



# Hamgram

*Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*

*-- When All Else Fails...AMATEUR RADIO --*

*February 2016*

[www.w0ne.org](http://www.w0ne.org)

## **WARC February Program- Feb. 18**

WHAT: This month we have a great opportunity to get training/refresher training in techniques for CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation). This skill could come in handy not only for our personal use if necessary at home or at work but also during public service events where we are providing communications backup under rough conditions. This training, conducted by a certified trainer, is free to everyone. If you wish to have—or need—a certified CPR card, there will be a \$3.00 fee. Please bring cash or check.

As usual, there will be a brief social time during the evening.

DATE & Time: Thursday, February 18, 2015 – 6:30 PM <<<<<<< NOTE Earlier Start Time.

WHO: All amateur radio operators and other interested persons are encouraged to attend.

WHERE: Conference Room B, Winona County Office Building, 202 West 2nd Street, Winona, MN. Doors will be unlocked from 6:15 to 6:45 PM. If you are late, please try the 146.835 repeater to have someone let you in.

# UPCOMING CLUB ACTIVITIES

**Winona County Historical Society Open House** The Winona ARC has again been invited to participate in the 2016 WCHS Open House this Sunday, Feb. 14, from noon to 4:00 PM. The plan is to demonstrate some of the APRS and remote HF station capabilities developed at the Witoka tower site. Set up at 11:00. Please feel free to help set up and/or operate if you are available.

**VE License Testing** License testing in conjunction with the current Tech Class course is planned for Monday, March 21. The testing session will be open to all who wish to test for any class of license. VEs will be needed to assist. More detail will be forthcoming..

**Gamehaven Merit Badge Fair** A team of WARC members will be offering the Radio merit badge during the Gamehaven Council Merit Badge Fair in Rochester on Saturday, March 19. Support in the way of local hams responding to CQs from K2BSA/0 on 40 meters during the afternoon may be requested. More information next month.

**March Program** Mark your calendars for an interesting program on March 17—a facility tour of APRS World, LLC in Minnesota City. This company, managed by Jim Jarvis, KB0THN, designs and builds products used for data logging and control—primarily in the renewable energy industry. Radio is incorporated into equipment in many interesting ways.

## The Winona ARC Post Office Box Number Has Changed

**In order to improve effectiveness and efficiency of handling club correspondence, the executive board has established a new post office box exclusively for the club.**

**The new PO box number is 1451. Please be certain to revise any references you may have to the club's mailing address to reflect PO Box 1451. Thanks.**

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# WARC 2016 Officers

At the January 2016 Board meeting, the Winona ARC Executive Board elected officers as follows:

President—Paul Schumacher, K0ZYV  
Vice President—Lance Tagliapietra, KB0YJU  
Treasurer—Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM  
Secretary—Syed Faruque, AC0VA  
Station Custodian—Erik Brom, WB0NIU

Other Board members are Dan Goltz, WK0W; and Leslie Hittner, K0BAD.

Thanks to all the board members for your commitment to making the club an enjoyable, valuable organization to not only area licensed amateurs but also to the broader area community. Your time and attention is very much appreciated.



***Paid your 2016 dues yet??? Amounts are still \$25 per individual or \$30 for a family membership. Bring your dues to the February program on Thursday or mail a check to Winona ARC, ATTN: Treasurer, P.O. Box 1451, Winona, MN 55987.***

***Thanks to those who have already paid.***

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## MN QSO Party--2016

This year's club station in the MN QSO Party took a different approach—and one that appears to have worked out very well. In the interest of finding a more “public” location, the Wilson Township Fire Chief was approached regarding possible use of the Township Hall and Fire Station for this year's site for W0NE. He readily agreed and turned out to be a very hospitable, helpful, and interested partner for the club.

The relatively high, unobstructed location of the township hall proved to be a great location for the 80, 40, and 20-meter wire antennas which contributed to the effort (A 15-meter antenna was attempted also, but more on that later). And the open hall room with many electrical outlets, sliding windows, and mini-kitchen made for good operating points and a comfortable operations center.

Set-up took place mostly on Friday afternoon and went fairly well, with the usual delays on getting antennas up and working. It seems that antenna erection is always on the critical path to getting up and running. Trees and a couple of portable masts held up the wire. Seems that we could use some practice in tossing weights up into trees to pull the wires up.



*Mike W0IH and Len KCORSX  
erecting the 20-meter antenna.*

Operating point set up for the two rigs including networked laptops for N1MM logging seemed to go smoothly. So the station was ready to go at the 8:00 AM Saturday contest opening after some expected last minute set up details earlier in the morning.

Forty meters was the money band with steady QSOs throughout the contest. One rig stayed on that band and the other started on 80 and moved to 20 meters when 80 meters started to fade. A 15-meter wire antenna was set up in the



*Dale, KE0EKD (foreground) and Peter, KD0YOB,  
working on 20 meters.*

afternoon, but it showed erratic SWR and was not used. It was a very light duty wire dipole, and probably not suitable for this kind of operation in the first place. So 20 meters was the focus until just before dusk when the 2<sup>nd</sup> rig went to 80 again.

The fun included over 500 QSOs around the USA and Canada—including a QSO with Les, K0BAD, from his home in Hawaii. Unfortunately, he had to give us his location as MN—he was transmitting from the club’s remote station at the Witoka tower!!! Dan, WK0W, took the call on the 40-meter rig and was a little surprised. “It stunned me,” Dan said of the unexpected encounter.

The group had Bloedow’s pastries for breakfast and good, hot food for lunch (too much of it as it turned out). Plus it was fun to be making QSOs with hams in warm states while watching snowmobilers zip by on the snowmobile trail across the road.

The log is still being cleaned up, but it appeared at the end of the day that W0NE had a little over 500 QSOs and 94 multipliers for right at 100,000 total points. That will be a new record for W0NE in the QSO Party—by a big margin. And lots of lessons were learned, people had fun enjoying each other’s company, and there were no safety issues. All in all very successful event.



*Dan, WK0W, working 40 meters  
and logging into N1MM.*



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**Minutes of the January WARC Board Meeting are below. Minutes of the February meeting will be published when approved.**

**Minutes of WARC Board Meeting held on January 7, 2016 at Watkins Hall, Winona State University.**

**Present: Lance (KB0YJU), Harro (KG6RLM), Paul (K0ZYV), Erik (WB0NIU), Dan (WK0W), Syed (AC0VA), Les (K0BAD via Skype from Hawaii)**

**Call to order by Paul at around 7 PM.**

### **Agenda**

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Treasurer Report
- 3) Select Officers
- 4) Cindy Burt
- 5) Committee Reports
- 6) Other

### **Minutes**

Minutes of December Board Meeting was approved without any changes. Paul asked if there were any corrections needed. There were none. Syed mentioned that for the record only approved Minutes will be published in Hamgram. Board members will review the Minutes and then approve before publishing on Hamgram.

### **Treasurer Reports**

Treasurer report was approved. No further discussion. Syed mentioned anyone interested can get a copy of treasurer report but treasurer report is not published as part of Hamgram.

Paul asked Harro if he is keeping list of members who paid the dues. Harro answered he is working on the list. Dan asked if all the due bills are in for all the projects.

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Board discussed way to pay for miscellaneous expenses incurred by various members. Les provided his input on the issue. Les stated Executive Board has the authority to approve for various projects. Erik stated why not stay where we are now. Members spend the money, board approves it and get paid. Erik mentioned it has been working this way and why change. Paul agreed with Erik. Les mentioned there is two ways to spend for petty cash, one way to spend the money, get board approval and then get paid. Other way is to get approved for spending the petty cash, get the money from Treasurer and then spend it. Lance mentioned significant expenses always need prior approval. Erik restated the system that is working now. Finally board left the system as it is now. Paul mentioned Repeater Committee always works on a budget.

### **Officer Selection**

Paul mentioned we need to select officers during this Meeting. Erik proposed to elect the same people and Dan seconded the proposal promptly. There were no objections. Lance restated the proposal to Les to clarify the motion. Motion was approved.

### **Cindy Burt**

Board Members were deeply saddened by passing away of Cindy Burt. Board Members discussed Cindy Burt memorial and club participation to Cindy's causes. Paul encouraged all to attend the upcoming memorial service to show of support for the family and also to remember Cindy Harro already had a card for members to sign. Syed mentioned memorial service is set for upcoming Saturday at Grace Presbyterian Church. Visitation is set for noon with service to be followed. Most Board members stated they plan to attend. Erik gave an idea of where the Church was on Broadway. Paul mentioned someone should publish the address of the church in reflector.

### **Committee Report**

Dan highlighted part of his report. His full report is attached here. Also attached is Mike's (W0IH) report.

Erik mentioned HBC did connect the internet at Witoka site. Erik provided more details of internet connection. Lance brought a router to install at Witoka site. Erik then also detailed further connections at Witoka site like

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Raspberry Pie (from Paul). Erik mentioned setup at Witoka site is working very well. Dan mentioned if Erik needs a radio, there are few at LEC that are not being used.

Erik brought the issue of backup power supply at Witoka site. Paul and Erik then discussed back up power issue further. Lance mentioned we need AGM UPS style batteries and he is also looking for some for himself. Erik inquired about available Solar Panel from Dan. Dan mentioned he will look into it. Lance mentioned if we get the Solar Panel we can use it for Field Day. Dan pitched for new Radio for Witoka tower.

Dan mentioned we should keep a better radio in mind for Witoka Tower. Dan also planned to talk about back up power which Erik already did.

Dan mentioned he and Mike went to Witoka site and installed HF Antenna. Antenna had very good SWR. Dan mentioned there was lot of snow up there. Erik mentioned that no final decision has been made on 440 Repeater. He suggested we take reading in different places in county as to strength of 440 Repeater. Erik replied to Lance's question that 440 Antenna is highest on Witoka tower. Erik added all the Antennas there is working very well including APRS. Lance suggested we leave 440 Repeater there until spring. Dan suggested we try 640 Repeater there as we have the duplexer available there. Les mentioned that he would like to talk to Erik after meeting about APRS IS. Erik brought a board that he would also like to discuss after board meeting.

Paul brought up issue of Echolink. Paul plans to put up Echolink at his house.

Dan asked if there is still issue with Motorola Repeater. Erik replies in the affirmative. Erik stated first one (bigger one) that was put up, transmitter became intermittent and then died. Then Lance and Mike (VTT) went to the site and could not figure out the issue and then swapped with the other one. Lance /Erik and Dan discussed more with the issue of Repeater and how to resolve the problem. Les also provided input to the problems we are experiencing. Erik will keep on working on the issue.

Syed will forward all the Holiday Party information to Jim Brown to publish on the net. Also, Syed mentioned that all the T-shirt we got from Yaesu will be raffled off at the Holiday Party.



Paul brought the issue of P.O.Box and if club needs to have our own.

Club has been sharing P.O.Box and there have been issues of losing keys. Board authorized Harro to check for P.O.Box prices and send email to Board members to get approval. Paul asked , how do you let everybody know of our new address? Lance mentioned we publish in QRZ and all other areas. Paul/Erik mentioned Clare is still keeping his P.O. Box, so we will still receive mail. Les asked to get some clarification on P.O. Box issue and the costs.

**The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
P.O Box 1264, Winona, MN 55987-7264**

**Executive Board**

President: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV <a href="mailto:pschumacher@winona.edu">pschumacher@winona.edu</a>	Vice President: Lance Tagliapietra, KBØYJU <a href="mailto:lancetag@hbc.com">lancetag@hbc.com</a>
Secretary: Syed Faruque, ACØVA <a href="mailto:sfaruque@yahoo.com">sfaruque@yahoo.com</a>	Treasurer: Harro Hohenner KG6RLM <a href="mailto:Harro@hohenner.com">Harro@hohenner.com</a>
Custodian: Erik Brom, WBØNIU <a href="mailto:ewbrom@hbc.com">ewbrom@hbc.com</a>	Members: Dan Goltz WK0W Leslie Hittner K0BAD

Dues: \$25.00 per calendar year per license holder.  
\$30.00 per calendar year for all licensed members of the same family within the same household.  
Dues should be sent to: Harro Hohenner, Treasurer, P.O. Box 1264, Winona, MN 55987

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Board meetings are announced in advance (WEPNet).

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.

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**Winona ARC Repeaters:**

146.640 (100.0 Hz) \*

146.835 (131.8 Hz) \*\*

444.225 (100.0 Hz) FM Voice  
& C4FM Digital

\* SKYWARN Net When  
Activated.

\*\* Sunday Night Net—8:30 PM  
Local Time.