

# Hamgram

June 2018

Winona Amateur Radio Club  
Winona, Minnesota

## June 21 club program

### RadioSport- the competitive aspect of Ham radio

Ham radio's contact sport—radio contesting—can be exhilarating for participants and it also can teach non-contesters a lot about good Ham radio operating. One of the world's premier contesters, Scott Wright, KØMD, Editor of National Contest Journal, will talk about why we do it, how it is done and what fun it is. His talk is the Thursday, June 21, program of the Winona Amateur Radio Club.

Wright's talk will also cover the Olympics of Ham Radio Contesting, the World Radiosport Team Championship, WRTC 2018, which will be held in Germany in mid July.

Wright is the new editor of ARRL's National Contest Journal and president of the Rochester DX and Contest Club. Assisting him will be well-known area Hams and contesters including Bill Lippert, ACØW, president of Minnesota Wireless Association, Fred Regennitter, K4IU, Paul Bittner, WØAIH, Roger Wise, KIØF, Mike Cizek, WØVTT, and Mike Mullen, NØBUI, among others.

Winona Amateur Radio club meetings are 7 p.m., at the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St., Winona. The program is open to the public.



Scott Wright, KØMD



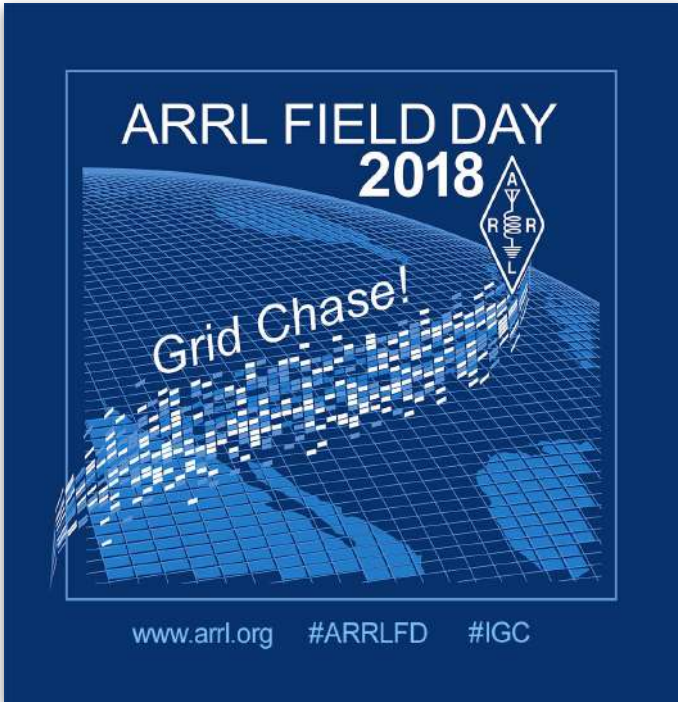
### Top 'contact' sport

The Olympics of Amateur Radio, the World Radiosport Team Championship, is slated for July 12-16 in Friedrichshafen, Germany.

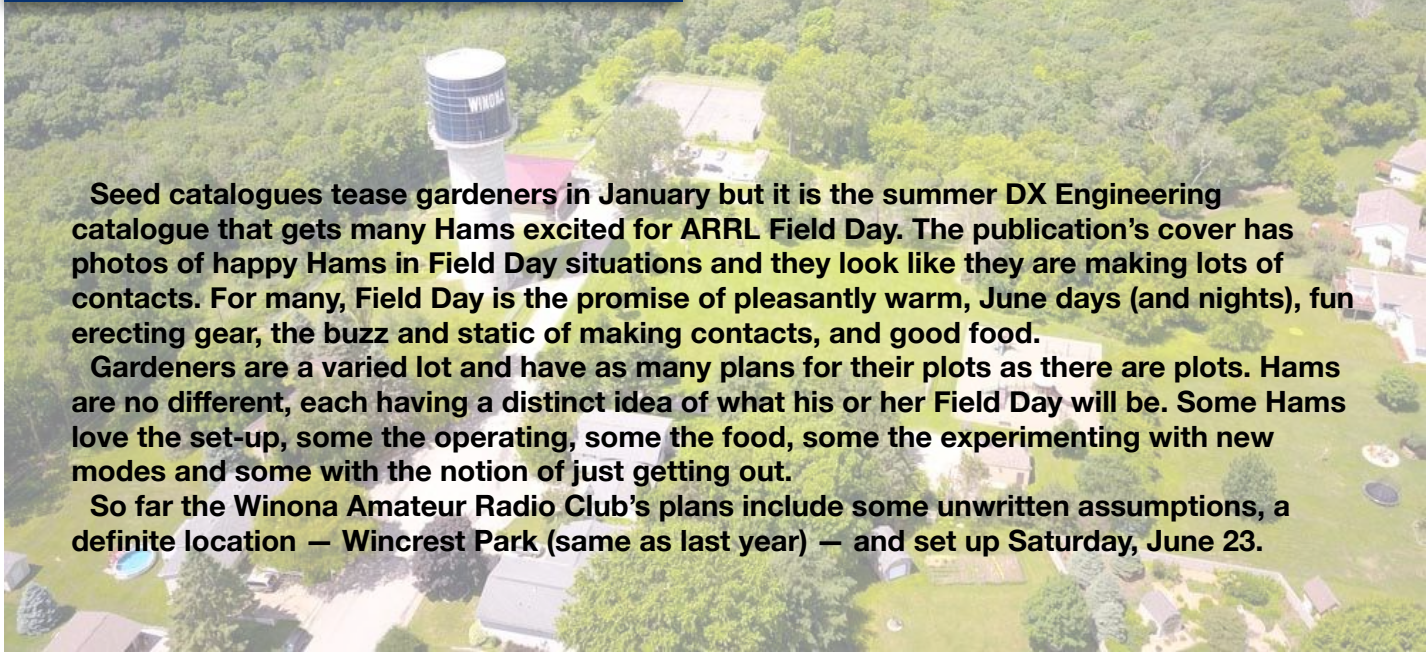
WRTC an amazing radio contesting event, but many factors play a part in the final results. Some of the very best operators in the world will assemble in person to compete on as a level playing field as possible. Every one of the operators at a WRTC is good enough to finish with a medal — so scores will be very close and logging accuracy is a very important part as log checking is very detailed. The most efficient operators — that work together as a team — will likely have their scores at or near the top.

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- SOME REASONS TO PARTICIPATE IN FIELD DAY**
- Have fun with other club members
  - Learn how to set up antennas and radios—and improvise because something's missing
  - Operate competitively (and casually)
  - Have fun making contacts—lots and lots of contacts
  - Brush up operating skills
  - Learn operating skills
  - Revel in a beautiful June day (or night) outdoors
  - See guys try a new mode
  - Operate on bands thought to be useless



Seed catalogues tease gardeners in January but it is the summer DX Engineering catalogue that gets many Hams excited for ARRL Field Day. The publication's cover has photos of happy Hams in Field Day situations and they look like they are making lots of contacts. For many, Field Day is the promise of pleasantly warm, June days (and nights), fun erecting gear, the buzz and static of making contacts, and good food.

Gardeners are a varied lot and have as many plans for their plots as there are plots. Hams are no different, each having a distinct idea of what his or her Field Day will be. Some Hams love the set-up, some the operating, some the food, some the experimenting with new modes and some with the notion of just getting out.

So far the Winona Amateur Radio Club's plans include some unwritten assumptions, a definite location — Wincrest Park (same as last year) — and set up Saturday, June 23.



The Winona Amateur Radio Club picnic will be Thursday, July 16, in the Lions Pavilion at Lake Park

# Trinona: comm success



Syed Faruque, ACØVA



A light rain fell and the ground by the Net Control tent was soggy, but damp conditions were no obstacle for members of the Winona Amateur Radio Club as they provided communications support for the Trinona Triathlon June 10. Trinona, which bills itself as “the world’s biggest little triathlon,” celebrated 10 years of bringing athletes from around the county together. WØNE members celebrated by adding APRS digital

possible severe weather. This was done directly on the public service 800 Mhz channel. We also conversed with them some about the rain. The NWS encourages interaction with events.

Trinona was a test run for the APRS set-up planned for this fall’s Ride The Ridges bicycle tour. Steve White, KDØBOD, installed an APRS tracker in the lead motorcycle and Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, installed an APRS tracker in the SAG van while Erik Brom, WBØNIU, monitored the activity at Net Control so he could pretty much know where the beginning and end of the bicycle racers were located.

The club’s primary duty was providing communication for the International 24.85-mile bicycle ride.

Trinona was something of a rehearsal according to Brom. “Now that we have this under our belt, it’s time to focus on the two September events - Ride the Ridges on Sept. 15 and the Waumandee hill climb Sept. 22,” he noted.

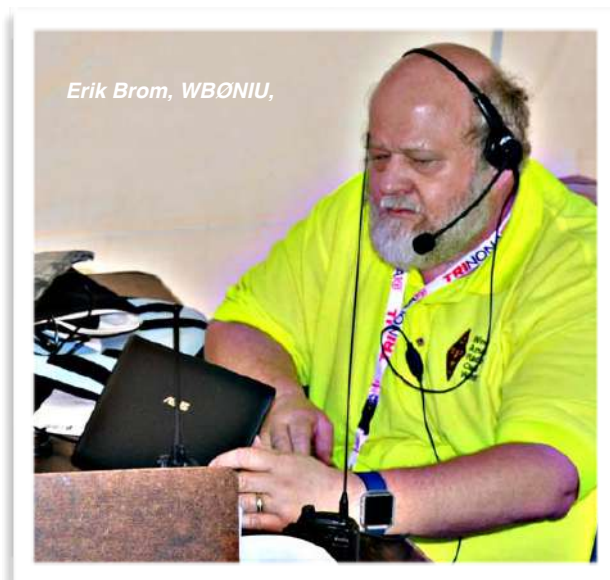
Participants included: Bill Chavez, KE0IJG; Dale Cohenour, KE0EKD; Bill Davis, WØMZN; Syed Faruque, ACØVA; Mike Foerster, WØIH; Rick Kolter, KD9GVS; John Kowalik, K2OPT; Bill Soranno, KBØNKX; Brom, WBØNIU; Goltz, WKØW; Rodvold, KD9GJV; Seaquist, W9LSE; Tagliapietra, ADØUT; and White, KBØBOD.

communication and position support as well as voice communication.

“Seamless and dependable communications were well-received and supported a successful event,” noted Marv Rodvold, KD9GJV. Rodvold and Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT functioned as shadows for event operators Lindsay and Scott Sherman, hard work that they acknowledged. “Lance and Marv were great to work with! I am sure we tested their hide and seek skills as well as their fitness level that day,” said Lindsay.

Things did include a hiccup. Originally the 444.225 repeater was planned as the main voice channel so 2 meters would be free for APRS. However the repeater would not cooperate, running at a very low output, so voice went to the 146.835 repeater. APRS did not work seamlessly either, but did provide essential information. Besides Ham channels, the group utilized Trinona’s VHF channel, and the public service 800 Mhz.

The club’s close relationship with the National Weather Service office in La Crosse resulted in Dan Goltz, WKØW, having a conference call with them at 6:15 a.m. to discuss



Erik Brom, WBØNIU,

# 'London calling' My introduction to short wave listening

By Dan Goltz WKØW

There are many things in the human experience that imprint vivid memories, memories that we claim we will never forget. Each of us has their own memory bank imprinters. Some are tragic, others are very happy memories. One of mine that falls in the happy/excitement category is my first experience as a short wave listener, or SWLer as it is sometimes referred to. It was a beautiful, sunny, May afternoon. I was just about to be finished with the school year and the sixth grade. My Dad had just come home from helping his father clean out a closet so he could start some minor remodeling at his house. Among the treasures my Dad brought home that afternoon was a Zenith Trans-Oceanic radio. I knew it was a radio, but I didn't know what it was supposed to receive. My previous experience with radio was the local AM station and that was pretty unimpressive. The Trans-Oceanic was a really unique piece of equipment for me. The cover opened up to reveal the dial with all sorts of numbers on it. There were six or eight buttons that somehow addressed all those numbers. There was a built in five foot telescoping whip antenna that I had never seen on any radio before. The manual said to adjust the height of the antenna for best reception. A small drawer at the bottom opened up to provide access to a user manual and list of stations and where they could be heard. There was a handle on top that meant you could pick it up and take it with you, unlike the furniture radio we had in our house. There was a reference to battery operation that meant you didn't have to plug it in. On the back of the cabinet was another hinged door that opened access to the AC cord that was neatly wound up inside. I plugged it in and turned it on. The dial light came on, and after a minute or so the tubes warmed up and static poured out of the speaker. Turning the tuning knob had no effect, and I suspected that was why it had been locked up in the closet. I grabbed a screw driver and opened up the back. Sure enough, the cord that moved the tuning capacitor and moved the dial indicator was laying on the bottom of the cabinet. The cord was some kind of small braided material and seemed to have been coated in wax. Part of the cord was still laying over a wheel that seemed to move the tuning capacitor, and the other part of the cord was near where the tuning knob was. The sixth grade logic told me that I could move the tuning capacitor without needing the knob and string, so I started to experiment.



Directly touching the tuning capacitor caused a slight tingle in my arm, but not enough to deter a sixth grader. Later that afternoon I started to hear music, and voices, but the first thing I vividly remember was "This is London Calling." I couldn't believe I was really hearing London England! I ran to tell my parents, and while they were happy to hear the news, I don't think they were quite as excited about it as I was.

As best as I am able to tell, the Zenith was a model 8G005, likely manufactured about 1948. It had provisions for dual power, using AC and 90 volt DC, making it portable. When I first came across it, there was a 90 volt Ray O Vac battery inside. It was about the size of a large lap top battery. It was still intact physically but completely drained. Even then, there was no direct replacement available for it. I wonder how long that battery would last keeping those eight tubes fired up.

I continued to play with that Zenith through the rest of the summer. I started keeping track of the stations I listened to and where and what times they were on. I hung a map on the wall and put pins in it to show the cities I had listened to. I soon graduated to a Hallicrafters S-120 receiver that I still have. I strung wires under the eaves of the house, made a

sort of antenna switch so I could switch from a long wire to a shorter long wire for better reception. At that time nearly every country had a short wave station to tell their story to the world. I soon found out that world affairs had a very different story depending on who you were listening to. In high school, geography and current affairs was very easy for me because I already knew of many of those places and their politics having listened to their radio stations.

Short wave broadcasting has changed a lot over the years. The expense of operating a short wave station has caused many countries to discontinue their operations. Now many countries will produce programs and send them via satellite to a short wave transmitting station that will target the audience that they want. At least one of those transmitter sites is located in Florida, and retransmits programming from several countries. SWLing did eventually lead to my getting my Ham ticket, but it is still a somewhat different hobby than Ham radio. The magic of radio propagation is the same. Hearing people from other parts of the world still excites me, but what you hear is different. I blame the whole thing on that old Zenith and "this is London calling."

# WARC Executive Board

Tuesday, June 12, 2018, Watkins, Winona State University

Present: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Dan Goltz, WK0W; Erik Brom, WBØNIU; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT. Guests: Tom Wilmot, WØMK; John Kowalik, K2OPT; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE.

Called to order at 7:03 p.m.

**MINUTES:** Not available.

**TREASURER** Report for April and May 2018 By Harro

KG6RL

Balance

\$2358.14

Payments:

(Club insurance policy)

\$200.00

Balance reported by Merchants Bank

\$2158.14

**WITOKA BEAM:** Lance/Erik. WØVTT will mount club beam on Witoka tower and less than \$100 allocated for miscellaneous expense. Approved.

**TRINONA:** Erik reported the club's efforts a success and appreciated by Trinona officials.

**REPEATERS:** The KAGE Fusion machine continues to have low power output as well as its telephone line is not connected. Lance will investigate and possibly install new wire for the phone.

**FIELD DAY:** Lance will coordinate. Permission received from the city to use Wincrest Park and the sheriff's trailer is available. Club will use its IC 718 and IC 7300 radios and wire dipoles for each of three bands.

**PUBLIC SERVICE:**

Field Day: The sheriff has confirmed the availability of his communications trailer.

We will not have access to the Southeast Minnesota trailer tower this year. Ben Klinger our emergency manager has expressed interest in visiting our field day site. I will make sure he has the details.

Public Service events: The 2018 Trinona is history. Erik WBØNIU did a great job of organizing it. We had wonderful participation, all positions were filled and we even had people on standby.

We have two more major events to cover this fall. We have been invited to again support the Winona Rotary Club Ride the Ridges September 15. This is a very large event and very

challenging from a communications point of view. The event covers more than 150 miles of road in two counties, and winds through some of the toughest valleys in the upper midwest. This event will take lots of volunteers, lots of equipment, and considerable planning. We have already been in contact with the organizers to make sure we can meet their needs.

The following week, Sept. 22, we have been asked to support a vintage car race in Waumandee Wis. From a communications point of view it will not be quite such a challenge, but we will need many volunteers and the time frame will make it a long day. Eric is working with the organizers to help fill their needs.

WSU amateur station: Paul KØZYV and Dan WKØW will be meeting with the director of Winona State campus security to present our plan to establish a station in Watkins Hall on the WSU campus. The station will be used for experimentation, exercises, demonstrations, and could be used as a backup to the station at the county law enforcement center. The Winona County Emergency manager has endorsed the concept and may be willing to install some county radios if security can be assured. At present there are plans for HF, VHF and UHF capability.

Special Program: I have been in touch with Les KØBAD about how his club in Hawaii has been using Fusion repeaters and their digital capabilities to link a number of repeaters both in Hawaii and the mainland together to provide emergency communications over a very wide area. As he will be back in Winona at the end of this month, but will not be staying as long this year, I asked him if he would be willing to put on a special program outside of our regular club meeting to explain their project. He agreed to that if there is interest.

I received an email from Allstate Tower company of Henderson Kentucky, promoting their services. This is the company that has been hired by the county to bring the Witoka tower up to code, and the company that installed our antennas. I am unaware if this company has any more work scheduled at the Witoka site.

**WITOKA:** Mike reported on various adjustments. Suggested a commercial Balun may be needed.

**ADJOURN:** 7:56 p.m.

# Midwest Convention Aug. 4-5



The Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club in Cedar Rapids, Iowa will host the 2018 American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Midwest Division Convention, August 4 & 5, at the Linn County Fairgrounds, 201 Central City Rd, Central City, Iowa. The grounds are on a 39 acre site that includes six acres of free parking. A large attendance is expected from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa.

CVARC will modify the traditional hamfest / convention format and include other STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) organizations in addition to amateur radio groups.

- There will be traditional convention activities such as forums, organization meetings, and hands-on activities for kids and adults.
- There is enough space to for balloon launches, drone races, rocket launches, and radio control hobbyists.
- There will be a banquet Saturday night with a Wouff Hong ceremony afterwards.
- Limited camping onsite and a large campground nearby.
- Hotels will have special block-room pricing.
- VE Testing will be available Saturday and Sunday.

### 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

President: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, [pschumacher@winona.edu](mailto:pschumacher@winona.edu)

Vice President: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, [lancetag@hbc.com](mailto:lancetag@hbc.com)

Treasurer: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, [Harro@hohenner.com](mailto:Harro@hohenner.com)

Secretary: Clare Jarvis, KØNY, [cjarvis@hbc.com](mailto:cjarvis@hbc.com)

Custodian: Erik Brom, WBØNIU, [ewbrom@hbc.com](mailto:ewbrom@hbc.com)

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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