



# Hamgram

*Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*

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

*December 2012*

[www.w0ne.org](http://www.w0ne.org)

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## DECEMBER PROGRAM - DEC 20

WHAT: N1MM is quickly becoming the de-facto electronic logging program for WARC activities. Why? Because it contains a range of features appropriate to club operating activities (logging, scoring, etc.); it formats contests and other HF activities in which the club seems to participate; it easily accommodates multi-rig logging and rig/PC interfacing; and it is FREE. December's program features an overview of N1MM operation for WARC activities by Matt Burt, KF0Q. Come and see how easy it is to use the basic features of this logging tool for Field Day, MN QSO Party, special event stations, and more—including your OWN general logging!

There will be a social period after the program.

DATE: Thursday, December 20, 2012    TIME: 7:00 PM

WHERE: VFW Post 1287, 208 East Third Street--between Market and Franklin Streets!

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### APRS NODE NOW OPERATIONAL IN WABASHA AREA

Thanks to Russ N0QK and Roger, KI0F (and others?) there is now an APRS node operational at the Roger's location between Wabasha and Lake City. This node greatly improves APRS coverage in the area. Thanks, guys.

## UPCOMING CLUB ACTIVITIES

- December Program – Thursday, December 20.
- Executive Board Meeting – Monday, January 7.
- Winter Holiday Party – Thursday, January 17.
- MN QSO Party – Saturday, February 2.



## WARC HOLIDAY PARTY – January 17, 2013

Mark your calendars for a fun holiday party this year.

Date: Thursday, January 17, 2013

Time: Social—6:00 PM, Dinner – 6:30 PM

Program: Travel program by Jodi & Erik Brom.

Who: This is a family event—bring the spouses, kids & friends. (Children’s menu items available.)

Door Prizes: Drawings for donated items—some from local businesses, plus bring something to donate to the pile if you are able.

Dinner will be ordered from the menu, with special prices negotiated on the tenderloin tips dinner (\$11.95) and batter fried cod dinner (\$10.95). Dinners, including other dinner menu items, include baked potato (or equivalent), salad bar, home-made soups, strawberry shortcake, and non-alcoholic drink. Alcoholic drinks are available extra.

The holiday party is an open event—visitors and guests are welcome.

# WARC 146.835 REPEATER UPGRADED WITH NEW FEEDLINE

Thanks to a very generous donation of feedline and accessories to the club made by *Andrew, a CommScope Company*, the performance of the club's 146.835 repeater has been significantly upgraded. Syed AC0VA identified an opportunity to obtain new coax from Andrew and worked diligently with Pam Gallagher there to identify and obtain the necessary materials.

The upgrade was performed on Saturday, October 27, with Syed, Jim KB0THN, and Erik WB0NIU doing the work at the site. The feedline is now a new Andrew 7/8" heliax which replaces the old, original 1/2" heliax (see photo).



The reach of the repeater, an important part of the local amateur radio communications system, is clearly much improved as a result of the project.

Thanks to *Andrew/CommScope*, Pam, Syed, Jim, and Erik (and any others) for making this big improvement for the Winona ham radio community.

## LICENSE TESTING RESULTS – MONDAY, NOV. 19, 2012

The Winona Amateur Radio Club is pleased to recognize the following area people who successfully completed examinations on November 19 for upgraded licenses in the Amateur Radio Service:

Andy Bergaus, KE0XK, upgraded to Amateur Extra.  
Melanie Reap, KD0NTM, and Roger Fedler, N9WNX, both upgraded to General Class. Congratulations to all three of you for your achievements. Enjoy your new

access to additional amateur radio frequencies which is afforded by the higher license classes.

Thanks to VEs Les K0BAD, Jim K0WE, Erik WB0NIU, Dan WK0W, Russ N0QK, and Syed AC0VA for the testing, Thanks John K2OPT for assisting and thanks to Paul K0ZYV for securing the room in Watkins Hall.

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## Items for Sale or Trade

I have 3 antennas for sale or trade!

1 ea - 2 meter 7 element beam (home brew), works great on 2-440 sideband

1 ea - 6 meter 4 element beam (brand ?)

1 ea - 6 meter J-Pole

Make me an offer or bring something to trade (coax, misc. radio stuff, what ever u might think I might like!)

I am also looking for a used EXTRA class book!!!

Thank you,

Matt (KC9CGW)

[kc9cgw@yahoo.com](mailto:kc9cgw@yahoo.com)

### VOLUNTEER EXAMINER UPDATE



We are pleased to acknowledge that Syed Faruque AC0VA obtained his volunteer examiner certification through the ARRL VEC in November. Congratulations, Syed, for making this commitment to the Winona ham radio community.

John Kowalik K2OPT has also submitted a VE application to the ARRL VEC, and it is pending approval at this time.

When John receives his certification, we believe the number of currently certified VEs in and around the Winona area will total fourteen!

# WARC 2012 ARRL Sweepstakes (Phone) Results

W0NE was off and running when the 2012 ARRL Sweepstakes contest started on the afternoon of Saturday, Nov. 17. The location was the home of Lance KB0YJU. The rig was Harro's IC-7410 and antennas were the club's G5RV and Hustler 6BVT vertical. Lance's Kenwood was also used for some QSOs and spotting.

Logging was done in the N1MM program using one of Harro's PCs, but QSO input and frequency control was strictly manual.

Operators included Lance KB0YJU, John K2OPT, Syed AC0VA, Len KC0RSX, Bob KC9IWE, and



Amber Webster--a YL guest operator. Amber's brother, Andrew, and father Barry were also visitors. See photo of Amber making the club's contact with Alaska!

The station made 176 QSOs with 64 ARRL and RAC sections for a total score of 22,400. That's less than last year, but the objective of making the station available for members and other interested persons was met. And those participating learned a lot--as usual for

one of the club events.

Thanks to all who made this activity happen!

## Skywarn Recognition Day – La Crosse, December 1, 2012

Great time at the NWS office on Saturday, Dec. 1. -- 37 ops participating and 274 QSOs. Good food, too!



# ARRL November Sweepstakes Phone 2012 at KF0Q

by Matt Burt, KF0Q

Every year for more than twenty years I have been looking forward to operating in the phone portion of the ARRL November Sweepstakes Contest. With it's the somewhat lengthy exchange and challenge to work stations in all ARRL and RAC sections in North America this event can put both stations and operators to the test on the bands from 160 through 10 meters. The CW portion of this event is held the first full weekend in November while the phone portion is the third weekend. Many folks participate in both events but there is no requirement to do so. Over the years the section count has changed and for 2012 the RAC eliminated the Ontario section and split the province into four new sections of Ontario North, Ontario South, Ontario East and Greater Toronto Area. These changes have brought the total section count up to 83. Working at least one station in each of the 83 sections is known affectionately as a "sweep".

I have operated at many other locations over the years for sweeps but decided that this year it would be nice to stay home and practice with the N1MM contest logging program. I recently used the program for the CQWW DX phone contest and found a couple of the features very useful; rig control of my 746pro and the telnet DX cluster window. In most contests Multi-operator stations are allowed use of

the cluster. For sweeps single operator stations using this form of "assistance" are classified as unlimited to keep the playing field level. For 2012, I decided that unlimited was the way to go.

As many of you may know my antenna setup is nothing to brag about. To please the neighbors I have put together a semi-stealth antenna farm consisting of one vertical antenna tucked along side a skyline locust and a 40M dipole in the attic. The setup works okay to get on the air and meet folks but does create a bit of a challenge for contests. I have been waiting over twenty years to get a sweep from operating at my limited station at home. One year I missed the sweep by a single section; a memory that's hard to forget. In my mind the usual hurdles of ND, WY, MT, and NL would still be there but what about the new sections in Ontario? I wondered "would I come up short once again"?

(cont. next page)



Shortly before the contest started I found a problem with a connector on the 40 meter dipole feed line. The repair caused a slight delay in my contest start but soon I was filling the log with contacts. To my surprise I quickly had some of the historically tougher sections of SD, NL, WY, DE, MT and three of the new Ontario sections in the log. My sixty-first contact was Northwest Territory who I found calling CQ on 15 meters! I was hard to believe how well the start of the contest was this time around. By the time I turned in for the night there were sixty-two sections in the log already.

I did not get on the air the next morning for quite some time but when I did the sections fell rapidly. The remaining sections of NE, and SF were in the log shortly after lunch. By 1925Z I only needed West

Virginia and Manitoba for a sweep! Frantically I searched the cluster for both sections. A station in WV was spotted on 40 meters but was really, really weak and having a tough time sorting through the bedlam of stations calling in a horrendous pileup. After a couple of futile attempts I gave up on WV. There was no way I could break the pileup with my station. I decided to take another break and watch some of the football game in progress. It was nice to get out of the shack for a half hour.

I returned to the shack at 2029Z. The station from WV that was on earlier had left. With no spots on the cluster window I decided to tune around and work new stations just to get some points. I called CQ for a bit on toward the top end of 40 meters and after things dried up I tuned some more. At 2150Z I stumbled into K8JQ from West Virginia down below 7225MHz with the attic dipole! He was a bit stronger than the other WV station I heard previously and we were able to make the exchange albeit after a couple of rounds for my 82nd section and 180th contact! Just ten minutes later VE4VT closed the gap for the sweep with another random search on 20 meters! It was a huge relief to finally get a sweep at home! I could not believe what happened! Of course I promised my XLY Cindy that I would quit for the day if I got a sweep (which I promptly did after another forty contacts). Now I ask myself "what will next year's event bring?"

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**Minutes of WARC Board Meeting held on December 3, 2012 at Winona Knitting Mills.**

**Present: Doug (KD0KTC), Matt (KF0Q), Paul (K0ZYV), John (K2OPT), Bob (KC9IWE), Harro(KG6RLM), Tom (W0MK ), Syed (AC0VA), Clare (K0NY), Lance (KBOYZU)**

**Call to order by Lance at around 7 PM.**

<b>Agenda</b>
0. New board members to join discussion 1. Minutes of last meeting 2. Treasurer Report 3. Committee Reports 4. Eric's Heating Cable bill 5. Holiday Party 6. Other
<b>New Board member</b>
Clare moved and Lance seconded a motion to approve new Board members to join discussion and deliberations.
<b>Minutes of Last Meeting</b>
Minutes of last meeting was approved by voice vote. A copy was not available but content of the minutes were discussed
<b>Treasurer's report</b>
Clare (Treasurer) mentioned we have \$ 50.00 more than what we had last Month.



## Committee and other Reports

Lance read out loud report of Emergency Services Committee from Dan Goltz (WK0W) and Operating Activities Committee from Len (KC0RSX).

Emergency Services Committee is looking forward to portable amateur repeater equipment from Winona County Emergency Management Office. Club requested D710 handheld and GPS tracker. Idea is to Cross Band Control with D710. Looks like the issue is bottled up in how the office orders stuff. To add to Dan's report, Clare added that after the SET exercise last October, Clare went to Russ's station and made contact in 40 meter band with State Authorities and could relay contact information.

To add to Len's Operating Activity Report, Matt mentioned JOTA was not mentioned in the report. Lance mentioned he will be hosting Minnesota QSO party at his home as Antennas are already set there.

John explained in detail benefits of fiber glass Antenna mast from DX engineering. After discussion, board approved \$ 132.50 to purchase fiber glass mast from DX Engineering. Club is taking advantage of shipping costs and low cost on this order. John will take care of the order and receive the shipment.

Lance reported APRS and 835 Repeater is working fine. Lance stated he noticed 835 can be accessed from wider areas. Syed mentioned he is working on getting another free shipment from Andrew. Paul mentioned we should have net meeting on 835 Repeater. Members thought next time we should try 835 Repeater for Sunday's Net Meeting.

## Other Items

Board approved Erik's heater cable bill. Paul asked treasurer to pay Erik.

Paul asked when is the next Tech Class? John stated more advertising is needed. Also class date might need to be shifted to attract Scouts or School age Students. John will work out a plan for next class and present to Board. Bob inquired if club is interested in Cram Class (training class of one day or shorter). Bob mentioned LaCrosse club has good success running Cram

Classes. John voiced his concern running 5 hour Cram Session.

Matt said, he is working on facebook addition to Club Website and that might attract younger generation. Matt also mentioned NIMM software will be available and ready before MNQSO party.

Club already approved \$ 100.00 for Holiday Party which is on January 17<sup>th</sup> (Regular Club meeting day in January).

Board discussed \$ 150.00 budget for field day. On Clare's suggestion, approval of \$ 150.00 was delayed until new board member joins next Meeting.

John mentioned he was checking on Repeater Supplier and their number is dwindling.

Problem with transition state of 835 Repeater was discussed. Clare suspect duplexer and needs cleaning.

Clare mentioned he uses 440 Repeater to talk to Erik. Bob was not aware of the 440 Repeater (440.226 MHz and no tone).

Meeting was adjourned at around 8 PM.

## **DID YOU KNOW????**

That the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) started by Tom KC9ECI in Galesville and a few friends in January 2006 topped 10,000 members this month (10,011 members as this Hamgram goes to print)?

Thanks Tom for inspiring this fun organization, which is such a great resource for CW neophytes and enthusiasts.

See the SKCC home page at <http://www.skccgroup.com/> for the rundown on the club's fun CW sprints, "sprintathons", and—especially—the upcoming January month-long special event birthday activity, "K3Y".

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

**Executive Board**

President: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV <a href="mailto:pschumacher@winona.edu">pschumacher@winona.edu</a>	Vice President: Lance Tagliapietra, KBØYJU <a href="mailto:lancetag@hbc.com">lancetag@hbc.com</a>
Secretary: Syed Faruque, ACØVA <a href="mailto:sfaruque@yahoo.com">sfaruque@yahoo.com</a>	Treasurer: Clare Jarvis, KØNY <a href="mailto:Jarvis@jarviscomputer.com">Jarvis@jarviscomputer.com</a>
Custodian: Erik Brom, WBØNIU <a href="mailto:ewbrom@hbc.com">ewbrom@hbc.com</a>	Members: Reid Simmons K7YX & Harro Hohenner KG6RLM

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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: Clare Jarvis, 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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