



Hamgram

Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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

November 2014

www.w0ne.org

November Program - Nov 20

WHAT: November Program: As of publication, we are hoping to have Sheriff-elect Ron Ganrude address the club. November is also the time for a semi-annual club business meeting. The next Thursday's meeting includes election of three executive board members for a two year term. Discussion of 2015 club activities will also be part of the program including public service items, operating activity items and education & outreach items, so come out and make your preferences known. Guests are welcome—hams and non-hams alike.

There will be a social period and snacks after the program. We hope to see everyone there.

DATE & Time: Thursday, November 20, 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.

Membership Dues are Payable Any Time

What a bargain. WARC membership dues are still only \$25 per year for an individual and \$30 for a family. Annual dues for elementary through high school students whose parents are not club members are \$5.00 until they finish high school or turn 18 years of age.

Dues are payable by the end of December, but the treasurer will take them at any time. (hint, hint....)

Your club dues support many activities of the club including maintenance of hardware, cost of insurance, Field Day expenses and others.

The new [WONE website](#) is up and running. Thanks to Jim, NOWE, for the time and effort to bring the new look on line and for maintaining the website for the club. It is very much appreciated, Jim.

Election of Executive Board

Members

The WARC Executive Board is made up of seven Club members—the WONE station trustee plus six elected members. Of the elected members, three are elected each year for a two-year term.

Board members whose terms expire this year are Bob KC9IWE, Lance KB0YJU, and Matt KF0Q. Thanks to all three of you for your time, effort and leadership in making the club a success.

The nominating committee has proposed three members for nomination at the November elections: Dan WK0W, Lance KB0UJU and Les K0BAD. Other nominations will be accepted at the meeting. Any member of the club in good standing is eligible for board membership.



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Why We Storm Skywarn Recognition

By Bob Seaquist, KC9IWE



When tennis ball sized hail is pounding your car you are not thinking of being appreciated so much as considering it is not a good place to be at the time. A much better place is the warmth of the La Crosse National Weather Service Office for Skywarn Recognition Day, Sat. Dec. 6.

It's true you may participate in Skywarn Recognition Day on-the-air chasing the many NWS offices operating special event stations but *being at the NWS office* is more fun for eyeball QSOs, meeting the meteorologists, eating free food and even operating one of the special event station's radios.

On one of the years the La Crosse NWS office cancelled the event due to some ironically bad weather, I operated from home and made some fun contacts such as the young, PhD candidate in Oklahoma. It turns out she not only is a genuine tornado chaser, her uncle is Winona's Bob Bilder! Small world!

If you do participate from home the NWS offers certificates for the number of NWS

special event stations contacted. (<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/hamradio/>)

Certificates or not, it's more fun going to the NWS office than trying to contact it on the air, though it is easy to do both.

The La Crosse NWS operation is on a bluff overlooking the city, at N2788 County Road FA, La Crosse. (directions below). It's easy to get there if a snowstorm is not underway as has happened in the past. Warning Coordination Meteorologist Todd Shea, KB9YXS, will be at the door welcoming you. You'll recognize his voice from hearing it on the repeater on those bad May and June days. Inside, in the conference room, two or three radios are set up for the special event and you are invited to operate for a while if you wish. To get to them you have to push by a number of other Hams who are chowing down (what good Ham event goes without food?) and chatting. There is a lot of chowing and chatting!

Hams come from the entire 14 county La Crosse NWS territory, some of whom you've met.

Once you elbow your way through the conference room you see the three or four on-duty meteorologists in their bull pen. Shea is happy to guide you through the area showing you what the staff is doing and the equipment they have at their disposal.

At one time we could climb up into Nexrad's 'ball' and see it, but that's no longer on the tour due to what I guess are some safety reasons. In case you did not realize it, the Nexrad unit is the white golf-ball-looking object on the bluff just east of the city.

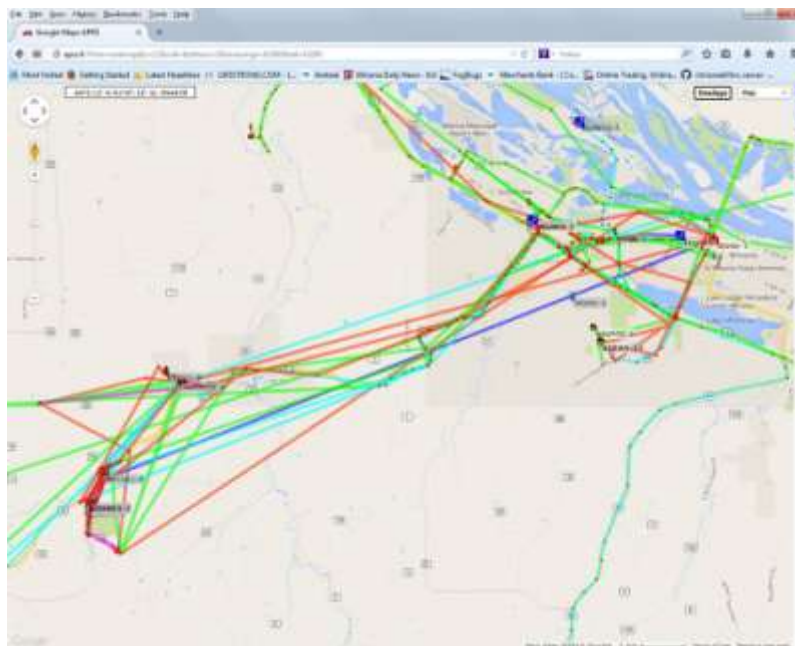
Hours of operation: 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.

DIRECTIONS to N2788 County Road FA, La Crosse: travel east on Main St toward Grandad Bluff. Main St. becomes Bliss Rd. Continue up Bliss Rd. past the Alpine Inn to County Road FA. Turn onto FA and continue about a mile to the National Weather Service. It is easily recognizable by the Nexrad 'ball'.

October 18 SOAR Drill a Success

The WARC performed admirably (and learned a lot) during the recent emergency communications drill with the Winona County Search Operations Assistance Response Team (SOAR Team). The exercise involved finding a missing person in the vicinity of Farmers' Park near Stockton and was made more interesting by the scenario involving the lost person having a locator bracelet—which had fallen off!

The club was fine tuning skills with APRS real-time tracking of search team locations and transmitting the locations to the on-site SOAR communications van and to the county EOC. The implementation of a cross-band repeater to get out of the valley was also an objective. All objectives were successfully met! The Public Service Committee chair, Dan WK0W, reports that the lessons learned will “stick” with participants, and the capabilities proven during the drill will be available for the Real Thing if needed.



Fox hunting came into play during the drill also. The lost locator bracelet transmitted locations on a non-ham frequency which was used by the SOAR team with receivers available to them. However, the club members

participating were able to give SOAR team members tips regarding fox hunting techniques—particularly regarding how to accommodate varying signal polarization into the search effort. The club made some points with that tip!

Another lesson learned with respect to real-time location reporting of SOAR teams was that APRS beaconing needs to be more frequent than the five minutes used during the drill. Beaconing of one minute of more frequently will give the incident command a much better feel of team location for purposes of focusing and coordinating team resources according to Dan. The graphic to the right shows APRS traffic from the drill.

Congratulations to all WARC members and other area hams for making this exercise a valuable learning tool!

GOOD JOTA THIS YEAR

The club's JOTA effort is gaining traction with local scouts. This year there were six scouts participating and some good QSOs were made and fun had by all. The callsign K2BSA/0 was obtained and used to good advantage.

The location this year was St. Mary's Catholic Church in Winona, and the operating point was located in the garage there. This location provided some good resources for the event—shelter from weather, tables & chairs, access to good antenna site, rest room, and other s. Plus it was relatively RF quiet.

Thanks to the two Matts (KF0Q & KD0YSY) for making possible the opportunity for scouts to try out ham radio.



MORE ON APRS....

By Les KOBAD

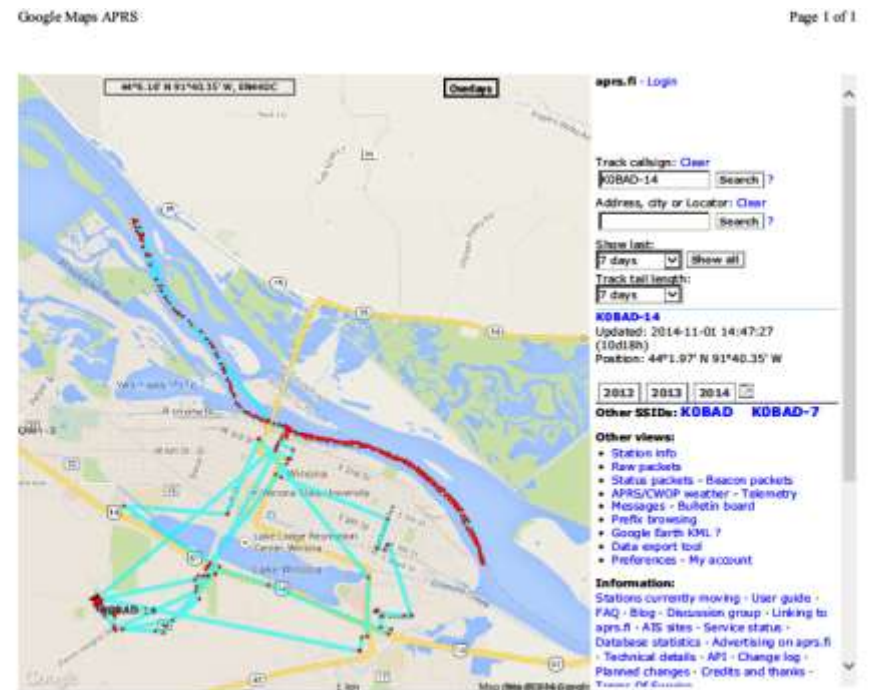
On Friday, October 31, While aboard the Winona State University floating classroom, the Cal Fremling, I Decided to track the entire trip via APRs. This was my second trip aboard the boat and the presentation was to be very nearly the same as I had previously experienced, so I could afford to be "distracted." I sat near a starboard (right) side window and was able to maintain satellite contact with the GPS receiver in my Kenwood TH-D72 handheld. I opened the APRS.FI website on my Apple iPad - using the ship's wireless internet connection - so that I could determine when one of my beacon packets made it to the internet.

I then manually sent beacons approximately every 30 seconds and repeated that action until a position update appeared on APRS.fi. The accompanying pdf document shows the trace of the trip we took that afternoon. On the way upstream, I was on the side of the boat that faced Wisconsin and most of my packets reached the internet after being digipeated by W0NE. These packets were put on the internet by either the N0OWT or K0BAD iGates. When heading downriver, my packets were often received directly by the K0BAD iGate.

The accompanying tracking map is quite complete. In the on-line version, you can zoom in and even see where the boat came into the dock briefly when heading down river

to pick up an additional passenger for the last half of the trip. You can also easily determine the path that the beacon transmissions took to reach the iGate.

This test shows that a handheld APRS-capable transceiver--even when inside a houseboat--can reach internet iGates and could be a useful addition to river search and rescue operations by providing up-to-date search information to authorities at the LEC. 73, Les



Minutes of WARC Board Meeting held on October 13, 2014 at WSU Library

Present: Cathy (KC9ZEZ), Lance (KB0YJU), Paul(K0ZYV), Erik (WB0NYU), Syed (AC0VA), Dan (WK0W), Bob (KC9IWE), John (K2OPT), Matt (KF0Q), Mike (W01H),

Call to order by President Paul at around 7 PM.

Agenda

Minutes of Last Meeting
Treasurer Report
Jim Brown Request
Committee Reports
Additional items

Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of Last Meeting were adopted by voice vote.

Jim Brown Request

Paul mentioned W0NE webmaster Jim Brown contacted him about opinions about Website and about feedback from users if they like the Website. Paul stated he will let Jim Brown know that Jim is the Web Master and He has authority to change or update Website the way he thinks best for the club. If people have different opinion they will be encouraged to contact Jim. Board members understood Jim's frustration as after putting tons of work, Jim does not get any feedback from Club members. Paul will send email to Jim stating all the good work Jim has done on the Website. Board encouraged other members to do the same.

Committee Reports

Dan stated Emergency Committee continues to be busy. First item is SOAR exercise which is next Saturday. Dan is in contact with Josh Erickson who is coordinating the SOAR exercise. One of the goal of the exercise is to show club's APRS capability. Goal is to attach one club member with each team and hopefully with APRS capability everybody will see where everybody else is in real time.

Club is pulling all resources for the APRS (Tough book, members APRS rigs, D710 owned by county etc). Lance is planning to put a relay station. Erik also working on cross-band repeat to 835 and also putting all together including APRS on four wheelers. Erik will present his plans during the upcoming general meeting to all members. Erik has tested all pieces separately but not all together.

Also Dan talked about tower issues. Dan previously sent an email detailing latest on Tower. County Attorney had few questions to Mike Peterson on the tower. Dan does not know what the issues are. At the same time county is working on an inspection of the tower. That is good on club's stand point. Dan will update board as he gets more info. Paul thinks nothing will happen on the tower before snow starts this year. Dan stated it is more proper to wait than rush things.

Other issue was Ron Ganrude not being able to address club meeting because of conflict with another event organized by Winona Daily News. Dan did ask Ron to write something for the club members if he so desires as Emergency Management is directly tied to Sheriff and Sheriff plays a big role for Amateur Radio Club during emergencies. If Dan gets something from Ron, he will forward the message to all members and also read it during the upcoming general meeting. Paul mentioned as a club we are neutral on Sheriff's choice.

John (K2OPT) mentioned coming Saturday we have three big activities like SOAR drill, JOTA and also Trempealeau National Wilderness event. Dan mentioned although club is not part of ARES but they are aware of all our activities.

Lance presented report on Repeater Committee. 835 Repeater has issues and Erik mentioned Les and Erik went up there and did some troubleshooting. Erik did power cycle and did some work. Right after the work 835 Repeater was working well but now it is back to same old problems. Bob mentioned 835 Repeater was working well on last Sunday Night net meeting.

John will prepare some ARRL advertising for the JOTA session. John also has few flyers. Matt mentioned it is always a challenge to get large number of scouts interested in JOTA. There are lot of activities going on at the same time for scouts. Matt mentioned girl scouts are also invited for the event. Matt mentioned JOTA event will be held at St. Mary's Church. Matt mentioned John and Harro are scheduled to help for JOTA. Matt mentioned Matt (KD0YSY) is doing a lot for JOTA and helping out. In case Matt can't come to Thursday's general meeting, Matt (KD0YSY) will address the general meeting on JOTA.

Matt brought out issue of storing club's gear and best way to storage. Erik said there was an idea of a trailer but nothing has happened since. Bob likes the idea of trailer but the problem remains where to store it. Bob emphasized to store it in a neutral place. Board members discussed benefits of trailer and also on storage issues. Bob mentioned that Trailer can become great communication tool like LaCrosse has. Erik suggested to form a committee to look for trailer. Matt mentioned Les might be interested in that committee. Erik put a motion to form a committee to look for options to store club gear and specifically to look for a trailer. Bob seconded the motion. And the motion was approved. Les (he was not present but will be asked to join), John and Matt are members of the committee.

Matt mentioned he plans to retire from Operating Activity Committee next term. Paul mentioned we should discuss this during upcoming general meeting if any volunteers available. Paul also mentioned that elections should be coming up. Bob also mentioned he will not be available for board member next term. Matt also mentioned Operating Activities Committee will not be sponsoring an ARRL Sweeps contest station in mid-November.

Board discussed mesh networks and possible donation of mesh network item from Les. There were issues with mesh and Lance mentioned they are trying to learn more about mesh.

Meeting was adjourned right around 8 PM

Minutes of WARC Board Meeting held on November 3, 2014 at WSU Library

Present: Lance (KB0YJU), John (K2OPT), Erik (WB0NIU), Syed (AC0VA), Bob (KC9IWE), Paul (K0ZYV), Matt (KF0Q), Tom (W0MK), Harro (KG6RLM)

Call to order by President Paul at around 7 PM.

Agenda

Minutes of Last Meeting
Treasurer Report
Slate for Board
Jim's request re: webpage
Committee Reports
other

Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of Last Meeting was first order of discussion. There were few typos (Erik and Mike's call sign incorrect). Syed will correct the typos. Minutes were approved subject to correction.

Treasurer Report

Matt was present to report on the treasury. Matt mentioned JOTA patches have been ordered. Matt mentioned six scouts were there for JOTA event which is much better than previous years. Matt gave a report on JOTA activities. Treasurer report was approved.

Slate for Board

Lance did bit of research before coming to Meeting as to which officers are up for election this year. Lance , Bob and Matt's term end this year. Paul ,Harro and Syed's position is effective till end of 2015. Lance is willing to continue for another term. Matt and Bob are not running for next term meaning two of the board position need to filled this year. Lance mentioned Dan (WK0W) and Les (K0BAD) have agreed to run for board positions this year. Lance will present the slate to general membership and also will publish in the reflector. And the information will be in Hamgram.

Paul stated that anyone else interested to run for any of the open position are welcome to run. Lance will also publish an announcement in the reflector to emphasize anyone interested are welcome to run. Paul mentioned people can also be nominated on the floor during election meeting.

Jim's request re: webpage

Paul stated Jim wanted to know if club is hosting the November Sweeps. Club is not participating this year per Matt. Jim has pending information on the website. Matt mentioned although club is not planning to run November Sweeps but if anyone interested is welcome to do so. Club has all the gear to run the Sweeps (Antennas, radios, power supply etc). November Sweeps starts 3 PM November 15 and runs through next day Sunday. Other activity Matt committed to at this time is MN QSO party in February.

Committee Reports

On behalf of Public Service Committee Erik gave a report on club's participation of SOAR exercise. Primary objective was to provide APRS to search teams so the SOAR communications van could keep track of search team members in real time. Secondary objective was digipeating the APRS to the EOC, along with cross band repeat. All of club objectives were met. SOAR team had challenges in their communication system but radio club members did their job to fill in the gaps and everybody learned from the exercise. All in all the exercise was success from club point of view. Erik gave detailed report on the happening during SOAR exercise.

Erik mentioned 835 repeater has been working OK. There might be something wrong but seems balanced. Lance and Matt talked about making a trip to 835 site for some work. Lance has some plans to work on the repeater. Erik also talked about tone on 640 repeater. John mentioned 640 repeater had issues during one of his conversations. Erik stated that the plan is to contact Repeater Council and make 640 tone controlled. Bob made a motion to authorize Trustee Erik to do whatever necessary to actuate tone on 640 repeater. Motion was approved.

John mentioned he has three potential people to attend class. Syed mentioned with advertising we might get more interests. John mentioned our success in advertising is not great. Lance mentioned we missed the community ed catalog. Paul/Syed agreed that is good idea. John mentioned ARRL coming up with new manual next year.

Matt mentioned he did talk to Les about club trailer. Matt mentioned Matt (KDOYSY) is also helping out looking for trailer. Matt mentioned there are lot of trailers but club has to find the right one.

John mentioned about fiberglass mast for sale at one particular website.

Paul mentioned his Antenna at home came down. He will appreciate volunteers to help to put up the Antenna.

Meeting was adjourned at around 8 PM

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

Executive Board

President: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV pschumacher@winona.edu	Vice President: Lance Tagliapietra, KBØYJU lancetag@hbci.com
Secretary: Syed Faruque, ACØVA sfaruque@yahoo.com	Treasurer: Matt Burt, KF0Q kf0q@hbci.com
Custodian: Erik Brom, WBØNIU ewbrom@hbci.com	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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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

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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