

Hamgram

April 2019

Winona Amateur Radio Club
Winona, Minnesota

Search effort



Patricia Poole



Some club participants awaited instructions before searching for a missing St. Charles woman. Pictured are: Nancy Goltz, NØNAN, Mike Cizek, WØVTT, Walt Kelly, KEØXI, John Kowalik, K2OPT, Dan Goltz, WKØW, Bill Chavez, KEØIJG and Paul Degallier, ADØUU.

It took a concerted effort to find a missing 88 year old St. Charles woman and that effort included members of the Winona Amateur Radio Club. Patricia Pool was last seen a few blocks from her residence March 25. Local searches that week were not successful so Winona County Emergency Management called for an intensive search Sat. March 30, relying on resources from fire departments, ambulance services, K9 search teams, police and Amateur Radio operators.

Hams shadowed search teams during a check of properties including outbuildings, garages, vacant vehicles and other, normally obstructed, areas. Hams not only provided radio back-up, the only people assigned to the the command post

com van were Hams. "I think that is real tribute to the confidence [Emergency Management] has in us, to rely on us to do net control and traffic handling using their radios and ours," noted Dan Goltz, WKØW.

Club members participating included: Erik Brom, WBØNIU; Bill Chavez, KEØIJG; Mike Cizek, WØVTT; Paul Degallier, ADØUU; Dan Goltz, WKØW; Nancy Goltz, NØNAN; Walt Kelly, KEØXI; John Kowalik, K2OPT; Mike Papke, NØOWP; Kevin Schneider, KCØEAH; and Bob Seaquist, W9LSE. Three Rochester area hams helped with searcher registration.

Winona County Emergency Manager Ben Klinger, KEØTNM, managed the operation.

Firmware flummox



Club members attempting to upgrade Yaesu firmware could laugh once they had a breakthrough. Pictured, L-R, are John Roche, KBØELR, Terry Peterson, WØEUU, Clare Jarvis, KØNY, Marv Rodvold, AC9TO, and Dan Goltz, WKØW.

It's said it takes a village to raise a child and now it has conclusively been proven it takes a radio club to upgrade firmware in Yaesu radios. Winona Amateur Radio Club members discovered the challenges of Yaesu firmware March 21 at the club's monthly meeting. Plans were to upgrade firmware in the Yaesu FT2D, FTM-100D, and FTM-400D radios so they would work with the club's two Fusion repeaters.

Four members brought laptops loaded with software, power supplies, cables and printed instructions and a number of other members brought or sent radios. So far, so good. Then the work commenced followed by some "hmmms" and "huhs?" Then conferring and even, muttered quietly, some bad words.

Close examination revealed differences in the text and the diagrams in the Yaesu instructions, the diagrams generally being more accurate.

One member, Peter Ebertowski, KDØYOB, shot successfully through his task, attaching Anderson PowerPole connectors to his radios.

Eventually, the radio firmware was successfully updated.

Bounty at April 18 meeting

Jan. 23, 1790 the HMS Bounty was set afire in the South Pacific waters of Pitcairn Island as mutineers made certain they'd stay there. Now, nearly 230 years later, Winona Amateur Radio Club's own Fletcher Christian, Mike Cizek, WØVTT, is heading to Pitcairn as part of a DXpedition planned to run Oct. 18–Nov. 1. Cizek will present a program on the DXpedition 7 p.m., Thursday, April 18, at the monthly meeting of the WARC.

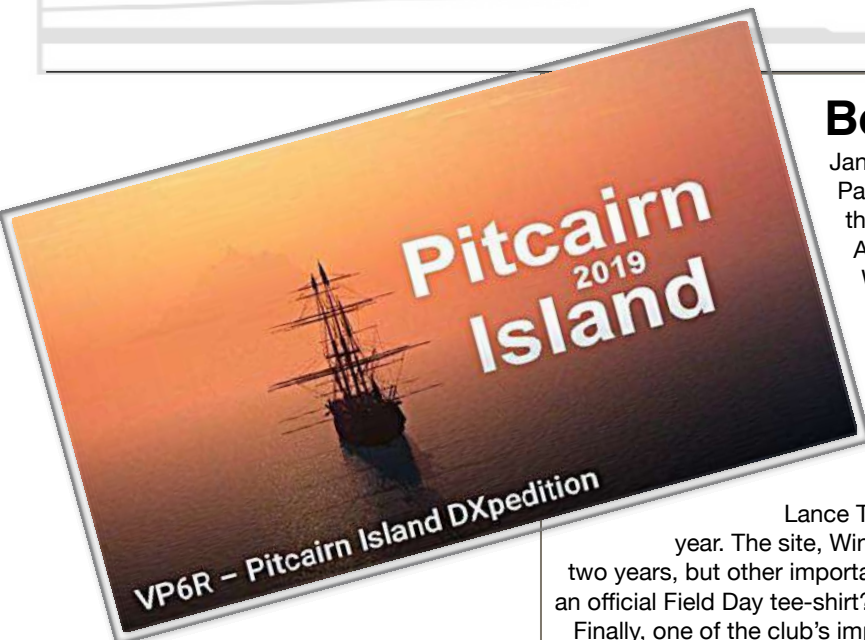
Wait! There's more! Is it time for new club swag? It's been awhile since club members received official shirts and jackets and, if there's interest, we'll get new ones.

Field Day (June 22-23) is coming soon and event Chair

Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, would like some help planning this year. The site, Wincrest Park atop Garvin Heights, is the same as the past two years, but other important issues like the menu need to be decided. Would you like an official Field Day tee-shirt? It's nearly time to order them.

Finally, one of the club's important public service events, Trinona, is getting closer. Chair Erik Brom, WBØNIU, would like some help organizing it and volunteers are needed to be on-the-ground for it June 9. Volunteers should officially sign-up at <https://www.trinona.com/volunteer>

Winona Amateur Radio club meetings are 7 p.m. at the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St., Winona. The program is open to the public.



WARC Executive Board

Wednesday, April. 10, 2019, Watkins Hall, Winona State University

(Unofficial minutes)

Present: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Mike Foerster, WØIH; Dan Goltz, WKØW Erik Brom, WBØNIU; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM. Guests: Tom Wilmot, WØMK; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; John Kowalik, K2OPT.

Minutes: Approved

Treasurer's report March 2019 (KG6RLM)

Balance on 2/28/2019 \$2,940.67

Deposits:

Dues \$140.00

Donation \$75.00

Balance reported by bank \$3,155.67

Paid members (2019) 39

Repeater Upgrade Project Status

Collected \$1485.42 Goal \$1,000.00

Club logo shirts/Jackets (WKØW) Dan has looked into getting new club shirts and jackets. A proposal will be presented to the general membership to gauge interest.

Field Day (ADØUT) Lance will chair and will be helped by a four or five member committee. Dan suggested less emphasis on points and more on social, fun, aspects.

Trinona (WBØNIU) Erik said help is needed for organization as well as on the ground. Sign up is on-line at <https://www.trinona.com/volunteer> for on-the-ground volunteers. The event is Sunday, June 9.

Witoka (WØIH) Dan, WKØW, and I made a trip to Witoka April 9 intending to re-install the LDG Z11-Pro II tuner that was returned from LDG after repair (no problem found, though they did replace the micro), and to install the remote antenna switch. The returned tuner is still bad. LDG will replace it.

Portable Repeater (WØIH) I took the Motorola CDR700, the 146.64 duplexers, the ICOM Power Supply and the Hustler G5 antenna, along with a couple lengths of coax from the site in order to put together a portable repeater. This repeater is reportedly setup for 146.64, 146.836, and two simplex frequencies.

Two pieces of coax, 3-4' long, are needed from the repeater to the duplexers. Repeater has N connectors and the duplexer has SO239 connectors. We will need another coax,

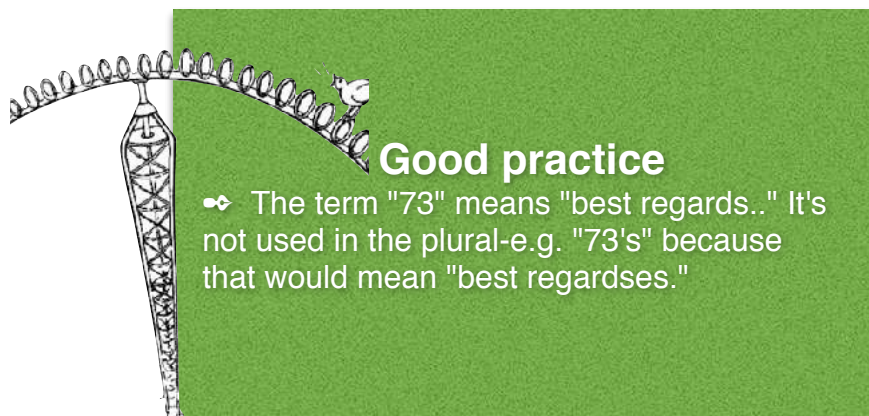
30-40' long, with an PL259 for the duplexer and an N connector for the antenna.

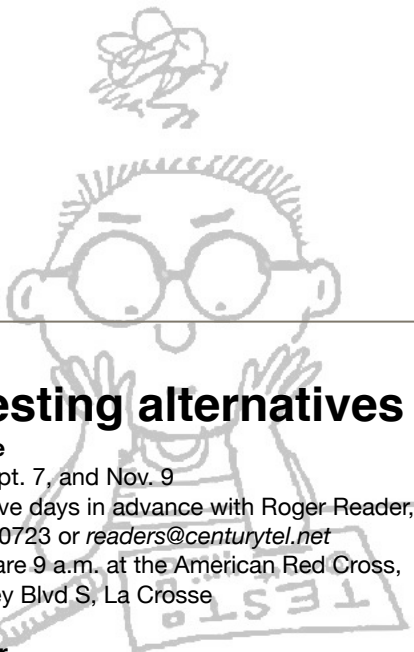
Public Service (WKØW) The committee is active. Emergency Management requested amateur radio to assist with the search for a missing elderly woman in St. Charles. Notification of amateurs via our SkyWarn alerting network and the reflector. Ten Winona amateurs responded, three amateurs from Olmsted County. We didn't know what our function would be until the briefing just prior to the search. Multiple agencies were involved: Lewiston Fire, Lewiston Ambulance, Altura Fire, Dover, Eyota, St. Charles Fire, St. Charles Ambulance, Winona County Emergency Management, Winona County Sheriffs office, St. Charles Police. An amateur radio shadow was assigned to each search unit as communications back-up, using handheld radios on a simplex frequency. A dual-band radio was temporarily installed in the command truck, using WBØNIU's battery cover. Three persons, all amateurs, were assigned to the command post communications truck to handle traffic and logging. One person was assigned to shadow the Emergency Manager and the Sheriff.

The search was house-to-house, building-to-building, ditch-to-ditch. If person was found alive, we'd notify emergency medical, if found dead, treat as a crime scene. After 2.5 hours the subject was found dead of accidental exposure. Excellent response by amateur radio, excellent actual event experience for participants, excellent interaction with other agencies, highly appreciated by county authorities.

At SkyWarn training, April 3, at least 12 persons were amateur radio operators, equating to 12.3% of those who signed the roster.

Upcoming events: Tornado Awareness, April 18, 1:45pm and 6:45pm, simulated tornado warnings, NWS to poll amateur radio stations. Meeting of all amateurs interested in emergency response. Date to be determined. Trinona, June 9; Ride the Ridges, Sept. 21.





VE testing alternatives

La Crosse

May 4, Sept. 7, and Nov. 9

Register five days in advance with Roger Reader, (608) 783-0723 or readers@centurytel.net

Sessions are 9 a.m. at the American Red Cross, 2927 Losey Blvd S, La Crosse

Rochester

May 9, Aug. 8, and Nov. 7.

Pre-Register with Bob Dubke (507) 398-5964 or KOSIR@arrl.net

Sessions are 6:30 p.m. at Fire Station #2, 2185 Wheelock Dr NE, Rochester



Hamfests

May 4

ARAC Hamfest, Superior, WI
Arrowhead Radio Amateur Club
<http://thearac.org>

May 4

Ozaukee Radio Club 41st Annual Spring Swapfest, Cedarburg, WI
<http://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org/downloads/spring-swapfest/2019-ORCSpring.pdf>

June 1

Twin Cities FM Club Spring Tailgate
8 a.m.-Noon, 1705 Forestview Ln N, Plymouth, MN 55441
<http://tcfmc.org>

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, jarvis@jarviscomputer.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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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.

