



Hamgram

Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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

June 2014

www.w0ne.org

June Program - June 19

WHAT: June Club Program: Field day will be only nine days after the June meeting, and coordination of the ton of activities planned will be the focal point of the program. This year's FD promises more food and fellowship than recent years as well as serious attempts try kite/balloon antennas, satellite QSOs and other fun stuff! See you at the program—and at field day.

DATE & Time: Thursday, June 19, 2014 -- 7:00 PM

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

WHERE: Conference Room B, Winona County Office Building, 202 West 3rd Street, Winona, MN. Doors will be unlocked from 6:45 to 7:15 PM. If you are late, please try the 146.835 repeater to have someone let you in.



Trinona Support Successful Again



The weather was perfect for this year's Trinona, and the Winona ARC again provided great support for the 1,000-participant event. Lance, KB0YJU, reported that the club provided communications for two of the SAG wagons including voice communication and APRS location mapping . APRS location mapping was also provided for the motorcycle trailing the last participant through the course.

Club members were posted at key points along the route including on one of the Dive Rescue boats, at the East Burns Valley turnaround point, base of Garvin Heights, Garvin Heights Road ascent & water point, Gilmore Valley Road, swim

exit/bicycle transition area, and other key spots. No serious emergencies were reported, but a few participants asked for assistance after deciding to drop out of the race.



Lance reported a few ham radio hardware issues at the beginning of the event, but these were resolved promptly (in true ham radio style!) and did not hinder support. The club started set up at 6:00 am Sunday for the race start scheduled for 6:45. Lance was able to close the net about 10:40 AM after it was clear that the last participant was in a good position to finish safely.



Congratulations

to Matt Burt, KF0Q, and Dennis Haase, KD0UJF, for their 1st place MN Section finish in the 2013 ARRL International DX Contest (Phone).

Matt reports that it was their first time to participate in this contest and was quite a surprise to finish so well. The category was multi-op, single transmitter, low power. Operating under Matt's callsign, KF0Q, he and Dennis garnered 60 QSOs and 54 multipliers for a total score of 9,234.

Good job, Dennis and Matt. Hope you had a great time!



SOAR Drill – May 17

There is No Preparedness Without Practice....

Well, the participants in the May 17 joint drill with WARC and the Winona County Sheriff's SOAR Team (Search Operations Assistance Response) experienced plenty of practice. The main scenario involved a search for two missing hikers in the Stone Point Park area. However... some monkey wrenches were thrown into the mix including complete breakdown of the SOAR handheld radios (due to "charger malfunction") plus the discovery of a covert meth operation!



WARC moved into operation with shadows for search team leaders and operations center staff. Necessary traffic was passed satisfactorily—sometimes via a mobile relay station--but many lessons were learned. Dan Goltz, WKOW, is incorporating results into planning for the improvement areas identified.



Search & Rescue Event (This is NOT a Drill!)

The following is a report submitted by Dan, WK0W,
Chairman of the WARC Public Services Committee:

Friday evening, June 6, 2014, Walt Kelly KE0XI was contacted by Sheriff Brand about the possibility of hams assisting with the search for a missing canoeist. It was a presumed drowning since witnesses reported seeing the man hanging from debris on the Prairie Island spillway, and then disappear into the river.

The sheriff suggested that it would be good to have extra eyes watching the search area and provide backup communications. Walt used the SKYWARN alert network to put out the call out with instructions to monitor the 04/64 repeater in the morning for further details.

Saturday morning Walt received a call from the Sheriff that he would be able to use a few people to ride in the boats as several people had only limited time to help with the search. Many local hams

responded. On site there were at least 8, including some that are part of other rescue agencies. Several hams indicated they could be available if the need should arise.

As the day progressed, we had hams at the base station and several on the water with the search teams. Our communications were strictly backup, but some traffic was passed via amateur radio. Again the biggest benefit to our being there was to interface with the other agencies and show that we can be there if needed. A ham was part of the four member two boat team that recovered the body about 2:45pm.

It was another great learning experience for the hams and a great cooperative effort with the other responding agencies

Minutes of WARC Board Meeting held on Monday June 2 , 2014 at WKM building Winona.

Present: Bob (KC9IWE), John (K2OPT), Syed (AC0VA) , Paul (K0ZYV), Matt (KF0Q), Clare (K0NY), Tom (W0MK), Lance (WB0YZU)

Call to order by Paul at around 7 PM.

Agenda

- 1. Minutes**
- 2. Treasurer Report**
- 3. Committee Reports**
- 4. Other**

Paul called the Meeting around 7 PM.

Minutes of Last meeting

Minutes of Last Meeting were approved. Copy of the Minutes of last meeting were at hand for review. Paul mentioned he liked the Minutes.

Treasurer Reports

Treasurer Report was also approved. Treasurer Matt was present for the Meeting. Matt mentioned some of the expenses are coming soon like field day expenses.

Committee Reports

Dan (WK0W) presented Emergency Service Committee report. Walt briefed Goodview city officials on how amateur radio operator can be contacted. For emergencies, the LEC will be notified and call out will be initiated through Sheriff or Emergency Management. For non-emergency, committee members can be contacted and call out will be through call out/notification network.

Paul, Erik and Jim Jarvis have our call out notifications up and running. Clare received a call out when he was in California. The system uses email and text messaging to alert those interested in being notified. Dan mentioned the system might be tested during this Meeting even.

Les has met with Gene Mrozek of Whitewater Wireless about the repeater donated by Emergency Management. Gene has the information to get the Manuals. Also Gene mentioned first re-programming will not cost anything for the club. Members appreciated the good gesture from Whitewater Wireless.

Next was an update on SOAR exercise. Dan mentioned it was very successful. In addition to exercise, this was good opportunity for

public relation and working with other agencies. Lance mentioned from participation point of view, there were as many Amateur Radio Operator as SOAR members. Dan mentioned there were 14 Ham participants and few of them first time participants. There was some confusion in the beginning but once it got going it got better. Also, incident commander did not know what would be the scenario. He had to deal with dead batteries once he started the exercise (good batteries were swapped with dead batteries on purpose). Amateur radio operator provided good help to get going in the exercise and pass the message. There were some issue with GPS co-ordinates but Dan mentioned Ham can be of good help in this regards (APRS). Amateur Radio has been invited for the next SOAR meeting (coming Wednesday). All are invited to this meeting.

D710 ordered by Emergency Management has arrived. Dan mentioned, Emergency Management Personnel is very interested in Amateur Radio. Club might have to run a license test for these personnel. Paul mentioned club has enough VEC in case we have to run a test on a short notice. John mentioned he has CD that contains everything that is all needed to prepare for a licensing test. John will try to drop some of these CDs for any upcoming licensing candidates. Dan mentioned he is available tomorrow in case John stops by.

No word yet on Tower Usage Agreement per Dan but the word is Dick's electric has the parts needed to turn lights on tower. Once the tower light is on, club members will be able to enter the Tower as long it is safe to do so.

Paul had contact with HBC president to get a wifi on the tower. Paul will try to get the wifi donated by HBC. There was some discussion then how long a distance such a wifi will be workable.

Several of club members will be participating Wabasha ARES exercise coming June. This is second year this exercise being held and FEMA Homeland security are all involved.

Dan bought some reflector vest to the meeting. Paul has also some vests. Dan asked if club has interest for members to buy these vests. Dan mentioned if we get something that identifies club will be helpful. Dan also mentioned some of these vests are color coded. If there is interest Dan can look into costs. Costs vary widely based on what people on them. Clare has also some of these vests. Dan will look what ARRL offers. There was some disagreement on if club should buy the reflector vests or individual hams should buy them for themselves. No decisions were made. Dan will bring these vests to general Meeting.

Next issue was Trinona. Lance mentioned he is getting organized and he will send an email out next day on details. Lance mentioned we should plan to meet at 6 AM. Dan will also bring the vests to Trinona. Lance needs one more APRS setup for SAG vehicle. Paul mentioned he has a setup but does not know if that works. Bob asked about parking situation.

Next was Operating Committee Report from Matt. Matt is getting ready for Field Day. Field Day Planning Sheet is being filled up and Matt mentioned most of the slots are already full. Matt was encouraged by this level of participation. Paul mentioned Les will have a GOTA station ready to go. Matt mentioned that in the last month the club obtained a HF radio thanks to a donation. And it will be used for Field Day. So HF wise we are good for field day. Matt mentioned he will keep working and "shake the bushes little more" to get rest of the preparedness going. Matt mentioned there is lot of interest in balloon and kite. Matt has a balloon antenna ready to go. Clare offered a satellite rig. Matt mentioned he is allowing individual teams to work on details of each project. Paul mentioned cost of helium for balloon has gone way up. There was then discussion on why helium prices going up. Dan mentioned it has to do

with government subsidy. Matt mentioned June meeting will be used to prepare for field day. Bob asked if club can bring the new HF rig to June meeting and let people be familiar with it. Being familiar with this new rig will be helpful during Field Day. Harro is bringing his HF rig for field day. Field Day site is just inches south of last year's site. Dan mentioned Sheriff's trailer will be ready. Bottom line: Matt feels very good on Field Day. And Matt mentioned all these because of the survey club conducted what people want for field day. The survey helped figure out people's desire and Matt tried to materialize these ideas.

Board last discussed use of Webmaster, Jim Brown to communicate more of the activities of clubs. Everybody was in agreement that sharing more information/photos with Webmaster is always very helpful and encouraged all to share these info's more so these information gets to website and to all. Matt mentioned we get lot of hits on our Facebook from all over the world and it is quite popular Facebook site.

Board thanked Clare for hosting this Meeting.

Meeting adjourned around 8 PM.

Got Some Ham Radio Junque?

Here's a chance to turn it into someone else's treasure!

*Riverland ARC's August swap fest has grown enough that they are moving to the Onalaska Omni Center this year. Bring your unused items to sell or trade! **August 9.***

- *Tables are available for \$10. See contact info at right.*
- *Tailgating is permitted.*
- *License testing session at 9:00 AM.*

The Riverland Amateur Radio Club's
Swap Fest
8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday August 9

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

Vendors
Flea market
Buy - Sell - Trade
Tailgating
Refreshments
VE session 9 a.m.
Handicap access

Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Rd., Onalaska, WI 54650
Refer questions to Greg Miller, KAGFOZ, 808-792-7841, gmiller@coms.wytel.net

Reserve your tables and your tickets
RARC
Box 621
Onalaska, WI 54650

Door prizes

The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
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Executive Board

President: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV Vice President: Lance Tagliapietra, KBØYJU
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Secretary: Syed Faruque, ACØVA Treasurer: Matt Burt, KF0Q
sfaruque@yahoo.com kf0q@hbci.com

Custodian: Erik Brom, WBØNIU Members: Harro Hohenner KG6RLM
ewbrom@hbci.com 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: KCØRSX@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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