

Hamgram

July, 2016

Winona Amateur Radio Club
Winona, Minnesota

Propagation bad, operations good at WARC Field Day



Syed Faruque, AC0VA, image

Winona County emergency communication gear helped create an impressive Field Day operation for the Winona Amateur Radio Club June 25-26. Or, in the words of first-timer Mike Cizek, WØVTT, "What a fun weekend!"

The County provided its tower trailer and the Sheriff's portable command post while the Port Authority permitted use of its land. Club members, led by Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT did the set-up and operating. Old Sol did nothing and was abetted in bad conditions by the nearby AM broadcast station. Despite that, operators

soldiered on. Clare Jarvis, KØNY, improvised for the GOTA (Get On The Air) station by setting up simulations on his Flex SDR. "Clare sat me down and walked me through the process of setting up and operating his Flex rig. He had taken the time to put together a concise and easy to understand set of instructions to turn on, operate, and shut down his equipment," noted Marv.

And Keith Laken, KEØIJI said Field Day encouraged him to join in again and to continue learning more about Ham radio.

WARC Board Meeting

June 7, 2016, Watkins Hall, Winona State University

Present: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, Tom Wilmot, W0MK, Syed Faruque, ACØVA, Les Hittner, KØBAD, Mike WØIH, Erik Brom, WBØNIU, Paul Schumacher, KØZYV via Skype while on a boat in a South Carolina lake.

Called to order by Lance at 7 p.m.

Board congratulated Lance for achieving extra class license. Same for John.

MINUTES

Approved.

TREASURER REPORT

Approved subject to audit. Les and Harro will facilitate club expense audit this year. Les will also ask a non-club member to help for the audit. Approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lance reported 640 repeater is back in normal operation. Lance did adjust the squelch and asked, "has there been any issue since adjusting the squelch?" Les mentioned he experienced lot of static walking downtown Winona and asked about the power set at repeater. Lance said repeater is set at 75 watts but not sure if that power ever was measured. Lance stated typically he experiences static while driving in town mainly from alarm systems. Discussion continued on this issue of static of repeater. Syed offered help to measure power at the repeater. Lance stated 835 also working well with all the updates that were done over last year. On Witoka tower APRS, there is issue of Raspberry Pi locking up over the last weekend. Lance went to visit the site with Erik and found Ethernet connection not connected and found other issues. Lance suggested to Erik to use the watch dog timer of Raspberry Pi to reboot.

Mike mentioned he took a weed wacker and cleaned the bushes around the Witoka site. Lance mentioned it does look much nicer and thanked Mike for doing the clean up.

Lance also commended the arrangement of equipment in Witoka tower. Everything looks very nice per Lance. "Very aesthetic and functional."

Dan had an e-mail about Public Service Committee which needed to be discussed during the Board meeting.

The other thing coming up for Operating Committee is Trinona. Lance is organizing the event with radio club group and course

marshalling group. Lance is setting up SAG van and APRS transponder in motor cycles that will run along the course.

Next event after Trinona is Field Day which Lance will also spearhead. Claire and Dale have volunteered to help Lance on field day preparation.

Lance will attend the Port Authority Meeting coming Thursday to secure the place for Field Day. Harro has provided the insurance document that Lance needed to secure the East End Industrial Area for Field Day. Mike mentioned Dale and he are working on the tri-band beam. Everything working on the antenna very well. Lance mentioned Dan is working on getting the county trailer and the mast. Lance mentioned Field Day will be the topic of this month's general meeting. Harro will bring the tent shelter he provided last year. Erik mentioned he ordered a fan for radio in Witoka.

ECHOLINK

Les and Paul are working with EchoLink and Les has his running. Lance asked for a brief introduction of EchoLink from Les as many of us unfamiliar with it. Les explained EchoLink is audio connection with internet and also people can text to node. There are three types of connection you can set up. You set up other node or link node. Link node is setup with your own radio. Link node could be used by others to call up. And then there are Repeater Nodes. Repeater Nodes are set up to run full duplex. EchoLink is one of the first protocols connected to Amateur Radio. Les is planning his EchoLink on 835 Repeater and Paul is planning to set on 640 Repeater. Les then explained few of the problems new EchoLink users face and also how limits could be set on EchoLink. Les said any Amateur Radio Operator can sign up to work on Les's EchoLink connection. EchoLink consists of external sound card that is plugged into radio. Les mentioned it is dependent on Internet, so if IP node goes down, EchoLink node will go down. Les stated to start EchoLink other than radio we need to download the software. Les plans to demonstrate during an upcoming general meeting. Board did not object to Les maintaining EchoLink with 835 Repeater. Les mentioned few of the usage of EchoLink during emergencies.

SURVEY OF THE 440 COVERAGE

Lance mentioned this was discussed before and Les plans to run a survey of the coverage on a coming Saturday. Les interested to find the coverage in North and Northwest of Winona County. Other areas he thinks got good coverage as per feedback from users.

MESH NETWORKING

There were e-mails on Reflector on frustration with Mesh Network. Erik mentioned during last year Field Day, he had great signal but suddenly signal died and then he set the same equipment in his yard and it ran three months without any issues. Erik mentioned also bad experience with Claire /Jim Mesh Network setup. Les did antenna analysis but his major concern is the new bridge being built along the path of Mesh Network. Other concern Les has is interference to CAT 5 cables as they are not shielded. Erik does not have the time this Field Day to set up and experiment more. Les would like other people to get interested in Mesh Network, try and learn. Mike/Harro are agreeable to host one end of Mesh Network at his place this time during Field Day. Les talked more on Mesh Network, issues he faced, and the experience. Erik then provided more info on Mesh Network. Lance mentioned this will be discussed more during upcoming general meeting.

FUND RAISING

Lance mentioned we have to drive Fund Raising hard in coming days. Lance is going to focus more on Fund Raising in coming days.

Meeting was then adjourned.

Emergency preparedness + contesting = Field Day

By Mike Cizek W0VTT

When ARRL Field Day began in 1933, it was an experiment designed to test portable operation. The initial experiment appears to have been successful, because we are still operating and enjoying Field Day 83 years later. The event has certainly changed over the years. Different groups treat it as anything from an all out blood and guts contest to a weekend beer blast with a few radios on the side. Most hams think of it as a contest, but the company line from Newington is that Field Day is still an emergency preparedness exercise. There is an interesting article on the history of Field Day by K3RA in the December 1999 issue of QST, pp 28-31.

On the surface, emergency communications and contesting don't appear to have much in common and few hams are very active in both areas. However, if we dig down below the surface and take a close look at the skills required, we find a lot of common ground and see that both sides can benefit by learning from the other.

The serious EMCOMM folks have their go-kits always at the ready, batteries topped off, supplies either packed or close at hand, and they participate regularly in drills or exercises. Most EMCOMM folks have little or no interest in contests. They think contest operating has nothing to do with EMCOMM, and are either ineffective or completely lost in a contest environment.

The contesters concentrate on building the best, most effective stations possible, having everything ready for the next contest, and honing their skills to be able to make as many QSOs as possible during the next contest. How many big contesters would get good results if they had a major power, equipment, or antenna failure just before or during a major contest?

So, where is the common ground between the two? Both need to be able to send and receive information quickly and accurately under stressful and often unfamiliar conditions. In a real emergency, we don't have much time to prepare and may be sent someplace to either operate unfamiliar equipment, or quickly set up an effective station of our own. We need to be able to send (Red Cross requests 50 medical kits at Rushford city hall), receive (understand medical kits coming from Winona EOC, ETA 2 hours), and process (tell the Red Cross official who requested the supplies) the information. Sometimes, it may be necessary to do this very quickly if there are several stations all using the same repeater, or if your location has a large volume of time sensitive traffic.

Operating a contest remarkably similar. The hurried pace of the contest adds a level of stress not unlike what is present in an emergency situation, and you need to send (W1AW 3A MN), receive (1E CT), and process (type it in the log) information



Mike Cizek, W0VTT, operates CW at Field Day.

quickly and accurately. Field Day adds the element of setting up and operating in an unfamiliar location, often with unfamiliar equipment.

Winona ARC has a long and proud history of providing emergency and public service communications to our community. We are also blessed to have active members with a very wide variety of skills, abilities, and interests within the hobby. Let's hope this essay provokes some discussion, and provides incentive to try some new ways to enhance our emergency communications skills, and have even more fun with Amateur Radio.



Dale Cohenour, KE0EKD, left, and Mike Cizek, W0VTT, arrange Field Day antennas.

Contesting as Training Webinar

A free ARRL Webinar, "Contesting as Training for Public Service" will take place Sunday, July 24, 7-9 p.m. (CDT). All are invited to join the presentation online.

"Think of contests as a ham radio fitness center," Ward Silver, NØAX, said. "Just as sports provide good physical exercise, contests are great at developing radio skills, and both are a lot of fun." He pointed out that contests originated as a way to hone traffic-handling skills and develop an effective station.

Registration is required. Go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/registration/2868835119951912708>

K2OPT 'marine mobile'



Syed Faruque, AC0VA, image

A nod to the history of world exploration arrived at Levee Park in Winona at the end of June and John Kowalik, K2OPT, lent a hand. Hand-made replica models of Christopher Columbus' ships, the Nifia and Pinta, docked and set up for tours and history lessons. Kowalik was spotted running his HF station aboard the ships.

AES SK

You've likely heard that Amateur Electronic Supply is closing all operations as July 28, after 59 years in business. On July 12, Ham Radio Outlet announced that it has concluded successful discussions to hire a number of AES personnel to staff HRO locations, and furthermore will remodel and re-open the largest North American retail amateur radio showroom in Milwaukee in August. Current AES phone numbers and web addresses will be handled by HRO after July 28.

Contests and rules

Following the 2015 ARRL 10 Meter Contest, the Medium Category Club Competition was reviewed by the ARRL Contest Branch and adjustments based on member eligibility were made to several club totals. The updated Full Results has been posted to the ARRL website.

The Winona Amateur Radio Club was ranked in the competition with four members participating. Mike Cizek, WØVTT, accounted for most of the points.

Club Competition rules require clubs to meet specific criteria and provide certain information for each contest.

Clubs must be ARRL Affiliated, meeting all membership requirements; clubs must specify their club territory circle center or ARRL section for each contest; clubs must submit a list of eligible members to the ARRL within 30 days after each contest they enter.

Cabrillo

Tomahhhhto, Tomayyyto, Cabril-loe, Cabreeyo. Just what is the pronunciation of that format for our contest log submissions? This is directly from Trey Garlough, N5KO: "Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo (João Rodrigues Cabrilho) is said to be the first European to navigate the coast of modern day California. Both the Spanish and the Portuguese claim him, so there is no one single correct answer to this question.

Based on usage both inside and outside of ham radio, **kuh-BREE-yo** wins by a 10-to-1 margin, or more, over other variations.

Riverland Amateur Radio Club

Door Prizes

Swap Fest

- ✓ Vendors
- ✓ Flea Market
- ✓ Buy-Sell-Trade
- ✓ Tailgating
- ✓ Refreshments
- ✓ VE session 9 a.m.
- ✓ Handicap access
- ✓ ARRL award card
- checks: DXCC, VUCC, WAC, WAS, 160m

8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturday, August 13

Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Rd.

Onalaska, Wis 54650

Reserve your tables and
your tickets

RARC
Box 621
Onalaska, WI 54650

Talk In: 146.97 PL 131.8
Admission: \$5 Tables: \$10

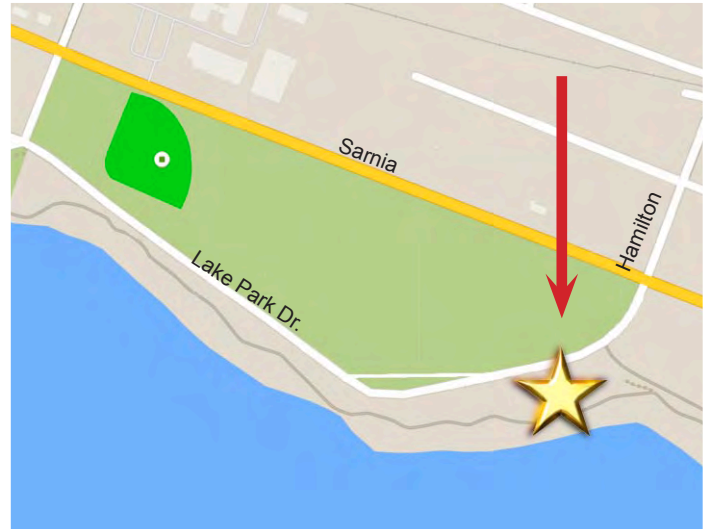
Refer questions to Greg Miller, KA9FOZ, ka9foz@gmail.com 608 792-7841

Picnic July 21



Ken, N0JP, and Delores, N0NUO, Spittler, at the WARC 2015 picnic.

Bring your family and friends, grand kids, a dish to pass, your own meat, and eating utensils to the WARC Annual Family Picnic 6 p.m., Thursday, July 21. It will be at Lake Winona in the Lions Shelter (Gepner Pavilion), 525 Lake Park Drive (near foot of Hamilton St.). This is the club's July meeting.



The club will provide charcoal grills, soft drinks, and cooking utensils.

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

WØNE Repeaters

146.640 PL 100.0 Hz *

146.835 PL 131.8 Hz **

444.225 PL 100.0Hz FM Voice C4FM Digital

* SkyWarn Net when activated.

** Sunday Night Net—8:30 p.m.

The 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: Syed Faruque, ACØVA, sfaruque@yahoo.com

Custodian: Erik Brom, WBØNIU, ewbrom@hbc.com

At Large: Dan Goltz, WKØW; Leslie Hittner KØBAD

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: Harro Hohenner, Treasurer, P.O. Box 1451, Winona, MN 55987

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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

