



Hamgram

Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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

September 2013

www.w0ne.org

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM - SEP.19

WHAT: September Club Program: Todd Shea, KB9YXS and Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the La Crosse NWS office, will present a program exploring the features and benefits of the new dual-polarization radar operation at La Crosse. “Dual-pol,” considered the biggest advancement in storm analysis tools since the introduction of Doppler radar in the 1990s, permits more detailed analysis of rain, hail, and tornado conditions as well as differentiation of non-storm signals such as birds and insect swarms. This program is a “must” for ham radio ops engaged in Skywarn activities.

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

DATE: Thursday, September 19, 2013

TIME: 7:00 PM

WHERE: 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. If you are late, please try the 146.640 repeater to have someone let you in.



UPCOMING CLUB ACTIVITIES

- Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge -- Special Event Station, K9P -- Saturday, Oct 19.
- Jamboree on the Air – Saturday, Oct 19.
- ARRL Sweepstakes (phone) – November 16-17.

* * *

Riverland ARC Swapfest!!!



[Like Us on Facebook](#) (click text).

Item for Sale:

- 2 meter glass mount antenna
- Similar to MFJ #1738
- New in package
- \$30.00
- Contact Ken, N0JP

More on the August UHF Contest

By Matt Burt, KF0Q, Chairman—Operating Activities Committee

It seems hard to believe but I have not participated in this event since 2006. Based on a few visits from Murphy and some less than ideal conditions I could write two different accounts of our operation for the this years UHF contest. Rather than go into the negative side of the event I will share some mostly positive comments.

To start out with a few members of our club have always been curious about the high bands and have been prodding me to set up a club station for the UHF test as things tend to slow down a bit this time of year and the wx can be conducive to outdoor operations. So we put together a Field Day style operation using the Winona County Sheriffs trailer as a portable shack complete with a kitchen and air conditioning; clearly we could have done much worse for the accommodations of a setup.

As for the contest we were running at bit behind at the contest start as usual for me and the only bands going at the start were 222 432 5.7 and 10G. This caused some excitement immediately when two of the rover stations in our area were ready to run some bands. There was a mad scramble at that point to get the rest of the station going which only took a few minutes.

After hearing the weather forecast of a beautiful day with low

humidity I thought that the tropo would be minimal at best but we were committed to give it a shot hoping the rover activity would help. While the location seemed to have many positive



attributes we failed to do an RFI assessment prior to the contest. This error haunted us for most of the contest with a solid S9 pulsing noise on 222 and 432. I could only guess that there was some utility gear such as a pole mounted transformer or defective insulator nearby that was causing the interference. Late at night the noise left but did return a few hours after sunrise on Sunday.

All equipment was connected and tested at my place prior to reassembly at the site. In spite of that we had some troubles show up during setup and later in the contest including a bad IF cable on 1296 bad power cable on the 222 transverter and suspect N connector on the hardline for 902.

On a positive note it never ceases to amaze me how good the older Down East equipment is. After sitting in my ham shack

for all these years with seldom use everything worked well. I was very pleased with the 10G station although it would have been nice to work some 5.7.

Taken from all of our groups experience with HF contesting lately we ran N1MM logging software on a network with multiple rig control and transceiver offset frequencies for all of the transverters bands through 10Ghz. For the most part this worked very well but did require a bit more attention at the start of the contest or reboot.

I ran the bands with a couple of stations early Sunday morning but no sweep due to the 902 cable issue. Later replaced the cable but was not able to locate any of the station for a follow up qso attempt. After the couple of successful runs Sunday morning the rest of the time was pretty much spent calling cq on cw and sometimes ssb with little or no response. I can remember this part of the contest from years before.

Nice to work the rovers on Saturday W0ZQ/R, KC0P/R and N0HZO/R although no rover contacts were made on Sunday.

While I find our score somewhat embarrassing it is a starting point for our group most of which has never touched a transverter. The noise problem combined with not being able to hook up with any rovers to the south was unfortunate to say

the least.

As a club activity the contest at least provided some new and interesting operating techniques and equipment for several folks that have never seen anything like this. In spite of the low score we had a great time putting the station together and getting things working on a beautiful day.

The club had 12 ops at the site during the contest including one visitor who watched only as he was competing from home that week end.

Summary:

Band	QSOs	Mults

222:	16	8
432:	18	7
903:	4	4
1.2:	6	5
2.3:	5	5
3.4:	4	4
5.7:	0	---
10G:	4	3
24G:	---	---

Total:	57	36
Total Score = 11,448.		

Dan Goltz, WKOW, to Receive the Joe Strub Award from the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers



Dan Goltz, WKOW, recently received notice that he has been awarded the Joe Strub Award by the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers Board of Directors and the Awards Committee. This award is voted on by all six National Weather Service offices covering Minnesota. The Joe Strub award is a memorial to Joseph Strub who was the chief meteorologist at the National Weather Service Twin Cities Office. He was instrumental in interfacing the weather service with emergency management and public safety.

The association will be presenting the award during their Awards Banquet in front of 400 members during the association's annual Fall Conference on Tuesday night September 17, 2013. The Awards Banquet will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Whitebirch Room of the Conference Center at Breezy Point Resorts, Breezy Point, MN.

Thank you Dan for all your work in assisting with SKYWARN training in the region, for your ongoing assistance at the Winona County Law Enforcement Center during weather events, and your work as chairman of the Winona Amateur Radio Club's Public Service Committee. You certainly earned this recognition for your contributions to public safety.

Additional information regarding the award will be available after the official presentation on September 17.

BIG DAY FOR WARC SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 K9P & JOTA

Two club events are taking place on Saturday, October 19—the Trempealeau National Wildlife Center special event station, K9P. and the Jamboree-on-the-Air station in Lake Park.



The K9P special event has become a fun time with our friends in the Riverland ARC—a good time to try out rigs, antennas, and to have some great food and fellowship. The special event is a national activity—see the official website [here](#). The Winona club has traditionally provided a rig and vertical antenna, while the Riverland has provided a rig and horizontal antenna and their club emergency communications trailer. Food is brought by all, so bring your favorite outdoors food and enjoy a relaxing day with the hobby and good friends. Saturday, October 19, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Concurrently, the club is offering a JOTA station and educational opportunities for scouts interested in learning about amateur radio. This year's station will be at the picnic shelter at 946 Parks Drive (west of Unity Park, behind Winona Health). If you know of any scouts which might be interested, please feel free to give them a copy of the Winona JOTA station info sheet available for download at the [WONE website](#). JOTA is a great way for boys and girls who are involved in scouting to become exposed to the fun of science, technology, engineering, and math that ham radio represents. JOTA is available to all scouts—boys and girls of all ages.



Minutes of August WARC Board Meeting held on August 12, 2013 at Hardees Restaurant.

Present: Matt (KF0Q), Bob (KC9IWE), John (K2OPT), Lance (KB0YJU) and Syed (AC0VA)

Call to order by Lance at around 7 PM.

Agenda
0. Minutes of Last Meeting 1. Treasurer Report 2. Committee Reports 3. Any other items
Minutes of Last meeting
Minutes of Last Meeting were adopted with few additions that was discussed during the meeting. Syed (AC0VA) will update the Minutes with these changes.
Treasurer Reports
Treasurer Matt was present during this Meeting and Treasurer report was approved after some discussion.
Committee Reports
John stated all members of club should keep free ARRL literature on Amateur Radio and try to hand out to potential hams. John did talk to people while in town and had some success in this regard. Bob mentioned new licensees could be helped by bringing them for special sessions like how to use new handhelds or other ham initial uses. Lance talked about upcoming presentation for General Club Meetings. Lance already has plans for presentation for few upcoming meetings .

Matt and Eric are working on 835 Repeater. Power Pole connection on the site will be updated. Lance mentioned 640 repeater seems to be working fine. Telemetry on both 640 and 835 showing some problems. Lance has already plans to make them work better.

Matt provided report on Operating Activities Committee. Matt was happy with the support with UHF contests held recently. Board gave Matt special commendation for his initiative, hard work and implementation for UHF contest. Board also specially mentioned Dan Goltz (WK0W) for his help for the UHF contest especially for his organization, interaction with officials and for being there for the cause. General sense was it was difficult contest and interference on the site made it more difficult. There was discussion on the possible cause of interference. Matt mentioned the site is very good for ham operation and club should take some initiative to investigate the RF Interference source so the site can be used for future operations.

Emergency Services Committee Report from Dan (WK0W) was discussed. Syed (AC0VA) noted that club's SKYWARN group did receive a thank you email for Todd Shea of National Weather Service for good report that led to issue of tornado warning on August 22. Radar images did not trace the tornado and that made club's effort more important.

Matt is working on tax exempt status from Minnesota State. Syed has old documents and he will bring the documents to club meeting for Matt.

Matt also mentioned club should send a welcome letter to new Hams. Lance and Syed will work to prepare a welcome letter. President will then sign the letter and will be sent out to new hams.

Everybody was reminded of tradition of meeting at Claire's front yard to watch Goodview Days parade. This year the parade falls on Sunday August 18.

Minutes of WARC Board Meeting held on September 9, 2013 at Watkins Hall, Winona State University.

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

Call to order by Paul at around 7 PM.

Agenda
0. Minutes of Last Meeting 1. Treasurer Report 2. Committee Reports 3. Breakfast at HyVee next Saturday morning 4. Update on State Tax Exempt Status 5. Other items
Minutes of Last meeting
Minutes of Last Meeting were adopted with one modification. Lance's (KB0YJU) call sign need to be corrected as it was misspelled. Also there were suggestions for reduced font size for the Minutes.
Treasurer Reports
Treasurer Matt was present during this Meeting and Treasurer report was approved.
Committee Reports
Lance presented report on Repeater status. 835 Repeater has been working well. Bob mentioned 835 is working very well from his position. Lance mentioned breaker for 835 Repeater Amplifier was

tripping and that caused poor performance. After Erik rewired the repeater connections and installed higher value fuse, 835 Repeater has been working better. Matt mentioned he is working on sending the transmitter for repair. Lance mentioned APRS telemetry on both repeaters not working as well. Lance guessing Tiny Tracker on the system may be locking up. Lance is going to investigate more.

Matt presented Operating Activities Committee report. Committee had a very useful meeting and good conversation on JOTA. JOTA will be setup in a shelter behind Winona Health. Bob asked if scout troops had committed to this year JOTA program. Matt shared an email he had about scout participation. Board then had a long discussion about scout participation on JOTA and the challenge of lining up scouts. Bob mentioned relationships with scout leaders need to be built in order to JOTA to be successful as this is not on their screen. Matt mentioned that last year, one boy scout and one leader came to his home for JOTA and at Clare's home two leaders came but no scout. Matt mentioned population of scout troop change in spring and Fall. There are transition times that affect activity participation. Matt stated we still need to spend few dollars for JOTA which include buying patches (after the fact). Board approved \$ 80.00 for JOTA purpose.

Matt mentioned LaCrosse chapter's k9P and JOTA falls on same day. Bob mentioned LaCrosse hams will provide the trailer and all they need is operator and participation for K9P.

Lance mentioned Todd Shea of National Weather Service will be speaker at upcoming General Club Meeting. e Among other things he will speak on dual polarity radar of the National Weather Service. Lance mentioned he might rearrange the room for better visibility.

Matt gave an update on application for tax exempt status with Minnesota State. Matt explained what forms were still needed and Paul mentioned some of the information might be in website. Lance offered help to Matt to prepare some of the forms. Paul questioned if it is worthwhile to pursue tax exempt status. Matt explained the benefits and he thinks in the end it is not that much. Lance clarified club has non-profit status. This only deal with sales taxes club pays.

Matt proposed fox hunt for the club on 21st September after breakfast. Club approved the fox hunt program. There were then general discussion on fox hunt, what to expect and previous experiences with fox hunt.

John from Education Committee was asked if any Class is planned. Paul mentioned he and Melanie is thinking about a class at WSU. This is in very early stages and nothing firmed up yet. John mentioned Middle School is available any time. Board members then discussed about classes being offered at LaCrosse and Rochester sections and if people can also be referred there in case be for exams. John mentioned everybody should keep some ARRL document and try to distribute them when possible. Lance will help John to setup a class in Winona.

Syed mentioned next regular Saturday breakfast will be at HyVee instead of McDonalds. This is one time try to see how it goes and what people feel about the change.

Meeting adjourned at about 8 PM.

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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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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