

Hamgram

June, 2016

Winona Amateur Radio Club
Winona, Minnesota

June 25-26

Field Day challenges skills, reinforces fun

It's time for Ham radio's premier event, Field Day. June 24-26, an amateur's World Series, Olympics, State Fair and Woodstock. It's when Hams from around the world take their gear to the weeds for a test of an operator's communication skills and ability and flexibility in mounting an effort that would be encountered in a major disaster.

Everyone who has participated knows it is much, much more. Club members and friends will meet, eat, drink, camp, operate, or any combination of the above.

This year we're at the Port Authority of Winona property on Innovation Drive at the far east end of the development. (see map)

All Winona Amateur Radio Club members are invited to participate. It is a wonderful chance to learn how others operate and to simply get on the air and make some contacts.

We plan to run as 2A (two simultaneous stations) doing our logging on the familiar N1MM software. Hams planning to operate should briefly review section abbreviations which should make logging easier for them.

In addition, there is interest in getting internet to the site via 900 MHz mesh networking like we did last year.

The planning team includes Mike Cizek, WØVTT; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; and Dale Cohenour, KEØEKD.



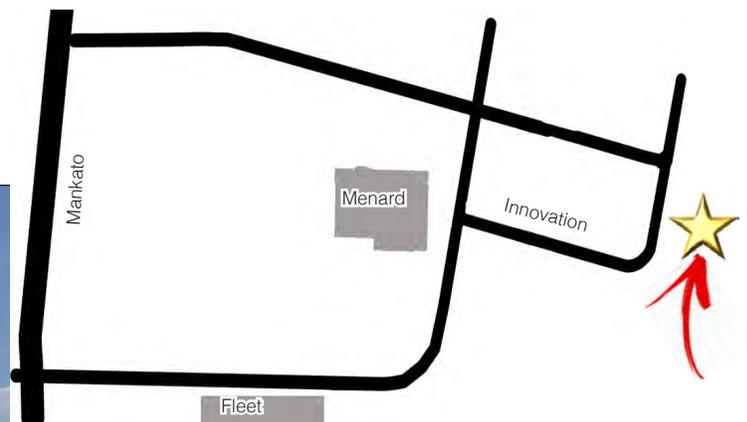
Mike Foerster, WØIH, operates in the club's 2015 Field Day station.

Every effort will be made to assure that those who want to make contacts will have a spot. Probably won't go hungry either.

Expect non-Ham visitors so plan to dress neatly and try to simply explain what you are doing. Setup begins late afternoon Friday, June 24 when the Sheriff brings the county EOC trailer. Complete setup and testing stations about 9 a.m. Saturday. Before 1 p.m. prepare for the contest by "reserving" a frequency.

Find an open frequency 10-20 minutes before the start of the contest and call CQ and if possible start a QSO to occupy the frequency. Then as the contest starts, you can sign off from the QSO and start calling CQ Field Day.

Field Day is an event that is best when it is shared with as many people as possible (that's why we have a big Field Day after all). Plan to operate even if it is only briefly!



Field Day goals

- ✓ Have good time with fellow Hams
- ✓ Learn new Ham practices
- ✓ Demonstrate Ham radio to others
- ✓ Communicate
- ✓ Score a few points

KCØRSX named Outstanding Member



Len Litvan, KCØRSX, was named “Outstanding Member, 2004-2016” at the Winona Amateur Radio Club’s May meeting. Litvan is moving to Indianapolis from Winona to be closer to family. For many new members Litvan’s warm welcome and firm handshake was introduction to the club. He added his professional leadership and organizational skills to many club events during his tenure. That is in addition to his high energy and great commitment especially as far as public relations and outreach. Litvan is a relatively new Ham licensed in 2004 and diving into the hobby enthusiastically including QRP and CW.

Rain doesn’t dampen Trinona support

The rains came, lightning struck, and members of the Winona Amateur Radio Club provided communications for the Trinona tri-athlon June 12.

Once the rain stopped and the somewhat abbreviated event began, club members scattered on the bicycle course to assure safety and good communications.

Participants included: Dale Cohenour, KEØEKD; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Les Hittner, KØBAD; Melanie Reap, KDØNTM; Steve White, KDØBOD; Bill Chavez, KEØIJG; Erik Brom, WBØNIU; Dan Goltz, WKØW; Lance Tagliapietra, KBØYJU; Cathie Steinhoff, KC-9ZEZ; and Brad Benke, KBØUDI.

Operators were placed at key points along the bicycle route and provided status reports throughout this portion of the event. Additionally, APRS units were in use—one in a SAG wagon and others with many of the participating Hams.

Field Day featured at club meeting



Prepare for Field Day at the Winona Amateur Radio Club’s meeting 7 p.m., Thursday, June 16. Co-chair Lance Tagliapietra, KCØYJU, will preview and hype our Field Day event and we’ll also review club efforts to support communication (again) for Trinona.

The meeting is in Conference Room B in the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St. The doors will be unlocked 6:45 until 7:15.

Visitors are invited.



‘64’s Kendicom repeater back

Control boards for the club’s Kendicom repeater are shown by Erik Brom, WBØNIU. He’s worked on the repeater designing and building a new touch tone decoder using a Raspberry Pi. He also had to replace a couple chips, cheap ones not working. It was the first chip in the chain that was bad. The second one is okay.

There are three ways control codes can be entered: Over the air on the input frequency, via telephone, or via an auxiliary receiver. Before we sent it in for repair a couple years ago, we used the over the air and telephone. The manual suggests installation of a CTCSS decoder for control codes. Brom plans to have it run the way it used to by just connecting the output of the 100Hz decoder to the control input.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 25-26 – Field Day. Technology Park. Set up Saturday morning. Operate ‘til early Sunday afternoon

July 9-10–GRSF Special Event.

July 21-- WARC Family Picnic.

WARC Board Meeting

May 2, 2016, Watkins Hall, Winona State University

Present: Lance Tagliapietra, KB0YJU, Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, Paul Schumacher, KOZYV, Syed Faruque, AC0VA, Les Hittner, K0BAD, Mike Foerster, WOIH, Russ Marsolek, N0QK.

Called to order by Paul at around 7 PM.

MINUTES

Minutes published stated the licensing date as 23rd April whereas it should have been 23rd May. Corrected.

Minutes approved.

TREASURER REPORT

Treasurer Report was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Report is appended to this Minutes. Paul stated something related to Public Service is the issue of Trailer. Mike mentioned everything working at Witoka Tower but he needs a Win32 disk. Harro can help Mike with Win32 disk. Dale helped rebuild the computer system and racks. Everything is mounted there and grounded. Dan and Erik replaced the APRS radio. Paul provided status of generator. Some parts are working and some parts got frozen during the winter. Paul and Dan planning to talk to Skip about repairing the generator. Mike stated the generator is very big almost the size of table in the meeting room. Lance raised the question if the generator is ours to be concerned about. Dan should talk to Mike Peterson before making any move with the generator. Mike mentioned to get it out of there to make room for the trailer if club gets one someday. Mike mentioned the gate now opens and closes nicely at the tower. Paul mentioned club has permission to park a trailer at the site from County. Board then discussed more on the generator and what type of wattage club needs. Lance updated the status of 640 repeater repair. It is on Erik's bench for repair. Erik provides updates of the status through reflector. Erik has done some wiring and according to lance the issue seems to be related to touchtone and decoder. Erik has figured out the power out detection per Lance. Lance stated currently 640 Repeater is running with Repeater we got from County and this does not have ID capability. Paul mentioned all the APRS nodes seem to be working. Les had questions on setting up APRS and Lance replied to the questions.

Trailer Discussion

It is a 50 feet tower with trailer owned by Ham in Burnsville. The cost is \$500 plus a receipt for tax deduction. Paul thinks it is a reasonable trailer and we should have a club member inspect if and, if found acceptable, bring it back. Mike mentioned there's information that axle is bent and is concerned we would be able to pull it.

Les mentioned it will be long trip back if we were to purchase this trailer. Paul asked for volunteers. Lance replied few more questions on the trailer like it was used locally by a club there and the club has since been disbanded. Russ asked "what is the trail able size when it collapses?" Mike had also questions on rotators. Paul asked for volunteers to go there and check out the trailer first. Les mentioned if we go up there, we go up there once and with equipment to tow it, if it is found acceptable. Mike mentioned he might go up to the Cities on coming Friday for personal reasons and if he knows where the trailer is, he can check it out. Lance will try to get the information. Lance mentioned if we decide to get it, we still want to talk to seller about instruction on setting up, raising the Antenna and other details. Lance will co-ordinate with seller on these issues. Board then approved a budget to allocate \$500 cash and receipt of \$700 for non-profit tax deductions only if the trailer found to be acceptable to purchase by our visiting team. Board also approved to pay for mileage per IRS rules to whoever goes there to get it.

Paul then discussed VE setup for licensing sessions scheduled for 23 May. Looks like enough VE are available for the session.

Paul also brought a discussion on people sending messages through Web site or willing to contact through Web site. Len had been handling those questions but with Len planning to leave the area, club

needs someone else to take care of these inquiries. Lance volunteered to take on the task. Les mentioned this will also require Jim to change the contact list on Web site.

Harro had questions on Repeater Council payments. Lance mentioned it is not that much and Paul will contact Erik to send the bill for Repeater Council to Harro for payment. Harro also working on paying insurance premium. Harro still looking for policy number and other info that will help.

Lance mentioned he was happy to see Russ join the board meeting. Russ asked if there is any decision made on final place of 440 Repeater. Russ volunteered to provide signal report as he drives around a lot in our area. Lance mentioned there is good response on 440 from many areas like St. Charles, along the river road. Discussion continued on usage and place of 440 Repeater. Russ specially mentioned Repeater should serve where the users are. Les then shared some of his Ham experience in Hawaii and his idea of 440 service in our area. Lance mentioned 440 final place has not been decided yet. Just exploration the coverage is being done. More discussion continued on 440 Repeater.

Meeting was then adjourned.



Trinora's Net Control Station tests equipment during thunderstorms prior to the event. Bill Chavez, KE0IJG, left, watches NCS Lance Tagliapietra, KB0YJU. Cathie Steinhoff, KC9ZEZ, is in back.



The club's VE May licensing session resulted in new and upgraded Hams. From left to right: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, (VE); Erik Brom, WBØNIU, (VE); Clare Jarvik, KØNY; new General; Lance Tagliapietra, KBØYJU, upgraded to Extra; Dan Goltz, WKØW, (VE); Michael Schmelzer, KEØJLC, new General; Russ Marsolek, NØQK, (VE). Not shown is Paul Degallier, KCØJZJ, who upgraded to Extra.

Writers wanted

Lets hear about your latest Ham adventure. Boast about your latest piece of gear, your project or contact. Simply contact Hamgram editor Bob Seaquist, seaquist.robe@uwlax.edu and he will help you put together the subject, verb and object so your fellow club members learn something new. Top dollar paid for copy!



Timbers' closing results in Saturday breakfast move

With the demise of Timbers, the group has decided to move the odd Saturday (first, third, fifth) breakfast to Winona Family Restaurant. Same time (about 8:15). Even Saturdays are still at McDonald's west.

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, Inc. P.O. Box 1451, Winona, MN 55987

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 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

