

Hamgram

August, 2016

Winona Amateur Radio Club
Winona, Minnesota



A nod to the history of world exploration arrived at Levee Park in Winona at the end of June and John Kowalik, K2OPT, lent a hand. Hand-made replica models of Christopher Columbus' ships, the Niña and Pinta, docked and set up for tours and history lessons. Kowalik ran his HF station aboard the ships.

K2OPT 'marine mobile'

The educational, seagoing museum SV Nina and SV Pinta that visited Winona in June increased its reach with the help of John Kowalik, K2OPT. Kowalik had videoed the SV Nina about 10 years ago when she visited Winona, and almost signed on for a month.

During this summer's visit to Winona Kowalik met and talked at length with Captain Morgan, Master and top man in the Columbus Foundation, which operates the ships. He is from the Virgin Islands, Kowalik's first port of call as a sailor on the Sea Leopard SS-483. That was about 1957 when he was a ET3 (SS) (Electronic Technician - Radio-Radar-Sonar Qualified in Submarines).

Capt. Morgan and Kowalik had a friend-in-common, a DX ham in Charlotte Amalie, USVI, so Kowalik took the opportunity

to ask "Permission to come aboard Sir!" and then a request to set up an HF station which would be out of place on a 500 year old exact duplicate of Columbus's favorite ship the Pinta. He told me they did have two well-hidden VHF antennas for Coast Guard comms.

Kowalik ran a 66 foot EFHW antenna from deck level at the aft end of poop deck to top of main mast (center of three). He reported his best DX was on 20 to England and Italy and some stateside. He used an Icom 7200, a 55:1 unun and a MFJ tuner as the radio likes 1:1 (no tuning needed for phone band on 40 or 20)

The experience left K2OPT drooling for more. "Boy, would that have been a thrill to run 20 and 40 meters on her open ocean voyage from Brazil to the States, 8,000 miles," he said.

Club program looks outside the shack

One of the premier contest and DX operators in the Midwest will present a program on tools and techniques for station grounding, wiring, tower and antenna systems at the Winona Amateur Radio Club's Thursday, Aug. 18 meeting. Mike Cizek, WØVTT, will present "Outside the Shack" which is a dress rehearsal for the presentation he will make at the 2016 W9DXCC Contest University and DX University.

Cizek says it's a very generic talk on proper and safe ways to build the outdoor parts of our stations and should be pertinent to pretty much any ham station whether it contains towers and beams, or simple wires in the trees.

The Winona presentation is 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 18, at the

W9DXCC is a respected Amateur Radio Conference the Northern Illinois DX Association has presented for more than 60 years. Cizek says it's a very well run, educational, and fun weekend with attendance around 200-250 people. This year's banquet speaker is NY2RF, the new ARRL CEO. The program is a nice balance of DXpedition travelogues and technical presentations. It is Friday and Saturday, Sept. 16-17 in Schaumburg Ill. For more information go to <http://w9dxcc.com/>

If you go

What: Winona Amateur Radio Club
When: 7 p.m. Thurs. Aug. 18
Where: Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third Street

WARC Board Meeting

July 12, 2016, Watkins Hall, Winona State University

Present: Board members: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Syed Faruque, ACØVA; Les Hittner, KØBAD; Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, Dan Goltz, WKØW. Non Board Members: John Kowalik, K2OPT; Mike Foerster, WØIH.

Called to order by Paul at around 7 PM.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Report was on hand. Dan had questions on membership dues received from a new member who lives in Stockton. John seems to know the new member. Harro replied he has received the check but do not know the person. Board members approved Treasurer Report with one abstention (Les).

Minutes

Minutes of last meeting was available for approval. Dan asked, "Do we need to list all present or only voting members present". After subsequent discussion it was decided to list Board Members and Non Board members separately. Paul stated that will help determine if we attained quorum. Minutes was approved.

Picnic

Picnic place and time was approved. Syed mentioned funding for picnic has already been approved. Syed already reserved Picnic place. Picnic is scheduled to be held on Thursday, July 21 at Lions Shelter (aka Gepner Pavilion) starting 6 PM.

Fund Raising

Lance stated, now that Trinona and Field Day has passed he can devote more attention to Fund Raising. That will be Lance's focus next. Dan asked about the already approved plan to receive loan from members. A loan agreement was supposed to be

in place. Paul has a copy of the agreement and Paul will take action to get the agreement in place. Paul also stated that someone should be in charge of documenting and managing the loan. Dan mentioned, isn't it the function of treasurer? Les put his thoughts on the issue. Paul suggested at least two signatures should be on the loan agreement. Discussion continued. Les suggested Treasurer and one designated Fund Manager work together to manage these funds. Dan also asked about interest rate on the loan. Paul suggested going interest rate to be paid. John suggested opening a separate checking account to control these funds. Les volunteered to be fund manager although for some months he is out of town. Les can be in touch electronically to work as Fund Manager. Board approved

Les as Fund Manager. Paul to send Les final Loan Agreement and Les will take it from there. Paul then suggested working with Bob and Walt on fund raising efforts. Discussion continued more on Fund-raising endeavors. Les shared Kiwanis fund raising information.

Dan was present for Public Service Committee Report. Dan's report is appended to this Minutes. Mike /Lance added to information on FLDIGI of Dan's report. Les shared his experience with 900 MHz Antennas during field day. Les/John/Les shared more experience with 900 MHz Antennas. Les willing to share the 900 MHz for others to share and to get knowledgeable with.

Dan had a Catalogue from business in Winona who can make Shirt / jacket or anything club wants with logos. John shared his experience of purchasing ap-

parel with logos. Lance suggested working on a new order by August club meeting for members.

Mike had few items to discuss. Mike mentioned microphone was missing on Witoka tower but Dan mentioned there was never a mic there for Kenwood. Dale has the VHF/UHF rig and Mike ordered fan for the unit. Mike installed PC that he got from Harro. Mike also discussed about power supply issues at Witoka tower. Les asked about interference to 40 meter band. Mike would like to do some experimentation to figure out the issues. Board discussed more on the best HF rig for Witoka tower. John shared his experience from Field Day specially interference issues.

Committee Reports

Dan mentioned Walt will try to figure out status of equipment/Repeater at Winona Health.

Paul had a short report from Education Committee. Report is appended to this Minutes.

Lance mentioned APRS nodes working fine. Lance working on getting WONE node back to work. Lance trying to figure out why losing transceivers at that site. That is his main concern. Les suggested checking for the ground connection. Les thinks it is poor electrical connection at that farm. Lance discussed more on the issue.

Board replied to John query that this year there is no interest to run special event for Shakespeare Festival. Les stated there is no time left to prepare for Shakespeare Festival special event. John shared his experience working on Columbus Replica ship recently.

Meeting was then adjourned.

Remote unit opens HF to W0NE club members



Working another rig and another antenna, or even

having the opportunity to go HF when you do not have a home station is a benefit offered by the Winona Amateur Radio Club. The club has a remote rig at its new Witoka location that you may operate from the convenience of... heck....anywhere you have computer access!

Enjoy operating remote amateur transceivers and more by joining the Remote Hams community. Don't miss rare DX you may never have a chance to hear. Test your own signal propagation, are you being heard in a DX location? Multiple operator support allows for new methods of contesting, nets, round tables, etc.



between RF and REMOTE operators.

Currently the club's Icom IC 718 is at the site and with the simple access, club members may go on-the-air from Witoka. Mike Foerster, W0IH, and others set it up and have tinkered with it for several months to knock the kinks from it. And there are plans for some dramatic improvements.

Foerster plans a demonstration and explanation of the operation at a forthcoming club meeting.

W0NE #1 in the cold MnQP



Back in February's dark, dreary chill, operators in-and-out of Minnesota heard the Winona Amateur Radio Club a lot during the Minnesota QSO Party Feb. 6. In fact the W0NE operation was **first** in multi-op stations and 37th in club competition chalking up 530 contacts and 101,760 points.

Operators included: Clare Jarvis, K0NY; Lance Tagliapietra, KB0YJU (now AD0UT); Len Litvan, KC0RSX; Peter Ebertowski, KD0YOB; Dale Cohenour, KE0EKD; Matt Burt,

KF0Q; Mike Foerster, W0IH; and Dan Goltz, WK0W.

MNQP results were announced Aug. 10.

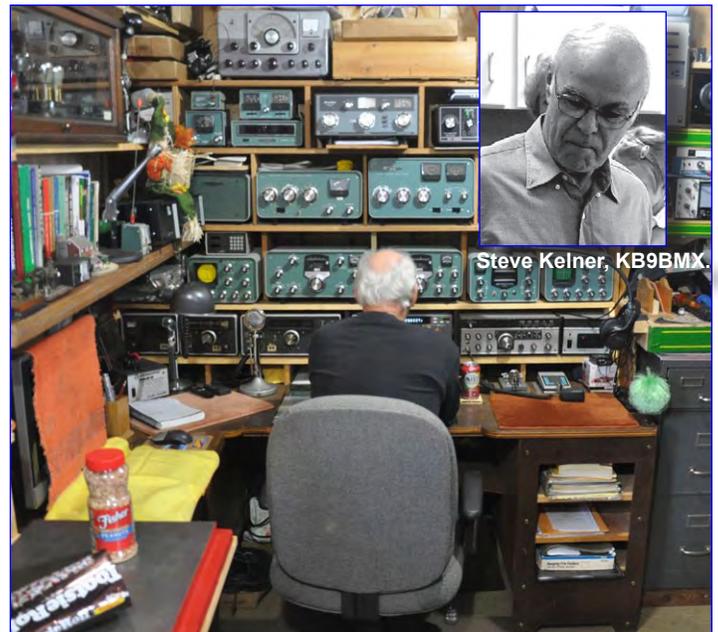
There were 99 participants from within Minnesota, and 163 participants from elsewhere. According to event chair Mark Endorf, WA0MHJ, "unlike in many past events, there were no real 'horse races' this year except for perhaps the MN ROVER category, with two experienced rovers battling it out.

Friends stay in-touch; polish Ham radio skills

By Greg Miller, KA9FOZ

What a better way of rejuvenating your interest in Amateur Radio than to turn on your radio and make a contact or two. Better yet, make a regular contact with someone on a weekly basis. That's what I have been doing and not only has it renewed my interest in Ham radio back and I keep in contact with a past member of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club, Steve Kelner, KB9BMX, who has moved to Florida from his long-time home near Black River Falls.

We have been working a twice a week schedule, propagation permitting. In doing so, I am discovering things that have been going wrong and things that have been going right. Such as my rotor has decided to work. Why, I don't know. I still need to replace that rotor someday, after all I can't read the direction anymore as the digital numbers are burning out. I also am able to do some comparison of my radios. Seems my Corsair II gets out better than my Yaesu. Neither Steve nor I are using an amplifier, just barefoot at 100 watts. But this has given me some desire to hook up an amplifier in line. I can also do some antenna comparisons. My Mosley beam does a much better job than my 5-band dipole. So whatever your spark is, get out and do it.



Greg Miller, KA9FOZ, keeps friendships and operating skills alive.

More Hams licensed

The ARRL reports that 20,447 new US Amateur radio licenses have been issued since January 1. That's nearly 1,500 ahead of the number that had been issued by this time last year. At the present pace, the US is on track to exceed 30,000 new radio amateurs for the third straight year by the end of the year.

"While I am thrilled with this prospect, I'm also keenly aware that without some mentoring, these new hams' initial curiosity and enchantment may fade if they don't get on the air right away," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "Let's show these new hams what the magic is all about," she urged.

In addition, the ARRL VEC reports that upgrades are on track to reach nearly 11,000 by year's end.



A warm sunset and Winona's Mississippi River bridge provide a backdrop for John Kowalik, K2OPT, as he went marine mobile from replica models of Christopher Columbus' ships, the Niña and Pinta.

WØNE Repeaters

146.640 PL 100.0 Hz *

146.835 PL 131.8 Hz **

444.225 PL 100.0Hz FM Voice C4FM Digital

* SkyWarn Net when activated.

** Sunday Night Net—8:30 p.m.

**The Winona Amateur Radio Club meets the Third Thursday, 7 p.m.
at the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third Street**

The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. P.O. Box 1451, Winona, MN 55987

President: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, pschumacher@winona.edu

Vice President: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, lancetag@hbc.com

Treasurer: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, Harro@hohenner.com

Secretary: Syed Faruque, ACØVA, sfaruque@yahoo.com

Custodian: Erik Brom, WBØNIU, ewbrom@hbc.com

At Large: Dan Goltz, WKØW; Leslie Hittner KØBAD

Dues: \$25 per calendar year per license holder. \$30 per calendar year for all licensed members of the same family within the same household.

Send dues to: Harro Hohenner, Treasurer, P.O. Box 1451, Winona, MN 55987

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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

