my platoons and kept a platoon available as a ready reaction force (RRF) for both Thunder II and the other two bases. The remainder of the perimeter was doled out to the support units on the base. That was rough for them because they still had to perform their support missions. War is hell.

Only a fraction of its former population remained on the base but the size was the same. I felt distinctly uncomfortable with our ability to defend in and told my battalion commander. He told me to use my initiative (Will they ever learn?). I contacted an engineer unit and had them do some major surgery on the base resulting in a smaller perimeter and a more defensible base. It's usually easier to get forgiveness than get permission. I probably wiped out several million dollar's worth of fortifications. I'm glad that I didn't have to pay for it

I couldn't believe how many Vietnamese nationals were on the base. It seemed like every one of the support soldiers had his private maid. The situation had changed since the base shrunk and I felt that the Viets were a security hazard. Some of the people had passes signed by people who were long gone. I got the attention of the tenant units by closing the post to all Vietnamese civilians. I was soon besieged by irate company commanders and first sergeants. I limited each unit to a certain number of civilians and instituted a system of monthly verification of the passes. My men got a kick out of the whole thing. We eventually reached equilibrium with a reasonable amount of civilians on the base. One of the positions I was required to man was a sentry post on the edge of Thunder II along Route 13. I'm not sure what the sentry was supposed to do but it was mandated by higher. The first day one of my men stood in the sun, he decided to make a shelter for his comfort. I had no problem with that and lord knew we had plenty of building material. My only directions were to make it look fairly decent so some passing VIP's sense of aesthetics wouldn't be offended. A crowd of curious children gathered to watch the guard and his buddies build his shelter.

Some of the bolder kids grabbed some of the timber and dragged it to the other side of the road. They pointed to the side that the guys were building on and said "Numbah 10" and then pointed to the other side of the road and said "Numbah 1." My men were not going to listen to any children especially children who were probably commies to boot. They finished the shelter as planned and gathered around to admire their work. A few minutes later, the first convoy went by. It was huge and took almost an hour to pass. Just before the convoy arrived, the kids went to the other side of the road to watch. The guard disappeared in a swirling cloud of dust. When it had passed the guard sheepishly moved the shelter to the other side of the road with the help of the children. Out of the mouths of babes....

I established my command post in a bunker that had previously been occupied by an engineer unit. It was a wise move on my part because engineers don't stint when it comes to their own safety. It was a huge bunker with 12x12 beams in the roof. We probably could have survived a nuclear blast. It was so impressive that I actually was embarrassed when I entertained visitors. My new First Sergeant was an impressive figure of a man. He was black, well-muscled and over six feet tall. He looked like SGT Rock and I was glad to have him. I soon learned that appearances could be deceiving. One day I heard a commotion topside and went up to investigate. A swarm of bees had affixed itself to the ladder leading to our observation tower, trapping the sentries. Somebody said to pop some smoke grenades to scare them off. Pretty soon all sorts of smoke was going off. The First Sergeant seemed to be on top of the situation and I soon lost interest and went back into my bunker where it was cool. A few minutes later I heard a muffled pop that sounded familiar. I heard some yelling and some medics brought the First Sergeant into the bunker. He was pale and in obvious pain. Parts of his skin were smoking, including his genital area. I called in a dust off and he was soon gone.

What had happened is that Top had thrown a grenade marked "SMOKE WP." A normal smoke grenade is about the size of and is shaped like a beer can. A white phosphorus or WP grenade is shaped different and is heavier. It looks nothing like a common smoke grenade and it is next to impossible to mistake one for the other. The WP called Willy Peter by the troops is a very special smoke grenade and is only used when necessary. It has a bursting radius of twenty five meters and showers that area with burning white phosphorus

and produces an extremely thick cloud of billowing white smoke. Nothing puts it out. It will burn right through a person unless it is pried out with a stick or falls out from gravity.

In short it is quite nasty. Unlike a smoke grenade which has an instantaneous fuse, a WP grenade has a delayed fuse like a fragmentation grenade. When the WP didn't pop like a normal smoke grenade, Top kicked it and it exploded in his face. An infantryman would not have made that mistake in the dark much less in broad daylight. It turned out that my First Shirt had a finance Corps background!

I was to spend Christmas at Thunder II. My last Christmas had also been in Viet Nam and the one before that away from home in Colorado Springs. Christmas Eve I went to inspect the perimeter with the Lieutenant Colonel in nominal command of the base. It was a nice night and I enjoyed making the rounds wishing the men a merry Christmas. All of a sudden the sky to the south was filled with flares. It looked like somebody was celebrating. The Colonel and I agreed that the display was evidence of poor discipline and a lack of professionalism.

Just then I heard a helicopter and learned the reason for the light show. The Commanding General of the First Infantry Division had taped a holiday message to the troops and was having it played all over the division AO. As soon as I heard it, I cringed because I knew what was going to happen. Woosh! The first flare rocketed skyward and was soon followed by scores more. The men were not impressed with what they heard and let the world know it. I was embarrassed and the Colonel was good-mannered enough to pretend like he didn't notice.

There is an old army story designed to impress upon a new leader the role of the non-commissioned officer. It goes something like this: The OCS lieutenant was asked in a leadership class how he would move a flag pole from point "A" to point "B" if he had an NCO with a squad of men, 200 feet of rope and three 4x4's. The young LT came up with some elaborate solution in which he used all of the assets given. He was told that he was incorrect and that the proper solution was to say "Sergeant, move the flag pole. Let me know if you need any help," and then to leave so he could get the job done.

One day the post commander called me to his CP. He pointed out the flag pole in front of it and told me that he wanted it moved. I said "yes, sir, I'll get it done." I couldn't believe my opportunity to test the old story. I selected a sergeant and told him to see that it was moved. About an hour later I checked it out. Sure enough it had been moved. It was a little crooked but it was in the right place. I guess they knew what they were doing at Ft Benning.

One of the main duties of my company was to clear the roads between the Thunder bases every morning. This was vital for the resupply of An Loc and other places up north. At nights Charlie loved to mine the road and we had to find them. A sweep team consisted of two engineers with mine detectors walking in front of one of our jeeps which held a small security detail. More troops followed not too far behind in a five ton dump truck full of dirt. The dirt was to fill in any holes that were blown in the road. A hole in the road did not necessarily mean friendly casualties because it was the safest procedure to detonate a mine in place rather than try to disarm it. The duty was not really too bad but it was hard on the nerves. One day I went along with a sweep team. I tried to accompany all of my units every so often. It was a beautiful morning and I was enjoying myself. All of a sudden two men popped up by the side of the road with their arms in the air. Luckily they were trying to surrender. We would have been SOL if they had jumped up with AK's blazing. It is difficult to protect against a determined adversary who is not afraid to die. I still have the hammock that one of the prisoners was kind enough to give me.

From the ARRL Newsline

September is National Preparedness Month

Don't Wait. Communicate. Make your Personal, Family, CERT and ARES® Emergency Plans Today.

September is [National Preparedness Month \(NPM\)](#), which serves as a reminder to prepare, now and throughout the year, for the types of emergencies that could affect us where we live, work, and visit - and certainly for ARES (September also marks the beginning of the ARRL SET period, see below) responses. For more information, including a social media toolkit, visit www.ready.gov/september. In June 2003, ARRL became an official affiliate program of [Citizen Corps](#), an initiative within the [Department of Homeland Security](#) to enhance public preparedness and safety. The [Statement of Affiliation](#) makes ARRL an affiliate under the four charter Citizen Corps programs--Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Service, Community Emergency Response Teams and Medical Reserve Corps.

See www.ready.gov/make-a-plan to help you make your plans. Also, in recent Facebook posts and tweets from @ARRL_ARES, ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, K1IU, gives tips on how to prepare ourselves and our stations for emergency/disaster response. A recent post suggested "communication becomes easier when you know what band fits your needs. Learn how to determine the best band for getting the message to where it needs to go." Follow the ARRL ARES® program @ARRL_ARES on Twitter. Follow National Preparedness @readygov Follow America's PrepareAthon @PrepareAthon

Name of Net, Frequency, Local Time	Net Manager
Badger Weather Net (BWN) 3984 kHz, 0500	W9IXG
Badger Emergency Net (BEN) 3985 kHz, 1200	NX9K
Wisconsin Side Band Net (WSBN)	KB9KEG
Wisconsin Novice Net (WNN) 3555 kHz, 1800	KB9ROB
Wisconsin Slow Speed Net (WSSN) 3555 kHz, Sn, T, Th, F, 1830	N1KSN
Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Early (WIN-E) 3555 kHz, 1900	WB9ICH
Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Late (WIN-L) 3555 kHz, 2200	W9RTP
ARES/RACES Net 3967.0 kHz, 0800 Sunday	WB9WKO
* Net Control Operator needed. Contact Net Manager for information.	

ARRL CONTESTING NEWS CONVERSATION

Poor Propagation? I ain't got poor propagation... I just ain't workin' anything!

My apologies to Yogi Berra. During our Washington State Salmon Run two-transmitter effort last weekend, I got on the "not-open band" radio and I needed to make something happen. During the middle of the day there were no stations to work in the bandmap, so I tuned across 15 meters, but didn't hear anything except a JT-65 signal. Huh. I turned on skimmer spots by typing SET/SKIMMER into N1MM+ Logger's packet window, and CQed away. I watched as the skimmer spots rolled in: 21dB in Ohio. 27dB in Massachusetts. 32 dB in Pennsylvania. 31dB in New York. These readings were subjective, but indicated that if anyone was listening in those locations, they should have been able to hear me. I kept at it for nearly five minutes without a caller, wondering if anyone else was on 15 or watching skimmer spots. Finally, I started to get some callers, and eventually ended up with nearly 70 contacts on that band. I scanned around the band a bit on the 2nd VFO after I started working people - others were finally noticing that the band was open and were making contacts as well.

Lately it's been easy to ignore certain bands because we all *know* the conditions are just terrible. I'm glad I reminded myself early in this year's fall contest season to base my in-contest decisions with hard data and persevere in CQing into a quiet, but ultimately open, band.

That's all for this time. Remember to send contesting result announcements, contest related stories, flea market pictures, book reviews, tips, techniques, press releases, errata, pictures, stories, blog links, and predictions, to contest-update@arrl.org

73, Brian N9ADG

VHF+ CONTESTS

AGCW VHF/UHF Contest, Sep 24, 1400z to Sep 24, 1700z (144), Sep 24, 1700z to Sep 24, 1800z (432); CW; Bands: 144 MHz, 432 MHz; RST + "/" + Serial No. + "/" Power class + "/" + 6-character grid locator; Logs due: October 10.

UBA ON Contest, 6m, Sep 25, 0700z to Sep 25, 1000z; CW, Phone; Bands: 6m Only; ON: RS(T) + Serial No. + ON Section, non-ON: RS(T) + Serial No.; Logs due: October 16.

ARRL EME Contest, Sep 24, 0000z to Sep 25, 2359z; CW, Phone, Digital; Bands: 50-1296 MHz; Signal report; Logs due: December 21.

220 MHz Fall Sprint, Sep 27, 1900z to Sep 27, 2300z; not specified; Bands: 222 MHz; 4-character grid square; Logs due: October 11.

432 MHz Fall Sprint, Oct 5, 1900z to Oct 5, 2300z; not specified; Bands: 432 MHz; 6-character grid square; Logs due: October 19.

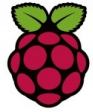
Next Regular Meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, September 29th, 2016**, at 7:00PM. We meet in the Fellowship Hall of Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 N Mayfair Road. Use the south entrance. Access the MRAC Yahoo group for important details about the February Meeting.

Meeting Schedule:

October 27th, 2016 7 pm

Please do not call the church for information!



Club Nets

Please check in to our nets on Friday evenings.

Our ten meter SSB net is at **8:00 p.m.** at **28.490 MHz USB** Our two meter FM net follows at **9:00 p.m.** on our repeater at **145.390 MHz** with a minus offset and a **PL of 127.3 Hz**.

Visit our website at: www.w9rh.org

Or phone (414)-459-9741



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Chatter Deadline

The **DEADLINE** for items to be published in the **Chatter** is the **15th of each month**. If you have anything (announcements, stories, articles, photos, projects) for the 'Chatter, please get it to me before then.

You may contact me or Submit articles and materials by e-mail at: W9rhmrac@Gmail.com

or by Post to:

Michael B. Harris

807 Nicholson RD

South Milwaukee, WI 53172-1447

VE Testing:

September 30th, 9:30am— 11:30am

No testing: June, August or December

Location: Ham Radio Outlet Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

ALL testing takes place at: Ham Radio Outlet 5720 W. Good Hope Rd. Milwaukee, WI 53223

Area Swapfests

**Sept. 24th, [ORC Regional Fall Swapfest](#) Location: Cedarburg, WI Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club
Website: <http://ozaukeeradioclub.org>**

**Oct. 9th, | [SEWFARS Swapfest](#) Location: Hubertus, WI Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Southeastern Wisconsin FM Amateur Repeater Society
Website: <http://www.sewfars.com>**

MRAC Working Committees 100th Anniversary:

- Dave—KA9WXN

Net Committee:

- Open

Field Day

Dave—KA9WXN, Al—KC9IJJ

FM Simplex Contest

- Joe – N9UX
- Jeff – K9VS

Ticket drum and drawing

- Tom – N9UFJ

Newsletter Editor

- Michael-KC9CMT
- Pancho- KA9OFA

Webmaster

- Dave, KA9WXN

Refreshments

- Open

Welcome

Membership Information

The Hamateur Chatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct. MRAC Membership dues are \$17.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1st. MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00PM the last Thursday of the month except for November when Thanksgiving falls on the last Thursday when the meeting moves forward 1 week to the 3rd Thursday and December, when the Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting. Club Contact Information

Our website address <http://www.w9rh.org>

Telephone **(414)-459-9741**

Address correspondence to:

MRAC, PO Box 26233, Milwaukee, WI 53226-0233



Email may be sent to: w9rh@arrl.net . Our YAHOO newsgroup:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MRAC-W9RH/>

CLUB NETS:

- The Six Meter SSB net is Thursday at 8:00PM on 50.160 MHz USB
- Our Ten Meter SSB net is Friday at 8:00PM on 28.490 MHz \pm 5 KHz USB.
- Our Two Meter FM net follows the Ten meter net at 9:00PM on our repeater at 145.390MHz - offset (PL 127.3)



The MRAC HamChatter is a monthly publication of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club. Serving Amateur Radio in Southeastern Wisconsin & all of Milwaukee County

Club Call sign – W9RH

MRAC Website: <http://www.W9RH.org>

Editor: Michael B. Harris, Kc9cmt, kc9cmt@Earthlink.net

Milwaukee Area Nets

Mon.8:00 PM 3.994 Tech Net

Mon.8:00 PM 146.865- ARRL Newsline

Mon.8:00 PM 146.445+ Emergency Net

Mon.8:00 PM 146.865- Walworth County ARES net

Mon. 8:00 PM 442.100+ Railroad net, also on EchoLink

Mon. 8:45 PM 147.165- ARRL Audio News

Mon. 8:00 PM 442.875+ WIARC net also on EchoLink 576754

**Mon. 8:30 PM 146.820 Waukesha ARES Net —
on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Monday of each month.**

Mon. 9:00 PM 147.165- Milwaukee County ARES Net

Tue. 9:00 AM 50.160 6 Mtr 2nd Shifter's Net

Tue. 9:00 PM 145.130+ MAARS Hand Shakers Net

Tue. 8:00 PM 7.035 A.F.A.R. (CW)

Wed. 8:00 PM 145.130+MAARS Amateur Radio Newsline

Wed. 8:00 PM 147.045+ West Allis ARC net

Wed. 8:00 PM 28.365Mhz 10/10 International Net

Wed. 8:00 PM 147.270+ Racine County ARES net

Wed. 9:00 PM 145.130+MAARS SwapNet, Allstar FM-38

Thur. 8:00 PM 50.160, 6 Mtr SSB Net

Thur. 8:00 PM 443.800+ Tech Net

Thur. 9:00 PM 146.910+ Computer Net

Fri. 8:00 PM 28.490 MRAC W9RH 10 Mtr SSB Net

Fri. 9:00 PM 145.390+ W9RH 2 MTR. FM Net

Sat. 7:30 AM MW Classic Radio Net , Freq.—3885 AM

Sat. 8:00 PM 146.910+ YL's Pink HAMsters Net

Sat. 9:00 PM 146.910+ Saturday Night Fun Net

Sun 8:00 AM, State ARES Net 3967/3977.5/145.470

Sun 8:30 AM 3.985 QCWA (Chapter 55) SSB net

Sun 9:00 AM 145.565+ X-Country Simplex Group

Sun 8:00 PM 146.910+ Information Net

Sun 8:00 PM 28.365 10/10 International Net (SSB)

Sun 9:00 PM 146.910+ Swap Net

Daily: Milwaukee — Rag Chew Net: 7:00 AM, 3850 SSB + Florida Net 7 am, 14.290 mhz.

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600KHz - - 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz

SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 Mtr and above are USB.

