



Hamgram

Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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

July 2014

www.w0ne.org

Annual Family Picnic - July 17

WHAT: July is the month for the annual club picnic, and this year's event promises to be as much fun as ever. Bring your family and friends, the family dog, a dish to pass, your own meat, and eating utensils. The club will provide charcoal grills, soft drinks, and cooking utensils.

DATE & Time: Thursday, July 17, 2014 -- 6:00 PM

WHO: All amateur radio operators and other interested persons are encouraged to attend. The summer picnic is a family affair, and guests are welcome to attend.

WHERE: Michael LaCanne Memorial Park, 6280 Highway 61, Goodview, MN.



Upcoming WARC Activities

July 12-13 - GRSF Special Event Station (N2B)

July 17 - Annual Family Picnic

Aug 21 - August Program

Sep 14-15 - ARRL September VHF Contest

Riverland ARC's SWAP FEST

***Vendors; Buy-Sell-Trade; Flea Market; Tailgating;
Refreshments; Handicapped Accessible***

VE Testing - 9:00 AM

Saturday, August 9, 2014 -- 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Road, Onalaska, WI

Admission: \$5; Tables: \$10.

For Information: Greg KA9FOZ - gmler@centurytel.com

Field Day 2014

By Matt – KF0Q

The Winona Amateur Radio Club W0NE field day team had another successful operation again this year. Preparation for the site on Innovation Drive started un-customarily early with the delivery of the emergency communications trailer/tower on Friday afternoon. This nifty piece of hardware is built for rugged deployment in adverse conditions. Complete with battery power, an emergency public service repeater, and



integrated feed lines the three piece nested aluminum structure will quickly place antennas at 50 feet.

For its premiere deployment with our group we decided to install the VHF stack of the M2 6MX5 and an M2 four element Yagi for 2 meters on top. Two pulleys with ropes were attached to the top of the tower for future support of wire antennas. Mike Peterson with Winona County

Emergency Management personally delivered this gem to the site and was able to complete much of the setup by himself, although Winona fire fighters were needed after a call for help with the troubled outriggers that seemed to disappear in the damp soil.

Around the time the tower was raised the folks from Kimo's placed the portable facilities and the Sherriff himself dropped of the communication trailer. I was pleasantly surprised to have so much work completed at this early stage; the aluminum tower looked glorious!

Okay – back to Field Day. Dan – WK0W and I got started setting things up at the site 8AM Saturday. Before long we were joined by a good number of folks ready to assist with getting a fairly ambitious FD setup on the air.

Antennas for the HF station this year included inverted vee's for 80 and 40 meters, the Mosley Classic 33 tri-band Yagi and an assortment of wire antennas planned for the





balloon and kite experiments. Unfortunately one of the ropes planned for the wire antennas at the top of the tower pulled off; however, ingenuity saved the day and a system using the steel guy cables from the tower was devised as a clever way to hoist the wire up. Consequently the 80 and 40 meter vee's were in place in short order. (My dream of building a 20M delta-vee did not materialize due to time constraints).

For station gear we used an Icom IC-7410 and IC-718 for the two primary HF stations. The FT-897D was set up for the VHF station and the FT-847 for the outdoor Satellite station under the canopy. For logging we used the usual suspects-- notebook PC's networked with N1MM logging software and rig control. The whole system was tested prior to delivery at the site and as such worked very well this time out.

The Mesh – node gang: Erik – WB0NIU, Lance – KB0YJU, Les – K0BAD, Tom – KC9ECI, Harro – KG6RLM, Matt – KD0YSY and Jeff – KB0YTQ had a great time attempting to get a gateway to the site. Placing a node at the corner of the site they were able to achieve a three-node mesh for a time. In spite of the heavy rain and wind the node ran throughout the Field Day period. I can't wait to see what these folks will come up with for next year!

There were a few problems with the tri-band antenna setup that was extremely heavy. The rotor cable was short and the weight of the antenna limited its height to fifteen feet on the pushup mast for safety. The team also spent some time working on matching the antenna that was reasonably successful. In spite of these delays our 2A station was on the air right at 1800Z for the start. While the group will need to spend more time next year to improve the situation with the tribander it did work and contacts were made on 20 and 15 meters (one on ten..).

There was no problem having enough operators this year. Dick – WORIF started for us on 40M CW while the tag team of Len – KC0RSX, John - K2OPT, Mike – W0IH, Jeff – KB0YTQ, Matt – KD0YSY, Mike – N0OWP, Walt – KE0XI, Les – K0BAD, and I rotated around making calls on mostly 40, 20, and 80 meters. I was able to hook up with a few stations on six meters and two but unfortunately the VHF activity was slim this year as six never seemed to open.

Jim – KB0THN returned to FD this year along with his portable PV solar power center which was used for charging batteries and making natural power qosos on six and two meters. Jim's



arrow antenna received much attention when Len – KC0RSX attempted contacting the International Space Station (ISS). One of the passes for the ISS in the late afternoon was really exciting for all of us as the downlink audio was near perfect! As luck would have it though we were not able to break the pileup this time out.



Turnout for the Saturday night cookout was quite good as the chief at the grill Lance – KB0YJU treated us to some great hot food. Other faire was shared at the site as well for an enjoyable potluck meal of sorts in ideal weather before the perfunctory Field Day storm arrived. Dessert was capped off with another ISS attempt that did not materialize this time either in spite of the effort from Matt – KD0YSY's XYL - Laura directing the arrow antenna.

It was great to have several Ham and non-Ham folks stop by for visits and some demonstrations of the station filling up our visitor log. We missed out however on extra points from an elected official visit but thanks to our Fire Chief friend Tom – KC9ECI and a representative from the Red Cross – Tom – N0PCY we will be rewarded credit for agency served participation – thanks guys!

John – K2OPT one of our stalwart Education and Outreach committee members once again manned the public information table at the event. He had a great selection of

League publications for our visitors to peruse. With a smile John handed out packets of the publications for the rest of us as well for distribution after the event. Thanks for spreading the word John – it is much appreciated!

The Field Day storm arrived pretty much on schedule and lightning conditions caused us to briefly go off the air. Fortunately the antenna array handled the storm well and no damage was reported from the heavy rain. Contacts continued throughout the night as Les – K0BAD arrived a few minutes past midnight for some CW work on 80 and 40 meters.

Early Sunday I arrived at the site so Les could move on with other activities after a very long shift. A somewhat weary Les greeted me with a smile reporting some good conditions on the low bands that more than doubled our qso count – thanks a ton Les! Contacts were made throughout the morning at a steady pace helped out by some pretty good conditions on 15 meters.

Station tear down started early with packing up surplus gear and tearing down the 80 meter antenna. At 1800Z the logs were closed and the good-sized crew went to work rolling up the feedlines, guys ropes and collecting all of the equipment and supplies.



Here is a summary of the contacts for 2014:

Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts
3.5	CW	42	84
3.5	LSB	13	13
7	CW	92	184
7	LSB	86	86
14	USB	52	52
21	USB	36	36
28	USB	1	1
50	USB	2	2
144	FM	3	3
Total	Both	327	461

Many thanks to all of you who made this event happen. While more contacts in the log might have been nice our group handled problems well and worked as a team to make the Field Day experience fun for all participants and guests. It was a pleasure to work with all of you, share stories and visit when time permitted; the spirit of Field Day is alive and well!

73, Matt



“MESHING AROUND” During Field Day

By Erik Brom, WB0NIU

Reprinted from the W0NE Facebook Page.

We did some "meshing around" this year! When we got into mesh networking a few months ago, I said it would be nice to get Internet to the Field Day site via mesh network. We didn't quite make it, but we did have a two to three node mesh running. I hooked up the serial port on one of my wrt54g's and put up an APRS node at the far side of the field (see photo).

The box at the base contains an APRS radio, KPC-3 TNC, and batteries. The mast contains a 2 meter J-pole, the mesh router (the plastic bag 2/3 way up), and a logic to RS232 convertor (1/3 way up). This node is running "ser2net" which makes the serial port available on the mesh. Inside the trailer was another node (actually we put the router in a plastic bag on top). On the PC there we were running APRSIS32, connected via TCP/IP serial port.



That setup ran the whole FD period. Harro, KG6RLM, had offered tower space since he lives close to the site, but I didn't have time to pursue this. Les, K0BAD, recently put up a Ubiquity node on his tower on Garvin Heights, and attempted to connect to it from the valley with a Yagi, but was unsuccessful. Lance and I were able to get about 4 blocks down the street with a node provided by Matt, KD0YSY (using stock antennas) before we lost contact.

Jeff, KB0YTQ, ported the Raspberry Pi Mesh software over to a PC running Linux and successfully joined the mesh using just the wifi built in the computer. Oh, and the ad-hoc waterproof enclosures for the routers did keep the equipment dry during the heavy rains late Saturday night. The APRS node provided a field day object.

Minutes of the July WARC Executive Board Meeting—Will be available in the August issue due to the early release of this month's Hamgram.

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

Executive Board

President: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV pschumacher@winona.edu	Vice President: Lance Tagliapietra, KBØYJU lancetag@hbcicom
Secretary: Syed Faruque, ACØVA sfaruque@yahoo.com	Treasurer: Matt Burt, KF0Q kf0q@hbcicom
Custodian: Erik Brom, WBØNIU ewbrom@hbcicom	Members: Harro Hohenner KG6RLM Bob Seaquist KC9IWE

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: Matt Burt, Treasurer, P.O. Box 1264, Winona, MN 55987

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25567 Miner Valley Road - Winona, MN 55987 or email to: KCORSX@arrl.net

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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