

# Hamgram

November 2017

Winona Amateur Radio Club  
Winona, Minnesota



## Club Annual Meeting Nov. 16

Winona Amateur Radio Club members will elect board members and conduct other club business at the club's annual meeting Nov. 16. Members will elect three board members to fill spots now held by Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, and Syed Faruque, ACØVA. So far, interest has been received from Hohenner, Schumacher, Clare Jarvis, KØNY, and John Kowalik, K2OPT. Other club members interested should contact Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, to indicate their interest. Faruque indicated he is not running.

The meeting is set for 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 16, in the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St.

Current club board members include Dan Goltz, WKØW, Mike Foerster, WØIH Tagliapietra, Schumacher, Hohenner, and Faruque. The club's custodian is Erik Brom, WBØNIU. The custodian automatically is a member of the board.

## SKYWARN Recognition set for Dec. 2

**SKYWARN** Recognition Day will take place Sat., Dec. 2 from 0000 until 2400 UTC (starts the evening of Friday, Dec. 1).

Locally, Ham radio operators will set up stations at National Weather Service (NWS) offices and contact other radio amateurs around the world. Spotters are invited to the La Crosse NWS Office, N2788 County Road FA, La Crosse Saturday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Over-the-air Amateur Radio stations will exchange a brief description of their current weather with as many NWS-based stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meters plus 70 centimeters. Contacts via repeaters are permitted.

SRD was developed jointly in 1999 by the NWS and ARRL to celebrate the contributions SKYWARN volunteers make to the NWS mission — the protection of life and property. Amateur Radio operators, which comprise a large percentage of SKYWARN volunteers, also provide vital communication between the NWS and emergency managers, if normal communications become inoperative.



La Crosse NWS Coordination Meteorologist Todd Shea, KB9YXS, operates HF during Skywarn Recognition Day.



## 'Chase' grids in '18

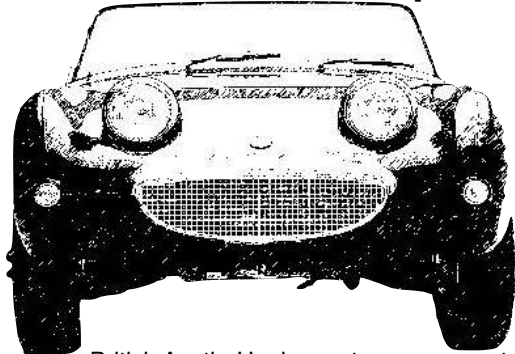
A new and exciting operating event will kick off New Year's Eve with the **ARRL International Grid Chase**. The year-long event follows the highly successful 2016 National Parks on the Air (NPOTA). The objective is to work stations on *any* band (*except* 60m) in as many different Maidenhead grid squares as possible, and

then upload your log data to ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW).

**Registration** is free, and it costs nothing to use LoTW.

For more information go to [www.arrl.org/news/announcing-the-arrl-international-grid-chase](http://www.arrl.org/news/announcing-the-arrl-international-grid-chase)

## Old cars going fast on hills will need WARC help



Aging British Austin-Healey sports cars can get from the bottom to the top of a road near Waumandee, Wis., yet the Minnesota Austin Healey Club cannot get communication from the bottom to the top during its annual Waumandee Hill Climb. The club has asked for communication help from the Winona Amateur Radio Club after hearing how well the WARC performed for the Winona Rotary Club's River-To-Ridge Bicycle Ride. Dan Goltz, WKØW, Erik Brom, WBØNIU and Marv Rodvold, KD9GJV, met with the auto club and assessed possible sites. Though technically easy for Amateur Radio, a large number of radio operators will be needed.

The hill climb is set for Sat., Sept. 22, 2018.

This past year's run was on Buffalo County's County Road EE featuring vehicles by Healy as well as a variety of other sports cars. Cars from Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin ascend the mile of curvy incline.

The course runs from 9 a.m. until about 4:30 with a variety of machines. All are vintage and pre-1987.



*Dick Lindner, WØRIF, (L) and Dale Cohenour, KEØEKD, learn about PowerPole connectors at the WARC October meeting.*

## HF operators - things to do

Putting a serious effort into a major HF contest demands being at the rig for a significant number of consecutive hours. Make it easier on your body and improve your scores by making sure the ergonomics of your station are good. You don't want to have a sore neck or back muscles. There are many sources of information regarding computer ergonomics, but things that matter include desk height, good posture, monitor viewing angle, and having every control within easy reach.

Station automation can reduce fatigue, which makes operating in the wee hours less error-prone. Strive to use the operator to make contacts, and use technology to do everything else, like switching antennas.

**70% of snow and ice-related injuries occur in automobiles**

**Leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you**

**Ice and Snow, Take it Slow.**



[weather.gov/winter](http://weather.gov/winter)

## Winona Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting

Tuesday Oct. 3, 2017

Watkins Hall, Winona State University

Present: Board Members: Syed Faruque, ACØVA, Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, Mike Foerster, WØIH, Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT. Non-board members: John Kowalik, K2OPT, Marv Rodvold, KD9GJB)  
Called to order by Paul at around 7 PM.

**Treasurer Report** approved as submitted.

Balance as reported by Merchants Bank

\$1,618.54

Budgeted Items, etc.

Donations toward new transceiver at Witoka

\$1255.00

Budget for Field Day \$200.00

Budget item for WIRESX \$100.00

Annual Holiday Party \$100.00

Annual Insurance \$200.00 (paid)

Annual P.O. Box Rental \$70.00 (paid)

Annual Picnic expenses \$100.00 (paid \$34.84)

Harro said club needs to do something to bring the treasury amount up.

**Minutes** approved.

**Witoka Tower.** Mike reported his work on 160 Meter dipole antenna as well as laptop, APRS fan rig, SWR meter. Also club got two bids for tower work (\$750 and \$1,000) which have been postponed till next spring. Paul mentioned he has a tuner that can be tried for 160-meter dipole antenna. Mike noted the fan on the APRS rig still is making noise. He suggested replacing it. He removed the SWR meter as it was his. He took the new Hustler antenna and put it in the shack at the tower. The AC is still on though he thought he had turned it off. He left it on. There are a lot of flies in the shack so he'll try to find a fly strip. He tried to get the 160 meter antenna to work unsuccessfully. He reconnected the ZS6BKW antenna and left it as it was before.

**Education Committee.** Paul reported licensing classes are scheduled to start Oct. 10 and he is awaiting to hear from prospective students. Fliers, brochures and newspaper bulletins are already sent. Paul does not have any confirmed students. Syed will also try to get few from his sources. Harro is willing to volunteer as instructor.

**Repeaters.** Lance reported nodes are working. 640/835 also working. Lance would like to take a trip to 835 repeater site to check things out before start of winter. Lance would like to check the battery, reboot the telemetry and general check-up.

**Public Service.** The Public Service Committee has not met since its last meeting, however I did speak with Mike Bernatz of the Winona Rotary Club since our involvement with their

Ride the Ridges event Sept. 16. He and the Rotarians were pleased with our participation. While participation in the event itself was down a little due to the weather on that day, their club feels it was still very successful. Mike stated that "once you have experienced how good it is, you don't ever want to go back," speaking of our involvement with them and their event. We have been invited to help them again next year. We learned some things that will help us in the future, such as planning and technical issues. In particular, we learned some about cross band repeating, and some pitfalls to avoid. We have had some internal discussions about how to improve our performance and how this can carry over to other events we may be involved with. There is still no formal word on the appointment of the new County Emergency Manager. -Dan, WKØW.

Next discussion was club's participation on "Hill Climb" event of Classic Cars in Wisconsin. Our club has been approached to help communication during the event in September '18. Lance stated we just got the request and are sorting through it. Erik will get more information and share with members as time goes. Mike asked if that event would coincide with Ride the Ridges. Lance does not know. Harro asked: "what sort of communications they need? Lance mentioned general radio service and as we get more info, it will be shared. A motion was approved to support this endeavor and authorize Erik to talk to that hill climb club on WARC behalf. Erik has the authority to accept the request or deny based on his judgement.

Lance mentioned, "REVIEW SOLICITATION" e-mail club got from unknown sender was a junk mail and club can ignore the email. This spam mail regards to WARC domain name search engine. Discussion continued on WARC domain name registration.

Lance mentioned November meeting of the WARC will be election for the club. Lance will notify during next board meeting which positions that will be up for election.

Also, Lance mentioned, starting next month, board meetings will be Mondays as licensing classes will be held on Tuesdays. Monday seems to okay with members.

Harro mentioned progress has been made for Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, to do a presentation on Amateur Radio for Learning Club. Harro working with Bob for the presentation Nov. 14

Mike talked about putting DC/AC inverter at Witoka site. Paul has one and will provide to Mike. Marv has one too if Mike needs.

An Arduino-based antenna analyzer could be a club solder smoke project. The analyzer is featured in the November issue of QST.

### When good cables go bad

To avoid problems during a contest, it pays to check cables inside the shack periodically. This includes all connectors in the signal chain, such as those to your power/SWR meter, filters, or amplifiers. Coax connectors should be tightened beyond finger-tight using pliers. After tightening, wiggle the cable while listening closely to a signal going through the cable to detect problems. Use quality cables for audio connections too. Audio connectors can fail, as well. Is your sub-receiver not working, or did one side of your headphone cable or connector just go bad?

## Clean up on 'sweeps' Nov 18-20

November skies are leaden, trees are bleak skeletons, it's cold, and it's great to be back in the shack operating. Excitement builds when you discover the bands are chock-full of other Hams chasing a clean sweep in the ARRL November Sweepstakes.

"More activity means more fun for everyone!" said Sweepstakes Manager Larry Hammel, K5OT.

Veteran contesters like Craig Thompson, K9CT, whose huge multi-multi station tallies *MILLIONS* of points want you and your little station out there among the big guns even if you make few contacts. "Your QSOs help other contesters," explains Thompson, "plus you get great operating experience."

Sweepstakes is the ARRL's oldest "domestic" contest and is one in which stations may only contact each other once on any

ARRL November Sweeps  
Nov. 18-20  
<http://www.arrl.org/>

band. The multipliers are official ARRL and RAC sections. Some are especially rare, so keep your ears open!

The object is to exchange the required contact information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10

meters. There are several entry classes.

The Clean Sweep mug — for working all 83 ARRL/RAC sections — is available again this year, as are Participation Pins for anyone who completes more than 100 contacts on CW or phone during Sweepstakes.



### 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.

The club's executive board meets the first Monday of the month, 7 p.m., Watkins Hall, Winona State University.

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

President: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, [pschumacher@winona.edu](mailto:pschumacher@winona.edu)

Vice President: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, [lancetag@hbc.com](mailto:lancetag@hbc.com)

Treasurer: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, [Harro@hohenner.com](mailto:Harro@hohenner.com)

Secretary: Syed Faruque, ACØVA, [sfaruque@yahoo.com](mailto:sfaruque@yahoo.com)

Custodian: Erik Brom, WBØNIU, [ewbrom@hbc.com](mailto: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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Hamgram correspondence to: Bob Seaquist, 202 Zephyr Circle, La Crosse, Wis. 54601 or [seaquist.robe@eagle.uwlax.edu](mailto: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

