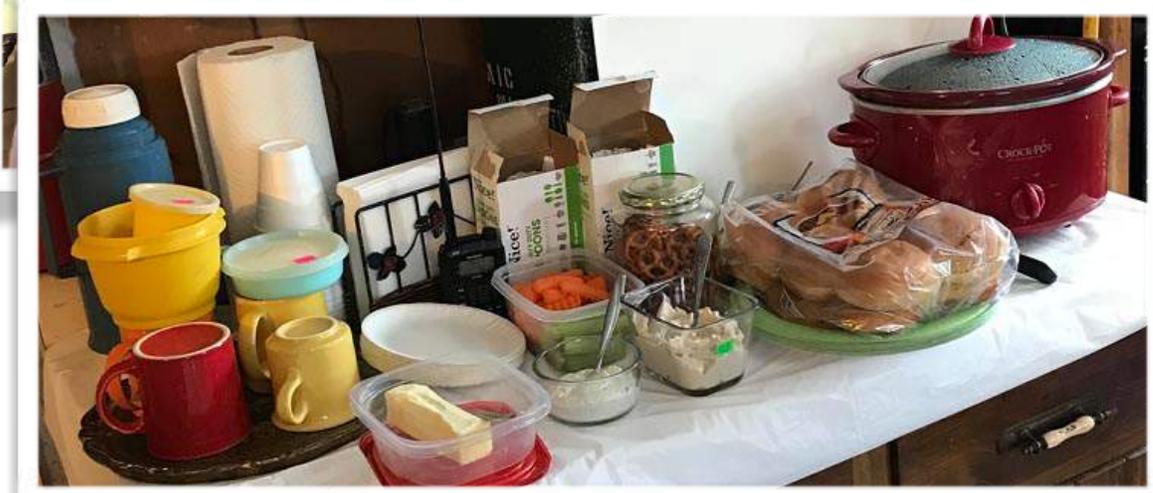
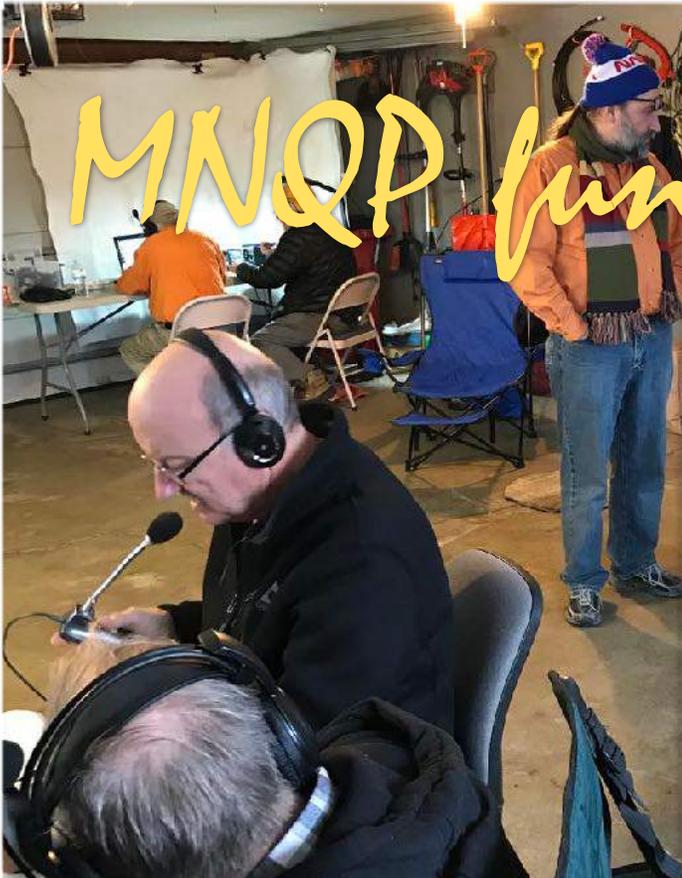


# Hamgram

February 2019

Winona Amateur Radio Club  
Winona, Minnesota

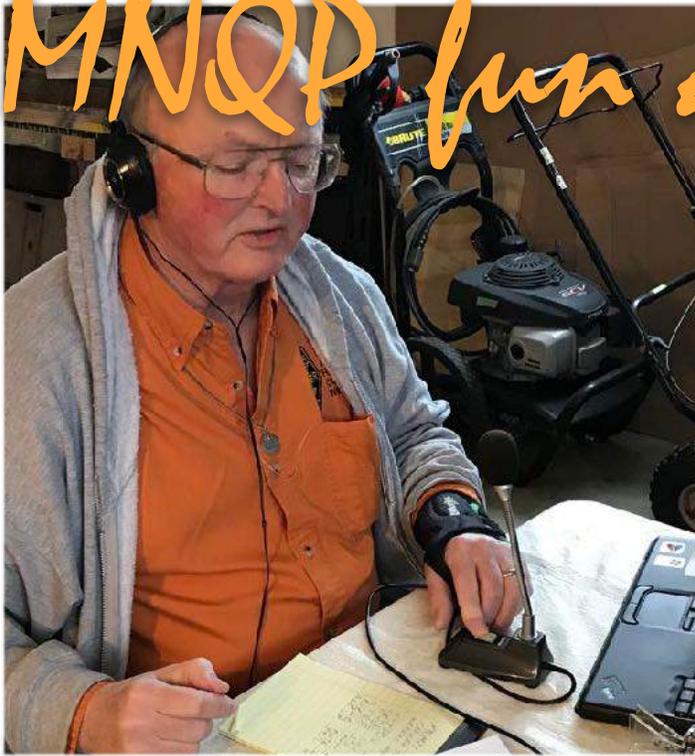


MNQP images by Dan Goltz, WKØW

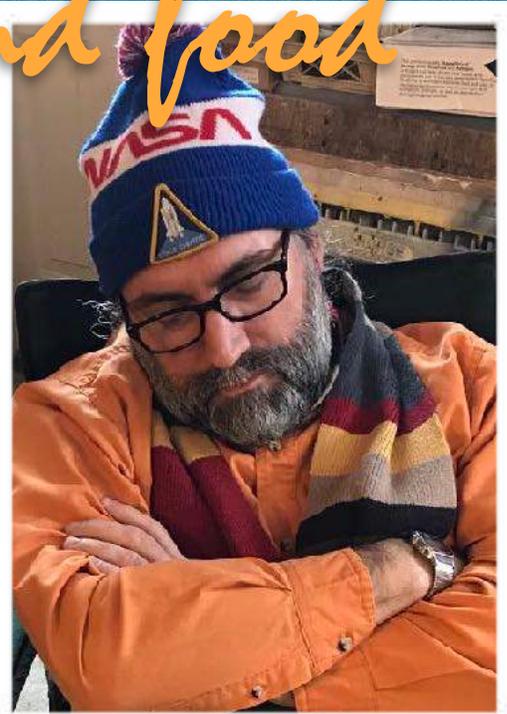
Ham-fuel was provided by Kathy Foerster, Nancy Goltz, NØNAN, and John Kowalik, K2OPT

See MNQP, page 2

# MNQP fun and food



Clare Jarvis, KØNY, operates



Setting up logging computers tired  
Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT

MNQP images by Dan Goltz, WKØW

Warm Hams, warm food and cooperative bands made for another banner year in the Minnesota QSO party. The Winona Amateur Radio Club has competed honorably in recent MNQP events with 2019 one of our best showings: 501 Contacts for 86,652 points!

Mike Foerster's, WØIH, comfortable garage provided a great operating position for members and his antennas, as well as those of neighbor Tom Mauszycki, KAØMLO, gave access to 160-meters, 80-meters, 40-meters 20 through 10-meters and even VHF/UHF.

More importantly, a generous table of Ham-fuel was put out by Kathy Foerster and Nancy Goltz, NØNAN.

Operators included: Dan Goltz, WKØW; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; John Kowalik, K2OPT; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Peter Ebertowski, KDØYOB; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; Tom Mauszycki, KAØMLO.; Mike Foerster, WØ0IH; Bill Davis, WØMZN; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; Tom Wilmot, WØMK.



Peter Ebertowski, KDØYOB, left, teamed up with John Kowalik, K2OPT.

## WONE MNQP history

- 2016: 101,760 points
- 2017: About 70,000
- 2018: 73,584



Mike Cizek, WØVTT, left, and Syed Faruque, ACØVA, whoop it up at the club's holiday party Jan. 17.

Three lucky club members now have distribution accessories for their portable batteries: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, and Dan Goltz, WKØW, won battery cover kits, and Mike Foerster, WØIH, won a distribution kit. Covers and kits were designed by Erik Brom, WBØNIU. He described them in the December 2018 issue of The Hamgram.

Brom noted that several people who expressed interest in both, so he will order more parts, and will make them available at his cost. He expects them to be available by the February club meeting.



## FT2DR can be Fusion node

I just had a nice conversation with Paul Degallier, ADØUU. What made the contact special was that he was in the basement of his home and I was 1,615 miles southwest of him in Utah. He was on his Yaesu FT2D and I was on mine. We connected via Yaesu Fusion, he from his node at home, and me to my portable node ("PDN") that connected my handheld to my laptop.

Yaesu is adding some remarkable abilities for the FT2D handheld using Fusion; with it you can control repeaters (find out more at the club's February meeting), set up special talk groups, and even set up portable nodes using a laptop and wifi. For more

information refer to [yaesu.com](http://yaesu.com), "digital products," "FT2D," and "files" for manuals and downloads.

Instructions require a full pre-read, careful examination and, for some, a review of the official Yaesu USA YouTube videos on the subject.

None of this is particularly user-friendly but, once installed, your handheld can become a powerful communication tool.

-W9LSE

## New tuner for Witoka

There's a new tuner for the IC-7300 remote system at Witoka. An AlphaDelta Pathfinder was replaced with a new LDG Z11-Pro II tuner.

Several details.

⦿ The system appears to operate as it did before. You need to press the "Tune" button when you change frequencies, or if you forget, the system will automatically retune for you.

⦿ However, tuning to a new frequency can take up to 30 seconds (Yeah, wow!). At least the first time. That's mostly on 160 and 75m.

⦿ If you go to use the same frequency again, it takes less than 1/2 second for it to tune up to the previous frequency, as it has about 1000 memories. Once we have used it for a while, things should go much faster.

⦿ The USB camera was moved back a bit so you can also see the LEDs on the tuner, as it's in operation, doing a tune-up.

⦿ All bands appear to operate just fine.

Refer problems or concerns to Mike Foerster, WØIH.

*unimmm... maybe not!  
There are problems, not to be resolved.*

# WARC Executive Board

Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019, Watkins Hall, Winona State University

(Unofficial minutes)

## Present

Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, Dan Goltz, WKØW, Clare Jarvis, KØNY, Erik Brom, WBØNIU, and Tom Wilmot, WØMK. (Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, attempted to attend via Skype.)

Meeting called to order by Paul, KØZYV, at 7:07 PM.

## Treasurer's report.

\* We have \$2,905.67 in the bank.

\* We have 34 paid members

\* The repeater upgrade fund is now up to \$1,395.42, contributed by 17 members.

(Report abbreviated because the treasurer slipped on ice and broke a few ribs)

**Minutes** of Dec. 7 meeting. Passed.

Committee reports.

## Public Service:

Dan, WKØW, stated that Skywarn training is new and improved but it has not yet been decided where or when in Winona County that it will be taught. Dan met with Mike Bernatz of the Winona Rotary Club and Ray Sylvester of Winona County SOAR, to talk about changes for the Ride the Ridges bicycle event Sept. 21. There are some minor route changes. Registration will be limited to 400. There will be changes in how support vehicles including our cars are identified. APRS is a great feature that they want continued.

Walt Kelly, KEØXI, continues to attend monthly county emergency management meetings. At the last meeting, Ben Klinger, KEØTNM, Winona County Emergency Coordinator, praised our group saying we were a great resource with weather issues, staffing the EOC, that we knew radios and communications. Plus, we are easy to work with.

Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, has worked hard to update our emergency alerting system. The system uses both text messaging and email to alert those persons that have expressed interest in being alerted during storm call outs, or any issue that we would like amateurs radio operators to respond to. We have conducted several tests and it is working.

We used it for the first time Jan. 31 in an actual call-out. I was notified of a train accident that resulted in a large scale power outage, and requested to come to

the EOC. A train had hit a semi and broke some power poles, resulting in power loss to some 1,200 households in Goodview and west Winona. With the temperatures near -20 degrees F, it was determined that shelters would be opened, and Ham radio operators could be useful in manning the shelters and coordination of transport to the shelters. At that point I used the alerting system on my phone to request amateurs to log up on 146.640. There was a nine minute delay until the alert was broadcast however the response was very good. Fourteen amateurs responded and would have been available to help.

This event had potential to be very big. The NTSB, the Minnesota State Duty officer, Red Cross, the hazmat team, and response crews were involved. In addition, responders and those without power were at risk from the extreme cold. Xcel Energy restored most of the power within a couple hours. About 9:30 p.m. we shut down our emergency net, but about 130 households were still without power and shelters at the Goodview Fire department and the Winona County office building remained open. Emergency management was very happy with our response, even though we were not needed.

Emergency management purchased a Yaesu FTM-400, and Walt and Russ Marsolek, NØQK, installed it in the EOC, replacing a Kenwood dual band. Russ programed it and has a laminated card there describing the operation. This will give us many options including digital voice communications, text messaging and picture transmission, as well as being able to link with any number of fusion stations around the country. Our range from the LEC will be greatly enhanced once the Fusion repeaters are linked and fully operational.

Wed. Feb. 6, I'm scheduled for updated SKYWARN instructor training. The National Weather Service schedules this about every three-four years for SKYWARN instructors.

## Witoka

Mike, WØIH, reported on the new antenna tuner Model LDG Z-11 Pro2. It has been installed at the Witoka site.

## Repeaters

There was discussion about the pathway to digital repeaters on the 2-meter system. The board is taking a wait-and-see attitude.

It will be a busy session, one chock-full of information, at the club's February meeting, 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21. Marv Rodvold, AC9TO will wrap-up the club's MNQP participation. Then Erik Brom, WBØNIU, Paul Degallier, ADØUU, Clare Jarvis, KØNY, and Dan Goltz, WKØW, will lead a discussion on new Yaesu repeater and Fusion features; that includes how to set your radio and then how operators can combine repeaters. And more!

- Are you on the Skywarn list? We'll ask.
- Ready for Trinona? Another box to check.

The club meets at the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St., Winona. All persons interested in Amateur Radio are invited to attend.

It's a big deal when your lights go out on a bitterly cold night. It's even a bigger deal when there's been a train wreck that could unleash tons of toxic material in the neighborhood. And that looked like reality Jan 31 when a Canadian Pacific freight train smashed into a semi truck with the accident knocking out electricity for about 1,200 homes.

The National Weather Service reported overnight temperatures in Winona were forecast to reach a low of minus 8 degrees, with wind chills falling as low as minus 16 degrees.

Emergency government officials were alerted to what could've been a disaster and initially there were fire, police, ambulance, and first responders on site. Also called were members of the Winona Amateur Radio Club in the event the accident required communication support. Eleven members responded to the SMS page.

Fortunately the train was full of barley, not hazardous substances, no one was injured and residents did not evacuate to warm shelters. Electricity was restored at about 3 a.m.

County Emergency Management Coordinator Ben Klinger, KEØTNN, said he was very pleased with the club's response.

Whether it's a big station, or small and portable, Hams enjoy the security of knowing they can get a message through in almost any situation without depending on a fragile infrastructure that can fail or be overloaded.

#### 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

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