

# Hamgram

February 2018

Winona Amateur Radio Club  
Winona, Minnesota



Tom Wilmot, WØMK, observes.



Marv Rodvold, KD9GJV, left, helps Peter Ebertowski, KDØYOB, with MNQP

Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, seated, operates in what would be another record setting MNQP. John Kowalik, K2OPT, left, and Dick Lindner, WØRIF, consult.

## Club's MNQP operation garners 'nuther high score

Hard-hitting operators of the Winona Amateur Radio club hammered away in the 20th annual Minnesota QSO Party (MNQP) Feb. 3 to blast last year's score. WØNE had roughly double last year's MNQP where WØNE was first in multi-op competition with 511 contacts, 72 mults and a 73,584 score.

For the second year Paul Degallier, ADØUU, hosted the base of operations in his warm garage. Members participating included Peter Ebertowski, KDØYOB; Degallier; Dan Goltz, WKØW; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; John Kowalik, K2OPT; Dick Lindner, WØRIF; Russ Marsolek, NØQK; Marv Rodvold, KD9GJV; Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; and Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT.

The Minnesota QSO Party allowed FT8 contacts as a response to the increasing popularity of the mode. Mark Endorf, WAØMHJ, explained it "is still an on-going experiment." FT-8 logs received just bonus points. Of 170 entrants, 22 sent ADIF files for FT-8 contacts.

In warm Southern Utah MNQP went great: I brought all the necessary cords this year so I could operate at a full 100w into the 20m Endfed. Stations were plentiful until my wife came running in yelling, "you're setting off the smoke alarms!" The End  
-W9LSE

Indiana's leading MNQP participant tells his story.  
See "The only thing...." Page 2



# The only thing wrong with January... it's followed by February

By Len Litvan, AE9LL (formerly KCØRSX)

## The MNQP is in February and what fun it brings to another month of winter

Last year's effort in the MNQP from here in Indy was not so good: antennas in the attic, cable TV and wall wart noise all over the place, and so on. Disappointing. I was surprised when I received a certificate for highest score for an Indiana op. Huh? (don't ask how many IN ops submitted logs)

This year's plan was an NVIS 40-meter antenna on the fence and more time operating. The antenna went up the day before the party and Saturday's schedule was cleared. Did you know that an NVIS antenna is best for up to 300 miles; that Winona is just over 400 miles and Kittson County is about 850 miles away? Hmmmm. However the NVIS antenna test drive yielded a 5-9 report from an op in Barcelona, Spain. Maybe there'd be a chance.

On Saturday morning, Wow! The NVIS antenna is quiet compared to the attic and the reflector laid on the ground at the base of the fence seems to get out. Second Q was into Nobles County. Two Qs later and Kittson is in the log. My eyes are wide open now. Here's a few Qs with Winona County ops:



AE9LL's "flexible operating point"

Tom Gierok, AAØAO, Jim Brown, NØWE, and Paul Foster, AAØWA, in Utica. Nice chat with Matt Burt, KFØQ, in Ramsey—good to get caught up. Then "Otto," KØARF, in Cook County! All corners of the state are covered!

I chased Roger Wise, KIØF, across several counties along the Iowa border. Cool! Never did hear WØNE this year. Strange. Started on 40 meters SSB with a nice run. Later in the day phone seemed to be

quiet so went to 40 CW for the balance of the time.

At the end of the day my score appears to be seven times last year's effort. Still not good, but a new personal best. Plus I have those 34 1x1 callsigns to play with.

Improvements for next year may involve three reflectors under the NVIS radiating element, doing a better job of re-trimming the radiating element after reflectors are laid, get the N1MM spotting/band map to work right, and go to CW quicker. It will be a fun February.

## Open door on '64 issues

About mid-January someone left KAGE's door open, an event discovered by Erik Brom, WBØNIU, because the Winona Amateur Radio Club's 146.640 repeater said it was "cold." "On my way to work I noticed that the '64 repeater was going back and forth between signing EP or CP on the tail message," reported Brom. EP means the repeater is running on battery, CP means that it was recently reset, or switched to commercial power. Brom did the logical WARC thing, he looked at the APRS telemetry and saw the building temperature running below 50° F when it should be around 80° F because of the heat generated by KAGE's transmitters and other gear.

Brom called the station engineer who then went to the site and found the lights on and the door standing open! Someone forgot to close up when they were done working in the building.

The machine was not responding to being reset so Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, visited the site to check it out in person. He discovered our backup batteries have failed, and were bulging. They have been there for many years, so it's not surprising that they have failed. Backup power

needs at that site are minimal since there is a backup generator that is tested monthly. We really only need DC to get us through the changeover, and as a secondary backup if the generator should fail.

Also, Tagliapietra added a 100Hz PL tone for transmit to the Fusion repeater so that users with FM only radios can mute their speakers when it is transmitting digital.

You can see what the repeater is up to by going to [aprs.fi](http://aprs.fi), finding WØNE-6, and clicking on telemetry. Building temperature is telemetry ch. 2 that normally reads around 80F due to heat from the commercial equipment there.



New backup batteries

Russ Marsolek, NØQK, images

# WARC Board Meeting

Jan. 10, 2018

Watkins Hall, Winona State University

Present: Board Members: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, Clare Jarvis, K0NY, Dan Goltz, WK0W, Erik Brom, WB0NIU, Mike Foerster, W0IH.

Guests: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, Tom Wilmot, W0MK.

Minutes Previous Meeting: Approved

**Treasurers Report:** Approved.

11/30/2017 Balance \$1,668.54

Deposits:

Dues/contribution \$485.00

Payments:

Paul Schumacher (QTH.com bill) \$59.40

Balance reported by Merchants Bank \$2094.14

WK0W requested short leaves of absence from time to time.

Approved.

Erik Moved/Dan Seconded slate of **officers**. All were re-elected except secretary; Clare K0NY is the new secretary.

Paul K0ZYV, President

Lance AD0UT, Vice-President

Harro KG6RLM Treasurer

Clare K0NY, Secretary

Passed.

**Committee Reports:**

Voice Repeater reported by Erik WB0NIU

**Public Service** reported by Dan WK0W: There are some major changes planned for the ARES program. Some of the changes have been sent via an earlier email. We are not officially affiliated with ARES in Winona County. This issue deserves discussion.

**SKYWARN:** The sheriff has authorized me to coordinate SKYWARN training with Todd Shea of the National Weather Service. We will be using the County Office Building conference rooms A and B. Is there interest in using this as a club program?

Tuesday Jan. 9, I attended the Winona County Board of Commissioners meeting. The sheriff had asked me to address the board regarding the Emergency Manager position. I, as well as St.Charles Fire, and Pickwick Fire spoke in favor of the position being full time. The sheriff went into the meeting requesting a licensed law enforcement person to be hired to

work Emergency management part time and Winona County campus security part time, likely 80 percent/20 percent. Much discussion ensued, and the board voted to make the emergency manager position 100 percent, and directed the sheriff to come back to the board with his request for another full time deputy. While I didn't get to talk to the sheriff after the meeting, this has to be a win/win situation for the sheriff.

The board also agreed to keep the emergency management position administration under the sheriff's office, which I see as positive for the Winona Amateur Radio Club. During the discussion there was talk about all the volunteer groups that make our county emergency management program strong, and one of the commissioners specifically mentioned the "radio guys," the dive rescue people, and all the volunteers who help in all kinds of weather with search and rescue. The point being that the new emergency manager must have enough time to work with all the volunteers. I took that as another very positive for the Winona Amateur Radio Club.

Michael Peterson, formerly our emergency manager, now has the position of overseeing all the emergency management positions in southern Minnesota for Minnesota Homeland Security, also spoke to the board about the job, mentioning that state law requires an emergency manager and one or more assistants. The Winona Fire Department has established that position, and will fill that vacancy from within their ranks with one or two fire fighters. Peterson will help train the new director, and he mentioned to me privately how good it is to work with our group.

As I see the chain of events, it could not have gone better.

-Dan, WK0W

Should we be affiliated with ARES? Erik/DAN moved to not be affiliated with ARES. Motion passed

**Motions:**

Lance/Harro moved to support the Winona County Historical Society Open House. Motion passed.

Lance/Dan moved to participate in Trinona. Motion passed.

Paul announced General Class starting January 16, 2018, Tuesday at 6 PM.

Motion to adjourn by Erik. Motion passed.

## Easy ways to improve your HF station

- Add some radials to vertical antennas
- Use an HF receiver that works on batteries to look for RFI sources in your operating location by turning off circuit breakers and noting the change in band noise. Inspect and repair any outdoor feedline, rotator, or ground connections
- De-clutter your operating position
- Improve your operating ergonomics. Invite someone else over to operate for an hour, and see how easily they perform common contest operations like band changes
- Choose which operating events you'll focus on this year, circle them on the calendar, and start planning for them. Negotiate with those in your household who will be impacted by your participation
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your station.





### Coming club programs

(7 p.m. 202 West Third St.)

- Feb. 15: Mike Cizek, WØVTT, land line telegraphy
- March 15: Skywarn training
- April 19: National Contest Journal editor Scott Wright, WØMD



**The Wisconsin QSO  
Party is 1–8 p.m.  
Sunday, March 11.**

Two antennas met online and, after an appropriate engagement, got married.  
The reception was wonderful.

### Articles Wanted!

Without your help we cannot reproduce a quality newsletter so consider submitting an article! All relevant articles are welcomed for inclusion in the Hamgram. If not an article, let us help you flesh out your idea.

The deadline is at least a week before the club's monthly meeting. Send your material to Bob Seaquist, W9LSE at [seaquist.robe@eagle.uwlax.edu](mailto:seaquist.robe@eagle.uwlax.edu). Don't worry about the formatting, we can take care of that.

### 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

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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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