



Hamgram

Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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

September 2014

www.w0ne.org

September Program - Sep 18

WHAT: September Club Program: Here is a line-up of topics for next Thursday's program: Mark Foerster, W0IH, will present an interesting program regarding either his article appearing in the September QST and/or about his work on station control conveniences using Arduino capabilities. Additionally, the two candidates for Winona County Sherriff, Ron Ganrude and Bill Spitzer, plan to be at the meeting for a "meet and greet" period with program attendees. This is in recognition of the understanding that the Sheriff is the one elected official closest to club interests and relationships.

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

DATE & Time: Thursday, September 18, 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.

Upcoming WARC Activities

Sep 13-14 - ARRL Sep. VHF Contest Station

(see article below)

Oct 18 - JOTA 2014—callsign K2BSA/0

Oct 18 - Trempealeau Special Event with RARC

Nov 15-16 - ARRL Nov. Sweepstakes (Phone)

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NUCLEAR INCIDENT DRILL .. JULY 2014

By Roger, KI0F
Wabasha County ARES EC

This past July, a combination of ham radio operators from two states and 5 counties came together to provide backup communications in the event of a nuclear problem at the Prairie Island nuclear facility near Red Wing MN. Wabasha High School is declared a decontamination and reception center, and would receive half of the population within the hot zone of the plant. FEMA and Homeland Security mandated backup communications for this drill. The Wabasha County ARES group was called upon to provide this backup.

We are a small group due to a limited ham population, so I went outside the area to obtain additional help in securing all the requirements presented to me by Wabasha Emergency Management. One would think this problem would be hard to solve but not in this case. We had 17 ham radio operators willing to provide their time and equipment to make it happen.

If there is every a major disaster in the Mississippi River Valley, we all will be affected by it on both sides, and that is the beauty with working with all of the ham groups within the

valley on both sides. Working with all 17 operators, we are familiar with each other by voice and now also by sight.

The backup communicators were shadows for many different agencies stationed within the high school, both on the upper



level and lower level and parking lot. We were using simplex

frequencies to establish communications directly with the Wabasha County EOC, one half mile away, and within the complex itself. We also had live color fast scan amateur TV sent to the EOC . This was a big hit with Homeland Security, as they expressed later in the recap.

All of the agencies served had their own 800 MHZ handhelds. Most of the staff from these agencies were not familiar with the handheld units. The backup communications was fast to the task of completing their request. During an emergency, one must realize that some of the staff (volunteers) may not be familiar with the 800 system. Our ham radio operators are solid in working within our network, and it sure paid off for us during the call down of this drill.

The end result of this drill was twofold in knowing that the ham communities within the valley can call upon one another in time of need. They can assemble a network within their expertise on a first come first serve basis. The Wabasha County EOC, through federal grants, now has complete HF, VHF and UHF ham stations installed with complete antenna systems on the roof of the Criminal Justice Center.

One must give credit to all of the ham operators who when asked, said yes, what can I do to help. Without their

corporation, our ARES group could not complete the required task.

KC0KDO Allen Hansen Lake City Goodhue County
K0BOJ David Bremer Wabasha County
AB6LF Par Peterson Goodhue County
WA0VRC Bob Kemp Wabasha County
K0BKA Ed Wirtz Wabasha County
K0CID Scott Rick Wabasha County
KA0CSK Pat Peyla Wabasha County
N0OWP Mike Papke Winona County
KC0OI Tom Peyla Wabasha County
KC0JZJ Paul Degallier Winona County
KE0XI Walt Kelly Winona County
WB0NIU Erik Brom Winona County
N0QK Russ Marsolek Winona County
KC9TXM Preston Lehnartz Pepin County WI.
KC9ERJ Peter Saverynske Buffalo County WI
WK0W Dan Goltz Winona County
N0PCY Tom Lee Winona County
KI0F Roger Wise Wabasha County

It was a pleasure working with all of you in the spirit of true ham radio cooperation.

73, Roger KI0F

ARRL VHF CONTEST THIS WEEK END – Sep. 13-14

Come on out and try your hand at VHF and above! The club is providing an opportunity to learn more about VHF through microwave operations this week end during the APPL VHF contest. The guide for this oldest domestic ARRL contest (begun in 1930) including rules is [here](#).

The club's station will be operating ten bands from 6-meters through 10 GHz. This contest is a marathon of sorts—operating from 1:00 PM CDT Saturday to 9:59 PM CDT Sunday. There is plenty of opportunity for operators and others to participate!

The club's station will be at the site of the tower we now have access to near Witoka (EN43ew). To get there (directions from County 17 in Winona) take CR 17 to the first left just as you reach the top of the hill before Witoka--this road

is County 15. Drive for 1.4 miles on 15 (past the really wide communications tower) to the slender tower on the left at 26787 County Road 15. (Pse use the upper path toward the tower with gravel - the lower path is a field road). Enter these coordinates into your mapping program or GPS to see the location: 43.951861,-91.599898 .

Set-up has been in progress at the site—there are tons of antennas, masts, amplifiers, and rotators used in this contest. The operating points (multi-op category) will be in a tent.

If you can assist with final set-up on Saturday morning (9:00 AM) and/or if you want to operate or stop by to see the action, please contact Matt KF0Q. This is a big undertaking –to make this opportunity available to ham radio ops in the area—so full support of club members and others is very much appreciated.

**Minutes of WARC Board Meeting held on Monday August 11, 2014 at Darrel Kruger Library, WSU, Winona.
Present: Bob (KC9IWE), John (K2OPT), Syed (AC0VA), Paul (K0ZYV), Matt (KF0Q),
, Dan (WK0W), Lance (WB0YZU)
Call to order by Paul at around 7 PM.**

Agenda

- 1. Minutes**
- 2. Treasurer Report**
- 3. Steve Boller**
- 4. Dan Goltz Tower Report**
- 5. Committee Reports**
- 6. Other**

Paul called the Meeting to order around 7 PM.

Minutes of Last meeting

Minutes of Last Meeting were approved. Paul mentioned we had correction to first draft and corrections were made before final release.

Treasurer Reports

Treasurer Report was next. Matt was present . Matt did not submit the expense of the field day in his report. Board discussed other expenses of the field day. Paul mentioned expenses of the field day were already approved. Treasurer report was accepted by voice vote.

Steve Boller

Board discussed about how to memorialize Steve Boller who went silent key recently. Paul mentioned matter should be discussed more during upcoming general meeting and member will be asked to weigh-in. Matt mentioned club can sponsor a plaque or something in his memory.

Committee Reports:

Dan Goltz report follows:

Of note two major items of news from the committee:

1. We now have access to the tower, and written permission to start working in the tower building. While the tower agreement is still in the hands of the county attorney, Mike Peterson our Emergency Management Director has given us the keys and told us to install whatever equipment we want. Erik, Paul and Dan visited the site. Paul did some measurements with an antenna analyzer and found there are several resonant frequencies with the mounted antennas. Erik was able to use them with his hand held on 2 meters. There is another 4 pole antenna that is not in service at the base of the tower. The tower building contains 3 racks, and 5 217MHz duplexer cans. There is electric heat, and telephone lines to the building although the lines are dead. There are multiple 220 volt outlets, and abundant 110 volt outlets. There are several boxes that look to be telephone/radio interfaces which are consistent with the previous use of the tower. The building is in very good shape and very clean. The propane generator is non-functional and looks like they may be preparing to remove it from the site. The associated propane tank seems to be empty. There are some weeds and grape vines around the base of the fenced in building, but it is not terribly over grown. A weed whacker or a can of Roundup would be useful.

2. Mike Peterson of Emergency Management has also donated a Motorola Radius 100 UHF repeater with manuals. It has a frequency range of 450-470 MHz without modification. The repeater was functional when taken out of county service, and is very clean inside and out.

Dan will be addressing the Rivertown Lions Club August 25 to talk about WARC's involvement and relationship with Winona County Emergency Management and the other public service activities we are involved with.

Dan, WK0W
Daniel L. Goltz
274 E. 3rd St.
Winona, MN 55987

Other issues and discussions:

- Because of Labor Day Weekend September Meeting will be held on September 8, 2014
- Bob mentioned he is experiencing issues with 835 Repeater. Lance and Erik working on making a trip to 835 site when weather is still better.
- Matt did acquire the filters (sideband) that were approved. Matt still looking for field day/N2B pictures.
- Paul will try to reserve the library room for rest of the year.
- Issue of next general meeting will be Raspberry Pie. Paul already has a unit and Lance will work with it to present during the general meeting. Lance explained more on technical contents of Raspberry Pie. Matt has HDMI projector he can bring to meeting for presentation.
- Board discussed where to keep the keys of the tower. Paul questioned if club can keep the keys at county dispatch. Paul will also contact HBC if internet can be received as donation. Paul has connections there.
- Paul discussed results of Antenna Analyzer he measured at the tower. There were few sharp dips and Matt was asking questions on frequencies and shared his expertise on the issue.
- John/Matt/Lance planning on making a trip to new Tower site on coming Wednesday. Matt was asking around for an Antenna Analyzer that covers the higher frequencies.
- Syed will make sure Ken (N0JP) gets a copy of Board Minutes.- John brought up question of 5 Mega Cycle IE and if county working on it. Dan answered county is not discussing it. Board discussed installing remote HF station at the new Tower.
- Matt discussed September VHF contest. Matt wants to explore new tower site for the contest. It is still on the club agenda. Matt will solicit help during the upcoming general meeting for VHF contest.
- Matt brought up issue of club procuring a trailer for storage. Matt looked at Craigslist and was looking at prices. General consensus was travel trailers are sometimes not built sturdy. Syed mentioned club has to address storage issue at some point. Paul mentioned club should investigate more through a committee.

Syed mentioned Goodview Days are coming and Clare invited everybody to his house to view the parade and for bar-b-que.

Meeting was adjourned at about 8 PM

Winona Amateur Radio Club Executive Board Meeting

Monday, September 8, 2014

Darrel Kruger Library, WSU Winona.

Attendance: Paul Schumacher, K0ZYV; Lance Tagliapietra, KBØYJU; Erik Brom, WB0NIU; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Bob Seaquist, KC9IWE; John Kowalik, K2OPT; Tom Wilmot, W0MK.

7:02 p.m. Call to order by Paul, K0ZYV

Minutes approved (Bob, KC9IWE/Harro, KG6RLM)

Treasurer's report: (Bob, KC9IWE /Lance, KBØYJU)

Committee reports:

Repeater

Erik, WB0NIU, reported that the 640 is working well; 440 should be replaced. Les is working on replacement.

The 835 is not working well; it is not receiving well. There should be an 'expedition' to the site, led by WB0NIU, in a couple weeks to investigate.

Erik, WB0NIU, reported that the batteries at the 835 site are 200 aH and although they are aged they work well. However they need some supplements. The generator at the 64 site should be okay.

John, K2OPT said Farm/Fleet has a nice tent on sale for \$200 and that it would be a good operating shelter. The Board agreed the decision should be referred to the Operating Committee. A discussion, begun by Paul, K0ZYV, focused on having an enclosed utility trailer that would securely store club equipment and could also be used for operating. Erik, WB0NIU, suggested it needs to also have some sort of climate control to preserve delicate equipment. The Board agreed to be on the look out for such a trailer as the fall seems the logical time for trailers to be more available.

Erik, WB0NIU said sheriff candidate Bill Spitzer asked to do a 'meet and greet' with the club.

Motion: Ask Dan, WK0W, to invite both sheriff candidates to speak (briefly) at the club's next meeting, understanding that the sheriff is the one elected official closest to club interests and relationships. (Erik, WB0NIU /John, K2OPT)

7:35 p.m. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted, Bob KC9IWE.

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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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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