



Hamgram

Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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

January 2016

www.w0ne.org

Winter Holiday Party – Jan 21

Please join us on Thursday, January 21, 2016 at Winona's Family Restaurant

The party will begin at 6:00 PM with a social hour.
Dinner orders will be taken about 6:30 PM.



Meals will be ordered from the menu (Dutch treat), with a great selection-- something sure to suite everyone. The party is a family event and open to the public, so bring the whole family and others interested in ham radio.

As in the past, we will accept donations for door prizes.
The club will be providing additional prizes.



Program:

Alaska Travel Talk by Dan and Nancy Goltz

UPCOMING CLUB ACTIVITIES

Technician Licensing Course The club is sponsoring a Tech Class licensing course beginning January 25 with VE testing planned for March 21. The registration deadline is this Sunday, Jan. 17, so encourage any prospects to register promptly. There are four participants registered to date and five more known prospects in the wings.

MN QSO Party This fun event comes up on Saturday, February 6, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM local time.. Thus is a fun one-day activity and the club has done well in the event in the past (and had lots of fun doing it). More detail to come....

Winona ARC 2016 dues are payable. Amounts are still \$25 per individual or \$30 for a family membership. Bring your dues to the holiday party on Thursday or mail a check to Winona ARC, ATTN: Treasurer, P.O. Box 1264, Winona, MN 55987.

Thanks to those who have already paid.

What's a QSO Party ???

By Bob Seaquist, W9LSE

The question about QSO parties is not “where’s the beer,” but “how much fun can I have on a bitterly cold afternoon.” True, beer, other adult beverages and snacks can definitely be a part of a QSO party -- many Hams join several other Hams for a group effort -- but the point is to make a lot of contacts. Better yet, make at least one contact with a Ham in every county of the state! Minnesota has 87 counties, some of which have actual human beings in them. Wisconsin has 72, and again, some of those counties are occupied only by pine trees and romantically desolate deer.

W0NE members have had some great club stations where experienced ops and very inexperienced ops tallied lots of Qs between sips of coffee and nibbles of Bloedow’s doughnuts.

Even very modest operations with equally modest operators can do well in these events. Last year my own feeble, sporadic efforts in the WiQP had me scoring a very high 6,420 points in the rankings with

my 107 Qs and 33 counties at low (less than 150 watts) power. I expected to find my listing up three or four stations from the bottom of the list. For perspective there’s Chad Kurszewski, WE9V, with 185,022 points.



Bob W9LSE working the W0NE rig at MNQP 2014

WE9V worked hard at it while I had fun. He probably also had fun but surely missed a dramatic UW Badger - Michigan State basketball game where UW won, 80-69, in overtime.

For the casual operators among us the joy is in making a lot of friendly contacts. It is true there are some hard-core contesters out there but it seems like almost all the Hams working upper Midwest QSO parties are....well...there for the party. Operators can expect some friendly chatting going on as they dial amiably go from one contact to the next. Because we're HERE out-of-staters are hunting for us!

Here's an example of a winning station set-up (at least for 6,420 points): a 100 watt transceiver, tuner, simple wire antenna that will work on 40 and 80 meters (like a G5RV inverted-Vee), and a little time. At contest's opening bell I wandered 40m for a few minutes then set-up on a frequency and started calling. Throw out some honey and the bees come! 'Took some breaks, watched a good basketball game, ran hooting for joy into the living room when I had a rare contact (wife's reaction: "huh?") and ran back to the radio.

Even better is having a couple guys over and running a red neck contest station, something we could do in the name of the club. Same radio, same operating technique, same joy but seasoned with company that brings potluck treats and maybe even another radio in order to be a multi op. Being Hams they still may say "huh" but they understand and appreciate rare contacts.

Even if the guys want to stay home and operate in their jimmies they can submit their log with the club name and if at least four guys do that we'd score in the club category too.

Techs need not feel left out. Of course they may go in with other ops or stay home and dive into the VHF category.

Minnesota QSO Party
Saturday, Feb. 6
8 a.m -- 6 p.m.

More Progress at the Witoka Tower Site

Erik, WB0NIU, reported n Sunday night net that the Internet connection at the Witoka tower had been successfully made by HBCI. The connection is by dish and has been set up with a fixed IP address which will ease making remote connections to the club's HF rig located there. More work is in progress to make the Witoka site fully operational. Additional details will be available in the near future.

Minutes of the December WARC Board Meeting are below. Minutes of the January meeting will be published when approved.

**Minutes of December 2015 WARC Board Meeting held at Watkins Hall, Winona State University.
Present: Lance (KB0YJU), Harro (KG6RLM), Paul (K0ZYV), Erik (WB0NIU), Dan (WK0W), Les (K0BAD) Mike (W0IH)
Call to order by Paul at around 7 PM.**

Minutes
Minutes of last Meeting were approved. During discussion it was found that Minutes need two corrections. First, ? mark need to be added after a statement quoted from Dan about Witoka tower utilization. Dan was only raising a question but not making a statement. Second, City of St. Charles was misspelled. Syed to correct both of these. Minutes were then approved.
Treasurer Reports
Treasurer report was next. Treasurer report was approved. Erik asked if Check has been sent to Jim (aprsworld). Harro replied in the affirmative. Harro is working on writing a letter to thank various people for donations. Paul has a skeleton letter draft for thank you notes. Paul will provide the letter to Harro. Harro will put together final thank you letter for donations. Dan asked if we can figure out how much we spent in 2015. Harro replied he can figure that out. Dan was just interested as we had major depletion of funds this year. Harro will reply with an email about spending in 2015. Treasurer report was approved. Les asked “Have we established a routine of audit of records of treasurer?”. Les is drawing from his experience with Kiwanis club. Paul and Harro replied in the negative. Les stated it would be good if Board appoints one member and one non-member to check the records of treasurer once a year. Les motioned for board to approve:” to appoint one board member and one non-board member to sit down together with treasurer and audit the records”. The motion was approved. Paul asked how we select non-board member. Les replied we select one volunteer with expertise with audit competence. Paul thinks July would be good time to perform this audit. Paul thanked Les for this good suggestion.
Committee Reports

Erik:

Erik, Dale and Syed tuned up a 835 duplexer and have since been put in place. And it seems it is working very well. Board was happy with the outcome. Same team will look into duplexer that came out of 835 site tomorrow. Duplexer will be looked for if anything slipped and then do the tuning. . Dan mentioned if tuned for 640, we can bring it to Witoka site and use it immediately. Erik has another duplexer in his garage that will be next. Les said this one might be Sinclair one. Les suggested measuring the co-ax loops. Erik mentioned to wait to see what we find. Erik has not worked with six can duplexer and had questions on it to Les. Les shared his knowledge of six can duplexer. Erik also working with Hamtronic Transmitter modification. Erik and Les also working on 640 Repeater and there are issue of software not talking to radio. Les thinks problems with cable. Les and Erik talked more on the problems. Mike suggested Hyper Terminals. Erik will continue to work on the issue.

On the issue of Internet at Witoka site, Erik left a message with HBC Tech who will install internet on that site. Lance has a router that can be placed there temporarily. Erik talked about installations at Witoka site. Erik had hardware of common point ground system for Witoka tower and explained the connections to all. Les built the hardware for Witoka tower.

Hamgram:

Len intends to step down from Hamgram duties and board is looking for replacement. Lance/Dan mentioned Bob can do it but not until March/April 2016.

Licensing Class:

Len asked Paul to bring up the issue of Licensing Class. This is from Education and Outreach committee. Len plans to stay in that committee and help out. Len also plans to stay on Operating committee. Paul suggested we start a Tech course mid-January so it is done by Easter Holidays. Paul stated it will take 7 to 8 Weeks to

complete the course. Dan mentioned Easter is 27th of March. Board member looked over the Calendar to select start date for class. Paul would like to set a date and provide the information to Len so Len can start promoting the class. Lance and Paul will work together to set the timing of Licensing Class.

Report on Public Service Committee from Dan :

“The committee as a whole has not met since the last report, but members continue to work on ongoing projects.

Paul, Les and Dan met with Michael Peterson. Michael gave us several VHF duplexer cavities from county decommissioned repeaters. The group went with Mike to the county storage facility on Garvin Heights to pick them up. Paul, Les and Dan moved an equipment rack from the Witoka Tower to the County storage facility.

Dan participated in a meeting with the National Weather Service Integrated Warning Team. This is a collaboration of Emergency Management, local news media, and the National Weather Service to facilitate more timely warnings and better public awareness of severe weather events. Participants were from Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin, including Iowa Public Safety, Minnesota Homeland Security, and media representation from Madison Wi. Further meetings are planned.

Mike and Dan completed some work at the Witoka tower. Mike installed the ICOM HF radio and interfaced the computer. Initial tests were successful, but further testing will require an antenna and internet access. Mike is working on the wire antenna, a variation of the G5RV.

Dan rewired the WSU rack for 120VAC. This was partially successful as the internal power strip now puts out 120VAC, but the 16 pigtailed are not energized now. There may be a relay that requires 240VAC to turn them on. More research is required. Dan replaced the external lock set at the Witoka tower, no change of keys required. Building heater is working, internal temperature was about 45 degrees F. at last check, mid November. Jim Jarvis has volunteered to donate weather and building monitoring telemetry equipment.

Dan, WKOW”

Mike (W0IH) Report: (email copy)

“Harro and I (Mike, W0IH) were at the Witoka Tower site today for about 5 hours (took longer than we thought!).

Temperature was running about 58 Deg F when we arrived.

For the most part, what we accomplished was to get the ZS6BKW (G5RV variant) antenna tuned up.

20, 40, 17, 12 10 and 6 meters looks pretty good (though the IC-718 won't do 6 meters)

80 should be usable with the tuner, and possibly 15 as well. We'll have to do some more testing on these bands. We didn't have appropriate coax, so we ran back to my place and borrowed a 100' piece that I have for testing at full height.

Because we didn't have coax, we couldn't mount the antenna on the tower. When we were done, we neatly wound the antenna up and put it in the shack.

The antenna is marked with the legs as "South Leg" and "West Leg".

We will need about 60 to 70 feet of coax.

Mounting height: ~80 to 90 feet.

450 Ohm ladder line length: 40'

Coax will need to be about 50' to reach inside the shack.

We will need another 10' or so for inside the shack to the IC-718.

We also drilled 2 additional 7/8" holes in the feed through and just stuffed through some old coax pieces and marked the holes for the HF antenna and the internet cable.

We ended up pulling out a lot of the foam in order to work with the new holes, but stuffed insulation in both sides as a temporary measure.

We didn't get any of the following done: (that I had hoped to). Mount the grounding plate supplied by Les, KOBAD (left it in the shack)

Mount the Polyphaser lightning arrestors (they are in the shack)

Drill holes in the desk for cables to neatly pass through. A couple things that would be helpful if anyone has

them to spare:

Folding Chair (or 2) for in the shack

Mop (Every time we go in, things get messy with the snow.)

PROBLEMS:

1. We thought that there was coax that we could use at the tower site, but the two lengths that were long enough had "N" connectors.

Both appear to be smaller heliax. Shows as "Flexi 4XL 8IIA"

9913, FLEXI-4XL, 100% double shield, 50 ohm, same as 9913

except 19 stranded conductor,

84% VP, PVC IIA

non-contaminated jacket

There are 2 rolls, 1 about 60 feet and the other about 100 feet. I'm assuming that this is low loss coax.

Would need new PL259 connectors.

Dan, WKOW, also mentioned that he might have some LMR400 (low loss also) that we could use.

2. I didn't get a chance to experiment around with the Tuner for some of the bands where the SWR is a bit high.

Mike"

Additional to Mike's report:

Harro volunteered to go with Mike to setup the Antenna. Mike had the Antenna for show and tell. Mike explained the connections. Mike's suggestion was to setup the Antenna first and see how it works. He explained future plan for further remote operations.

Board discussed conduits in Witoka tower and how to bring in cables.

Lance Report:

Nothing new APRS. No progress to mention and aprs working intermittent.

An exciting program being organized for December club meeting. Len is helping out with invites. We will have expert DX Expeditioner Glenn Johnson (W0GJ) coming to present on his expeditions and more. He has been to some of the remote places. Thanks to Bob for helping to connect with this exciting presentation. Bob is also promoting in LaCrosse , Len is promoting in Rochester.

Board discussed the venue for presentation and if space would be any issue. Lance will find capacity of current County General Meeting room.

Lance mentioned CPR training planned for February general meeting. Raspberry Pi in March.

Les:

Les brought T-shirts and asked how to distribute them. Paul proposed to give first the T-shirts to those who bought Fusion handhelds. Board discussed what to do with rest of T-Shirts. T-shirt will be given to Syed and Ken to figure out the distribution. Because of club shortage of funds Lance suggested fee based raffle. Les exhibited one T-Shirt and board members liked the T-shirt with WONE logo.

Les also brought CD full of club information.

Paul:

Paul brought up question of storage. Paul is storing quite bit of stuff including some in his trailer. He might need the trailer soon. Les brought up issue of "Maker Space" for people to have work space. Les talked about this with Erik a while back. Les thinks Winona is not big enough town to support "maker space" for electronics hobbyists. Les did inquire about a building he had in mind. But most of the spaces there are rented. Les got some suggestion from others and would like someone to follow through on the idea. He shared his ideas more. Dan mentioned we need the space more immediate. Board also discussed big storage box in trailer and what to do with it.

Dan:

Dan brought up the question of fundraising and ideas to raise funds. Dan explained what they do in Wilson Township Fire Department for Fund Raising efforts. Also they mail everyone a Calendar with cover letter. Dan had a copy to show. Paul will scan the copy and send to Executive Board. Lance suggested Board should provide a guideline to Fund Raising Committee but not dictate what to do. Les mentioned the experience of Co-op and their fund raising. Les/Dan mentioned general public sometimes does not know what our club does. Many people think we are a hobby club but not a club that serves the community in times of need. PR for our club is big issue and we have to work on it. Dan is trying to connect with multiple agencies but still Dan thinks we do not connect with general public as to what we do. Les think we can do two things. One, concentrate on infrastructure. And we have to talk about infrastructure as that supports county emergency management. Secondly, we have education responsibility and we can go beyond licensing by way of electronic training, be in schools with radio operation opportunities. Les mentioned we have to go beyond what our perception of Ham radio at large and provide more to community to generate awareness. Discussion continued. Les/Paul stated we can start a discussion on list serve so get more opinion on this before next Board Meeting.

Paul:

Paul lastly shared a case of one Ham neighbor claiming interference and corresponding legal issues. Les /Lance shed light on the legal issue of interference and how they are handled. Les suggested Paul to mention to lawyers that Ham Interference is federal issue and there are laws and they should follow the law. Paul did not know where the people involved in this dispute lives. Erik suggested affected people talk to ARRL.

Meeting was then adjourned.

**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@hbc.com
Secretary: Syed Faruque, ACØVA sfaruque@yahoo.com	Treasurer: Harro Hohenner KG6RLM Harro@hohenner.com
Custodian: Erik Brom, WBØNIU ewbrom@hbc.com	Members: Dan Goltz WK0W 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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25567 Miner Valley Road - Winona, MN 55987 or email to: KC0RSX@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.

When All Else Fails...AMATEUR RADIO

Winona ARC Repeaters:

146.640 (100.0 Hz) *

146.835 (131.8 Hz) **

444.225 (100.0 Hz) FM Voice & C4FM Digital

* SKYWARN Net When Activated.

** Sunday Night Net—8:30 PM Local Time.



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