

# The Hamgram

September 2020



## ARRL is September program



ARRL DAKOTA DIVISION DIRECTOR MATT HOLDEN, KØBBC, IS WINONA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB'S SEPTEMBER SPEAKER.

The ARRL is changing so we'll get an update from Dakota Division Director Matt Holden, KØBBC, at the Winona Amateur Radio Club's September meeting, 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 17, on Zoom.

The league's board of directors recently met, hiring a new CEO and a new Emergency Communications Director. It is a turbulent time for organizations like the ARRL so Holden will describe the league's long-range plans plus he would like to hear about your 2020 field experience and other concerns you have.

Club members will receive a link for the meeting by Sept. 17th; those not on the club reflector may request a link from Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, at [pschumacher@winona.edu](mailto:pschumacher@winona.edu)

Holden says he will conclude his session with a brief presentation on his March 2020 DXpedition to St. Kitts and Nevis.

## Go 'parking' Saturday with Marv and Bob

Listen for Marv Rodvold, AC9TO, and Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, when they light up Perrot State Park during the Wisconsin State Parks On The Air event from 11 a.m.–6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19. You may join them in the park as well. Bring your own snacks and beverages.

WIPOTA's purpose is to promote public awareness of Ham radio within Wisconsin's beautiful state park system. There will be "activators" in the parks and "chasers" elsewhere. The objective is to have competing stations operate from as many Wisconsin parks as possible and work Hams in other Wisconsin parks, as well as hams not located in a park in any state, province or country.

Stations will operate on 75, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters with suggested frequencies: SSB: 3.850, 7.220, 14.260, 21.350, 28.400 and 50.150 MHz, FM: 146.55, 146.58 and 52.525MHz. Modes are SSB and FM.

Marv and Bob plan to be on 20 and 40 meters as well as 146.52 FM. Activators are allowed to run 150 Watts maximum while chasers may run the legal limit

The exchange is call sign, Park abbreviation or State, Province or Country.



## Go low and win

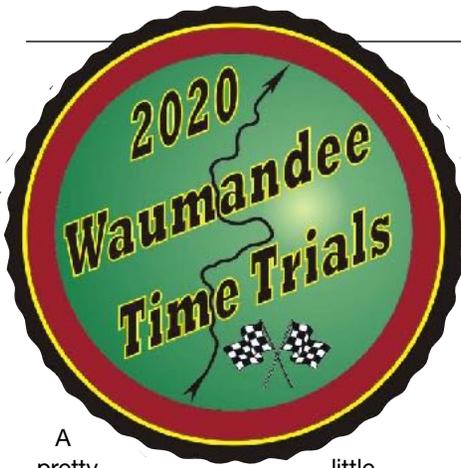
There's a new contest for portable operators, the Fox Mike Hotel Portable Operator's Challenge Oct. 3–4, and the spirit of the contest is getting the maximum number of kilometers-per-watt.

Scoring will be calculated using the distance between stations (Maidenhead grid squares) in kilometers divided by power output in watts.

Allowable modes include phone, CW, and digital.

It will encourage activity by operators who are "limited by real-estate," and do not have a full-blown contest station. Events like this stimulate more interest in contesting and it will have an international scope to give chances to snare some new DXCC entities.





A pretty little Wisconsin valley with a narrow, winding road could be the scene for your one-and-only public service operation this year. So grab your H-T with its charged battery and head to Waumandee Saturday, Oct. 10, for the Waumandee Time Trials (<https://www.mwmotoring.com/waumandee>). Erik Brom, WBØNIU, is chairing the interesting operation. Contact him to volunteer at [ewbrom@hbc.com](mailto:ewbrom@hbc.com)

The time trials feature cars, 1990 and older, going as fast as possible up a very twisty road just a bit wider than single-lane. There's more! Several "gates" formed of straw bales force drivers to zig and zag and you, the trusty Ham communicator, will be there to report missteps or accidents.

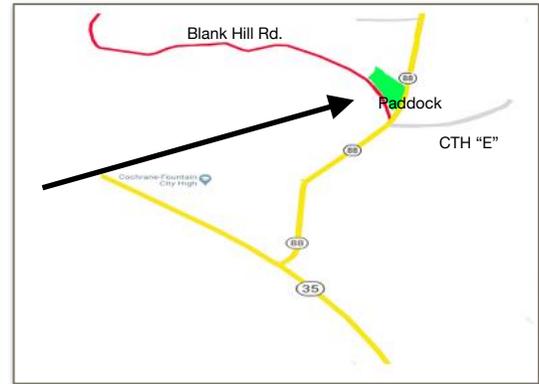
When the Winona Amateur Radio Club assisted in the 2018 time trials there was one misstep—in racer

language, a "Red Flag" when a car stalled on the course. If one of our operators radios the words, "Red Flag," then operators at all gates flag down other cars on the course (with a red flag, of course). There are usually about three cars steaming to the top at any given time.

Volunteers are appreciated and rewarded. Each station will have a bag of snacks and beverages, there will be a generous box lunch and when it's all done there is a delicious chicken dinner from the Waumandee House. Obviously, there's the joy of pressing your push-to-talk button a few times.

This will all be done in a COVID friendly manner with proper sanitation and distancing measures in place. There race runs in the morning, then there's a break for lunch, and then the afternoon session. There is opportunity to work just part of the day.

The nature of the valley and its topography requires the club's portable repeater for high quality communication. A group of club members met race organizer Tom Hazen, KEØSQL, on location to check out locations for a portable



**DIRECTIONS: FROM STATE HIGHWAY 35 TURN NORTH ON STATE HIGHWAY 88 AND GO ABOUT 6.6 MILES TO THE WAUMANDEE TURN-OFF, COUNTRY ROAD E. THE PADDOCK (IN GREEN) IS AT THE INTERSECTION OF E AND BLANK HILL ROAD.**

repeater. We found that the spot on the valley floor across from the course works very well. Unfortunately we also discovered that we still can also hit the club's 146.64 repeater with the portable repeater and even H-Ts that are near the top of the hill.

Our portable repeater is a Motorola unit that the county gave us when they went to 800 Mhz. It can only be programmed with special equipment, which we do not have but the Motorola shop did program it once for us, and we set it up as a backup for the 64 and 835 repeaters, 52 simplex, and 144.39 APRS. It has to be paired with a duplexer tuned for 64 or 835 (we have a spare one of each each).



## Before you go:

because of possible interference from our Winona repeater.... program your radio(s) for

- 146.64 mHz WITH 100Hz tone (normal Winona Repeater setting)
- 146.64 mHz **WITHOUT** PL tones.
- 146.550 simplex (principal backup)
- 146.490 simplex
- 146.520 simplex

## WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Wednesday, September 2, 2020, via Zoom



Called to order on Zoom at 7 p.m. by President Paul Schumacher, KØZYV

Attendees: Dan Goltz, WKØW; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Marv Rodvold, AC9T0; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Erik Brom, WBØNIU; Mike Foerster, WØIH; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Tom Wilmot, WØMK; Bill Lippert, ACØW.

**Minutes:** Bob Seaquist, W9LSE. Approved.

**Treasurer's report:** Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM.

Approved.

Balance 8/1/2020	\$4,007.04
Deposits:	none
Payments:	none
Balance reported by bank	\$4,007.04
Paid members	40

**Public Service:** Dan Goltz, WKØW. Walt Kelly, KEØXI, and I continue to attend county emergency management virtual meetings.

Erik Brom, WBØNIU, organized an expedition to Waumandee to check our communications strategies for the Waumandee Time Trials in October. Several club members participated. The portable repeater was tested and a good location for it was found. It was also discovered that our 146.640 repeater has better coverage than anticipated, and we did experience some interference. The solution will be to take the tone access off the portable repeater, and also turn off tone access on the radios being used at the event. A

bad cable in the portable repeater was also identified. That is why we test before the event.

I have been in contact with Emergency Manager Ben Klinger. We had several projects lined up with emergency management, but those were put on hold because of the pandemic. We are planning to try to start working on those again. The committee will meet with Winona County Emergency Manager involving his future gear needs. Group to include Dan Goltz, WKØW, Russ Marsolek, NØQK; Walt Kelly, KEØXI; Erik Brom, WBØNIU; and Bob Seaquist, W9LSE.

**Linking:** Marv Rodvold, AC9T0. There's been no progress since last month. We have equipment and have decided how to do it.

**Witoka:** Mike Foerster, WØIH. Still haven't heard from climber. Still don't have PC backup yet. Maybe next week.

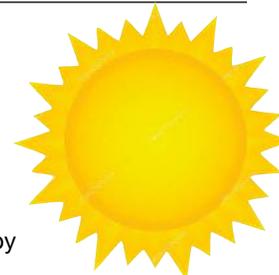
**Repeaters:** Erik Brom, WBØNIU. The portable repeater's cable N connector shorted out causing a failure. It's been fixed though the issue of its PL encoder is not resolved. A Rochester expert said he'd help. The portable repeater is needed at Waumandee so that all stations on the course can hear simultaneously. We're busy preparing for the time trials rounding up gear and volunteers.

Adjourn 7:39 p.m.

## How I spent my summer vacation

By Denny Rybiecki, K9LGU

- Field Day in June at home. Learned I can still stay semi-awake for 36 hours. Great fun and plenty of CW.
- Isolated, masked, and washed hands.
- Checked all my antenna connections, breaks, corrosion, intermittent contacts. Noted that wires are aging – like me.
- Regularly checked in to nets.
- Re-installed dipoles after wind damage.
- Isolated, masked, and washed hands.
- Emptied and repacked my Go Kit (in Wisconsin, my "Go Pack").
- Tried some new digital modes using RMS.
- Did Zoom meetings.
- Participated in severe weather nets.
- Hung up one leg of dipole again after a branch brought it down.
- Tried to send timely material by USPS.
- Tested all the jumper cables in the shack.
- Isolated, masked, and washed hands.
- Enjoyed a DXpedition to very rare island where I heard hundreds of polite DXers calling.
- Determined that my weight gain is just a snackcident. Okay, okay. Maybe I didn't do number 15 – but at least I did some other stuff. Hope you had an exciting summer, too. Now, like Humpty Dumpty, we can have a great Fall. Oh, wait a minute.



# Where's Earl?

By Bob Seaquist, W9LSE

It took a living room table sagging under the weight of radio equipment to whet my appetite for Ham radio; Earl Wilson invited me into his living room one evening for a look at his Ham radio hobby. He started a lot of hot, glowing tubes, flicked some switches and called into a microphone, "CQ, CQ, CQ...." No reply. He called again. And again. No joy. Then he carefully inked his unsuccessful transmissions into a log. Just seeing the gear and hearing voices from far-away on Earl's radio got my attention.

I think about Earl Wilson from time-to-time as I'm tuning up and down a band. Where is he? There are a zillion nets, there are contests, there are special event stations, and there are some rare entities but few Hams just calling.

It's sad hearing net check-ins with dozens of guys giving out their call, being recognized and then nothing further. That's it, just a callsign and a bit of electrons falling off their aluminum.

Operating on vacation I found the YL Net (14.332) that ostensibly is for YLs yet I only

heard a bunch of OM. The net control, clearly a lonely man, proceeded to recognize me and then persisted in wanting to talk with me!

Are there other Hams that simply want to talk? Doesn't anyone want to learn something about another person and another place on the map? Or are all Hams just interested in exchanging a call and a signal report.

One day I turned on the radio while working in the den/shack and heard a "CQ." It was a German Ham who was looking for conversation, not just to rack up a bunch of QSOs. His home was on the Rhine River near Frankfort Germany so for the next half-hour he and I conversed about life on a major river. I was nervous talking so long because there must've been many Hams wanting a German contact but he persisted.

In my few years as a Ham it has been the conversations and the people on the radio that keep me interested in the hobby. Sure, I occasionally go for wallpaper from the 13 Colonies or from the Route 66 stations, but chatting with another Ham is magic. One year

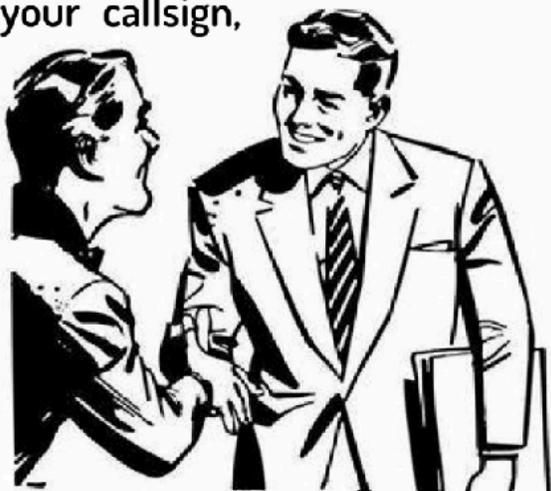


on Skywarn Appreciation Day at the weather service office in La Crosse I was working a radio when I contacted another weather service station and spoke with a YL. As we exchanged location details she mentioned that her uncle was Winona County Emergency Management Director Bob Bilder. She went on to tell me she was a meteorology grad student who chased tornados in a big radar truck. Another memorable conversation.

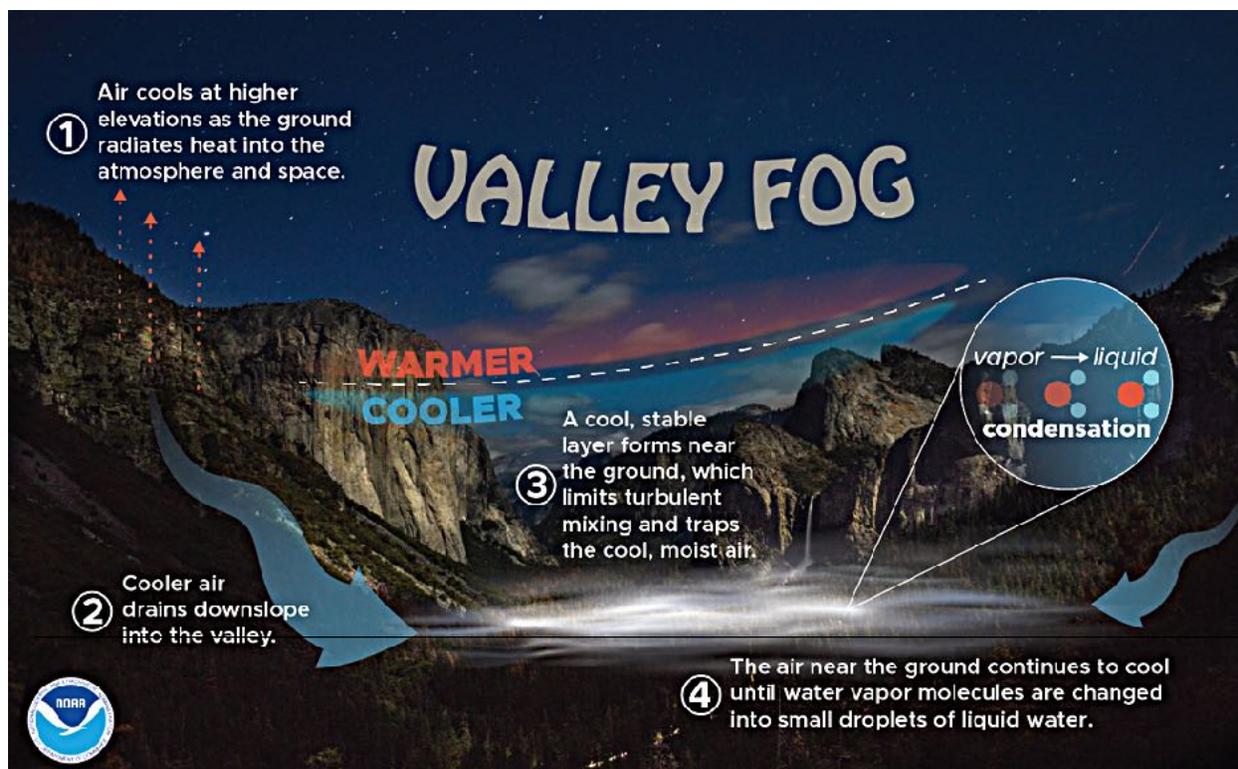
So, how to you have a conversation? Most guys start by asking the kind of gear is in the shack. Weather is a starter too, but remember that it is the springboard to a real conversation. Where does the Ham live, what does he like doing (beside radio), do his grandkids laugh at his hobby, what's his community like? There are a million ways to begin a conversation and a billion more on how to continue it. Listen. Ask questions. Be friendly. But do not bring up religion or politics. And if the Ham is in a foreign country, be especially sensitive.

By all means, meet someone new and have a good time!

I can't recall your name or your callsign,



But you have an IC-7610 and a Kenwood TH-D74A, right?



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 Nighth Net—8:30 p.m.

**Winona Amateur Radio club meetings are 7 p.m., third Thursday of the month on Zoom video conferencing. The monthly program is open to the public.**



President: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, [pschumacher@winona.edu](mailto:pschumacher@winona.edu)  
 Vice President: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, [lancetag@hbc.com](mailto:lancetag@hbc.com)  
 Treasurer: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, [Harro@hohenner.com](mailto:Harro@hohenner.com)  
 Secretary: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, [seaquist.robe@eagle.uwlax.edu](mailto:seaquist.robe@eagle.uwlax.edu)  
 Custodian: Erik Brom, WBØNIU, [ewbrom@hbc.com](mailto: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

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