



Hamgram

Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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

December 2014

www.w0ne.org

December Program - Dec 18

WHAT: December Program: As of publication, the program for December was still under development. Details will be disseminated via the Sunday night net and the reflector once things are finalized.

Guests are always welcome at monthly programs—hams and non-hams alike.

There will be a social period and snacks after the program. See you there!

DATE & Time: Thursday, December 18, 2014 -- 7:00 PM

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

WHERE: Conference Room B, Winona County Office Building, 202 West 3rd Street, Winona, MN. Doors will be unlocked from 6:45 to 7:15 PM. If you are late, please try the 146.835 repeater to have someone let you in.

2015 Holiday Party

Mark your calendars—Thursday, January 15, is the evening for this winter's holiday party.

New location this year—the Winona Family Restaurant, 1611 Service Drive.

Syed ACOVA & Ken NOJP have been working on the arrangements and promise a great party at the new location.

TECH CLASS COURSE UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Know someone who might like to get their amateur radio license? Paul, KOZYV, and Melanie, KDONTM, are working on a Tech Class course to begin in January. Get your feelers out for any course prospects. Details will be publicized when available.

Membership Dues—

Payable Any Time

What a bargain. WARC membership dues are still only \$25 per year for an individual and \$30 for a family. Annual dues for elementary through high school students whose parents are not club members are \$5.00 until youth finish high school or turn 18 years of age.

Dues are payable by the end of December.

Your club dues support many activities of the club including maintenance of hardware, cost of insurance, Field Day expenses, and others.

DID YOU KNOW???

A record 18 folks attended the Dec. 6 breakfast at the Timbers.

Lots of fun!

November Semi-Annual Club Meeting Summary

The November semi-annual meeting including election of three board members went well again this year.

Board members elected to replace three outgoing members were Dan Goltz, WK0W; Leslie Hittner, K0BAD; and Lance Tagliapietra, KB0YJU. They will be joining board members Paul Schumacher, K0ZYV, Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, and Syed Faruque, AC0VA, who have one more year remaining on their two-year terms, and club station custodian Erik, WB0NIU, an appointed board member. Officers of the Executive Board for 2015 will be elected by the board members at their January meeting currently scheduled for Monday, January 12.

Congratulations to the newly-elected board members and thanks to outgoing board members Matt Burt, KF0Q and Bob Seaquist, KC9IWE. We appreciate your willingness to help guide the club—both incoming and outgoing board members. Many thanks.

Other items discussed at the semi-annual meeting included the balance in the club treasury and the affect of the discontinuance of the Arcadia Brute bicycle event on contributions to the club, the possibility on adding a tone to the 146.640 repeater in order to minimize false keying up, purchase of a Yaesu Fusion/ Analog repeater under Yaesu's current promotion program, and the effort to purchase a trailer for the club to use for a portable operating point and storage of club property. The Executive Board will be acting on the items discussed and utilize input from the November meeting in moving forward.

After the business meeting, there was a quick tour of the Winona County Emergency Management facilities at the Law Enforcement Center and a social time. Thanks to Dan WK0W for the tour and to Lance KB0YJU for the treats.

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY 2014

By Todd Shea KB9YXS

Local amateur radio operators and members of the National Weather Service (NWS) participated in the 16th Annual **SKYWARN Recognition Day** on Saturday, December 6, 2014. SKYWARN Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the NWS.



A total of 29 people, including six WARC members, visited our office and assisted making contacts with other radio operators across the world. The La Crosse National Weather Service station made 292 contacts, including 36 other NWS

offices, and contacts in Canada, Australia, US Virgin Islands, Lithuania, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.

It was actually a nice weather day with a high temperature of 31 degrees under sunny skies and light wind all day. That allowed us to have four (4) radios and antennas operating.

Here is a summary:

- Hours operated: 9
- Total contacts made: 292
- Total U.S. States contacted: 42
- Total NWS offices contacted: 36
- Total International countries contacted: 7



Most of the operating was done on 2, 15, 17, 20, 40, and 80 meters



ARE YOU KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH LOCAL HAM RADIO ACTIVITIES?

It seems that there are many ways local hams stay abreast of activities hereabouts. Here is a brief summary of few of them:

- *Sunday Night Net*—8:30 PM local time—146.835 repeater (tone 131.8)
- *Monthly Programs*—Third Thursday of the month
- *Executive Board Meetings*—Generally the 1st Monday of the month
- *W0NE Website*—Including good Calendar of Events—www.w0ne.org
- *WARC Facebook Page*—www.Facebook.com/WinonaARC

- *W0NE Reflector (listserv)*—[Click here](#) to subscribe (free).
- *Hamgram* (but you already know about that one....)

And there are the many get-togethers where activities are discussed via eyeball QSOs: Saturday morning breakfasts (see the website calendar for locations—8:15 AM), Monday afternoon coffees (see Calendar), and Friday evening suppers (ad-hoc).

Keep up to date with what's going on and *have fun with Amateur Radio!*

Minutes of WARC Board Meeting held on December 1, 2014 at WSU Library

Present: Paul (K0ZYV) Chair, Lance (KB0YJU), John (K2OPT), Les (K0BAD), Syed (AC0VA), Matt (KF0Q), Erik (WB0NIU), Bob (KC9IWE), Dan (WK0W).

Agenda

Call to Order

Minutes

Treasurer Report

Committee Reports

Annual Holiday Party, Discussion,
budget

Other



Call to Order and Minutes

Paul called the meeting to order at around 7 PM. Minutes of Last Meeting were adopted without any change. No suggestion or correction to the minutes.

Treasurer Report

Matt was present to address any questions on Treasurer Report. Treasurer Report was adopted. Paul inquired if club accepts PayPal for payment and Matt replied in affirmative.

Committee Reports

Erik was first reporting from Repeater Committee. First was the issue of tone on 640 Repeater. Erik asked the board: Why we need the tone. He asked for good reasons to implement tone on the repeater. Paul/John/Bob /Les talked about incidents where unauthorized people especially from Winona harbor areas got into the repeater. There were other instances also. After further discussion Bob put a motion to authorize Erik to initiate work to set the tone on the repeater. Board approved the motion. Erik will work on publishing the tone first and then tone will be switched on at a later date. Bob mentioned most of the repeater now-a-days has tones and 640 Repeater is minority in this respect.

Second issue from Erik was the acquisition Fusion Repeater for \$500 Yaesu offer for Radio Clubs. Erik investigated more on the Fusion Repeater and even joined the Fusion Group and asked lot of questions. Summary of Erik's investigation is that Fusion Repeater has lot of potential but it does not do anything better now. Erik stated it sounds like Fusion system is still in development and protocol has been published. It is expected that Yaesu will make

enhancement to the system. And the discussions continued and took most of the board's time. Weighing in on the discussion was rest of the board members. There were support and skepticism for the offer. Les specifically asked about the upward compatibility of the Fusion Repeater. Erik mentioned there are at least four digital voice systems up there including D-Star. Erik also asked Fusion group about lacking position maps but Yaesu came back with answer that they are working on upgrades that they cannot talk about it now. One advantage of the system is that it can be used for both digital and analog system. Dan mentioned we have two dicey repeaters now and we can get a new repeater for \$ 500.00 with possibility of expansion. Les has repeaters waiting for frequency allotment. Erik was the opinion that 440 Repeater needs replacement. If we acquire the Fusion Repeater it can take place of the 440 repeater easily. There was then discussion on usage of Motorola Repeaters in-hand. Then there was more discussion on pros and cons of Fusion Repeater. Finally Paul asked the questions: "Do we get this new Fusion Repeater for \$ 500.00?" John stated if nothing else we will have a high quality analog repeater for \$ 500.00 which can be easily interchanged between UHF/VHF. Erik thinks updates that are coming in Fusion system will be firmware enhancements not hardware. Lance put a motion that: "We acquire Fusion Repeater for \$ 500 and use it as replacement for 440 Repeater". Erik seconded the motion. During ongoing discussions Erik explained more about the problems with 835 Repeater. Erik emphasized the need to understand what the issues with 835 Repeater are and need more investigation. John stated he is talking on behalf of Ken and asked Board the question "Why 440. What is the need for 440 Repeater" Matt answered we are obliged to offer a system for the frequencies we were allocated. We are obligated to offer services on the published frequencies. Les mentioned 440 system does not work now but if we can get the Fusion System and place it for 440 system, people might start using the frequency. Paul again asked the question "should we buy the Fusion system or not?" Syed emphasized we are voting on a system for \$ 500.00 and no more.

Paul mentioned we do have an approved budget of \$ 700.00 for D710A and never used it.

Finally, a vote was taken and motion passed to buy the Fusion Repeater for \$ 500. Paul mentioned Repeater Committee will decide on ordering the system. Lance mentioned Fusion System offer for \$500.00 does stipulate while supplies last.

Matt was next on committee reports. He mentioned Kwik Trip is auctioning some trailers and there is good chance if club approaches, we might get a good deal on a trailer. Matt (KD0YSY) has more information. Les mentioned these trailers might need work on them. Bob knows community relation officials of Kwik Trip and he will contact Kwik Trip and work with Matt (KD0YSY) to approach for trailer.

Christmas/Holiday Party Venue

Syed spoke about venue of Christmas party next. As we had issues last year at Timbers, board asked that we look for a new place. Syed will work with Ken to find a new place and announcement will come through general email. Board member had suggestions for new place like Jefferson/Signatures/Ground Round. Board approved \$100.00 for Christmas party expenses if needed.

Paul stated next Board meeting will be January 12 as he will be out of town during the first Monday of January.

Meeting was adjourned around 8 PM.

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

Executive Board

President: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV pschumacher@winona.edu	Vice President: Lance Tagliapietra, KBØYJU lancetag@hbci.com
Secretary: Syed Faruque, ACØVA sfaruque@yahoo.com	Treasurer: Matt Burt, KF0Q kf0q@hbci.com
Custodian: Erik Brom, WBØNIU ewbrom@hbci.com	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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25567 Miner Valley Road - Winona, MN 55987 or email to: KCORSX@arrl.net

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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