



Hamgram

Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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

February 2014

www.w0ne.org

February Program - Feb. 20

WHAT: February Club Program: Matt Burt, KF0Q, will walk us through the recent W1AW/0 centennial special event station operations hosted at his home on Sunday, February 2. Matt has plenty of stories about the station—getting ARRL approval, setting up antennas and equipment, logging, operations, and much, much more. This was a fun afternoon, so come to the program and learn more about it.

DATE & Time: Thursday, February 20, 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 2nd 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



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2014 MN QSO Party – Fun For All

By Matt – KF0Q

The sixteenth annual Minnesota QSO Party was held on February 1st this year. The club decided that we would operate one official station this year at my house using the call W0NE in the multi-two class (two transmitters in simultaneous use). My station (KF0Q) is a bit limited antenna-wise and I thought that we could really benefit from a few enhancements. For 2014 I wanted to use my 10M two element yagi, add a new 15M delta loop and press my 80M inverted vee into service. I thought we could use my existing 43foot vertical and 40M dipole in the attic for 20 and 40 meters respectively. I hoped that this configuration would get more stations calling us for a change.

I started getting prepared for the event a few weeks ahead of time by arranging the shack and building and installing a new 15M delta loop



between two trees in the back yard. Next I updated a couple of older Dell XP machines anonymously donated to the project and installed N1MM contest/logging software on them along

with some other useful tools. I installed serial communications interfaces on all three XP machines in the shack for three transceivers -two FT897's and my IC746pro (although we could only operate two at a time per contest rules). ICE bandpass filters were installed on every antenna feedline for maximum isolation between all stations.

About a week before contest approached I configured and tested the network with all three machines (PC's) and three transceivers running. I had a few minor issues with some network settings which is typical for me (have to say I am more of a hardware guy...). To make sure we would have no trouble I continued to test the setup several days ahead.

Two days before the contest with a slight break in the weather I raised the 2-element homebrew yagi for ten meters to 35FT. The last task of station preparation was to install the 80M vee. With the help of newly licensed radio amateur Matt - KD0YSY we accomplished that task less than twenty-four hours before the contest. As there was no structure in my yard for the 80 meter antenna we bolted a ten foot treated 4"X 4" to my deck to support a 50ft fiberglass push up mast. We worked for just over two hours in temperatures three degrees F sometimes trudging through the deep snow to find places to



support the ends of the antenna but we got the job done!

In addition to the usual suspects at our station a couple of newly licensed folks stopped by as well as Tom – KC9ECI for operating support. Les – K0BAD always does a great job for us on CW and likes the early shift. We had a minor problem with the rig (set for 40M instead of twenty like the antenna was...) but got under way in spite of it with little delay. After the antenna was sorted out for station no. 2 things went well for us making contacts on 40 phone and 20 meter CW.

Soon Bob – KC9IWE showed up for some support on the phone station quickly followed by Tom – KC9ECI. The three of us traded the phone

operating position while Les worked away quietly and steady on CW. Peter - KD0YOB stopped by before noon and helped out for the duration of the effort. Syed- AC0VA, and Tom – KD0YME stopped by with food and refreshments while the contacts were entered into our log. Dick – WORIF stopped by for a visit and Matt – KD0YSY returned for the last few hours and a crash course and **live test** in contesting.

Before long Matt was the main operator for our second station in his first debut on the air! With little prompting and a few hesitations Matt stuck in there and made a number of contacts on 80 meters while I plugged away on 40M. Peter – KD0YOB assisted with the logging. Just an hour before the end I explained that we needed to get several thousand points in order to tie the score from last year. I posed the question” do you think we can get **ten thousand** points in one hour?” I was greeted with a look of puzzlement that required some clarification. “Seriously, I said we really need as many points as we can get and there is only one hour to do it.” So “game on” from that point as we worked to get as many folks in the log as possible with the remaining time.



In conclusion the plan this year almost worked as we had some mini pile-ups of stations calling throughout the day. While we didn't reach the 10,000 points in the last hour mark we pushed ahead to at least tie the 2013 score. We ended up with almost the same score as last year with 321 contacts and 86 total multipliers for 55,212 points and had some fun along the way. The newest team members were up to the task! Many people contributed to this effort and I really appreciate the support in so many ways. Thanks for all the support with this really fun event. I hope to see you all again February 7, 2015

Got Your 2014 Dues In Yet??? Last Call

Membership dues for 2014 continue to be \$25 per individual, \$30 for family, and \$5 for students up to the age of 18 years.

Payment may be made by cash or check:

- 1. Club breakfasts,*
 - 2. Club monthly program, or*
 - 3. Check by mail to Winona ARC, ATTN: Treasurer, PO Box 1264, Winona, MN 55987.*
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WINONA SKYWARN TRAINING – March 18, 2014

The National Weather Service plans SKYWARN training for all interested people in the Winona area on Tuesday, March 18, at 6:30 PM. Location is the Winona County Board Room, 177 Main Street, Winona.

If you are unable to attend, please consider one of the NWS webinars, planned for March 12 (10 AM), April 2 (10 AM), or April 29 (1 PM). See the [La Crosse NWS website](#) for more information.

Club Invited to Participate in WI QSO Party in Galesville— Sunday, March 9

Tom Peterson, KC9ECI, has invited the Winona ARC to participate in the WI QSO party operating from the Galesville Fire Station. Mark your calendars for seven hours of contesting fun (and food and fellowship, too). Let's see how many of the 72 Wisconsin counties we can get in the log—plus the USS Wisconsin! Full details are [here](#).

Tom is working to get space for operating out of the Galesville fire station--where Tom is a volunteer fireman--and one of the by-products of operating the QSO party from that location is introducing the capabilities of amateur radio to key people in the Galesville emergency management group.

Contest hours are 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM CDT (the first day of 2015 daylight saving time).

2014 Winona County Historical Museum Open House – Feb. 9



Minutes of WARC Board Meeting held on Monday February 3, 2014 at Watkins Hall, Winona State University.

Present: Matt (KF0Q), Bob (KC9IWE), John (K2OPT), Lance (KB0YJU) , Syed (AC0VA), , Paul (K0ZYV), Erik (WB0NIU), Harro (KG6RLM), Tom (W0MK)

Call to order by Paul at around 7 PM.

Agenda
1. Call to Order 2. Approval of Minutes 3. Treasurer Report 4. Committee Reports 5. Repeater Comments 6. Other 7. Other
Paul called the Meeting around 7 PM.
Minutes of Last meeting
Minutes of Last Meeting were approved. Syed mentioned two typos that were fixed.
Treasurer Reports
Treasurer Matt was present during this Meeting and Treasurer report was approved. Matt updated on the shipping cost of the Repeater.
Committee Reports
<u>Repeater Committee:</u> 640 Repeater is back after repairs. Erik is looking at the Manual. Erik is planning to use upcoming Historical Society Open House to try out the Repeater. Plan is to setup the Repeater with J-pole mast and use it to make sure everything is in working order. Erik asked Lance if the road to repeater site is ploughed. Lance is going to look into it and next would be to get the

repeater to site and install it weather permitting.

Board felt the Manual should be scanned and more than one copy available.

On behalf of Operating Activities Committee, Matt thanked everybody who helped for MN QSO party and W1AW Portable Zero ARRL 100 year QSO party at his home. Matt had two stations for MN QSO party and three stations for W1AW portable zero QSO party. There were 325 contacts during MN QSO Party and 279 for W1AW Portable Zero. All in all these were successful activities.

Bob thanked Matt for hosting these activities at his home. Bob mentioned Matt had a wonderful setup and everybody enjoyed working on the activities at Matt's place. It was indeed wonderful experience for all according to Bob and others.

Field Day 2014 site has not been selected yet. Committee still looking for a place. In response to Paul, Matt mentioned to stay away from Garvin Heights.

We are all set for N2B – GRSF special occasion. Len and Les will help. It should be same as last year. JOTA /November Sweeps are still planned this year. With Paul's proposal board approved up to \$ 200.00 for this year's Field Day activities.

Board discussed participating in Merit Badge of Boy Scouts. Harro volunteered to assist in Boy Scout Merit Badge activity in March.

Also discussed WI QSO party on March 9th operating out of Fire Station at Galesville. Operating Committee seriously considering to participate there.

John mentioned he saw a Repeater for sale in internet for \$ 500.00.

Committee Chairs

Matt mentioned Board need to define different committees and identify the chairs. Below are the Chairs of different committees:

Emergency Committee – Dan (WK0W)

Education Committee – John (K2OPT)

Repeater Committee – Lance (KB0YJU)

Programs: Lance (KB0YJU)

Publicity – Len (KC0RSX)

Meeting adjourned before 8 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: Matt Burt, KF0Q
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Custodian: Erik Brom, WBØNIU Members: Harro Hohenner KG6RLM
ewbrom@hbci.com 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

Hamgram is published monthly by The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Distribution is electronically by email and via the WØNE.org website.

Distribution to individual members by USPS is available upon request.

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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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