



# Hamgram

*Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*

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

*March 2015*

[www.w0ne.org](http://www.w0ne.org)

## March Program - Mar. 19

WHAT: March Club Program: *10-29-2012-- KA0MLO Returns*. Tom Mauszycki, KA0MLO, describes his return to the air after a lightning-initiated fire destroyed his home and radio station .

DATE & Time: Thursday, March 19, 2015 – 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 2nd 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.



*Like us on Facebook*

---

# “The Town that Saved Itself”

## Special Event Station W1N

### April 18 & 19, 2015

By Bob Seaquist, KC9IWE  
Photos Courtesy of Winona County Historical Society.

Snow came and came and came the winter of 1964-65; it left in a huge, horrible hurry that April, just about drowning Winona and its inhabitants. The Great Mississippi River Flood of 1965 left scars and memories and it proved that Winona is "the town that saved itself" and it saved itself with help from the Winona Amateur Radio Club.



**The river invaded many of Winona's low spots.**

For a few precarious days Les Hittner, K0BAD, Walt Kelly, KE0XI, and Ken Spittler, N0JP – with others from the Winona Amateur Radio Club – manned radios that provided critical communication in the battle for Winona. An enormous wall of melting snow funneled toward the city from northern Minnesota and Wisconsin inundating other communities along the way.

Mayor Rudy K. Ellings ordered the evacuation of 1,035 residents who lived in low-lying areas. More than 6,000 people worked on flood control during the emergency. They fought frantically at the near hopeless dike-building tasks.

The problem was simple: Winona would begin to flood when the Mississippi reached the arbitrary 13-foot stage but the forecast was for much, much more. The Father of Waters fronts one side of the city and sneaks around the other side as well through Lake Winona. The city is not only an “island” surrounded front and back, but it has many spots just barely

above water in normal times. By the time the biggest water passed it registered 20.75-feet, 7.75-feet above flood!



**The increased volume of official business, and indirectly, of water was reflected in this picture taken at the height of the flood. CD Director Geo. K. McGuire talked on one of the five telephones, background. Les Hittner, right, stood by on the Amateur Radio network that linked CD headquarters with the state.**

of the first uses was to travel up Wis. HWY 35 past Alma to check on road conditions. When KAGE radio could not communicate back to the station, the Amateur system on the Duck was used to give a report on conditions up the river,” said Kelly. KWNO recorded that audio and then promised to deliver the tape to KAGE. “After they played it multiple times, of course!!” quipped Kelly.

Spittler worked a full eight hour day as an automobile repair technician then went to the command post in city hall’s basement for another four or five hours on the radio. “We used

One weapon in the city’s war on water was a WWII army surplus amphibious “Duck” (DUKW) which St. Mary’s University lent to the cause. Walt Kelly, Les Hittner and several Hams used the lumbering vehicle a number of ways: “Radio Station KAGE sponsored the Duck for emergency use,” recalled Kelly. “One

six meter simplex,” he remembered. Local Hams had fixed home units for six meters but not usually mobiles. Two meters was not used. Citizen Band radios were common and they were used a great deal in the flood effort.

Spittler was a relatively new Ham unusually licensed as a Novice, WN0JPR, and as a Technician, WA0JPR. He remembers a principal duty being communication with the portable US Coast Guard Station situated on Garvin Heights.

The Mississippi River jeopardized Winona 24 days. A long list of volunteers did the impossible--raising dikes, laying 1,300,000 sandbags, plugging sewers with airbags, and rushing families from homes. There were doubts the city would survive, but the efforts of thousands – including Hams Hittner, Kelly and Spittler—made Winona a miracle city, "The Town That Saved Itself."



**More than 1.3 million sandbags raised Winona’s dikes against the 1965 flood.**

The Winona Amateur Radio Club will commemorate 50 years since the Great Mississippi River Flood of 1965 with a special event station Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19. "The Town That Saved Itself" 50th Anniversary Special event station W1N will operate from 1400Z until 2200Z both days on the following frequencies: 7.21965; 10.11965; 14.31965; and 21.31965.

---

## *Winona ARC Goings-On:*

- *Technician Licensing Course in Full Swing.*
  - *Winona ARC at Gamehaven Merit Badge Fair (K2BSA/0)—March 21.*
  - *Request for Help—Ultra Marathon—April 17 & 18.*
  - *VE Testing coming up in April (exact date to be announced).*
  - *W1N Special Event Station –April 18 & 19.*
-

---

# Interesting Results for Winona Ham Radio Operations in the ARRL September VHF Contest

**Matt Burt, KF0Q, says, “I guess it does pay to send in your log!”**

The results of the 2014 September VHF Contest include some interesting facts about local stations. The WARC station, W0NE, placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Dakota Division (multi op) and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Midwest Region. Several individuals also received recognition including Delores N0NUO, Ken, N0JP, Jodi N0OWT, and Erik WB0NIU/R. See the full description on the WARC Facebook page [here](#).

Thanks, Matt, for spearheading the VHF contest successful effort and for passing on the results.



---

**Minutes of the March meeting of the Board were not available at the time of the publication of this Hamgram. They will be published in a future issue of the Hamgram.**

**And, unfortunately, due to a technical issue here (corrupted file), the minutes of the February board meeting are not able to be included in this Hamgram. My apologies. Next issue.**

---

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

**Executive Board**

President: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV      Vice President: Lance Tagliapietra, KBØYJU  
[pschumacher@winona.edu](mailto:pschumacher@winona.edu)      [lancetag@hbc.com](mailto:lancetag@hbc.com)

Secretary: Syed Faruque, ACØVA      Treasurer: Harro Hohenner KG6RLM  
[sfaruque@yahoo.com](mailto:sfaruque@yahoo.com)      [Harro@hohenner.com](mailto:Harro@hohenner.com)

Custodian: Erik Brom, WBØNIU      Members: Dan Goltz WK0W  
[ewbrom@hbc.com](mailto:ewbrom@hbc.com)      Leslie Hittner K0BAD

---

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: Harro Hohenner, Treasurer, P.O. Box 1264, Winona, MN 55987

---

***Hamgram is published monthly by The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.***

Distribution is electronically by email and via the W0NE.org website.

Distribution to individual members by USPS is available upon request.

Editor: Len Litvan (KCORSX)

Please address comments and **Hamgram** correspondence to: Len Litvan  
25567 Miner Valley Road - Winona, MN 55987 or email to: [KCORSX@arrl.net](mailto: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.

***When All Else Fails...AMATEUR RADIO***



***[Like Us on Facebook](#) (click text).***