



Hamgram

December 2017

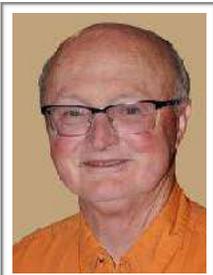
Winona Amateur Radio Club
Winona, Minnesota

Three elected to club executive board

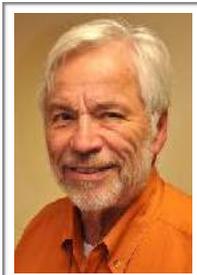
Club members re-elected two executive board members and elected a new member during the club's annual meeting Nov. 16. Members Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, and Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, were reelected and Clare Jarvis, KØNY, was elected to replace the retiring Syed Faruque, ACØVA. All were elected to two year terms.



Paul Schumacher
KØZYV



Clare Jarvis
KØNY



Harro Hohenner
KG6RLM

Annual review

2017 successful year for club

The Minnesota QSO party was among the first events in 2017 for the Winona Amateur Radio Club setting a precedent for the rest of the year. WARC again took first place for Minnesota clubs operating from the first-class setting of Paul Degallier's, ADØUU, garage. Then there was the new and successful Field Day location, Wincrest Park, for the traditional end-of-June operation.

Public service was big for the club in '17 first providing help for a climate march, then for Trinona, and big-time for the expansive River-To-Ridge Bicycle Ride and even once for Skywarn.

The club's spectacular remote station was a special treat. Upkeep and many improvements were headed by WØIH, KG6RLM, KEØEKD, and WKØW.

Education was maintained and a Tech class was offered in late fall.

Once members have the annual holiday party 2018 looks toward a group build — hopefully the antenna analyzer featured in the November QST — and then operating. The Minnesota QSO party, the North American QSO party, and Field Day are on the calendar.

By sometime in January there should be a General License class.

Public service is the club's strong suit; already Trinona and the River-To-Ridge Bicycle Ride are scheduled as well as a new event, the Twin Cities Austin-Healy Club Hillclimb near Waumandee.

Not the least, the club's remote station will continue to grow in its abilities and its users.



Holiday party Jan. 18

Winona's newest lodging treasure is the site for this year's annual Winona Amateur Radio Club Holiday Party. Join hosts Erik, WBØNIU, and Jodie, NØNUO, Brom at the beautiful Goodview Haven, 3655 W. 6th St. Watch the January Hamgram for details



River-To-Ridge communicators Paul Degallier, ADØUU, left, and Steve White, KDØBOD.

Operating

HAMGRAM December 2017

The best 73s, phony phonetics and other less-than-great operating practices

By Mike Cizek, WØVTT



We all want to be good operators, and most of us like to think that we are, but just what is it that makes a good operator? As Radio Amateurs, we are part of a communications service, and our task is to communicate, to exchange information, with other hams on the air. One could define a “good” communicator as someone who exchanges information efficiently and accurately. A good operator would also be one who is polite and respectful of others on the air. Let’s take a look at some common operating foibles and see how they can be corrected to be more in line with our good operator qualities.

“**WØNE, this is Witch Doctor Nine Holey Moley Underwear**” (That was one of mine, many years ago. I don’t *think* I ever used it on the air, but I was a young, foolish college student at the time, so it could have happened.) Cute phonetics are fun, but save them for in person meetings at hamfests, club meetings, or at the bar. On 2-meter FM, phonetics are rarely needed, but sometimes they come in handy with callsigns when you talk to someone for the first time, or when spelling the name of an unfamiliar place. B, C, D, P, and V all sound pretty much alike. M and N are easily confused. Use Zed (like the Brits, by Jove) for the letter Z. When phonetics are needed, stick with the standard ICAO alphabet: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, etc.

“**The QTH here is Winona**” Q signals are cool. They make us feel like real communicators, but they were designed for Morse code, not for voice. They make CW communications quicker and more efficient, but it’s generally much quicker to use plain language in voice. Look at the phrase above, nine syllables. “I’m in Winona”; plain

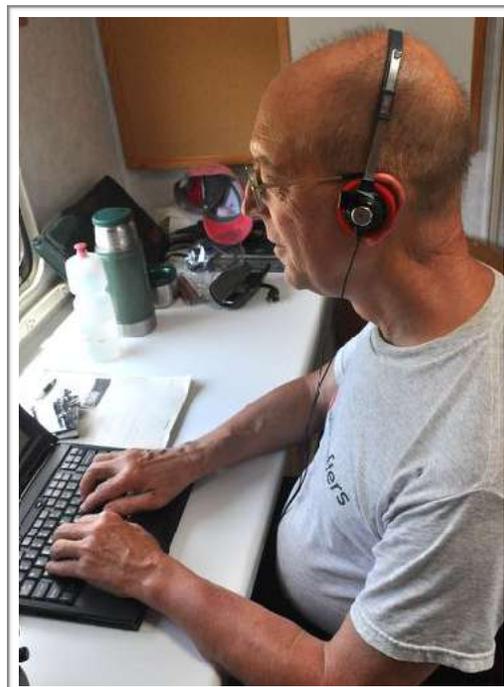
language, only five syllables. One notable exception is the use of “QRZed?” in a contest or by a DX station in a pileup. Here, it is quicker than saying “who is calling me?”

“**Thanks for the contact, Best 73s**” 73 goes back to land line telegraph days. There are SEVERAL other similar numeric codes, but I won’t bore you with all of those. 73 means “Best Regards.” So when we say “73s” or “Best 73s,” we are really saying “Best Regardses” or “Best Best Regardses.” It’s just silly. Just say “73.”

“**KØNY, WBØNIU, and ADØUT, with KØZYV on the side, this is WØVTT for ID. Best 73s to everyone for now....**” Well, of COURSE it’s “for ID,” why else would I send my callsign? FCC rules state that we must identify our station at the end of every communication or once every ten minutes if the communication goes longer than ten minutes. There is no requirement to send the other stations’ callsign(s), but we do it at the beginning of a QSO so they know we are calling them. In a large roundtable QSO, simply giving your own callsign every now and then, and once at the end, is sufficient.

“**W1AW this is Whiskey Zero November Echo, roger your 3 Delta Connecticut, please copy 3 Alpha Minnesota, over.**” Let’s talk about efficiency, shall we? In a contest, or in a DX pileup, we want to be efficient and avoid confusion. When calling a station who is “running,” give your callsign once, phonetically if on phone. If he answers you correctly, he already has your callsign, likely already has it typed in the log, and does not need to hear it any more. Do NOT send your callsign again. He may think he mis-copied it the first time. Likewise, do not repeat his report; he knows what he sent. If you need a repeat, ask for it. All he wants is your exchange, “3 Alpha Minnesota” on voice, or 3A MN on code. Just send the exchange; anything else is a waste and can add confusion. A simple “thank-you” or TU will suffice for the pleasantries (remember, we are courteous).

“**DE WØVTT WØVTT/QRP QRP**” Low power operating can be great fun



WØVTT operates at the club’s Field Day station.

and is often our only option when setting up portable. I have great fun with my little Elecraft K1 and a piece of wire thrown over a tree branch on the Lake Superior north shore in the summer. QRP operating is a real challenge – for the OTHER station. He’s the one who has to copy you. When signals are weak, saying “QRP QRP” or sending /QRP at the end of your callsign only adds noise and confusion. Just send your call. After establishing a contact, when exchanging station information, that is the time to tell him you are running 2.374 milliwatts from a home brew rig with an NE-555 final stage into an underground tripole antenna.

Of course, none of US would every do any of these things, but I’m sure we have all heard the other guy do them. Hopefully this light-hearted missive will make some sense. SO, please accept my very best 73s for now,

This is Washington Zero Valencia Tripoli Tripoli for ID.

Operating

The joy of operating

By Mike Foerster, WØIH

QSO parties, and other major contests, like Field Day and the world wide contests. Then there is the coveted "Worked All Neighbors" award as your 1KW amp messes up all the appliances in the neighborhood!

We've all experienced the thrill of getting a new radio, perhaps a new handheld, a new (or be it old) boat anchor, or perhaps even a new HF radio. It's always memorable to make that first contact with the new radio, amplifier or even a new antenna. We always seem to be improving our stations; though sometimes it seems that we take a step backwards when things don't work out as we had hoped.; -)

As for myself, I really enjoy operating on the air, mostly on HF, getting into a long conversation with someone a thousand miles away, however my real passion is working on antenna and other projects. I have tried a myriad of different antennas that I've been disappointed in, but there are also some that I'm still excited about. I found a great deal on a tower, rotator and antenna 15 years ago that is still working wonderfully for me today (though I do need to have the trees trimmed under it from time to time). I'm lucky in that I can put up not only a full size dipole on 80, but also a 160 (I have some GREAT neighbors!). Both of these are my own design, where a set of pulleys in the center allow me to pull on the coax and tune them to any frequency within the band and get a low SWR. When home brewing, we are all inventors!

I get intrigued working with an Arduino (small computer) to drive many of my antenna tuners. In a past life, I was a programmer of sorts, writing programs to test programs, and so I learned some of the languages. From that experience I've expanded my

retirement to include some programming into the amateur radio hobby. I've built a couple of mobile antenna tuners and a controller for my home station that changes antennas as I change bands on the radio. I also find that one of my biggest joys comes from setting up my station, and the club station for operating remote. I'm fascinated by the changes in technology that allows us to connect to our home stations from a computer or cell phone and operate a home station from anywhere in the world.

The thing that I enjoy most of all from Ham radio is the friendships that I've developed over the years. We all, of course, have a great deal in common within Ham Radio and other aspects of our lives. The radio club meetings are a

What is your niche in Ham Radio? Over the years, I've learned that there are so many different facets of the hobby. It all begins with the various operating modes: FM, SSB, CW, Digital (Wow! The new FT8 is wonderful!). And then there are all of the different bands. The UHF and VHF and all the repeaters and satellite communications as well as moon



bounce give us such a wide variety of experience. The HF bands are currently very slow considering the sunspot cycles and now the new LF bands (630 and 1750 meter bands) offer a real challenge. This list is only scratching the surface of the many modes that are associated with this amazing hobby.

Once you get into the various modes of operation, you can find a contest going on nearly every weekend! Some are minor, such as the different state's



WØIH works on a Field Day beam.

wonderful way to share our hobby and our long friendships. I have friends that I met 30 and 40 years ago that I still keep in touch with today. This includes a friend, Ray, WB0HHM and I have been talking nearly every week for at least the last 35 years.

Ham Radio has so much to offer. What do YOU find is your "Joy of Operating?"

Operating

Why do contests?

(From a Webinar by Ward Silver, NØAX)

The idea, according to Silver, is that good public service operators gain skills from contesting, even casual contesting. He says it's the same for doing a physical work-out because exercise is good for you. In addition, contests are good for your club and public service groups because "they are fun!" Amateurs cannot simply show up at an emergency and expect to operate if they have not practiced. And while contesting does not teach emergency procedures, it helps make the Amateur effective.

Contesting...

- Prepares an operator and station
- Gives practice overcoming challenges
- Improves speaking, sending, logging
- Teaches Amateurs to speak clearly, train ears
- Practice teamwork
- Gives station a workout (does everything work?)

Hirofumi Yoshioka, 7K1PTT's "Amateur Code"

- 1 Listen to your wife and talk with your child, then QRV in your remaining time.
- 2 Maintain your garden and antenna to look neat to keep peace with your neighbors.
- 3 Practice heartwarming and smooth QSOs with consideration for your party and listeners.
- 4 Clean up your transmitting signal and also wiring behind your rig.
- 5 Assess possibility of QSO early to ensure your sleeping hours.

Specialized mobile log available

CQ/X is a "GPS-enabled logging program developed for use by mobile operators in state and regional QSO parties" which works in conjunction with appropriate hardware to automate county and grid tracking during contests. The program's author, NO5W, has is updating it for use during the upcoming ARRL International Grid Chase starting January 1, 2018. Watch his website (<http://www.no5w.com/CQxOverview.php>) for details.

Membership dues due

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 until youth finish high school or turn 18 years of age. Dues are payable by the end of December. Club dues support many activities of the club including maintenance of hardware, cost of insurance, Field Day expenses, and others.

Mail to:

Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
PO Box 1451
Winona, MN 55987

Whatabargain!



2016 Minnesota QSO Party contacts made by Mike Foerster, WØIH, left, and Dan Goltz, WKØW. The 2017 MnQP will be Saturday, Feb. 3.

Operating

DXing for dummies (and other Hams)

Good DXing techniques are useful for all operating Hams whether they are a 'big gun' or a guy with a handheld at a public service event. There's a fine book good for the new Ham and even for the veteran DXer by Bryce Anderson, K7UA, titled "The New DXers Handbook." It is available as a free download at: www.tinyurl.com/dxhandbook

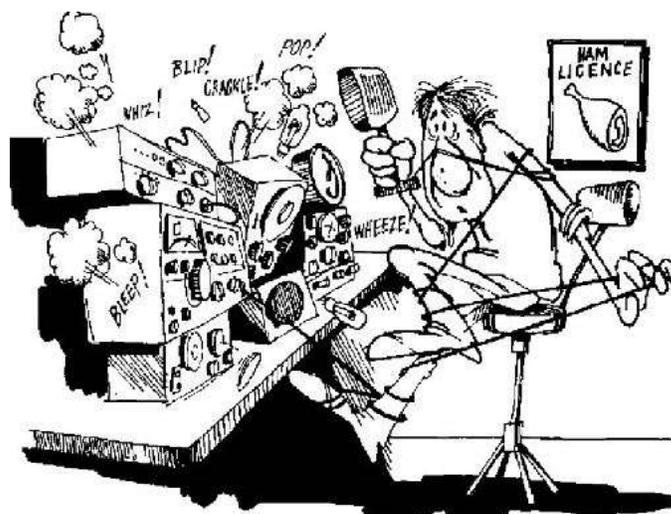
The book is chock-full of useful information for the pursuit of DX. He emphasizes the importance of just listening and what, specifically, to listen for. He points out that although the DX Cluster is a great tool, some great DX can be found by listening up and down the band. If you're lucky, you will be able to work them before they are spotted on the DX Cluster. Of course, the DX Cluster is an important part of DXing and Bryce covers that well in the second chapter. After talking about how to get connected to the DX Cluster, he discusses "good manners" and common sense that should be observed when using the cluster. The fourth chapter is called "The DXer's Tool Kit" and is loaded with useful information, tools, and equipment that will benefit the DXer. This chapter starts by emphasizing the importance of persistence by a DXer. He then gives some specific tips for the DXer's station including the antenna system, the receiver, and the transmitter. The fifth chapter is perhaps the most interesting (and valuable) chapter in the book is titled "Split Operation and How to be Heard in a Pileup." Bryce gives specific instructions on how to set up your radio to work split and he talks about proper behavior in a DX pileup touching on how to increase your chances of working a DX station by detecting operating patterns that the DX station is using.

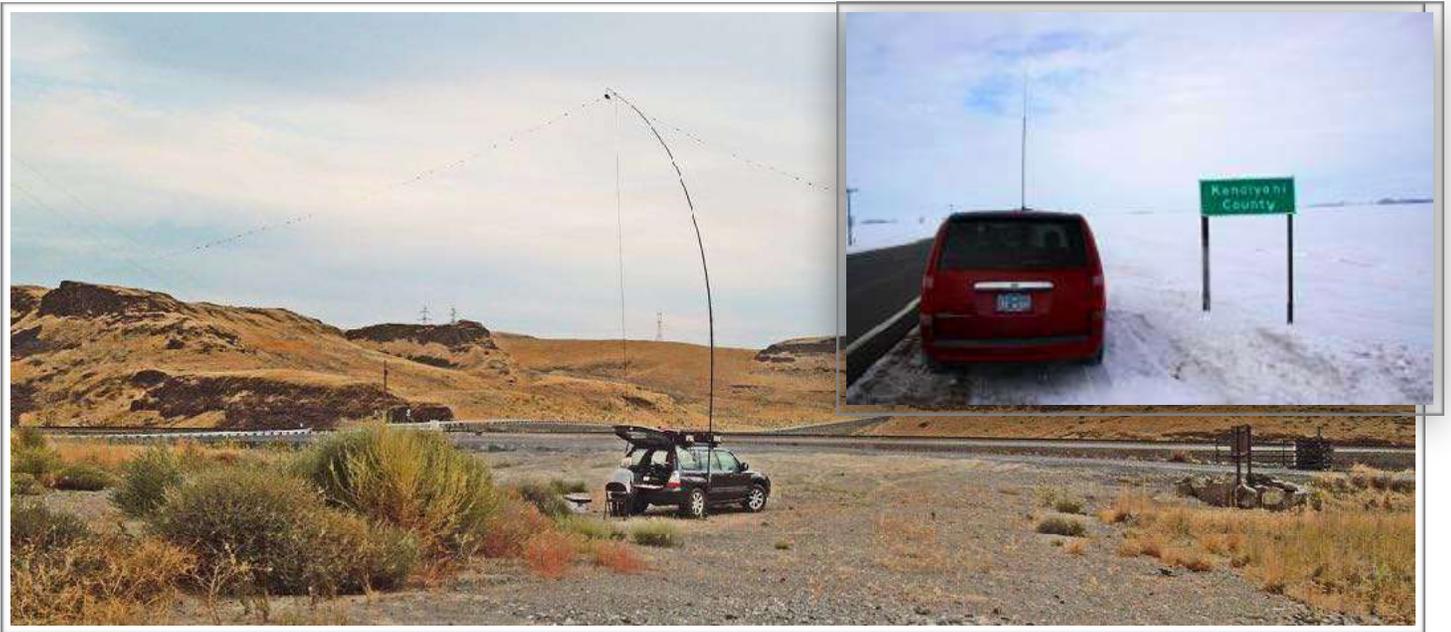
Just the exchange, please

It pays to mention it every contest season: During a contest or at any other time when contact rate is important, only provide the exchange - nothing more. If a running station has responded to your call, they only need your report. Don't repeat their call. If they didn't get your call right, provide your call again then the report. If your call was correct, just provide the exchange.



January 1 is the start of a new year long operating event-- the ARRL International Grid Chase. The object of the game is to make as many contacts with as many different grid squares as possible on a monthly and yearly basis. Contests or modes that exchange grid information are a natural for this challenge, but **any** valid contact uploaded to LOTW is eligible, and it's not even necessary to exchange the grid square as part of the contact, as long as the uploaded contact information has valid station grid square information. See the [ARRL IGC web page \(http://www.arrl.org/international-grid-chase-2018 \)](http://www.arrl.org/international-grid-chase-2018) for more information.





Subaru Salmon Run Rover fun

There is another way of having QSO party fun that could be also really adventurous for the MnQP and that's being a rover. Probably there are a couple in every state's QSO party including Minnesota and you could be one of them.

You could draw inspiration from a blog by Chuck AC7QN and Rich KR7W who, operating as WW7LW, in the Washington State QSO Party - aka Salmon Run. They packed a Subaru Forester with a radio, antenna and camping gear (the Salmon Run is in September) and hit the road. Read about it at: <http://ww7lw.blogspot.com/2017/10/ww7lw-operates-in-2017-salmon-run.html>

Another example is WW7D's blog at: <https://ww7d.wordpress.com/2017/09/21/ww7dm-does-the-2017-salmon-run/>

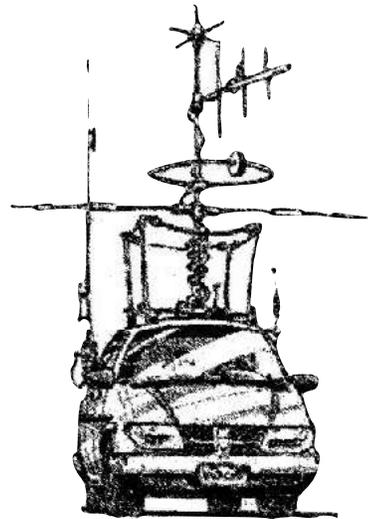


General License class in January

There will be a General License class conducted by the Winona Amateur Radio Club starting 6 p.m. Tues., Jan. 16, in room 105, Watkins Hall, Winona State University. There will be seven sessions and there will be an exam on the week following the last class.

There is no charge for the class though the book is around \$30. The ARRL test fee is \$5.

For more information and to register contact Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, at PSchumacher@winona.edu



MNQP set for Feb. 3

Plans are underway for the club to compete again in the Minnesota QSO Party, Sat. Feb. 3. Paul Degallier, ADØUU, volunteered his garage for the second consecutive year. Dick Lindner, WØRIF, and Mike Foerster, WØIH, will head arrangements.

WARC Board Meeting

Nov. 6, 2017

Watkins Hall, Winona State University

Present:

Board Members: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, Syed Faruque, ACØVA, Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, Dan Goltz, WKØW, Erik Brom, WBØNIU, Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT. Guests: John Kowalik, K2OPT, Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, Tom Wilmot, WØMK, Marv Rodvold, KD9GJB.

Called to order by Paul at around 7 PM.

Treasurer Report approved. Paul asked if the Remote Hams check went through and Harro said it was sent and has not come back.

Report for Nov. 2017

Balance 10/31/2017 \$1,618.50

Deposits: Dues/contribution
\$100.00

Payments:

RemoteHams.com check cashed
\$50.00

Balance reported by Merchants
\$1,668.54

Minutes approved.

Committee Reports

Education Committee. Paul reported on the status of licensing class. There is one student and interest from others to participate in licensing exams.

Licensing testing is scheduled for Tues, Nov. 28. Paul asked for VECs to conduct the test. Erik is willing to do it again. Paul will order the tests. Already there are a few signed up for General Level due to start in January. Paul does not have exact date of start in January.

The **Public Service Committee**, as a whole, has not met since the last report. Eric, Dan and Marv met with a representative of a Twin Cities car club that has requested communications support next September for a race they plan to hold near Waumandee. Two potential courses were surveyed and evaluated for communications challenges. We have agreed to provide the support. It will require many operators. There was discussion that the car club may be able to make a donation to our treasury.

There is no further information about the new emergency management director.

I think our committee and the club, in general, should be more aware of the emergency communication modes that

are being used. If there is interest I could contact some of the Rochester Hams that are using FLDIGI and internet modes for emergency communications and see if they would be willing to do a presentation for us. -

- Dan Goltz, WKØW

Erik provided further details on the meeting regarding club's participation in the Waumandee race. Erik, Dan and Marv met with the representatives of the event and got more information on the nature of support requested. They need help to track the time, start and finish to determine winners. A reliable communication link is needed between start and finish line per Erik. Also in the route in the hill side, there will be checkpoint that need to be supported for any issues. There are two routes being considered and few checkpoints along the way. Erik thinks it will be supported mostly by handhelds with club volunteers except for finish line which is a fixed position. Challenge is the event happens all day, so we will need good number of volunteers and enough battery power will be needed for handhelds. Erik provided more info from the meeting. The event is scheduled fourth Saturday of September 2018.

Dan received an e-mail regarding county meeting for multi-hazard mitigation plan to be held Nov. 20. Our club is invited to attend the meeting. Dan might not be able attend because the date and time of meeting. Walt Kelly will most probably attend and Dan is looking for another person from club to attend this important meeting.

Paul had questions on spare APRS radios he got donated. They might not work. Erik stated we have enough for now but it is worth repairing and having spares. Erik stated it is only worth if it does not take much of cost to fix them.

Witoka. Mike reported there hasn't been much program on the Witoka tower system though the system has been working well and seems very stable.

"I tried a different approach to the 160 meter antenna by moving the ends our from in-between the tower guy wires to our in the field between the guy wire

installations. No difference to the tuning. I'd like to try a 'link coupled tuner.' I may send out an e-mail to see if anyone has one that I can borrow before I try to build one just to see if it will work. I left the ends of the dipole out in the field as I'm sure that they won't be mowing the field for quite some time. There are some red flags attached to the ends just-in-case.

The heater in the shack is turned on and the temperature is holding around 60 degrees F.

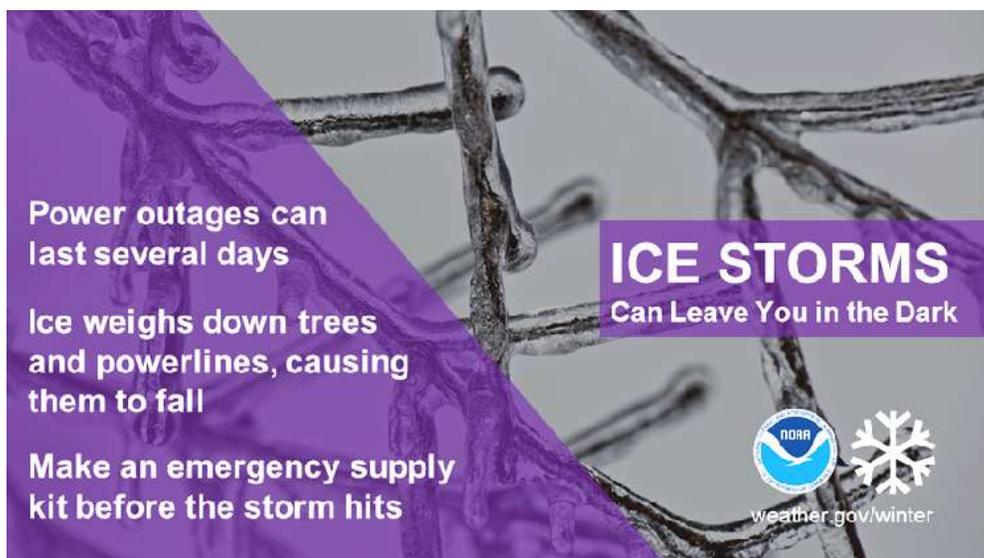
I also picked up a DC-AC converter from Paul, KØZYV, for the power to the laptop but I haven't installed it yet because we don't have DC backup to the UHF repeat. I think that we should have backup power to the repeater before we worry about the laptop."

Elections. Lance provided list of positions scheduled to expire end of the year. Paul, Syed and Harro's terms expire this year. Lance will send an email to the reflector to announce the openings and asking for interested persons to contact him, if they desire to run. Lance said the election will be held during November club general meeting. Dan wanted to know if the club would allow absentee voting though Erik thinks it does not; Lance will look in the club rules to find out. Bob, W9LSE, will report all in the Hamgram.

Paul moved to reimburse Erik for all the expenses he incurred for club recently. Erik is willing to accept one year of club membership for his expenses although the amount might be much higher. He said he did not expect any reimbursement. A motion to reimburse Erik with one full year of club membership was approved.

Harro got a notice of Wisconsin Repeater Coordination Council. Erik will take care of it. Erik updated all present with his interactions with Wisconsin and Minnesota Repeater Councils. Erik mentioned issues with repeater directories. Erik explained that anyone can put a repeater up but if there are complaints and they have not gone through coordination, there might be reparations.

Meeting was then adjourned.



For personal safety have:

- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Cell Phone Car Charger
- Blanket and/or emergency Mylar blanket
- Fleece Hat, Gloves, Scarf
- Flares
- Folding Shovel
- Sand or Cat Litter
- Ice Scraper and Snow Brush
- First-Aid Kit
- Small battery-operated radio
- Emergency contact card with names and phone numbers
- Extra prescription medications
- Bottled Water
- High protein snacks
- Maps
- Whistle

WØNE Repeaters
146.640 PL 100.0 Hz *
146.835 PL 131.8 Hz **
444.225 PL 100.0Hz FM Voice C4FM Digital *
442.150, 100 Hz. FM Voice C4FM Digital *
SkyWarn Net when activated.

Winona Amateur Radio club meetings are 7 p.m., third Thursday of the month at the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St., Winona. The monthly program is open to the public.

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; Mike Foerster, WØIH

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: Treasurer, P.O. Box 1451, Winona, MN 55987



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