



Hamgram

Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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

April 2013

www.w0ne.org

April 2013 Program



Date: Thursday, April 18, 2013

Time: 7:00 PM

Program: SKYWARN Training. A special SKYWARN training session will be provided by Dan Goltz WK0W, a certified SKYWARN trainer. This session will be tailored for amateur radio operators and other key personnel in emergency services in Winona County. The narrow focus should offer plenty of opportunities to clarify roles and practices while offering plenty of opportunities for questions. Dan has recently had planning meetings with the NWS and with Winona County emergency management personnel, so the information will be current and relevant.

A brief social time is planned for after the training session.

MEETING LOCATION: Conference Room B, Winona County Office Building (formerly "Annex"), 202 West 2nd Street, Winona, MN. Doors will be unlocked from 6:45 to 7:15 PM.

UPCOMING CLUB ACTIVITIES

- SKYWARN Training – April Program – Thursday, April 18.
- Technician & General Course Begins – April 29.
- Arcadia Brut Challenge – Communications Support – Saturday, May 18.
- The Trinona in Winona – Communications Support – Sunday, June 9.
- License Testing – Available for all Classes -- June 10.
- ARRL Field Day 2013 – June 22-23.
- Great River Shakespeare Festival – Special Event Station – July 13-14.

--- LICENSING COURSE AND VE TESTING ---

The club is sponsoring an amateur radio licensing course to run from April 29 to June 10, 2013. The course is for persons who would like to earn the Technician Class amateur radio license or for those who would like to upgrade to General Class license.

Dates: Classes -- Six consecutive Monday evenings --April 29 through June 3, 2013 (except Memorial Day week class session will be on Tuesday). License testing session -- Monday, June 10.

Time: Classes -- 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Testing session -- 7:00 PM.

Place: Winona Middle School, 1570 Homer Road, Winona. Room to be determined.

Cost: \$29.95 for the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, 2nd Edition, to be paid at the first course session. For those upgrading their license to General, the fee applies to the General Class License Manual, 7th Edition. The course fee is waived for persons providing their own appropriate manual. Study manuals can be ordered at the time of registration. In addition there is a \$15.00 license examination fee to be paid at the time of the exam.

Registration Deadline: **Monday, April 22.** Register by contacting John Kowalik at davkow@charter.net , or at (507) 689-0393 (leave voice mail if necessary).

For questions regarding the course or license testing please contact John Kowalik (see above).

WARC STANDING COMMITTEES AND BOARD HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE

The Board April 8 meeting minutes on the next page show lots of the activities of the club, but here are a few highlights and some additional details that come to mind:

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Lots of regular activity in this area including the great facility tour at TRW in March. Upcoming programs will support club activities in the same time frames. A different location is under review for the July picnic.

VOICE REPEATER: The 146.835 repeater was brought back on line in March with a temporary transceiver and amplifier while the permanent items are being repaired, aligned, and enclosed in a more protective box. Assessment of the 146.640 system and upgrade as necessary is in the initial stages.

DIGITAL SYSTEMS: System condition is being monitored and maintained as appropriate.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS: Participation in NWS La Crosse Office amateur radio coordination session; Meeting with Winona County Emergency Management Coordinator, Winona County Dispatch Supervisor and Sheriff Brand regarding operating relationships including call-outs,

drills, and exercises; Presentation of April SKYWARN training session for the club and other key personnel.

OPERATING ACTIVITIES: The dust has settled on the MN QSO Party club station(s) and planning continues for Field Day, the GRSF special event station, the ARRL UHF contest station, and the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge special event station with the Riverland ARC. ARRL Sweepstakes is also on the docket for later this year.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH: A licensing class beginning April 29 (registration April 22); License testing June 10; Special June Amateur Radio publicity leading up to Field Day 2013; JOTA 2013 involvement in October.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The liability insurance premium has been paid for coverage through May 2014. Balance in the checkbook is \$5,968.80.

OTHER ITEMS: Activities which seem to cut across committee lines include preparation for the Arcadia Brute Challenge and the Trinona triathlon.

Thanks to members of the Executive Board and Standing Committees for your time, effort, and commitment. It is very much appreciated.

**Minutes of WARC Board Meeting held on April 8, 2013 at Timbers Restaurant.
Present: Erik (WB0NIU), Harro (KG6RLM), Matt (KF0Q), Bob (KC9IWE), Syed (AC0VA)
Call to order by Syed at around 7 PM.**

Treasurer Reports

Report from Treasurer Matt was discussed. Matt paid the ARRL Liability Insurance. A check was also received from late Richard Kolter estate. Treasurer provided a paid membership list.

Committee Reports

Matt presented the details of Operating Activities Report. Summary of proposed 2013 events are:

MN QSO Party Feb 4th, Field Day June 22-23, GRSF July 13-14, ARRL August UHF Contest August 3-4, National Wildlife Refuge at Trempealeau – Mid Oct, ARRL Sweepstakes (phone) November 16-17.

Board discussed general lack of membership and even less available operator for the events. Syed will work on a welcome letter to local hams inviting them to Field Day and other programs. Full Operating Committee Report is attached [to original minutes].

Syed read aloud full Emergency Service Committee Report from Dan Goltz.

Emergency Service Committee has been fairly active. Committee had fruitful meeting with Todd Shea, National Weather Service LaCrosse Warning Coordinator; Jason Gilman, acting Winona County Emergency Manager; Mike Peterson, Winona County Dispatch Supervisor; Dave Brand, Winona County Sheriff. They all are highly appreciative of our club and to quote Sheriff Brand

“you guys have saved lives”. Full report of Emergency Services Committee attached [to original minutes].

Repeater Issues:

Board discussed at length both 835 and 640 repeater issues and way to go forward. Erik provided up-to-date info on 640 issues and what has been done on 835. 835 Repeater was recently out of commission. Erik and Matt visited the site and installed old used equipment from Erik and Walt and the repeater is working fine. Repeater output is 40 Watts.

Bob mentioned 835 Repeater coming out strong in his area in LaCrosse. This solution is temporary until the permanent solution is installed. Dr. Earl is working on the hardware and Jim working on the box. Erik would like to go to 70 Watt on 835 Repeater and would like input from Wisconsin Repeater Co-ordinator if that would generate any conflicts.

Regarding 640 Repeater, transmitter seems to be one key issue. Bob mentioned Kenwood does sell repeater. Radio City Website also has more info on Kenwood repeater. Jim Brown found out ICOM digital repeaters are D-star type. Erik would like to have three systems available and one for back up. Matt will contact TE System and get pricing on Repeater Amplifier.

Erik encouraged a visit to the 640 site and Matt agreed to make the trip. Erik had suggestions on what to check on the 640 site, like grounding, APRS telemetry, Bionic Tiny Tracker 4. Line also needs a filter. Matt took all the suggestions and will plan a trip.

Board also approved \$ 1,200.00 to buy a transmitter and amplifier worth 70 Watt for 640 site. Syed is also working on contacting Andrew Corp to see another donation of feedline/connectors is feasible.

JOTA

Board discussed Len's email regarding club participation to JOTA. Board also reflected on last year's participation.

Bob mentioned last year's JOTA meeting at the Refuge was very successful. Two groups of about six Boy Scouts each visited the site and they showed interest in Ham Radio Stuff. Bob also mentioned it is better in his opinion if the event is planned outdoor at a public place.

Board approved a motion to support JOTA.

Board also reiterated limitation as regards to volunteer availability to support many of the genuine causes club likes to pursue. If any club member takes the lead on JOTA, members might be interested to come out and support the cause.

Syed questioned if board would like to change the Summer Picnic Site from Goodview Park to Winona Lake area. There were no objections to the change. Syed will inquire about the costs and come back in a later meeting to get final approval.

Board reiterated SKYWARN training 18 April, 7 PM at Winona County Office Building.

Erik mentioned will be very busy for the next 8 Weeks.

Club received a very generous Thank You card from Brom family.

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

Executive Board

President: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV
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Vice President: Lance Tagliapietra, KBØYJU
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Secretary: Syed Faruque, ACØVA
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Treasurer: Matt Burt, KF0Q
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Custodian: Erik Brom, WBØNIU
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Members: Harro Hohenner KG6RLM
Bob Seaquist KC9IWE

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: Matt Burt, Treasurer, P.O. Box 1264, Winona, MN 55987

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Please address comments and ***Hamgram*** correspondence to: Len Litvan
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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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