



Hamgram

Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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

May 2014

www.w0ne.org

May Program - May 15

WHAT: May Club Program: Trinona 2014. The Winona ARC has participated in the Trinona since the event's inception, providing needed communications support especially in remote portions of the bicycle route. Trinona participation has also served to help the club develop its emergency communications skills and capabilities. This month's program focuses on planning for the June 8 Trinona, an event for all club members and area hams. There will also be an update on MESH activities, review of the upcoming SOAR Team drill and a brief social period following the program.

DATE & Time: Thursday, May 15, 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.



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THE WINONA ARC IS ACTIVE!

- **Search and Rescue Drill – May 17**
- **Trinona – June 8**
- **Field Day 2014 – June 28-29**
- **GRSF Special Event Station – July 12-13**
- **ARRL September VHF Contest – Sep 14-15**
- **Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge Special Event – Mid-Oct (date TBD)**
- **BSA Jamboree on the Air – Oct 18**
- **ARRL Sweepstakes (Phone) – Nov 15-16**

Mark your calendar now!

Improved Callout

Notification

Now Available

Prompt notifications of hams active in emergency communications and incident management has been along time concern, especially when callouts occur at night or when hams are in locations where club repeaters are not in range. Now, thanks to the work of several club members, a solution has been implemented—small message service text (SMS) to your cellular phone or email address.

If you are interested in receiving a text message or email when call outs are triggered, please contact the club president, Paul Schumacher KOZYV, to be added to the notification list. Paul's email address is PSchumacher@winona.edu .

Thanks to Paul, Jim Jarvis, KB0THN, and others who worked on this new capability.

Our Emergency Capabilities are MESHing



The topic was MESH, and the event was a party. Fourteen club members got together at the Winona County Historical Museum on April 30 to explore this interesting subject .

Why the big deal? Because MESH, more accurately called Broadband Hamnet (BBHN), is a means for us to get reliable communications into incident sites which can't be reached easily by FM. PLUS, it offers broadband capabilities—sending files, radiograms, photos, video, voice, text, Internet access, and other options. MESH is a network of wi-fi routers programmed for ham radio use as a free-standing network operating in a portion of the 2.4 GHz amateur band. Each router is a “node,” and routers automatically coordinate communication within the net to pass information.

A string of portable nodes could be established into valleys in our area upon need thereby enabling reliable high speed communications. Here is a [link](#) to some basic information about MESH. Let's follow this development closely.

May 17 SOAR Team Exercise— WARC Invited to Participate

Dan Goltz, WK0W, recently received an invitation for amateur radio operators to participate in an emergency preparedness drill with the Winona County Search Operations Assistance and Rescue Team (SOAR Team). This volunteer team, formerly known as the Sheriff's Mounted Posse, provides resources to local agencies in the event of missing persons and other incidents in which mounted personnel have an advantage in searching rough terrain or large areas.

Amateur radio supports SOAR efforts by providing communications and also by providing additional persons to aid in searches on foot. This drill will be a good opportunity for us to practice communications skills, especially for newer amateur ops who have not previously participated in a search incident or exercise.

The drill will begin rain or shine at 7:00 AM on Saturday, May 17, with a pre-drill briefing at the Winona County Law Enforcement Center followed by a caravan to the training site near Winona City. The exercise is expected to be concluded by noon. In the event of lightning or other severe weather, the drill will be postponed or cancelled.

Participating ham radio ops should bring a 2-meter handheld transceiver and back-up battery. Other items to consider are waterproof boots, raincoat if appropriate, small note pad and pen, water to drink, and insect repellent to prevent ticks. If you have a 2-meter rig in your vehicle, that might be helpful also. There will be discussion about the drill at the club program on May 15.

If you can participate on the 17th, please contact Dan WK0W at dgoltz@hbc.com.

Remember, *THERE IS NO PREPAREDNESS WITHOUT PRACTICE!*

Minutes of WARC Board Meeting held on Monday May 5, 2014 at Watkins Hall, Winona State University.

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

Call to order by Paul at around 7 PM.

Agenda
1. Minutes 2. Treasurer Report 3. Committee Reports 4. SOAR 5. Other Paul called the Meeting around 7 PM.
Minutes of Last meeting
Minutes of Last Meeting was approved. Copy of the Minutes of last meeting was at hand for review. Paul mentioned he read the Minutes when it first came out.
Treasurer Reports
Matt was present to discuss the treasurer report. Copy of the treasurer report was also distributed for the members. Matt mentioned he received some check recently. Matt also mentioned he filed 2013 990N with IRS and there was no charge for that. Also discussed Len's list of "to do" things for board member. Syed mentioned that these tasks should be distributed between members so no duplicate efforts are undertaken. John (K2OPT) inquired how much club pays for liability insurance. Matt answered club has a standard policy which costs \$ 200.00. Liability limits are standard and Paul stated it is not that much. Matt pulled out more on the insurance policy and read that to members present. Treasurer report was approved.
Committee Reports
Next on the agenda were committee reports. Syed read aloud Emergency Service Committee Report from Dan Goltz (WK0W). Dan reported his meeting with Winona County Emergency Director, order of Kenwood D710. Also discussed May 17 exercise with SOAR members. SOAR invited WARC for their June Meeting. Also Witoka tower agreement has been submitted to EM and currently EM attorney's office is reviewing the agreement. Witoka Tower is not ready to enter yet as electrician is working on it and has not been cleared for entry. Lance then talked about Mesh network. Lance mentioned system works although some computer experienced lockup. Once it gets going, it is very slick. Paul mentioned it was very good turnout for Mesh party at Winona Historical Society. Paul mentioned purpose to

follow mesh is to find alternative ways to perform during emergencies.

Paul stated Dan (WKOW) is concerned about number of volunteer participation for May 17 SOAR as many members will be out of town. Lance/Bob/Syed mentioned they plan to be there. Lance mentioned that during upcoming general meeting SOAR participation/Trinona/review of mesh is on the agenda. Paul mentioned to encourage people to sign up during breakfast/general meeting etc.

Next was Operating Activity Report from Matt. Matt has requested that somebody (at least two people together) put up HF station for field day. There has not been much response to Matt's request. Matt is requesting that somebody sponsor a HF station which means get the rig and all accessories (transceiver , mike, power supply etc) to run the HF station. To Paul's inquiry Matt responded that Antenna will be available for that HF station. Matt will work more on the issue so it happens. Matt also mentioned he does not have enough support volunteer for field day. Paul mentioned that also need to be pushed. Matt has idea of team configuration with each team working on one item.

Matt mentioned he has a meeting on JOTA tomorrow and asked if anyone else interested to join. The meeting is scheduled at Prairie Island Park but with flood situation the venue might change. Matt also has concern that club does not have place to hold JOTA. Matt mentioned the place has to be indoors as it was bad weather last year. Also needed some green space around for Antennas. Someone mentioned Historical Society but John mentioned Historical Society is bad for propagation because of metal roof. Matt mentioned ideal space for JOTA would be public place (school/Churches) with some green space around. Board then discussed possible places to hold JOTA. Lance mentioned he will go to JOTA meeting tomorrow. Bob mentioned that for JOTA to be successful it has to be planned now or scouts will not be available.

Matt mentioned GRSF is all set and ready to go. To John's query Matt replied GRSF is on July 12 and July 13.

Next discussed field day operations. Sheriff already has been notified of the need for trailer. John might bring an Antenna. Matt mentioned during June club meeting an Antenna could be built as project. Lance mentioned June club meeting is designated for Field Day preparation.

Lance mentioned balloon team is already in place for Field Day but Kite team is not formed yet. Paul had some suggestion for Kite team.

Next Lance updated board on Trinona. Lance attended organizational meeting with Trinona. This team event starts earlier this year and will finish earlier. This year 400 more riders are expected than last year. Overall the course is same and Lance is thinking of same type of deployment as last year. Lance mentioned two sag vehicles with APRS, APRS tracker on Referee Motor cycle, two meter handheld for transitions, three stations at Garvin Heights, one station at East Burn Valley and may be one extra person at Highway 61 and Mankato.

Lance mentioned Trinona website has more info if anyone interested. Syed mentioned bottom of Garvin Heights posed some threats

for cyclist going up the Garvin Heights and cyclist going straight. There were few chances of collision. Course there should be looked at. Lance will send an email raising the issue.

Matt then read a heartfelt thank you note from Krum family for the flowers sent to his funeral. The letter will be brought to general meeting to share with all members.

John mentioned club should procure a HF station and few Handhelds for new members. Board members discussed the issue. General consensus was fund raising/Grant is needed to achieve this and HF station is very expensive. Bob mentioned there is merit for the club to own HF stations. Discussion continued on the topic.

Meeting was adjourned at about 8 PM.

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 lancetag@hbci.com

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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Please address comments and **Hamgram** correspondence to: Len Litvan
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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