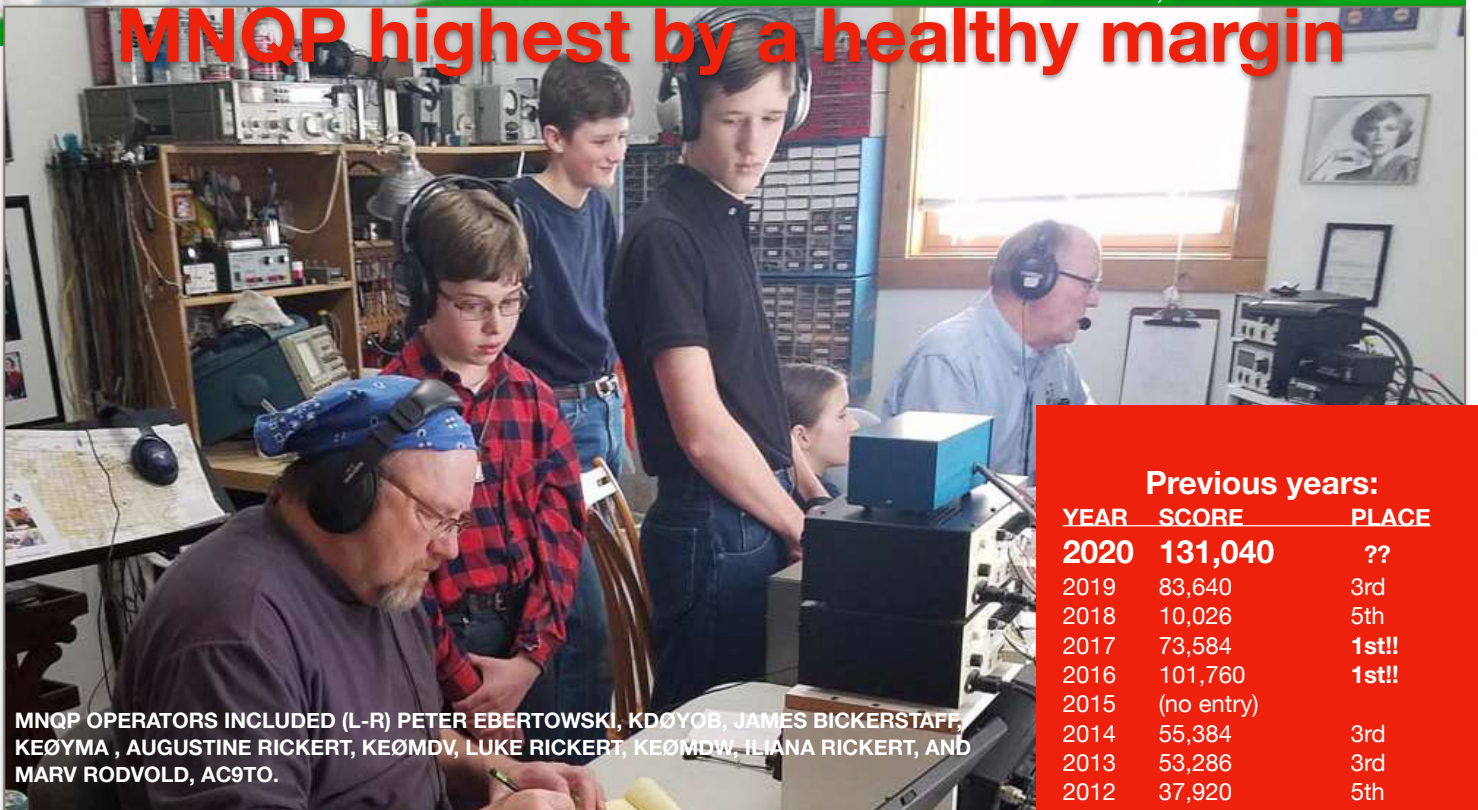


Hamgram

February 2020

Winona Amateur Radio Club
Winona, Minnesota

MNQP highest by a healthy margin



MIKE CIZEK, WØVTT, IMAGES

MNQP OPERATORS INCLUDED (L-R) PETER EBERTOWSKI, KDØYOB, JAMES BICKERSTAFF, KEØYMA, AUGUSTINE RICKERT, KEØMDV, LUKE RICKERT, KEØMDW, ILIANA RICKERT, AND MARV RODVOLD, AC9TO.

Previous years:		
YEAR	SCORE	PLACE
2020	131,040	??
2019	83,640	3rd
2018	10,026	5th
2017	73,584	1st!!
2016	101,760	1st!!
2015	(no entry)	
2014	55,384	3rd
2013	53,286	3rd
2012	37,920	5th
Callsign W1N		
2011	26,220	4th
(no earlier entries found)		

By Mike Cizek, WØVTT

First things first: a big thank you to everyone who participated! Susan and I are most grateful to have found this cool place out in farm country, and it makes us very happy to share with our family and friends. We hope to be able to host more club events in the future.

This was the first time I operated MNQP, and the first time I hosted a multi-op event so I didn't really know what I was doing or what to expect. Setting up took a lot longer than expected, but fortunately it was finished in time. Looking back, I wasted a lot of time fussing over things that didn't matter, and overlooked a few things that did matter. Being the geek that I am, I took copious notes and (hopefully) will not make these mistakes next time. Susan says I'm OCD. I will admit to being obsessive and maybe a little compulsive, but fail to see why it's a disorder.

My Saturday morning started before 6 a.m.: Coffee pot on; radios on; computers on; logging program and mobile activity map loaded; computers networked; everything tested one last time. So far, so good. Marv AC9TO (who lives the farthest away) was the first to arrive. A quick 75m QSO with KIØF in Wabasha confirmed that Marv's headset was properly adjusted and we

had good audio. It was almost time to start, so we chatted with Roger for a bit and he was our first MNQP QSO, right at 1400z. Marv was up and running on 75 phone. I hadn't expected to do much operating, but nobody else was here so I sat down at the other station and ran 40 CW for a while. Once people started wandering in a bit later, I headed to the kitchen to make more coffee, start on lunch, and give the others a chance to operate. Both stations were active all morning.

While we were busy making QSOs (and chili), the Rickert family was busy at the VE session in La Crosse. Iliana passed her Tech exam, Augustine, KEØMDV, passed his General, and Luke, KEØMDW, passed his extra. I wonder if dad, Kevin, KEØMDX, burst any buttons on his jacket that morning?

The Rickert clan, along with James Bickerstaff, KEØYMA, showed up shortly after lunch time. We explained to them what

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MNQP continued from page 1



Our operation certainly wasn't flawless, but went pretty well overall. Once again, we learned that computers and radios REALLY do not like having cables, especially USB cables, unplugged and re-plugged while they are running. Fortunately, no real damage was done, but we lost a handful of QSOs because of the time spent rebooting, reloading, and re-configuring things. There were no antenna system failures, and the band-pass filters did a very good job of minimizing inter-station interference. So - what's the bottom line? 721 QSOs and 91 multipliers for a final score of 131,040 points. We worked 35 out of 87 MN Counties. We will likely lose a few points in the log checking due to errors, but this appears to be our highest club score by a healthy

margin. Our next highest was

101,760 in 2016 when we took first place in the Multi-Op category. Eventually, complete scores and stories will be posted on the MWA website: <https://www.w0aa.org/mn-qso-party/>

After the contest finished at 0000z (6 p.m. for you local types), AC9TO, KDØYOB, and I headed to the Good Sport Bar & Grill in St. Charles for a

celebratory dinner with some cold 807s. We were joined there by Matt Holden, KØBBC, (our ARRL Division Director) and David Fugleberg, WØZF, who operated the contest mobile, driving through several different counties.

Once again, thanks to all who contributed during the day. It was great fun!

Operators included Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; Iliana Rickert, KEØZFU, Peter Ebertowski, KDØYOB; Augustine Rickert, KEØMDV, Luke Rickert, KEØMDW, Kevin Rickert, KEØMDX, James Bickerstaff, KEØYMA; Mike Foerster, WØIH; and Mike Cizek, WØVTT. Moral support came from: John Kowalik, K2OPT; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; Tom Wilmot, WØMK; and Dan Goltz, WKØW.

MNQP by the NUMBERS:

Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	Mul	Pt/Q
3.5	CW	17	32	1	1.9
3.5	LSB	75	150	37	2.0
7	CW	114	228	31	2.0
7	LSB	271	542	13	2.0
14	CW	88	176	1	2.0
14	USB	156	312	8	2.0
Totals		721	1440	91	2.0
CW QSOs: 219		SSB QSOs: 502		Score: 131,040	

was going on, let them listen in for a while, then sat them down to operate. As you might expect, they were quite tentative at first and needed a lot of coaching. They caught on very quickly, needing less and less instruction, and in short order, they were off and running on their own. Between the four of them, they made 122 QSOs; a significant contribution to the club score.



NEW HAMS ILIANA RICKERT, KEØZFU, AND JAMES BICKERSTAFF, KEØYMA, FIGHT FOR QS DURING THE CLUB'S MNQP OPERATION.

Some ideas of keep you busy during the long winter

- ★ Participate in a contest (QSO party?)
- ★ Check in to an HF net
- ★ Send an email using Winlink or APRS
- ★ Try a new digital mode
- ★ Upgrade your license
- ★ Build a radio or antenna
- ★ Activate a park
- ★ Activate a summit
- ★ Buy a new radio
- ★ Learn CW
- ★ Send an SMS text
- ★ Build a Go Box
- ★ Contact a satellite
- ★ Update your QRZ page
- ★ Work a Special Event

WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2020, Watkins, Winona State University

Called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Paul Schumacher, K0ZYV

Present: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, Dan Goltz, WKØW, Mike Foerster, WØIH, Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, Erik Brom, WBØNIU. Vistors: John Kowalik, K2OPT, Marv Rodvold, AC9TO, Tom Wilmot, WØMK.

Treasurer's report (Harro) (Approved Bob/Mike)

Balance on 1/31/2020	\$3,515.52
Deposits:	\$65.00
Payments:	
Erik Brom – Christmas party expenses	\$50.00
Post Office Box rental	\$92.00
Balance reported by bank	\$3,438.52

Paid members 2020	26
Repeater Upgrade Project Status	
Collected	\$600.00 Goal: \$1,175

Minutes: (Bob) (Approved Dan/Harro)

Witoka: (Mike) The CW from the remote was not working correctly. A newer version of the driver that fixed the problem.

146.835 Repeater: We found two problems with the Hamtronics T-301 exciter at the Rooster Ridge site. There was a bad potentiometer and also a bad capacitor in the final circuit. Both were replaced.

It became apparent that there was a de-sense problem. Erik and I met with John Swenson with a network analyzer and returned the duplexers but that didn't fix the problem. We removed the lightning arrestor, and the problem went away. At the site, Alan Romeis, KB9DRZ, was with his tower

company. He gave us four used (10 year old) lightning arrestors and some LMR400 and two split ferrite cores. This appears to clean up the noise.

Replacement repeater: At the January meeting, the board agreed to replace the Hamtronics repeater with a Yaesu DR-2X with the network card for \$900. The delivery date is possibly the end of February or beginning of March. We will also need a new lightning arrestor from L-Com, on the recommendation of Jim, KBØTHN.

Disabled Ham: John, K2OPT, will meet with a formerly licensed disabled person to see about helping him become relicensed.

Remote: (Erik/Dan) (Motion approved) **Active, dues-paying Winona Amateur Radio Club members may be authorized to use the club's HF remote.**

Commendation: Club board commends Russ Marsolek, NØQK, on his scenic aerial video of the 835 site

Public Service: (Dan, WKØW) The committee has been inactive over the holiday period. Dec. 18 we presented our amateur radio Power Point program at the Winona County Emergency Management Quarterly meeting. Wed. Feb.5, we will present the same program to the SOAR team.

In March, the committee will meet to discuss upcoming issues including the proposed wish list of equipment for the EOC, Sheriff's communications trailer and the SOAR van.

There is the possibility of another public service event the first weekend of October helping with a fall train excursion.

Adjourn 7:50 p.m.



2020 Storm Spotter Training Classes

National Weather Service – La Crosse, WI

Snow may be on our lawns but severe thunderstorms and even tornados are coming! Be up-to-date with your storm spotting abilities by attending one of the National Weather Service training sessions. It recommends spotters attend training at least once every two years. The sessions are free-of-charge and open to the public.

- *March 3, 6:30 p.m., **Caledonia**, EOC-Lower Level Houston County Justice Center 306 S.Marshall St.
- *March 9, 6:30 p.m., **Rochester**, Rochester Int'l Event Center
- *March 26, 6:30 p.m., **Winona**, Wilson Town Hall, 29660 County Road 12
- *April 2, 6:30 p.m., **La Crosse**, Marycrest Auditorium, Mayo Clinic Health System, 700 West Ave

There are several on-line storm spotter training modules and reference materials:

- [Role of the Skywarn Spotter](#) - COMET Module
- [Skywarn Spotter Convective Basics](#) - COMET Module
- [Spotter Course](#) - COMET Module
- [Weather Spotter's Field Guide \(Updated June 2011\)](#) (PDF)

Feb 20 meeting

Join us for a wrap on MNQP, the '835 and Field Day when the club meets for its February meeting 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20. We are back at the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St., Winona.

Take a look at Mike Cizek's account of the MNQP and see our club has an all-time high for the event. He'll tell us how it's done. Then more on "Marv's" disaster at the 835 and what is coming in its place. Finally, we'll start our Field Day planning (June 26-28).

A NEW REPEATER FUNDED BY MEMBERS



The club is getting a brand-new machine for its 146.835 repeater to replace an old unit with questionable reliability. It will be the club's third Yaesu Fusion repeater and it will cost about \$1,000 when the repeater and all the peripherals are in place.

As soon as the club executive board decided on the purchase a number of members contributed money to help pay for it. They include:

- Chad Oness, KEØYTZ
- Mike Foerster, WØIH
- Paul Schumacher, KØZYV
- Dan Goltz, WKØW
- Bill Davis, WØMZM
- Bob Seaquist, W9LSE



Other club members have pledged money and so can you.

**YESTERDAY I SAW AN
AD THAT SAID 'RADIO
FOR SALE, \$1, VOLUME
STUCK ON FULL'
I THOUGHT, 'I CAN'T
TURN THAT DOWN'**

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.

** Sunday Night Net—8:30 p.m.

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: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, seaquist.robe@eagle.uwlax.edu

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

At Large: Dan Goltz, WKØW; Mike Foerster, WØIH; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, seaquist.robe@eagle.uwlax.edu

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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correspondence to: Bob Seaquist, 202 Zephyr Circle, La Crosse, Wis. 54601 or seaquist.robe@eagle.uwlax.edu 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

