

Minutes-September 21, 2023, General Meeting

By Jim Gifford KD8APT, Secretary

Executive Committee Members Present

President: Ray Hitt N8VMX, Newsletter

Vice President: Glenn Rodgers KE8LZD, Greeter, Shack Tours

Treasurer: John Westerkamp W8LRJ, Communications Center

Secretary: Jim Gifford KD8APT

Functional Coordinators Present:

Jim Totten WA8HUB, BARC Lunch Bunch

Paul Sharp WS8R, Education, Flex Users Group

Tink Siwecki KD8NUA, Hospitality

Executive Committee Members Absent

Sr. Director: Don Parker KB8PSL, Public Service

Jr. Director: Jim Lusk KC8EFD, Clubhouse

At 7:30pm, President Ray Hitt N8VMX led attendees in the pledge of allegiance. Hitt then welcomed our two speakers of the evening, Michael Kalter W8CI John Westerkamp W8LRJ.

Agenda Item 1. Michael Kalter running for an ARRL Great Lakes Division office

Michael Kalter addressed the club about his running for ARRL Great Lakes Division Director. In the Great Lakes Division, Michael Kalter W8CI is running against Vice Director Scott Yonally N8SY.

Agenda Item 2. Presentation: John Westerkamp – “Logging and Rig Control for Digital Modes”

John Westerkamp announced in the beginning of his presentation that the R9 is up on the roof. He thanked Stu Holzer K8ST for a generous donation that will assist to connecting the antenna to station radios.

Westerkamp presented a detailed and interesting presentation about Digital Modes: Logging and Rig Control.



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JOHN WESTERKAMP, W8LRJ

- Always interested in radio and have always been a SWL
- Extra Class Operator and BARC Member since April 2018
- Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from University of Dayton
- Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University
- Specialized in Digital Signal Processing/Communications
- Electrical Engineering Faculty at U.D. for 17 years
- Computers and Networking for 10 years
- Retired and enjoying a great hobby
- LRJ stands for Lori, Rachel, and Jacob (wife and two kids)
- Nephew is Jordan Westerkamp, football player University of Nebraska



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THE R₉ IS ON THE ROOF!!



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R₉ CREW

- Tim Procuniar, N8NQH
- Don Macon, KE8WVJ
- Glenn Rodgers, KE8LZD
- Stu Holzer, K8ST
- Jim Gifford, KD8APT
- Paul Sharp, WS8R
- William Curtice, WA8APB
- John Westerkamp, W8LRJ

Thank you all!!



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OVERVIEW

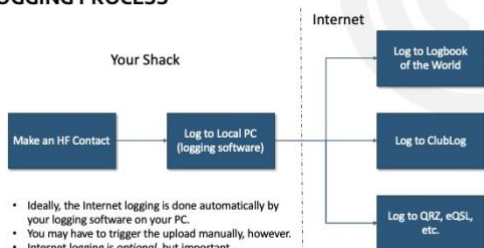
- Previously, we looked at logging and rig control for *voice* contacts using N3FJP locally and LotW and ClubLog over the Internet.
- Tonight, we will consider the same ideas of logging and rig control for *digital software*, in particular WSJT-X (FT-8 and FT-4) and Fldigi (PSK32, Olivia, MT63, RTTY).
- **Connecting rigs to digital software requires two parts: CAT Control and Audio Communication.**



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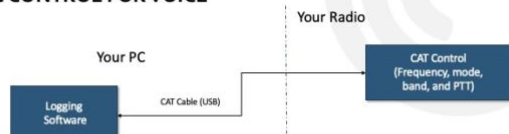
LOGGING PROCESS



- Ideally, the Internet logging is done automatically by your logging software on your PC.
- You may have to trigger the upload manually, however.
- Internet logging is optional, but important.

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RIG CONTROL FOR VOICE



- Generally requires a single USB cable and setup for CAT Control.
- Allows your logging software to enter the band, frequency, and mode automatically.
- Allows you to click on spots in the logging software and automatically switch your rig.

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RIG CONTROL



- Select Rig
- Select COM Port
- Select Baud Rate
- Click Test
- If box shows current rig frequency, click Done.
- If not, may have to play with Rig settings.
- You can Save Settings on the left and keep separate settings for each rig you own.

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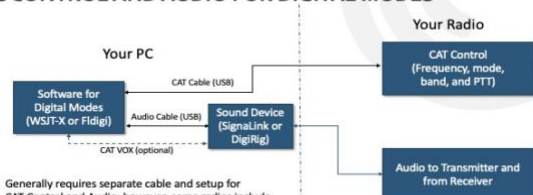
DX SPOTTING



- Click Telnet Host
- Enter dxspots.com
- Enter 23 for Telnet port
- Use your callsign for Telnet Login
- Be sure to click Enable DX Spotting.
- Other settings as desired.

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RIG CONTROL AND AUDIO FOR DIGITAL MODES



- Generally requires separate cable and setup for CAT Control and Audio; however, some radios include an internal soundcard and use a single USB cable (7300).
- Sometimes, it is desirable not to use CAT Control and allow the Sound Device to control PTT using VOK.

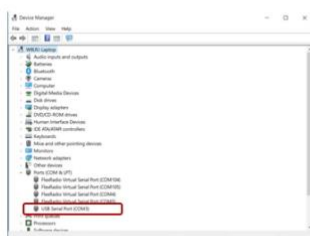
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CAT CONTROL OPTIONS

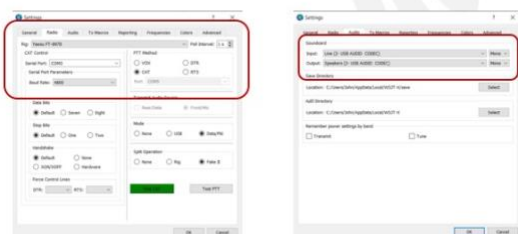
- Let the logging program do rig control (as we did for *voice logging*) using a USB CAT cable.
 - a) Advantage: DX spotting, one click rig setting
- Let the digital software do rig control using a USB CAT cable.
 - a) Advantage: Logging software automatically updates
- Do not use CAT Control and let the Signalink or DigiRig control the PTT using VOX.
 - a) Advantage: Simple, best for VHF/UHF or older rigs with no CAT control

DEVICE MANAGER



- Use *Device Manager* to find the COM Port that your CAT control cable is using.
- If it isn't obvious, unplug the CAT cable and see which port goes away. Then plug back in to get the Port number.
- Same approach for voice or digital mode CAT control.

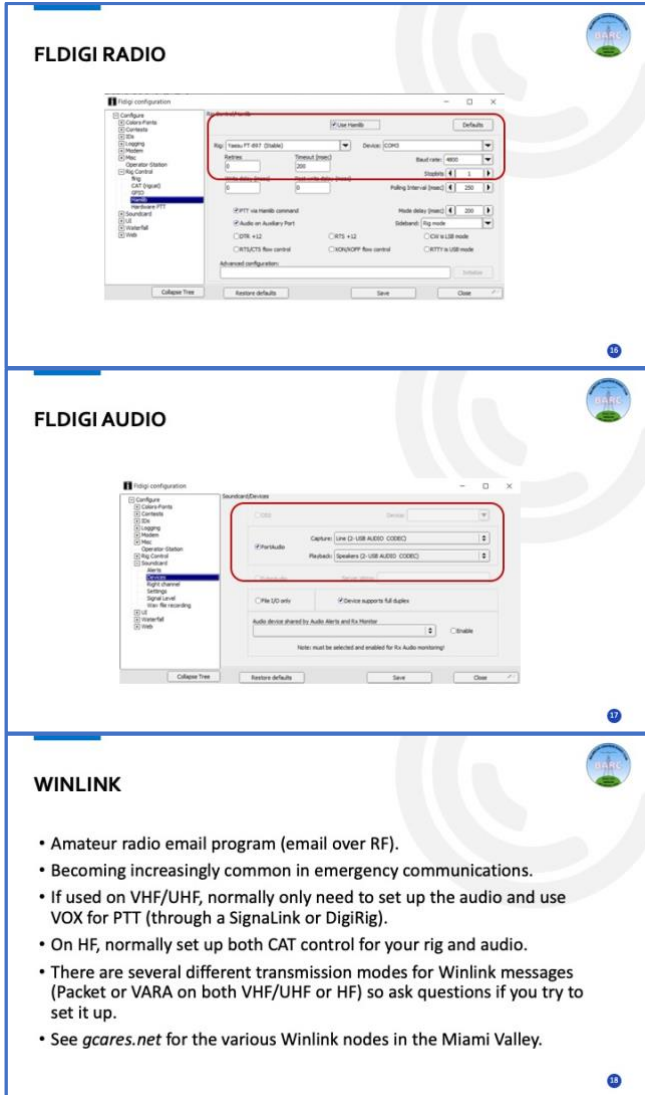
WSJT-X RADIO AND AUDIO



LOGGING FROM WSJT-X

- WSJT-X will talk directly to N3FJP, but it is very clumsy.
- Let WSJT-X do rig control and let another program do all the logging to N3FJP.
- Examples include:
 - a) Gridtracker (Windows, Mac, Linux)
 - b) JT-Alert (Windows only)
- These programs also add functionality like tracking awards (WAS, DXCC), various QSO displays, QRZ lookups, and Chat functions.

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Agenda Item 3. Treasurer's Report

John Westerkamp gave the Treasurer's report. The email he sent out just before the meeting is found below:

“We had a small amount of income this month from the auction (more to come!) and a donation by Bett Moore (KE8VMQ) for Fall Field Day. Our expenses were mainly for Spectrum and for the Build-A-Repeater Project components (about \$250 for the BAR). Spectrum special pricing expired at the end of August and our monthly expense for Internet went from \$80 to \$110. Removing the phone server would make it even worse. I will begin looking into MetroNet for Internet service.

During August, I opened a 6 month CD at WPCU and moved \$5000 into the investment account. The account returned \$4.84 in the short time it was open in August. The interest rate is 5.17% and should provide about \$250 of additional income. Our balance as of the September Membership Meeting is \$8876.88."

Thanks!

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John Westerkamp, W8LRJ
Treasurer

Fund	31-Aug-23	Income	Expenses	30-Sep-23
General	\$1,609.31	\$25.00	\$439.35	\$1,194.96
Comm center	\$1,594.70	\$0.00	\$8.48	\$1,586.22
Refreshments	\$841.31	\$0.00	\$69.98	\$771.33
Repeater	\$319.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$319.53
All Liquid Funds	\$4,364.85	\$25.00	\$517.81	\$3,872.04
6 Month CD	\$5,004.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,004.84
ALL FUNDS	\$9,369.69	\$25.00	\$517.81	\$8,876.88

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Joe Muchnij N8QOD moved we accept; Larry Darner KD8RER seconded; passed.

Agenda Item 4. Minutes from July Meeting

Jim Totten WA8HUB moved we accept the minutes as emailed; Glenn Rodgers KE8LZD seconded; passed

Agenda Item 5. President Report

Ray Hitt mentioned the ongoing Technician training classes and thanked Paul Sharp for setting them up. He thanked the Tech class instructors: John Westerkamp, Jim Caudill, and Bob Baker (Ray Hitt is teaching also).

Jim Gifford KD8APT is gathering pricing information from Logos at Work to set up a new round of ordering "BARC Bling" Shirts, hats, etc. More info to follow.

He mentioned that Jim Totten agreed to chair the nominating committee and that Tink and Steve Siwecki agreed to be Nominating Committee members. A vote by attendees was unanimous to accept the Nominating Committee as proposed.

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Agenda Item 6. Coordinators' Reports and Other Business

Paul Sharp WS8R said the Flex User's group wanted feedback on whether we should have an agenda or topic for each session, or not to have an agenda and allow discussions to drive where the meeting went. Paul will send out an e-mail to get a response to this question.

Jim Totten said the BARC Lunch Bunch is next Tuesday, September 26 at the Submarine House on Dayton Xenia Rd.

Tim Procnar N8NQH said the Build a Repeater (BAR) is next Monday, September 25, 2023, 19:00 at BARC.

Tink Siwecki KD8NUA said BARC Movie Night is September 28, and the movie is "North Fork." She also mentioned that October's general membership meeting will be a Chili Cookoff with a 6:30pm start time.

Meeting closed at about 8:30pm