



Hamgram

Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

-- When All Else Fails...AMATEUR RADIO --

April 2015

www.w0ne.org

April Program - Apr. 16

WHAT: March Club Program: *Skywarn Training 2015*. Dan Goltz WK0W, a certified Skywarn trainer, will lead this year's training session for Winona County. The session is suitable for Skywarn newcomers or those who need the recommended two-year refresher. The training is open to the public, so a good number of non-hams is expected to be there.

DATE & Time: Thursday, April 16, 2015 – 6:30 PM (Note the early start time.)

WHO: All amateur radio operators and other interested persons are encouraged to attend.

WHERE: Tandeski Center, MN State College-Southeast Technical, 1200 Storr's Pond Rd, Winona.



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Welcome New Amateur Radio Operators

Congratulations to the four new ham radio operators who obtained their licenses this week via the club's licensing course and VE testing session conducted on March 30.

Mark Simon--KE0DXI (General)

Justin Johnson--KE0DXJ (Tech)

Mike Butenhoff--KE0DXK (General)

Krishna Palepu--KE0DXL (Tech)



*Mark KE0DXI being congratulated
by Dan WK0W*

Let's welcome them into the Amateur Radio Service and coach them as they explore the fascinating world of ham radio.

In addition to the four new licensees, one other candidate tested unsuccessfully for Technician and another person tested unsuccessfully for upgrade from Tech to General.

Thanks to the nine volunteer examiners helping with the test session. Two candidates asked to have the test questions and answer choices read to them, so the additional VEs were put to good use.



*Mike KE0DXK being
congratulated by Paul KOZYV.*

Search and Recovery Operation Planned for Saturday, April 18

The Winona County Sheriff's Department is conducting a search and recover operation on Saturday, April 18, and has asked the Winona amateur radio community to assist as possible. There are multiple agencies involved, SOAR, WARC, Dive Rescue, DNR, trained cadaver dogs and handlers from various locations, and possibly others.

The purpose of the operation as is currently understood is to attempt to locate and recover remains of a victim of a boating accident. The reasoning to start at this time of the season is to be able to search before weeds grow up and make searching difficult.

The plan for amateur radio is not only to provide backup communications, but to provide additional searchers to comb islands and shoreline for any sign of the victim. Participants should be dressed

appropriately for the weather--it will be cold on the river. Bring gloves and a personal floatation device if you have one. Amateurs will want a handheld radio, and extra batteries.

At this time, the exact beginning time and staging area have not been announced. It is believed that the search area will be near Dresbach, MN. If the weather is threatening, the operation will likely be postponed.

As with any of these activities, a person is only required to give the time that they have, although if you are on an island you may not be able to leave until the boat comes to take you back to shore.

Anyone willing and able to assist should contact Dan Goltz, WK0W, to make him aware of your availability for planning purposes and to be certain that you receive final details as they become available.

Special Event Station W1N is ON for Saturday & Sunday, April 18 & 19.

Winona, MN—the town that saved itself.

That's the theme of the special event station on April 18 and 19. The station, using call sign W1N, commemorates the heroic effort of volunteers to minimize damage during the great flood of 1965. And the Winona area amateur radio community did it's job—providing valuable communications assistance throughout the emergency.

At this time it is understood that at least one location will be operating W1N during the two days of the event. It is hoped that another ham radio site (or more) will be added to the activity before the week end arrives.

New ham radio operators as well as experienced ops are invited to participate. The current site is the home of Matt Burt, KF0Q, at 292 Valley Oaks Drive, Winona. Matt has committed to have at

least two transceivers going for the event. He can handle a good number of operators and visitors in his shack.

Advertized hours of operation are 14:00 to 22:00 UTC (that's 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM CDT) both days. Please let Matt know if you can participate so that he can be sure that there is an open spot for you on one of the rigs or logbooks.

Special event stations are a great way to have relaxed fun with ham radio and to enjoy the company of fellow enthusiasts of the hobby. Many of us enjoy chasing special event stations, so operating W1N is a good way to give back to the hobby.

Be certain to contact Matt and let him know when you can take the opportunity to come by his house and participate. (Oh yes, and remember that great amateur radio tradition—bring treats.)

Now You Can Have Your DXCC Submissions Checked Right Here in Winona County!



Dakota Division Director Greg Widin, KØGW, has recently appointed Winona ARC member Mike Cizek, WØVTT, as a DXCC Card Checker. Mike has been involved with the field checking program since its beginning in the early 1990s when he was living in the

Washington, DC area. He retired and his family moved to St Charles MN last summer. Mike's wife Susan, K3SMC, is a school teacher in Rochester.

The ARRL field checking program provides League members the opportunity to have QSL cards for all ARRL awards checked locally without having to mail their cards to League headquarters in Newington. Division Directors may appoint a small number of qualified amateurs within their division as HF Awards Managers (for Worked All States), VHF Awards Managers (for VUCC), or DXCC Card Checkers,

who are eligible to check cards for all ARRL awards; DXCC, VUCC, WAC and WAS.

Complete information on the ARRL awards program is on the League web site:

- For DXCC: <http://www.arrl.org/dxcc>
- For VUCC: <http://www.arrl.org/vucc>
- For WAC: <http://www.arrl.org/wac>
- For WAS: <http://www.arrl.org/was>

For further information on any ARRL awards and the application process, Mike's complete contact info is included below and is available on the ARRL web site here: <http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-card-checker-search>

Mike Cizek WØVTT
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St Charles MN 55972-0616
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Minutes of WARC Board Meeting held on April 6, at Watkins Hall, Winona State University.

Present: John (K2OPT), Lance (KB0YJU) , Syed (AC0VA), , Paul (K0ZYV), Harro (KG6RLM), Dan (WK0W), Les (K0BAD),Tom(W0MK)

Call to order by Paul at around 7 PM.

Agenda
0. Secretary's Report 1. Treasurer Report 2. Committee Reports 3. Other Items Paul called the Meeting around 7 PM.
Secretary's Report/Minutes
Minutes of last Meeting were on hand. Dan mentioned he looked over and found no issues. Dan moved a motion to approve the Minutes of last Board Meeting. Les seconded. Paul took little time then to read through the Minutes. There were no discussions further on the Minutes. Minutes were then approved unanimous.
Treasurer Reports
Treasurer Harro was present for the Treasurer Report. Les moved to approve the Treasurer Report on hand. Dan seconded the motion. Treasured report was then approved. Also available was a list with name of members who paid the annual dues and who did not.
Committee Reports
Dan from Public Service Committee first presented his report. Committee had a meeting that was well attended and discussed use of Witoka Tower. During that meeting committee prepared a plan. Les and Dan presented the plan to Mike

Peterson. Mike Peterson whole heartedly supported the plan. Mike Peterson told Les and Dan to proceed with purchase of anything we think we may need to make Witoka project work. Also June 13th is set tentatively for a joint exercise with the Dive and Rescue team, utilizing incident command and being a showcase of APRS capability. Paul mentioned he has two APRS capable radios available. Since that meeting with Mike, Dan and Les had another couple of meeting with Mike. Mike booked Tandeski Center on 16th of April for SKYWARN training. Also Mike plans to visit Garvin Heights County Storage facility to locate duplexers for the repeater we have. Dan thinks he might have it by now. And these will be for club's to have. Another thing Mike has is Solar Panel that will also be donated to club. Dan thinks Solar Panel could be used to keep batteries charged up. Dan replied to Paul's question that there is AC available in Witoka Tower but Solar Panel could also be used for whatever way we need. Dan did not know if Mike had located the VHF Antennas (Paul's question). Les mentioned he plans to meet with Dan coming Friday and bring the duplexer (if available) and also the repeaters to Witoka Tower. Les will check if all the needed cables are there. Les plan to mark the duplexers. Dan also plans to measure to find what sort of ropes and pulleys will be needed for the tower. Mike Peterson also agreed with the spacing of the Antennas on the tower club suggesting. Les thinks there may be additional plan to place sort of National Broadband type service on the tower. John suggested buying good quality pulleys as he has bad experience buying cheap ones. Marine grade ones are the best. Lance emphasized we should plan to go up the Tower once. John then shared his experience with pulleys.

Paul's report was then next. Paul mentioned it was a very successful Licensing Class session. We had four out of five passed the tests. Out of four two even passed both Technician and General. One person was sick and plan to test at Minneapolis area. John checked couple of hours ago and they were not listed in FCC data base yet. Paul thanked everyone involved running the classes and license sessions.

John mentioned there is another local person got the license and who lives in our area. He found that out while checking FCC data base. Syed mentioned we should send standard welcome letter to all new hams in our area. Lance suggested to send the letter once all call signs has been assigned. Paul wants all these new Hams to come to club meetings and Lance mentioned to specify this Month's proposed SKYWARN Training (Thursday April 16, 6:30 PM at Tandeski Center).

April Club Meeting

Lance proposed that April Club General Meeting be held as SKYWARN training, to be held at Tandeski Center starting 6:30 PM on Thursday the April 16. Motion was seconded. Les asked why we are having motion of this sort as we never had motion of this nature before. Paul answered we are getting approval as the Meeting will be held in different location at different time and we kind of looking for blessing of the board. Les thinks Lance has the authority to plan General Meeting and programs and this motion is unnecessary. A vote was then held and the motion passed with les's dissent. Les thinks it makes bad precedent for planning future programs and makes undue restraint on planning the programs. Les is planning to

attend SKYWARN training although. Lance mentioned start of SKYWARN training time (6:30 PM) will be announced in Hamgram so everybody is aware of time change. Syed will contact Len if he has all the emails to send all the new ham invitation to Club Meetings.

Other Items

Lance and Erik were cleaning the stuff at Historical Society and found that four racks out of five batteries were shot. Lance told that brand new Gel Cells we use are available at "Motor Parts" at discounted price. If one brings one old Gel Cell, then \$1.50 is also discounted (\$ 13.90 final cost). Lance is looking for old Cells that can be returned. Lance needs 8 Gel Cells. Paul mentioned where he can find some. There was then discussion on everybody's experience of returning cell batteries and state laws. Lance then asked if Motor Sport could be approached to get volume discount. Erik knows the owner as also Paul. Lance would like to address general club about if there is demand and can we order bulk for cheaper price. Lance mentioned he saw lot of leaking while cleaning Winona Historical Society racks. John suggested using baking soda to clean up the gel cell mess.

Also Lance mentioned we have two totes at the Mechanical closet of Historical Society that needs to be taken out. That was leftover from special event station. Also there is the push up mast on the roof of the WHS that needs to be taken down. Mast does collapse down. Paul mentioned he will take the Antenna Tuner that is in one of the Totes.

Meeting was adjourned about 7:50 PM

The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 1264, Winona, MN 55987-7264

Executive Board

President: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV Vice President: Lance Tagliapietra, KBØYJU
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Secretary: Syed Faruque, ACØVA Treasurer: Harro Hohenner KG6RLM
sfaruque@yahoo.com Harro@hohenner.com

Custodian: Erik Brom, WBØNIU Members: Dan Goltz WK0W
ewbrom@hbc.com Leslie Hittner K0BAD

Dues: \$25.00 per calendar year per license holder.
\$30.00 per calendar year for all licensed members of the same family within the same household.
Dues should be sent to: Harro Hohenner, Treasurer, P.O. Box 1264, Winona, MN 55987

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Board meetings are announced in advance (WEPNet).

Monthly club programs are held on the third Thursday. The submission deadline for the **Hamgram** is Wednesday of the week *prior* to that of the club programs.

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