

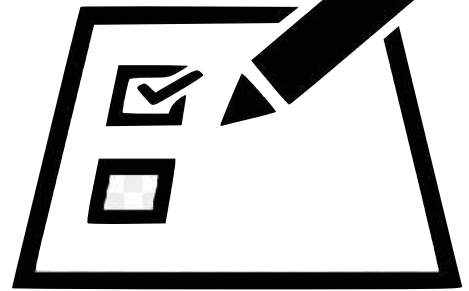
Hamgram

November 2018

Winona Amateur Radio Club
Winona, Minnesota



The backbone of Minnesota's emergency communications will be discussed at the Winona Amateur Radio Club's November meeting, 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15. Winona County Emergency Manager Ben Klinger will talk about the ARMER (Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response) system, a P25, Motorola, SmartZone, 800 MHz, phase 1, trunked radio



Club annual meeting Nov. 15

Winona Amateur Radio Club members will elect board members and conduct other club business at the club's annual meeting Nov. 15. Members will elect three board members to fill spots now held by Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Mike Foerster, WØIH; and Dan Goltz, WKØW;

Interest has been received from all three and the board officially placed them on the slate. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

The meeting is set for 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 15, in the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St.

Current club board members include Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; Foerster, Tagliapietra, and Goltz. The club's custodian is Erik Brom, WBØNIU. The custodian automatically is a member of the board.

system.

The club meeting will be at the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St., Winona. The monthly program is open to the public.

ARMER was first put into service in the Twin Cities in 2004, then moved to St. Cloud and Rochester, and has since migrated throughout the rest of Minnesota. ARMER currently serves as the primary communications tool for the majority of state, county and local public safety entities in Minnesota.

ARMER is billed as being inherently interoperable though a refinery fire in Superior, Wis., demonstrated it is not interoperable across state lines. While most ARMER users spend most of their time using local, private talkgroups (channels), there are also local, county, regional and statewide interoperability talkgroups available for their use.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation owns the core infrastructure providing the ARMER backbone and 95-percent mobile coverage. Many local units of

government own local enhancements providing improved local and in-building coverage.

Radio caches, located

throughout the state, afford public safety access to spare radios to issue in times of emergency and special events. Only those with existing ARMER participation plans may check out these resources. Cache radio users receive "just in time training" before being issued a radio.

- ARMER is a P25, Motorola, SmartZone, 800 MHz, phase 1, trunked radio system utilizing six zone controllers.
- ARMER possesses over 7,200 assigned and over 6,200 active talkgroups.
- Over 96,000 radios are registered and over 81,000 radios are active.



Dues due

2019 club dues (\$25 individual; \$30 family) are now due. Send to Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. P.O. Box 1451, Winona, MN 55987

Find an Elmer

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Amateur radio can be complicated. You will have questions about technology, questions about rules, and questions about operating. An “Elmer” is someone who can help answer those questions and help you avoid some of the pitfalls of the hobby. He or she is a ham that you can go to for questions about what rig to buy, when you need an antenna analyzer, or when struggle understanding a concept. If you haven’t already, you might want to find an Elmer.

The term “Elmer” first appeared in the March 1971 issue of QST magazine. Rod Newkirk, W9BRD, called them “the unsung fathers of Amateur Radio.” He wrote that an Elmer is “the Ham who took the most time and trouble to give you a push toward your license.”

Where do you find an Elmer? The first place to look is the club. Lots of the “old timers” there are more than happy to help newcomers. Ask for help and ye just may receive.



Paul Bittner, super Ham, SK

The Rev. Paul Bittner, WØAIH, was a legend in the international Ham Radio community so when he died Oct. 31 after falling from one of his many towers it was big news. The “Farm” near Fall Creek, Wis., was already hallowed ground for Hams and a visit there and chatting with Paul was no less than an audience with the Pope at the Vatican.

When the Pope was anointed the Vatican was already there; when Paul bought the 120 acre farm in 2000 it was simply a farm. In the 18 years since he acquired more than 50 towers, scores of radios, tons of antennas and a built a snarl of switches, coax and fellow hams.

One of the many takeaways from Paul Bittner is that he put together a station, a super station, on a Lutheran minister’s modest salary, persistence, persuasion and the love of his hobby. It was, by some Hams’ description, the largest Ham radio station in the world.

Another takeaway from WØAIH was his enthusiasm and his willingness to Elmer hundreds of Hams. Not only that, to be on-hand and on-tower for their construction.



Are you ready?

The ARRL Northern Florida Section recently sought volunteers to the area devastated by Hurricane Michael. There were serious communication issues in the storm’s wake. The Florida State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) needed eight operators while the ARRL Section needed as many volunteers as possible.

Would you be able to help?

Volunteers had to be self-sufficient for seven days which mean’t they had to have food, water, place to sleep, power, radio, etc. Go-kits had to have radios and antennas for VHF/UHF (SARnet), HF, and, if possible, HF Winlink. And Hams had to have an alternate power source (solar, wind, or generator) and you had to be familiar with message and traffic-handling.

Are you *that* prepared?

Who else?

By Greg Miller, K9LEC

“Who else is going to do it?” Those words were spoken to me many years ago when I was considering throwing my hat in the ring for a position in our radio club. As a person on the fence as to whether I should do it and considering the time and effort required to do the job correctly, coming to a decision was not coming easy. Then these words came at me, “Who else is going to do it?” That is what I needed to put me over the edge and do what club members should do at some time or another. As it turned out it was not time consuming and the effort was not very hard. It actually was quite enjoyable and I hope beneficial to the club. Now I will be stepping aside and giving room for other club members to step forward and answer that very same question, “Who else is going to do it?” Clubs need a turn over of new leaders to bring in fresh new ideas so look at yourself and step up to the plate for the club. After your time in serving you can look back and be glad that you answered with “I am going to do it.”



WARC Executive Board

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2018, Watkins Hall, Winona State University

(Unofficial minutes)

Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Mike Foerster, WØIH; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; Erik Brom, WBØNIU. Guests: John Kowalik, K2OPT; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Tom Wilmot, WØMK; Keith Laken, KEØIJ.

Treasurer (Harro KG6RLM)

Balance 9/31/18	\$2,093.04
Deposits	
Dues	75.00
Repeater donations	400.00
Payments	
Repeater (Foerster)	-500.00
Parts (Foerster)	-25.42
Outstanding checks	100.00
Deposits not reflected	475.00
Balance Nov 1	1,667.42
<i>Repeater upgrade project</i>	
<i>Collected</i>	400.00
<i>pledged</i>	260.00
<i>Goal</i>	1,000.000

Paul expressed concern regarding members who are not current on dues. Harro and Bob will collaborate on a reminder letter to members for 2019 dues. Bob will also place a reminder in the Hamgram.

Elections (Paul, KØZYV)

The terms of board members Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Mike Foerster, WØIH; and Dan Goltz, WKØW; expire. All three indicated an interest to continue. Board voted to place them on the slate for the Nov. 15 annual meeting.

Public Service Committee (Dan, WKØW)

Paul KØZYV spent a lot of time to get our SKYWARN email/text messaging system working again.

Paul and Dan met with Winona County Emergency Management Coordinator Ben Klinger. Several items were discussed. Ben considers amateur radio an underutilized resource.

Ben has met with head of security at WSU, Chris Cichosz, about a planned amateur station, WSU security communications and LEC backup communications in Watkins Hall. WSU has an emergency power generator. Emergency management has some money in the budget to purchase public service radios and possibly some amateur equipment as well. The LEC will house some equipment that can be used for WSU communications backup. Details are yet to be finalized.

Ben mentioned the possibility of amateurs manning strategic stations in case of a 911 outage or massive phone outage. In the case of a county wide outage, there are several fire departments that would need coverage. Winona has two stations, Goodview, Altura, Lewiston, St. Charles, Wilson, Pickwick, Nodine, Dakota, and Ridgeway.

He approved our antenna requests for Witoka.

Ben will talk about the ARMER public service radio system at our Nov. 15 club meeting.

The National Weather Service in LaCrosse will host SKYWARN Amateur Radio Recognition Day from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sat., Dec. 1.

Nov. 6 Walt Kelly, KEØXI, and I attended an **emergency management table top exercise** with a number of agencies including Winona Fire Dept, Winona Police, Winona County sheriff, other Winona County fire departments, CP railroad, a professional training organization, Red Wing police and emergency management, Minnesota Homeland Security and state emergency management, Goodview Fire, Police and administration, and others. It was a big deal.

Walt and I felt we were there to observe and keep a low profile.

Winona Fire Chief Curt Bittle had the lead; the scenario was a train derailment on Front St. with a crude oil spill and fire, residential evacuation, and potential river contamination.

Each agency involved would present what they were doing and how. When it came to communications, there was discussion about how that always becomes a challenge. Curt mentioned his experience with the hams and he couldn't say enough good things about us! The lead trainer asked us to explain what we do and what resources we have available, and how we could be of use in this scenario. Over the course of the evening Curt mentioned us three times.

Buffalo County (Marv, AC9TO)

Marv has been in contact with Buffalo County's emergency manager regarding Hams being available in emergencies there. Marv will continue to coordinate; in addition, he will see what other Ham resources are in the area.

Repeater (Erik, WBØNIU)

Erik reported he and others worked on the club repeaters and, as a result, all are functioning very well. The board agreed to send the remaining Yaesu DR1 repeater back to Yaesu in order to trade it for a new DR2 while the company's special offer remains.

Witoka (Mike, WØIH)

The 160 meter dipole is working again.

The Remote at the Witoka Tower (RemoteHams.com) should be working on 160 thru 10 meters.

The ZS6BKW antenna is disconnected and the full-size 160 meter dipole connected. It's 250' long fed with 120' of 450 ladder line. A home-brew 9:1 balun seems to be working well. Remember to press the "Tune" button if you move in frequency very much.

Hint: When using the IC-7300 on 160, 80, and even 40 meters, that you turn the RF gain down a bit.

County EM Ben Klinger has given permission for climbing if the club has a qualified climber.

The board discussed taking one of the Motorola repeaters at Witoka and creating an easy-to-use portable repeater. The general membership will be polled for volunteers to participate.



The XYL may want you to sweep the kitchen but it's a lot more fun to play in the very popular ARRL November Sweepstakes. The CW part was last weekend but the fun SSB sweeps is coming up Nov. 17-19. The contest period begins at 2100 UTC on Saturday and continues through 0259 UTC on Monday.

The objective is to exchange QSOs with stations in all 83 ARRL Sections thus earning the right to a "sweeps" coffee mug for the shack.

The SS *Operating Guide* package, available at www.arrl.org/sweepstakes, explains how to participate.

Whether you're a seasoned radio amateur or a beginner, the ARRL 10-Meter Contest Sat. Dec. 8, offers something for everyone. From newcomers with low-power and wire antennas, to those of contest stations with directional antennas, the sky is the limit.

The band will ring with signals during the contest and you could be making many contacts and distant contacts.

The 10-meter contest starts Friday evening Dec. 7, our time, and goes 24 hours.



SKYWARN

SKYWARN Recognition Day, a time for the National Weather Service to thank Hams and a time to do some fun operating in search of NWS stations will take place Sat., Dec. 1 from 0000 until 2400 UTC (starts the evening of Friday, Dec. 1). Locally, the NWS office

at N2788 County Road FA, La Crosse, will hold an open house Sat. Dec. 1 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

According to Warning Coordination Meteorologist Todd Shea, KB9YXS, there will be a couple reasons for Hams to visit the office, food and

operating stations.

Hams are invited to operate as well as make eyeball QSOs.

If you go

What: Skywarn Recognition Day

When: 8 am-4 pm Sat. Dec. 1

Where: N2788 County Road FA, La Crosse

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: Clare Jarvis, KØNY, cjarvis@hbc.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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Distribution to individual members by USPS is available upon request. Editor: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE. Address comments and Hamgram 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

