

# Hamgram

May, 2016

Winona Amateur Radio Club  
Winona, Minnesota



Len Litvan, KCORSX, images

Not exactly the Biblical Last Supper, Saturday, May 7, was the “Last Breakfast” for club members at the Timbers. The restaurant closed the business Sunday, May 8, after 38 years in business. There were 17 hams and friends of ham radio at the breakfast. The Timbers Saturday breakfast was a club fixture almost every other Saturday for years.

## “Hawaii Ham” May club topic

Radio in the Hawaiian Pacific paradise is featured at the monthly meeting of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, 7 p.m. Thursday, May 19. Les Hittner, KØBAD, will offer highlights of Ham and Pineapple radio at the meeting. It is in the ‘usual’ location, the conference room of the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St.

Program chair Lance Tagliapietra, KBØYJU, says it “should be a great program!” That’s because, in addition to the Hawaiian presentation, Erik Brom, WBØNIU, will show off the Raspberry PI / Radio interface board he developed.

After that, find out about Field Day and help form the club’s Field Day Committee. KBØYJU will fill in details about the club’s June 12 Trinona communications support.

## WARC Board Meeting

April 5, 2016, Watkins Hall, Winona State University

Present: Lance Tagliapietra, KBØYJU, Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, Dan Goltz, WKØW, Syed Faruque, ACØVA, Les Hittner, KØBAD via Skype from Hawaii, Erik Brom, WBØNIU.

### Treasurer Report

Treasurer report was approved. During further discussion on treasurer report, Les asked "what is the status of club insurance?" Harro replied he is working on it and it is due in May. Paul mentioned he also did some digging. Paul sent an e-mail to insurance contact we sent the check last time and got answer that the particular company is not handling insurance any more. Les mentioned someone needs to log in to the account. Paul mentioned treasurer would be appropriate person and also our treasurer Harro has agreed to do that.

### Minutes

Minutes were approved.

### Len's Items

Paul mentioned we need new "Publicity" coordinator. Syed mentioned we should bring it up during general meeting. Board also appreciated Len's work on Hamgram, publicity and other issues. Lance mentioned he will ask Cathy if she will be our Public Relations Co-ordinator. Paul mentioned his wife Carrol might be willing to help Cathy if she decides to take on the task.

Merit Badge Fair and JOTA. Len said that Rochester club has interest to doing these activities jointly. Lance mentioned he will bring up the issue with club members who are involved in these activities. Dan mentioned we should bring the issue to general membership through Reflector and get input. Lance agreed to put up Merit Badge and JOTA participation in Reflector for general membership awareness.

Erik said end of June, 2016 is the cut-off date for current question pool for licensing exams. Erik discussed issues during last licensing class and plans not to repeat the same in future. Board decided to run a VE testing session Monday, May 23, 2016 at 6:30 PM. Paul will get the questions and Paul has plans to conduct the session more efficiently this time. Board then discussed process flow during and after VE licensing session.

Dan and Paul discussed form for Loan Agreement for Witoka Tower Project. Paul had a copy to review. Board agreed Treasurer should sign off on the Loan Agreement. Dan mentioned plan is to acquire a Kenwood HF rig for Witoka tower.

### Public Service Committee

Dan restated his submitted report.

Dan then also discussed e-mail he received on the upgrade to National Weather System Radar especially capturing lower level systems and also on training.

Board discussed county surplus repeaters per e-mail from Mike Peterson. Les had questions on paging repeaters. Dan has been trying to figure that out too. Lance mentioned paging repeater should have both listen and transmit capability. Dan mentioned storage could be an issue. Erik would like to do a salvage operation on these repeaters. Erik and Dan will look into these repeaters to evaluate and see if club has any use of them.

Les brought up the issue of putting Repeater at Witoka tower to internet through star system or something similar. Erik inquired more about the intended system. Erik stated we have the internet capability at Witoka and if any other hardware needed for any of these remote operations. Les will explore more and then share the finding with club and Erik.

Dan asked if we can setup a time when

we can explore the capability of Witoka tower repeater. Dan would like to send people different ways in county and get signal reports to find out the signal strengths at different spots of county. Syed mentioned we can plan on a Saturday after breakfast to find out the signal strengths at different places. Dan mentioned it is unfortunate that new technology we have at Witoka is not affordable to many of our members. Erik mentioned he likes the Repeater at Witoka as being third site, gives coverage in areas not accessible by others and easy to switch to 640 during emergency as duplexers are there.

Erik then explained power connection to Witoka Tower (AC and DC) and backup power setup there. Erik also explained Raspberry Pi setup there.

Jim (APRSworld) is ordering new Raspberry Pi for Paul. Paul will order few more for others.

Les will be in Winona in person for upcoming VE Session May 23.

Erik mentioned issue of repair work on 640 Repeater. Erik looking for volunteer to help on Repeater. Erik explained what is needed to repair the Repeater. Erik explained Claire's work on the Repeater. Erik will contact Matt to find out the status of repair on 640 Repeater. Harro volunteered to help Matt to work on 640 Repeater.

Dan and Paul went to explore storage units. Les mentioned many of the downtown area storages are generally full. Les suggested looking in Minnesota City area. Board then discussed more on storage facilities in Winona.

Erik had mail from Wisconsin Repeater Council to share. Erik mentioned club address has already been changed at the council.

Meeting was then adjourned.

## Get “high” on June VHF contest

As summer warms, the VHF bands will be hot for the ARRL June VHF Contest, June 11-13. Even with a modest station, it's possible to work hundreds of miles on the VHF bands during a good opening. The June VHF Contest occurs at the beginning of summer's sporadic E season, which can produce intense openings on 6 meters, and even 2 meters. With interesting propagation characteristics like sporadic-E, tropospheric ducting, aurora and even meteor scatter and moonbounce, VHF offers QSO opportunities that HF can never satisfy.

Getting on the VHF bands can be quite simple, since many HF transceivers come equipped with at least 6 meters, and possibly other VHF/UHF bands.

You can find plans for simple VHF antennas at the Technical Information Service area of the ARRL website, as well as in the “Antennas” chapter of the ARRL Handbook or in the “VHF and UHF Antenna Systems” chapter of the ARRL Antenna Book.

Because VHF antennas are generally smaller than their HF counterparts, portable operation is simple: You can operate from your favorite hilltop, campsite or any location with high terrain and make many QSOs. All you need to know is the Maidenhead grid square of your operating location, which is the contest exchange. Some grids can be quite rare; if they're not too far from you, you might want to consider a portable operation to a rare square for a chance to be sought-after DX.

The weekend promises to be a tremendous amount of fun on the VHF and UHF bands. Don't miss out! All amateurs -- from Technicians to Extras, experienced VHF operators to the first-time VHF dabblers -- can join in the excitement. The ARRL June VHF Contest runs from 1800 UTC Saturday, June 11 through 0259 UTC Monday, June 13 (Saturday afternoon to Sunday evening for Minnesota).

### Up next

#### Thur. May 19

➔ Winona Amateur Radio Club meeting, 7 p.m., at the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St.

#### Sun. May 22

➔ Wisconsin Antique Radio Club Swapfest, 7 to 11 a.m. The Terminal, 5917 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee. Radios, tubes, parts, books.

#### Mon. May 23

➔ VE session, 6:30 p.m. Watkins 105, WSU.

#### Sat.-Mon, June 11-13

➔ ARRL June VHF Contest, 1800 UTC Saturday, runs through 0259 UTC Monday [www.arrl.org/june-vhf](http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf)

#### Sun. June 12

➔ Trinona communication support.

#### Sat-Sun., June 25-26

➔ ARRL Field Day

### VE Testing May 23

The Winona Amateur Radio Club will be holding a VE session at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 23, in Watkins 105, WSU campus.

All exam levels will be available.

Note that the Extra Class license question pool expires at the end of June, so now is your chance to get the upgrade you have been studying for.

### Writers wanted

Lets hear about your latest Ham adventure. Boast about your latest piece of gear, your project or contact. Simply contact Hamgram editor Bob Seaquist, [seaquist.robe@uwlax.edu](mailto:seaquist.robe@uwlax.edu) and he will help you put together the subject, verb and object so your fellow club members learn something new. Top dollar paid for copy!



If it's not already on the contest weekend menu, perhaps chocolate should be added to improve mental acuity, after the publishing of some recent research results. Especially if one does SO<sub>2</sub>R, as chocolate consumption could assist in “being able to do two things at once, like talking and driving at the same time.”

## Prepare for the worst

Some Amateur Radio operators prepare for the “worst.” We seem to think that’s for places where hurricanes hit, where tornados ravage the countryside, where hikers are lost in the desert or where nuclear power plants melt.

The FCC says “recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.”

An article in Atlantic Magazine *www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2016/03/ham-radio-disaster-preparedness/473598/* describes an emergency drill at a Virginia nuclear power plant and how a group of Amateur Radio operators responded when 911 and cell service evaporated.

The Hams established communication with Emergency Dispatch Centers, help shelters coordinate and more.

What would happen in Winona County if the “**IT**” arrives? Is our group of Amateurs prepared to help?

Some Hams have a list of excuses for why Amateur Radio won’t work. One of many excuses is that nothing will happen except a once-in-a-lifetime flood.

Maybe a flood is Winona’s only probable disaster.

Winona County Emergency Management and local first responders think there’s more:

- ✓ Massive coronal mass ejection CME disrupts conventional communication systems
- ✓ Tornado

- ✓ Blizzard
- ✓ Ice storm
- ✓ Flood
- ✓ Large explosion, fire, chemicals
- ✓ Railway accident (explosion, fire, chemicals)
- ✓ River accident (explosion, fire, chemicals)
- ✓ 911 failure
- ✓ Power disruption
- ✓ Terrorist attack or civil disorder
- ✓ Search and rescue
- ✓ Landslide
- ✓ Earthquake Madrid Fault

Isn’t it time to fulfill our obligation to Part 97 and train to help when **IT** happens?

WØNE Repeaters  
 146.640 PL 100.0 Hz \*  
 146.835 PL 131.8 Hz \*\*  
 444.225 PL 100.0Hz FM Voice C4FM Digital  
 \* SkyWarn Net when activated.  
 \*\* Sunday Night Net—8:30 p.m.



April’s club meeting April 21, was Skywarn training at the Wilson Fire Hall, a session that demanded rapt attention from club members.

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 At Large: Dan Goltz, WKØW; Leslie Hittner KØBAD

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: Harro Hohenner, Treasurer, P.O.Box1451, Winona, MN 55987

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