

Hamgram

November 2019

Winona Amateur Radio Club
Winona, Minnesota

We're back! Yes, the Winona Amateur Radio Club will be back to meeting at the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St., Winona, Nov. 21. The doors are open from about 6:45 or so until 7:15 p.m. Use the West entrance next to the parking lot.



The night sky as seen during the VP6R DXpedition. "There were so many stars you could barely make out constellations," said Mike Cizek, WØVTT.

Mike Cizek, WØVTT, didn't just gaze at starry skies during his trip to Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific. He and the other members of the VP6R DXpedition reported 82,700 contacts—including QSOs on 10 and 15 meters— during their two weeks on the tiny island.

Cizek will report on his adventures during the Winona Amateur Radio Club's Thursday, Nov. 21, meeting.

The meeting will be at the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St., Winona. The doors are open from about 6:45 or so until 7:15 p.m. Use the West entrance next to the parking lot.

Board elections

Club annual meeting Nov. 21

Winona Amateur Radio Club members will elect board members and conduct other club business at the club's annual meeting Nov. 21. Members will elect three board members to fill spots now held by Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, Clare Jarvis, KØNY, and Paul Schumacher, KØZYV.

Interest has been received from Hohenner and Schumacher and the board officially placed them on the slate along with Bob Seaquist, W9LSE. Nominations will also be taken from the floor. Jarvis said he would rather not run for re-election.

The meeting is set for 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 21, in the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St.

Current club board members include; Mike Foerster, WØIH; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Dan Goltz, WKØW; Hohenner, Schumacher and Jarvis. The club's custodian is Erik Brom, WBØNIU. The custodian automatically is a member of the board.

SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) will mark its 20th anniversary Sat. Dec. 7. This is the day when radio amateurs operate from National Weather Service (NWS) forecast offices across the country, celebrating the long relationship between the amateur radio community and the National Weather Service SKYWARN program.

Locally, the NWS office at N2788 County Road FA, La Crosse, will hold an open house Sat. Dec. 7, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

According to Warning Coordination Meteorologist Todd Shea, KB9YXS, there

will be at least three reasons for Hams to visit the office: food, eyeball QSOs and operating stations. Hams are invited to operate.



If you go

What: Skywarn Recognition Day

When: 8 am-4 pm Sat. Dec. 7

Where: N2788 County Road FA, La Crosse

Curiosity

By Patrick Moretti, KA1RB

A few weeks ago someone asked me about my interest in Amateur Radio - What got me started? I think the short answer is curiosity.

Something triggered your interest in Amateur Radio. Something made you look twice, and then look again. Each one of us has had the experience of discovering Amateur Radio and somehow becoming part of it.

For me it was a fascination about how electricity worked. I got a shock from a tuning capacitor in one of my parent's old radios and I wanted to find out where it came from. I took that radio apart and couldn't find any electricity in it. The fuse in the AC circuit had blown when I got the first shock. I was eight years old and I remember that feeling of not being able to pull my finger off of the side of that tuning cap. I started reading books about it and trying different things.

Try to remember the excitement of discovery and the way you followed that path.

Just the other day several of us were talking casually about the shrinking

membership we experienced in the various clubs we belong to. There was concern that we did not seem to attract younger members. They came into the hobby, each test session has a bunch of new younger faces, but they were not joining the clubs, or few were. I asked what was meant by younger - and the age group was described as 20's to 30's.

It seems those folks get attracted to public service as a result of some national or local emergency. They come in and sign-up. They look around and earnestly try to participate, but they are met with requirements after requirements, training and testing, classes after classes and updates to the classes... pretty soon, since emergencies don't happen all that often, they loose interest and drop out of the club, or even out of Amateur Radio all-together.

We are not doing anything wrong. What we are doing is too much of it at once. This is a vast hobby with a myriad of interesting facets, turns, and twists that can be overwhelming.

We don't help ourselves when we try to force our favorite mode of operation on an unsuspecting individual. Some of us are able to explain choices and the results of those choices, but others are just plain stuck in the rut of their own mode of operation and don't consider any other facet "real Ham Radio".

I am asking for you to look back on your own beginning, your own start and to find that fascination and explore ways to share it. Now, I do not want you to stick the guy's finger into the electric socket but I do want you do share the magic we experience each time we turn on our radios. Clicking that mic button, that push to talk, triggers a series of events that are astounding! Make sure no one in your circle of friends, no new comer, no old foggy... no one takes it for granted. In addition, if you have lost that sense of magic. It is time to take a break - take a deep breath and either stick your finger in that socket to find where the magic comes from, or at least get out of the rut and try something new. New modes and new means of operating come out every day!

WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019, Watkins, Winona State University

Present: Clare Jarvis, KØNY; Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Dan Goltz, WKØW; Mike Foerster, WØIH; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM. Guests: Tom Wilmot, WØMK; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; John Kowalik, K2OPT.

Treasurer's report for Oct. (Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM)

Balance on 9/30/2019	\$3,240.27
Payments:	
Paul Schumacher – Qth Web Hosting	\$59.40
Mike Foerster – Remote Hams Donation	\$25.00
Balance reported by bank	\$3,155.87
Paid members (2019)	41

Minutes (Clare Jarvis, KØNY) Approved

Holiday party: (Paul Schumacher, KØZYV) The club's holiday party will again be at Goodview Haven but, due to scheduling, will be 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 23.

Meeting place: (Paul Schumacher, KØZYV). There was a discussion concerning the club's meeting site but it turned out the club can finally return to its long-time meeting place in the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St., Winona.

Election slate: (Paul Schumacher, KØZYV). The terms of Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; and Clare Jarvis, KØNY; will expire. Schumacher and Hohenner are willing to run for another term; Jarvis would rather not continue. Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, was nominated to be on the ballot in place of Jarvis for the annual meeting.

Public Service (Dan Goltz, WKØW) We are still waiting for the after-action report of the October Emergency Management exercise that we participated in. I don't expect a lot of comment about amateur radio's part, as our actual field activity was quite limited.

Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, Mike Foerster, WØIH, and Dan Goltz, WKØW, have been working on the presentation to the Winona County Emergency Management Office for their Dec. 18 meeting. There will be a Power Point presentation with embedded video of previous events we have participated in as well as some carefully prepared live demonstrations. We asked the SOAR team to help with the amateur television demonstration, and they were significantly impressed enough to ask us to present our finished product to them for their December meeting. Also, they have requested a copy of the video so they may put it on their website.

In Walt Kelly's, KEØXI, absence I attended the monthly County Emergency Services meeting in October. There was discussion about the shortcomings of the 800MHz radio communications during the exercise the previous week, and it was noted that amateur radio could have helped, however the professional trainers seemed to be unaware of how amateur radio could be used. This is likely because the trainers have little experience with radio failures due to topographic obstruction.

There is now a Fusion room (45019) for Minnesota ARES/RACES.

Witoka Tower (Mike Foerster, WØIH)

The big round bales that were on the path to the tower have been removed so the road is usable again

I vacuumed a lot of the flies and hung a pest strip in the room to keep them out.

I moved the insulation back up into the AC to prevent some of the cold air from entering the room.

The heat is running well at ~70 degrees F.

I had built a 1:1 voltage Balun to use on the 160 M antenna, but I can't seem to get the antenna to play very well. I'm still planning on working to get the antenna to tune up on 160 & 80 M. The automatic antenna switch is there, and ready to use, if I can get the antenna to work.

I connected the new LDG Z11 Pro antenna tuner. Once we found that the 160m antenna was broken, that was the trigger to get the rebuilt ZS6BKW antenna re-installed. I was hesitant to connect this new tuner up if we were going to use different antennas, because it memorizes the tuning for the different frequencies and it seems to be troublesome if the antenna changes underneath it. This tuner does not exhibit the same problem that the previous Z11 tuner did, where modulation was changing the SWR reading, where it would then randomly retune as you talked.

The first LDG Z11 Pro tuner we received (and still have) was loaned to Keith Laken, KEØIJ, along with the Icom IC-718 rig. The original Alpha-Delta tuner is still up at the Tower.

I worked on a relay circuit to install at the tower on the DR-2X DC input lines, to allow turning off both the AC (we currently have control of this over the Raspberry-Pi) and now the DC, which was connected up on a trip to the tower earlier this week. I have the circuit built, but it's not working correctly yet.

The tail side of the rope that holds the ZS6BKW antenna up, is still wrapped around the APRS VHF antenna (at about 60'). I'm hoping to address it from the ground.

We have still not received a bid from the guy in Eau Claire on the tower work. He has been surprisingly quiet.

I contacted two other tower climbers, but neither of these worked out. One said a 340' Tower was above his comfort level and the other isn't taking on any more work.

I would like to take the portable repeater out sometime and set it up (to temporarily replace the 04/64 repeater, as a shake down test).

To recap, the IC-7300 is running on the ZS6BKW antenna again and works well on 80, 40, 20, 17, 12 and 10 meters. 160 and 15 meters is not so good. This antenna was rebuilt over the summer and appears to be working much better. The 160 meter antenna does not play well. It is currently not connected.

Much to our surprise, Dan and I were able to get the rope unwrapped from around the APRS VHF antenna. The wind had un-twisted the rope part way, and with some fancy finagling by pulling the antenna up higher, we were able to get it completely untwisted. We also reset the camera for the video feed back just a bit, so the LEDs on the tuner are showing. This is in case we have problems (like we did before) with the tuner wanting to re-tune while in the transmit mode. Additionally, we changed the tuner "re-tune" trigger point from 1.7:1 to 2:1.

Taking advantage of garbage time

By Brian Moran, N9ADG

In professional time-based sport competitions like basketball or football, an insurmountable lead by one team can produce a situation known as "garbage time." The first-string players on the dominant team are benched by team management, and their up-and-coming teammates are given a chance to play against real opponents in real games to develop their skills. Poor band conditions and/or lack of activity could be viewed as radiosport's garbage time equivalent. CQing into a dead band for potentially hours on end could compel you to read a book, surf the web, watch TV, or just give up. But don't be beaten by conditions! Think of the longer game - you've already set the time aside for radio activity, so take advantage of it. You could constructively use that time to learn a new logging feature, explore the limits of your radio or antenna system, practice a radio skill like tuning the VFO between CQs, or plan the next thing to automate in your station. You could even get in a little *Morse Runner* practice. Only you can decide whether the radio-fun-rate with stinko conditions merits sticking it out vs. doing something non-radio-related. On the other hand, some seemingly non-radio-related activity like spending weekend time with your spouse could also put money in the bank in exchange for a contest to be named later.



Holiday party Jan. 23

Cheer and jingle bells will radiate from Goodview Haven for the Winona Amateur Radio Club's annual holiday party. The event will be 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 23, and will be a potluck. Details from chair Syed Faruque, ACØVA, next month.

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

