

Hamgram

March 2019

Winona Amateur Radio Club
Winona, Minnesota



To distract yourself from the cold,
Think ahead about doing something bold,
Trinona, of course, is the second weekend
of June.
And we need volunteers in the morning
and afternoon.

It's not for money. It's not for fame.
It's not for any personal gain.
It's that reward down in your heart.
It's feeling that you've been a part
Of helping others far and near.
That's what makes you a Volunteer!

Volunteer time for Trinona

Consider volunteering with others from the Winona Amateur Radio Club for Trinona, Sunday, June 9, to help make this another terrific event for the Winona community. The club has provided communication support for Trinona for many years as a solid communication exercise and a

lot of fun. There'll be further information at the next club meeting, Thursday, March 21.

Sign up at http://livewellwinona.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?start_over&id=20167, or call Livewell Winona's office, 507 474-9825.

YAESU

Yaesu programming March program

Updating firmware on a Yaesu radio is not for the faint of heart so it will be the topic and a hands-on exercise for the club's March program, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 21, at the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St. The monthly program is open to the public. Bring your Yaesu radio, its programming cable and, if it's an HT, its wall-wart.



The National Weather Service will do a **SKYWARN training** session in Winona at **6:30 p.m., Wed. April 3, at the club meeting place, the Winona County Office Building.**

The NWS relies heavily on storm reports—ground truth—from “spotters.” Todd Shea, KB9YXS, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the La Crosse National Weather Service office, says accurate and timely reports of severe weather by trained individuals, helps the NWS, and can save lives in the local community. “We always need more eyes to the sky,” said Shea.



Winter transmitter maintenance, Minnesota-style, by Mike Foerster, WØIH.

Winona Fusion Repeater Codes

Hams using the digital Fusion System on the club’s two Fusion repeaters, 444.225, at KAGE, and 442.150, Witoka, will have a great deal more power in their little Yaesu handheld or mobile. New Yaesu firmware for the FT2, FT400 and FT100 gives DG-ID functions that can create talk groups and also determine if the user wishes to use one, both or even both plus Hilo, Hawaii repeaters! Hilo’s node is in the hands of club member Les Hittner, KØBAD.

There will be a firmware update session at the club’s Thursday, March 21, meeting. Bring your Yaesu radios for help in bringing them up to date.

On your radio “dial” DG-ID 00, universal receive, to hear everything on the machine. That’s so that anybody passing through will be able to access the repeater. The repeater responds to 00, its own default DG-ID should be either 09 or 11,

There could be any number of linked groups and so far there are two: Group 1 is KAGE and Witoka DG-ID 03. Group 2 is KAGE, Witoka, and Hilo DG-ID 05.

Users may also set up arbitrarily named (such as “14”) talk groups so that conversations could be held with others dialed into the same number. There may be other functions as well but are not yet known to the editor of the Hamgram.



Battery project

The battery distribution block project by Erik Brom, WBØNIU, is enjoying additional improvements with some pleasant “feature-creep.”

He and Mike Foerster, WØIH, are working on adding a built-in charger, with features like the IOTA: On initial power-up, it will do a charge cycle, if needed, then a temperature compensated float charge, and once a week it will bump the voltage up about 1/2 volt to equalize/desulphate the plates. It may also provide a voltmeter/battery status indication in the field. It will be powered by a USB charger. The charger is primarily focused on maintaining an unused battery, but it could run a small load, such as a handheld, from it as long as the average load doesn’t exceed the charger’s output.



WARC Executive Board

Monday, Mar. 11, 2019, Watkins Hall, Winona State University

(Unofficial minutes)

Attendance

Board: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, Mike Foerster, WØIH, Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, Clare Jarvis, KØNY, Harro Hohenner, KG9RLM, Erik Brom, WBØNIU. Guests: John Kowalik, K2OPT, Marv Rodvold, AC9TO, Tom Wilmot, WØMK, Ben Kuhn, KUØHN, Bob Seaquist, W9LSE.

Treasurer's Report: Approved.

Balance 1/31/19	\$3060.62
Deposits	
Dues	\$25.00
Xmas supplies	\$10.00
Payments	
Mike Foerster (tuner)	\$154.95
Balance reported by Merchants	\$2940.67
Paid members (2019) 25	
Repeater Upgrade Project	\$1410.42 (goal: \$1000)

Minutes: Approved.

To aid member information the secretary will post executive board minutes in a timely manner.

Public Service

Winona County SKYWARN training by the La Crosse National Weather Service will be at 6:30 p.m. Weds. April 3, in the County Office Building. I encourage everyone interested to attend. I think it would be beneficial if our club SKYWARN spotters would meet independently to discuss our activation, net operation, and reporting procedures. I am also planning to meet with Ben Klinger, KEØTNM, Winona County Emergency Management Director, to discuss integrating reports from all sources, to streamline our procedures and economize our resources.

Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, and I continue to discuss a demonstration of amateur radio for emergency management

and dispatch. Our discussions have included the need for our group to be able to utilize standardized reporting forms, Winlink, fldigi, our Fusion digital modes as well as standard VHF/UHF modes and HF as well. Bob has mentioned there is a difference between saying we are prepared and actually being able to respond efficiently. Input from all is welcome.

The ARRL has adopted new standards for ARES. I encourage everyone to go to the ARRL website and read the new document.

Walt Kelly, KEØXI, has been attending the monthly Winona County Emergency Preparedness meetings. Of note, there is a full scale exercise being planned with the CP railroad. This will likely be scheduled in October and set in a rural area along the river. Amateur radio will likely be invited to participate, but our function is unknown at this time. We will want to be prepared to flexible in our response and participation.

ARES: Dan will be asked to check on identification media for emergency volunteers.

Repeater

The KAGE Fusion repeater is still at Clare's home. It needs internet availability at the transmitter site.

Witoka

Tuner problems seem to be caused by the 9:1 Balun. Mike reports he's made a circuit for the antenna switch to be installed post-snow. There's a possibility for a beam as well as a 6m at the site.

Battery project

Erik and Mike are working on an inexpensive IOTA for the battery cover described in the December issue of the Hamgram.

Get a WinLink call sign and operating experience

The WinLink system is a primary emergency communications resource. WinLink is a worldwide radio email service that sends email where the Internet is down or not present. It can operate without the Internet--automatically--using a network radio relay station. Users can send email with attachments, position reporting, weather and information bulletins, highly useful in disaster response.

It is easy to use with a digital sound card interface (such as a West Mountain Radio Rigblaster Plug and Play), and HF rig. Register for a WinLink call sign, download the WinLink Express program, entered you basic data including grid square, and connect to a gateway station to send and receive email. Try it, you'll like it. Download WinLink Express [here](#) and get started.

Good practice for repeaters

❖ Your call sign is your signature; you do not need to say "W9XYZ for I.D." When you sign your call you have already identified.



June 22-23
Have I avoided family responsibilities?
When will I be there?
Set up?
Operating?
Tear down?
All?
What radios?
What modes?

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

Vice President: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, lancetag@hbc.com

Treasurer: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, Harro@hohenner.com

Secretary: Clare Jarvis, KØNY, jarvis@jarviscomputer.com

Custodian: Erik Brom, WBØNIU, 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

Hamgram is published monthly by The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Distribution is via e-mail and the WØNE.org Web site. Distribution to individual members by USPS is available upon request. Editor: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE. Address comments and Hamgram correspondence to: Bob Seaquist, 202 Zephyr Circle, La Crosse, Wis. 54601 or seaquist.robe@eagle.uwlax.edu 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

