



Hamgram

Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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

May 2013

www.w0ne.org

May 2013 Program

Date: Thursday, May 16, 2013

Time: 7:00 PM

Program: Arcadia Brute Challenge Support (May 18); Trinona Support (June 9); Field Day 2013 (June 22-23)—This program will be an interesting review of planning for upcoming club public service events—and a review of excellent emergency communication techniques which are possible and feasible with the technologies are readily available these days—particularly APRS (Automated Packet Reporting System). There are one or two open positions for ham radio ops on the Arcadia Brute Challenge and several for the Trinona.

A brief social time is planned for after the program.

MEETING LOCATION: Conference Room B, Winona County Office Building (formerly “Annex”), 202 West 2nd Street, Winona, MN. Doors will be unlocked from 6:45 to 7:15 PM. If you are late, please try the 146.640 repeater to have someone let you in.

UPCOMING CLUB ACTIVITIES

- Arcadia Brut Challenge – Communications Support – Saturday, May 18.
- The Trinona in Winona – Communications Support – Sunday, June 9.
- License Testing – Available for all Classes – Monday, June 10.
- ARRL Field Day 2013 – June 22-23.
- Great River Shakespeare Festival – Special Event Station – July 13-14.
- Club Picnic – Thursday, July 18.
- ARRL UHF Contest – July 13-14.

--- VE TESTING – Monday, June 10, 2013---

The licensing course is off and running. Thanks, John K2OPT, for organizing this activity.

Next comes the VE testing session which supports the course and provides license upgrades for others also.

There will be more discussion at this month's program regarding the VE session on Monday evening, June 10. If you are a

certified Volunteer Examiner—or would like to be one—there is a role for you on the 10th.

If you know of anyone wanting to get licensed or wanting to update their license, Let them know of the session.

What is APRS-IS ???

Erik has been exploring the ins-and-outs of APRS-IS for the Arcadia Brute Challenge (along with other operators). What is APRS-IS???

APRS-IS (Automatic Packet Reporting System-Internet Service) is the common name given to the Internet-based network which inter-connects various APRS radio networks throughout the world (and space). APRS-IS is maintained and operated by volunteer Amateur Radio operators to provide world-wide capabilities to the **Amateur Radio APRS RF** networks and to promote the Amateur Radio service as a whole.

What does this mean to you? Well,...it means that there is a flexible mode for RF APRS to interconnect to the Internet—and (more importantly) a way for those without APRS-capable rigs to get into the system and identify their (base station) location and to send APRS messages as appropriate.

This is not only cool, but it also expands the emergency communications capabilities for the whole group when appropriate. For example, now a SKYWARN net can see precisely where fixed

station reports are originating. Short text messages can go both ways—from a mobile APRS-enabled station to a fixed station (non-RF APRS capable) and vice-versa.

Getting started with APRS-IS is easy. The service is a free-standing computer application and can be downloaded from [here](#).

Then, it will be necessary to obtain a passcode—which provides a control to ensure that Internet-originated messages are sent via a licensed ham (since they go on the air during distribution to the recipient). The webpage referenced earlier in this paragraph has instructions for obtaining a passcode. It is entered into the “configure” window of the APRS-IS program along with your callsign and other basic information.

Emails can also be sent via APRS-IS. It’s an interesting and flexible tool for amateur radio use.

APRS-IS is easy! Try it.

Minutes of WARC Board Meeting held on Monday, May 6, 2013 at Watkins Hall, Winona State University.

Attendees: Paul (K0ZYV), Lance (KB0YZU), Bob (KC9IWE), Matt (KF0Q), Syed (AC0VA)

Call to order by Paul at around 7 PM.

Agenda
Call to order Treasurer Report Minutes of April Meeting Committee Reports Other items....
Adopt Agenda with additions and changes
Agenda was adopted with no additions
Treasurer Reports
Board discussed report submitted by Treasurer. Repeater Equipment purchases and overall spending was discussed. Board approved purchase of polyphasor for 835 site which was busted.
Minutes of Last Meeting
Board discussed Minutes of Last Meeting. Lance looked over the meeting minutes. Minutes of Last Meeting was adopted with voice vote.
Committee Reports

Lance provided a very detailed report on the reason 835 Site went down and how subsequently the problem was found. After the 835 Repeater was down, Lance, Erik and Matt took a trip to the site to troubleshoot the problem. Getting there by itself was a challenge as the approach road is not maintained. Once they arrived, they found there were new equipments on the building. KHME owns the building and tower. Visual inspection (Erik did bring his binoculars) did not reveal anything unusual up the tower. Transceiver was found to be working fine. The excess 7/8 Cable inside the control room was re-routed to accommodate new equipments. With a series of jumper connections and intuitive troubleshooting, it was finally found that polyphasor was busted. Likely scenario is that N type connection (polyphasor) was connected to PL 259 type connector.

Polyphasor was bypassed and station started working again. Station now is without polyphasor (lightning) protection . Our Antenna is not the highest one on the tower. Matt will order the polyphasor and that will be installed as soon as it is received. Also all equipment on the 835 site needs Identity Tags with contact info. Lance mentioned telemetry is off the air. It seems overload from RF kills telemetry. Also next time wasp spray needs to be brought in – when visiting 835 site. Bob mentioned he did not try 835 lately and Lance mentioned it is sketchy on certain portion of highway 61.

Board was informed that we have new x-mitter and new receiver. Once all worked up we should have a spare. Erik and Matt also located the company that made 640 Repeater and has since contacted them about possible servicing of 640 Repeater. Matt mentioned Antenna on the 640 site is Diamond – Dual Band. That Antenna should be replaced if we climb the tower for any other reason.

Next discussed was Arcadia Brute bike race coming 18th of May. Erik/Lance/Syed/John/Cathy was on the route few Weeks back and checked out the digipeater responses for APRS and coverage. Things are coming together nicely for Arcadia Support and board thanked all involved. This Month's monthly meeting agenda will be Arcadia Brute/Trinona and some field day.

Board discussed Licensing session being held currently at Winona Middle School. Syed will try to be present on next class and provide any assistance John(K2OPT) needs. Paul mentioned that a Licensing Session only for Winona State Students is being talked about at this time. It will all depend on the degree of interest from WSU students/faculty.

Next item was field day. This year's proposed site is very close to last year's site. One exception that Sheriff's trailer has to be put on street. And grass cannot be cut. Sheriff's tower will be part of field day. June club meeting agenda will encompass field day prep and logging software.

Dan Goltz from Emergency Services Committee sent a notice that the committee will be meeting shortly. Board took a motion to thank Dan Goltz for the excellent presentation on Skywarn Training. The training was very informative and educational. Everybody was in high praise for Dan's training.

Other Items

Lance to will contact respective power-to-be to make sure door is open for upcoming Monthly meeting at Government Center (?).

Club has interest for slide show presentation by Dick Lindner on Easter Island Tour (possibly this Fall).

Syed contacted Pam from Andrew for possible donation of cable/connector for 640 site. Lance will get the keys to Administrative Access to Executive List Server

Meeting adjourned slightly before 8 PM.

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

Executive Board

President: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV
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Members: Harro Hohenner KG6RLM
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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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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