

The Hamgram

March 2020



LoTW, Storm Spotter Ops, & FD featured at March 19 meeting



ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) is an online service that enables you to electronically submit contacts (QSOs) for confirmation. It also lets you view your submitted QSOs and resulting confirmations as well as to see your DXCC, VUCC, WAS, WAZ and WPX

award progress online.

Still, this almost miraculous service can be baffling. To unravel the mystery, Mike Cizek, WØVTT, an expert on LoTW, will present it understandably at the Winona Amateur Radio Club's March 19 meeting.

There will also be a presentation on Storm Spotter operations by Dan "Stormy" Goltz, WKØW. This is the radio operating side of storm spotting answering

questions of "where to go," "how to respond," and "what do I say."

The newest program feature, "Formula Shack," introduces you briefly to a club member and how they operate.

Finally...even though Field Day is three months away, we are starting our preparations. Marv Rodvold, AC9TO, will give a briefing and ask for your input.

The club meeting is at 7 p.m., Thurs. March 19, in the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St., Winona. The monthly program is open to the public.



Watch for announcements regarding the March 19 meeting and CoronaVirus.

STORM SPOTTER TRAINING

In-person training cancelled.

There are Webinars listed at https://www.weather.gov/arx/skywarn_schedule



One day Tech license

The Pine Valley Amateur Radio Club of Richland Center, Wis., is sponsoring a one-day class so participants may earn a Technician Class amateur radio license right then and there.

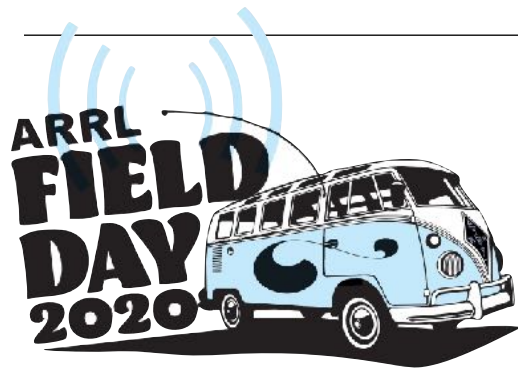
This class will be 8:45 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, April 26, in the Richland County Courthouse lower level. Registration deadline is April 1. A \$50 fee includes a license manual, lunch, exam fee, and refreshments. For more information and to register for the class, contact Ralph Hendrickson, KC9LBO@yahoo.com or 608 632-5200.

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MUGBY JUNCTION QUICHE, THE MISUNDERSTOOD FIELD DAY TREAT.



WWW.ARRL.ORG

Field Day planning starts

There are as many reasons Hams participate in Field Day as there are Hams. It's time to start nailing down the "likes" as the Winona Amateur Radio Club plans its Field Day, June 27-28.

There will be a brief discussion of Field Day at the club's March 19 meeting. Those interested in making it a great event are invited to participate.

Silent Key Night

Announcing a new on air operating event: Silent Key Night, beginning midnight, April 1 until the bands are dead, will be an opportunity to resurrect those long lost contacts and reconnect to the old timers who have gone QRT.

In the spirit of ham radio let's get on the air for this special event and see how many silent keys we can raise. Use any mode or medium such as CW, phone, or séance. You may want to use an antenna that has a strong vertical signal and point the antenna up toward the heavens, or, depending on which silent key operator you work, you may want the reverse radiation pattern.

If you hear a distant, ghostly sound, it may possibly be one of the old time silent key operators buried in a pileup. This may be the perfect excuse you need to try to resurrect one of your dead rigs.

Don't pass away an opportunity to operate from a unique location such as a local morgue or in a cemetery. But plan ahead. If your batteries die, this will indeed be a grave situation.

Score:

- ★ One point per silent key contact.
- ★ One half point for each "ghost contact" (That is where you think you worked them but weren't really sure).
- ★ Bonus: 1,000 bonus points for working The Old Man himself.
- ★ You qualify for a special certificate if you yourself are a silent key.

Don't be a deadbeat; join the fun on Silent Key Night, where the bands will be alive!



73

"Best Regardses" and "Best Regards's"

By Tomas Hood, NW7US

It is silly, of course to say "best regardless." We who speak and write in the English language know that you should not pluralize a word that is already in its plural form. "Best regards" means, "I wish you the best of regards." It is implied that there is more than one regard. Perhaps there are a few, perhaps many more. It then is clear that we wouldn't normally pluralize "regards," into, "regardses."

It is also silly to say that the best of regards owns something. How can a regard let alone a group of regards own anything? So, why "73's" when written?

The usage of "73" comes from early landline telegraph. 73 and other numbers were used to speed up the transmission of common messages over landlines by mapping common messages to these specific numbers. And, numbers were quicker to send than the longer messages the numbers replaced.

There is something to be said about teaching new amateur radio operators the best of our traditions, history, skills, procedures, protocols, ethics, and culture. There's no rational argument that can make a case that allowing these aspects of our service and hobby to degrade over time (by the lack of Elmering).



WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Monday, March 2, 2020, Watkins, Winona State University



Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, Dan Goltz, WKØW; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Erik Brom, WBØNIU; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE.

Tom Wilmot, WØMK; John Kowalik, K2OPT; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO.

Treasurer (Harro KG6RLM)

Balance on 2/29/2020 \$3,438.52

Deposits:

Dues, and repeater donations \$1,291

Balance reported by bank \$4,657.52

Paid members (2020) 32

Repeater upgrade project Status

Collected \$1,000 Goal \$1,100

Minutes (Bob W9LSE)

Committee Reports

Public Service: (Dan WKØW) Skywarn training will be 6:30 p.m., Thurs. March 26, at the Wilson Fire Hall. For a club program we will present a Skywarn overview as well as operating and reporting techniques.

I have requested a time for our committee to meet with Ben Klinger, regarding his needs and desires for communications in the SOAR van and the Sheriff's command trailer.

Coming public service events include Trinona, Sunday, June 14; Ride the Ridges, Sat. Sept. 19, and the Twin Cities Austin Healy Club time trials at Waumandee, Sat. Oct. 10. We have to be vigilant in case COVID-19 becomes an emergency management event.

Witoka: (Paul, KØZYV)

Repeater: (Paul, KØZYV). The new Yaesu Fusion repeater planned for the '835 is expected to arrive in late March.

Disabled Ham: (John, K2OPT) John has visited with the disabled former Ham and is helping him.

The expense and trials of repeaters

By Patrick Moretti, KA1RB

I'd like to address the traffic on repeaters and the wonderful educational opportunities provided by enlightening conversations.

It seems to me that repeater numbers are growing and the amount of use is decreasing. Most repeaters appear to have a busy time around the various local drive times and the rest of the time repeaters are quiet - no usage at all beyond an occasional "key-up".

On the positive side are some of the nets that are conducted regularly on many repeaters. Sadly, if it wasn't for the nets there would be no traffic at all on some of these expensive-to-acquire and expensive-to-maintain stagnant toys.

The really successful, well supported repeaters have several nets and routinely hold technical discussions. They are supported by an active club and by the actual users of the repeater. **Note that some folks consider the access to the repeaters an entitlement and that they are free to use... open**

repeaters are "free" to use, but certainly not free to maintain - the right philosophy is "if you use it - support it" It's not so much that you'll wear it out by using it - although there is some wear and tear on the relay contacts and then there are those extra electrons that have to be brought in... and the site rent... and the trips to the site to repair or improve the system.. and the stand-by equipment - back-up batteries... a lot goes into keeping a repeater available. It is a shame that we don't see the level of support to match the level of effort.

Some of the "really busy" repeaters on the other hand are local copies of the conversations heard on 80 meters, otherwise known as the "what ails you" hour. The problem is the repetition, the lack of new topics, the unimaginative re-hashing of old news, the discussions that border on the edge of propriety.

The problem is that while very few people talk on repeaters, many people listen. With scanners, many

people have some sort of monitoring going on. I'm not talking about Amateur Radio Operators here. I'm talking about some of our served agencies, media providers, the general public... They all get a display of what Amateur Radio is about. It can be a very positive image, or it can be "its no better than CB..." So the point of these notes is to be situation aware:

- A repeater is a party line.
- A repeater is a system of dedicated equipment - expensive to purchase and expensive to maintain.
- A repeater is a wonderful tool to help grow Amateur Radio!
- A repeater should not be a place to rent and rave about the ills of our society or what ever seems to be your particular complaint of the day.
- The rule of thumb is keep it clean, and if you use it - help pay for it!



MARCH 2020

Riverland Amateur Radio Club

Swapfest

Sat. Aug. 8 – 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Located in the Onalaska American Legion

731 Sand Lake Rd. Onalaska, WI 54650

Talk in: 146.970 PL 131.8



VE testing at 9 a.m.

- Door prizes
- Vendors
- Flea market
- Improved tailgating (New!)
- Food
- Accessible
- ARRL award card checks

COMING SOON!

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

WØNE Repeaters

146.640 PL 100.0 Hz *

146.835 PL 131.8 Hz ** FM Voice C4FM Digital

444.225 PL 100.0Hz FM Voice C4FM Digital

442.150 PL 100.0 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 program is open to the public.



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

Dues: \$30 per calendar year per license holder. \$35 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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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.