

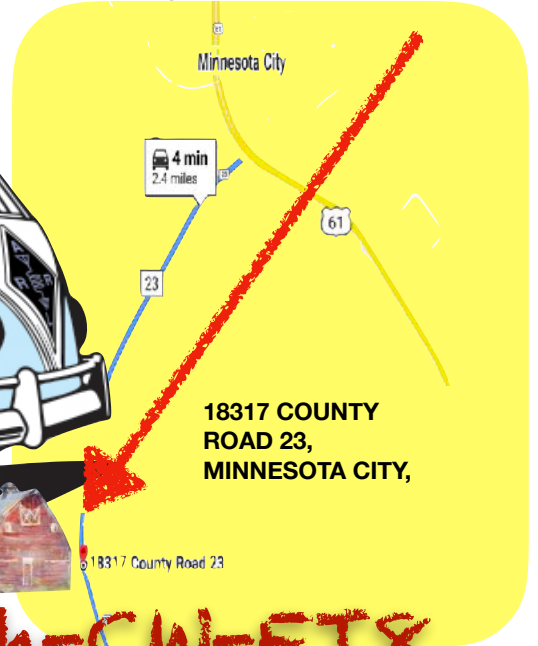
The Hamgram

June 2020



ARRL FIELD DAY 2020

WONE 3A MN



18317 COUNTY ROAD 23, MINNESOTA CITY,

The holiest holiday of the year for radio amateurs is ARRL Field Day. Men with pale, knobby knees don shorts and gather for this observance, they fumble over left-over parts for antennas, munch on fatty food, struggle with computer logging programs, set up tables, run coax, and laugh. So put on your shorts, show your pale, knobby knees and join the club for FUN at a great site, with great gear, and great fellowship. This year's goal is to have a good time and learn together. No pressure to make a zillion QSOs!

As part of our effort to keep club members safe and healthy, we are asking members to sign up for operating times. All members, great operators, good operators and the rest of us, should be a part of our Field Day. This year we will have three stations, each set up to do phone, CW or digital. Your choice. And if you'd like an introduction to a mode (many would like to try FT8 digital) tutoring is available.

Since each operating position needs to be cleaned at operator changes, Hams should sign-up for (at least) a one hour operating shift. There will be only one person at a time at each station, so the operator will be responsible for both operating and logging.

The sign up sheet is: <https://wOne.org/field-day-registration-2020/> Enter your call sign and click on the times you wish to operate. The spreadsheet does not update automatically

This year the ARRL loosened rules for home stations but the Winona Amateur Radio Club has a safe site, "Grannie's farm," which will have widely separated operating positions for the three stations. Yes, we'll be a 3A station (three radios, club, emergency power) where all of the Icom 7300 radios will be set up for easy operating. We'll have an antenna tower and some wires. All this will be at a great, easy to find site, Erik Brom's, WBØNIU, grandmother's farm near Minnesota City. Bring your own bug repellent. (18317 County Road 23, Minnesota City, MN 55959) Club member Bill Davis, MD, WØMZN, has provided advice on how the club may enjoy Field Day safely.

Bring your own headphones as well as note taking material such as a pen and paper.

We will go over all the details at the club's June 18 meeting (7pm on Zoom)

PH-CW-FT8

Social distance

DXpedition for 1996 Sweepstakes

By Clare Jarvis, KØNY

The Ham Radio world has some very special times like Field Day. Among them is the ARRL Sweeps, held two November weekends. The idea is to make contacts in all 83 ARRL sections and, like other endeavors, there are good ways and not-so-good ways to have a great score. Back in 1996 Sue Brown, KBØSAA, Jim Brown, KBØRGU, Matt Burt, KFØUK, and myself, KIØBZ, came up with a plan to score big in Sweepstakes (phone) (SS). We wanted to take first place in a section but most winning groups plan a DXpedition to a rare, exotic place like the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico or Hawaii. We were much more humble and without that much money so we decided to be close to home. We could see from previous Sweeps that North Dakota was one of the most difficult sections to work so we hoped a station there would draw contacts.

Matt did some research and found out that there were only a couple of big contesters active in the state. He knew the top one and discovered he was going to be busy and probably would not get on that much. So North Dakota became our exotic location. We did not want to just cross the state line and operate from Fargo. We wanted to be "in" ND so we settled on Devils Lake. Sounds like it should be an azure lake in the crater of some volcano in the Caribbean. Well, Devils Lake is a prairie pothole lake on the plains.

We located in a classic 1940s motel consisting of a single building with the units facing the gravel parking lot and where each door of each unit opened onto the parking lot. Twenty feet from the car into the room. For around \$25/room we rented three rooms, one for Jim and Sue, one for Matt and myself, and one for our shack.

The four of us did much planning because we knew that any missing radio gear was not going to be found in Devil's Lake. My job was the computer gear for logging. These were the days before notebook computers and small-and-light. I brought a mini-tower, with a green screen and a small UPS. The computer plugged into the UPS and the green screen plugged into the wall along with the UPS. I believe I wrote the logging software.

Friday after work, we departed knowing that a November winter storm was headed to North Dakota and Minnesota. We got as far as Alexandria before running into precipitation but the roads were very drivable. We got to Devil's Lake late, and went straight to bed. The next morning we went out to have breakfast and buy eating stuff for the contest.

Out in front of the shack was the edge of the parking lot and grass. We strung the feed line out the window and placed a steel fence post in the ground until only two feet was left showing. The antenna was put up using stainless steel hose clamps (Fleet Farm

specials), clamped in place. Matt is a fanatic for tuned radials, so we had two radials for each band. That gave us many radials.

Matt found the grounding in the shack lacking, so ran a grounding strap from the trap in the bathroom to the outlet we were using for the rig and computer. The owner of the motel raised no objection and was really interested in what the hams were doing. I don't know if he thought we were crazy. We were ready for the 3 p.m. start. I think Matt and I took the first shift. It was a normal SS with plenty of activity at the beginning. The good news was that the station seemed to be working.

Jim and Sue took over and Matt and I were to relieve them in the middle of the night. When the alarm sounded there was a howling wind and plenty of snow blown up against the motel. We made our way to the shack. (We had come prepared with Sorrel boots.) It was amazing operating conditions. Noisy wind. The green screen image was expanding and contracting with the dips in voltage (I guess). But the logging computer was rock solid. It never had a problem. And the rig didn't seem to care about the variable input voltage.

After sun up and seeing large snow drifts everywhere, it was decided that we would tear down early. At that point I believe we were well north of 500 Qs. (I tried to look it up at the ARRL but results do not go back that far.)

So after the shutdown, came the teardown. That went pretty well but it was cold and everybody had to stop and warm their hands. Matt and I were taking down the antenna but when it came to taking out the fence post, that was a difficult job. We tried for at least 20 minutes with no joy. So we went about other things. A while later we talked with Jim about the fence post and he said he would work at it.

When everything was packed, we headed east to Grand Forks. The wind was howling and snow was blowing and drifting across the highway. Matt and I radioed Jim and Sue and asked about the fence post. Jim said "No problem!." Matt and I were extremely impressed.

At Grand Forks I-29 was closed. They expected it to re-open in a couple of hours so we hung out at the big truck stop. At that point we found out the truth about the fence post. It had become a permanent feature of the ND prairie.

It was amazing to see I-29 on our way south. Every overpass had been snowed in with snow packing all space under the overpass. Occasionally there were still cars packed into the snow off to the side.

The return trip was visually exciting but uneventful. KIØBZ was the number-one multi-op station in ND for 1996 SS phone!



WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Wednesday, June 3, 2020, via Zoom



Attendees: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Dan Goltz, WKØW; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUU; Mike Foerster, WØIH; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Tom Wilmot, WØMK.

Minutes: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE. Approved. (Dan/Mike)

Treasurer: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM. Approved. (Bob/Dan)

Balance on 5/1/2020	\$4,117.52
Balance reported by bank	\$4,117.52
Paid members (2020)	40
Repeater Upgrade Project Status	
Goal	\$1,100.00
contributed by 19 members	
Donations (cash)	\$1,375.00
Donation (lightning arrestors)	\$278.97
Expense of repeater	\$900.00
Balance	\$753.97

Officers' duties: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV. All officers should describe what they do; Lance will dig through by laws to see if there's anything more describing specific duties for each office. Everyone will report back to Lance by mid June.

Picnic: Motion: (Mike/Dan) that the club not have a July picnic due to virus concerns. Instead the club should have an on-line meeting.

Public Service: Dan Goltz, WKØW. The committee has been relatively inactive during the pandemic isolation orders. Dan checks in to weekly Emergency Management meetings on-line.

SKYWARN was activated Tuesday June 2. Net control was assumed by Russ Marsolek, NØQK, from his home. Dan was able to keep in touch with the National Weather Service and Emergency Management from both his home and vehicle. There was good participation, and good reporting.

The SKYWARN event exposed a problem with the 64 repeater that we hadn't seen. Lance plans to make a trip to the site to investigate the problem.

Repeater Committee: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT. There have been some issues with the '64 repeater. He went to the KAGE site and found some physical issues plus the repeater was operating on emergency power. He rebooted the machine. Also, the tone decoder was not working plus the 440 repeater's tones were not enabled, so he fixed that. APRS telemetry is not working so removed it for repair by Trustee Erik Brom, WBØNIU. There were suggestions by board members that it should be pulled for repair with back-up in place. Mike Foerster, WØIH, could will get the portable from Witoka and have it in an accessible place in case a repair is required.

Climber: Mike Foerster, WØIH. The climber was left a message but we do not know when he's coming.

Field Day: Mike Cizek, WØVTT, has been working with Bill Davis, WØMZN, on assuring a safe site for FD.

QSL cards: Harro's trying to make one. He will collaborate with Bob on it.

Adjourn 7:42 p.m.



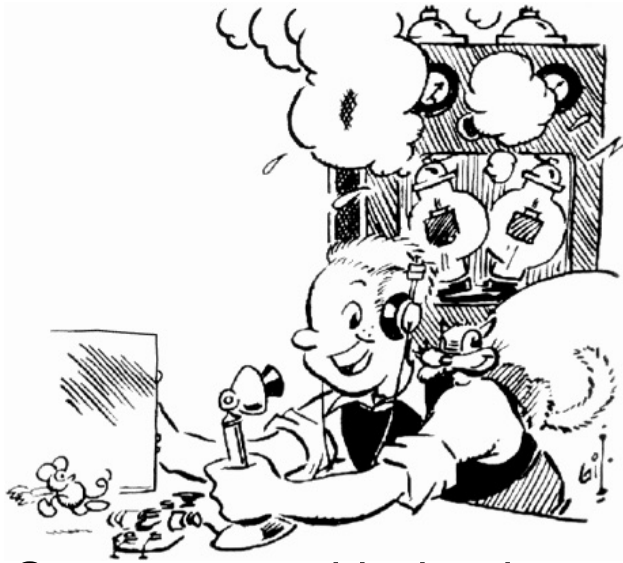
The new voice of the club's 146.835 repeater, Yaesu Fusion DR2X, is clear, reliable and now digital as well as analogue. The machine also makes possible neat tricks for emergency coverage and communication, linking it with the 444.225 and 442.150 machines.

The newest repeater is due to the generosity of the following Winona Amateur Radio Club members who paid for it and more:

Ben Klinger, KEØTNM; Ben Kuhn, KUØHN; Bill Davis, WØMZN; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Chad Oness, KEØYTZ; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; Dan Goltz, WKØW; John Roche, KBØELR; Keith Laken, KEØIJ; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Les Hittner, KØBAD; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; Mike Cizek, WØVTT; Mike Foerster, WØIH; Paul Degallier, ADØUU; Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Skip Green, K7YOO; Tom Wilmot, WØMK; and Jim Jarvis, KBØTHN.
Thank-you!

Documentation tip

Smartphones are fantastic devices for documenting state of equipment and connections prior to disassembly and repair. Many Hams working on gear routinely take a full set of photographs, and even sometime shoot videos of gear that is to be disassembled. Photos are invaluable and, in many cases, much better than written notes in determining "what goes where" when the repair is complete and the gear has to be reassembled.



Scanners and behaviors

When you're out storm spotting keep in mind that many "non-hams" monitor our frequencies. They do so for early weather warnings, they do so for entertainment, they do so as part of their hobby. Many of us were listeners before we were hams. It is important to keep that perspective when holding QSO's.

Keep the invectives, the politics, the non factual-opinions, the unfounded criticisms off the air. Several of our Amateur Radio Nets have earned a reputation for accurate weather reporting. This lends a large amount of validity to the information being shared... now consider some "off the wall remark" about our current situation and the effect it might have if some one takes it as "FACT."



Be a weather observer

Have an interest in taking weather observations? Consider becoming a CoCoRaHS volunteer observer.

CoCoRaHS (pronounced KO-ko-rozz) is a grassroots volunteer network of backyard weather observers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow) in their local communities. By using low-cost measurement tools, stressing training and education, and utilizing an interactive Website, our aim is to provide the highest quality data for natural resource, education and research applications. The only requirements to join are an enthusiasm for watching and reporting weather conditions and a desire to learn more about how weather can affect and impact our lives.

<https://www.cocorahs.org/>

Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. P.O. Box 1451, Winona, MN 55987

WØNE Repeaters

146.640 PL 100.0 Hz *

146.835 PL 131.8 Hz ** FM Voice C4FM Digital

444.225 PL 100.0Hz FM Voice C4FM Digital

442.150 PL 100.0 Hz. FM Voice C4FM Digital

* SkyWarn Net when activated.

** Sundav Nialt 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.

President: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, pschumacher@winona.edu

Vice President: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, lancetag@hbc.com

Treasurer: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, Harro@hohenner.com

Secretary: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, seaquist.robe@eagle.uwlax.edu

Custodian: Erik Brom, WBØNIU, ewbrom@hbc.com

At Large: Dan Goltz, WKØW; Mike Foerster, WØIH

Dues: \$30 per calendar year per license holder. \$35 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

The 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.

