

The Hamgram

October 2020



ARRL director reports to club



ARRL DAKOTA DIVISION DIRECTOR
MATT HOLDEN, KØBBC

A new CEO, several new initiatives and good financial standing mark the ARRL's (American Radio Relay League) annual report according to ARRL Dakota Division Director Matt Holden, KØBBC. Holden spoke via Zoom with the Winona Amateur Radio Club at its Sept. 17 meeting.

The recent appointment of David

Minster, NA2AA, as ARRL CEO will be a great help to the league, said Holden. "We need someone with his enthusiasm to run a business with more than 80 employees plus someone who is a very active Ham." Minster's background includes National Traffic System training and participation in public service events, as well as contesting from home, club stations, and contest stations in the Caribbean — particularly on Bonaire, where he is a member of PJ4G. Primarily a CW operator, Minster collects unique and vintage bugs and keys.

The ARRL is celebrating initiatives including *On the Air* magazine and the ARRL Online Learning Center. They signify steps taken toward the 'new generation of hams' that I've been talking about in the past few

Annual Reports," ARRL President Rick Roderick said. "They've been asking ARRL for help finding their way in amateur radio for so long, wanting to know everything from how to serve their communities, how to integrate the ham radio hobby and service with all the demands that modern life makes upon them, and even simply how to determine which parts of ham radio interest them."

ARRL membership was essentially flat from 2018 at 156,755 — likely a result of the membership dues increase in 2019 but still slightly above projections.

Board elections

Club annual meeting Nov. 19

Winona Amateur Radio Club members will elect board members and conduct other club business at the club's annual meeting Nov. 19. Members will elect three board members to fill spots now held by Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, Dan Goltz, WKØW, and Mike Foerster, WØIH.

Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

The meeting is set for 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 19, via Zoom.

Current club board members include: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, Foerster, Tagliapietra, and Goltz. The club's custodian is Erik Brom, WBØNIU. The custodian automatically is a member of the board.



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Waumandee Time Trials a sunny success



PAUL DEGALLIER, ADØUU, ERIK BROM, WBØNIU AND ARON CHAVEZ SET UP THE NCS SHELTER.



Sunny skies, bright Autumn color, roaring engines, great volunteers and plentiful food and snacks made the Winona Amateur Radio Club's participation of the Waumandee Time Trials a great October success.

The club's portable repeater did well in its first real test. (see sidebar)

The Waumandee event is the production of Midwest Motoring, a Twin Cities based club for classic sports car enthusiasts. They make a weekend of motoring leisurely to the area, spend a night or two, then race cars that are at least 20 years old up a windy, narrow, steep hill. The results are based on the best time on Blank Hill Rd which, on average, is about three minutes.

Winona Hams provide communication in a difficult situation in this narrow valley. Cell coverage is "iffy" there too. There are Hams stationed at the bottom of the hill, at each of the eight "gates," at the finish line and also in cars patrolling neighboring roads looking for speeders from the time trials.

There was plenty of food from well stocked bags of snacks at each operating position, a box lunch and, at the end, a fine chicken dinner.

Operators included: Mike Cizek, WØVTT; Dan Goltz, WKØW; Nancy Goltz, NØNAN; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; Keith Laken, KEØIJI; Bill Chavez, KEØIJG; Aron Chavez; Rick Kolter, KE9GVS; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Paul Degallier, ADØUU; Eric Brom, WBØNIU; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; John Kowalik, K2OPT and event director Tom Hazen, KEØSQL.

The portable repeater, a gift from Winona County, got a shaky baptism into the world of emergency and public service operations at the Waumandee Time Trials.

The Motorola CDR700 machine was given to the club when Minnesota converted to the 800 MHz ARMER system. The hope was the club could use it to support emergency and public service operations in areas where the club's fixed repeaters did not provide reliable service.

The first test was the Waumandee Time Trials located in a valley too far from the 146.64 repeater, but, just close enough so that some radios in Waumandee tripped the '64.

So.....Erik Brom, WBØNIU, Mike Foerster, WØIH, Mike Cizek, WØVTT tried to fix the situation and the repeater's problems. The problems were a bad connector but the conflict required the repeater to not have a PL tone. The solution was to turn off the fixed '64 the day of the event.

The club now has Motorola's proprietary programming software so the portable may be reconfigured the way it will work best. Some other issues such as power output will also be checked.

Radios warmed Perrot

By Bob Seaquist, W9LSE



W9LSE WORKING THE WIPOTA EVENT.



AC9TO WORKING THE WIPOTA EVENT.

The sun shone, the breeze was gentle, the temperature just-right and Perrot Park was beautiful for a Wisconsin Parks On The Air (WIPOTA) activation. Marv Rodvold, AC9TO, and myself, W9LSE, headed there Sept. 19 to be a part of WIPOTA and to score some Qs for the worldwide Parks On The Air (POTA) program.

Like many portable radio operations we had some hiccoughs. Marv, imitating a one-armed paper hanger because of very recent shoulder surgery, took forever trying to hang a G5RV from a couple of trees. Just lugging two large batteries was a chore. I fiddled around setting up a Buddipole for 40 meters and struggled hanging a 20 meter endfed from a kite pole. Both of us had challenges getting our radios, Marv's is

an Icom 7300 and mine an Elecraft KX3, to make nice with the antennas.

My first contact was Erik Brom, WBØNIU, on FM simplex. We set up the contact via the '835 repeater with Clare Jarvis, KØNY, and Mike Foerster, WØIH, also trying. The latter two couldn't make their radios hear me though I could hear them. Later in the operation Dan Goltz, WKØW, and Tom Peterson, KC9ECI, dropped by in person then caught us on 40 meters.

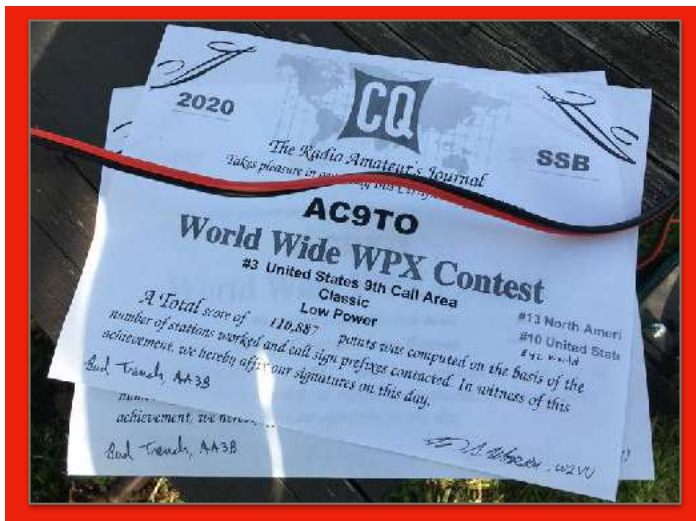
Once Marv and I got underway we discovered all kinds of QSO parties as well as other events on the air so the bands were burning. The well-known Salmon Run in Oregon gave me almost all my early Qs along with the Route-66-On-The-Air stations. As the day grew and our operating skill increased (some) POTA chasers started coming to us. There would be long lulls followed by rapid calls from chasers, then more lulls.

By day's end we made 40-50 contacts, sipped two New Glarus beers and backs warmed by a beautiful September sun.

EXCEPT for someone/something generating an awful across-the-band noise!

Still, Marv, AC9TO, and myself, W9LSE, soldiered ahead making contacts on 40 and 20. Marv managed a very few on 80 as he and his IC 7300 battled with an unrepentant G5RV.

We're happy that we activated Perrot for WIPOTA and pleased that we gave many hams a contact. We also are sorry to have missed many of you.



MARV, AC9TO, AND HIS LITTLE 100W STATION AGAIN DID REALLY WELL ON THE CQ WORLD WIDE WPX CONTEST, TAKING 3RD IN THE 9TH CALL AREA.



WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Wednesday, October 2, 2020, via Zoom



Attendees: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Dan Goltz, WKØW; Erik Brom, WBØNIU; Mike Foerster, WØIH; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Tom Wilmot, WØMK; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO.

Minutes: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE

Treasurer: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM

Balance 9/1/2020 \$4,007.04

Deposits: \$43.13

Dues \$13.13 + \$30.00 (not deposited)

Payments: \$602.69

Reimbursement to Ben Kuhn for Ubiquiti Equipment Parts

Balance reported by bank \$4,007.04

Paid members (2020) 40

Elections: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV

Nomination slate for new board members will be at the Nov. 19 club meeting. Terms expire for Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, Dan Goltz, WKØW, and Mike Foerster, WØIH.

Public Service: Dan Goltz, WKØW

Walt Kelly, KEØXI, and I continue to attend virtual emergency management meetings.

A small group from our committee met with Winona County Emergency Management director Ben Klinger in person to discuss our needs for installation of amateur equipment in the sheriff's SOAR van and the command post trailer. It was determined that the Yaesu FTM-400 radios would be the best option for each vehicle. Consideration of HF capability and ATV was also discussed.

The Yaesu radios, including power supplies and external speakers are now in the EM budget. Walt and Dan had also arranged to go with the director to visit the vehicles to evaluate installation needs, antenna placements and configurations, but that meeting was postponed due to conflicts with the increased workload caused by visits from political campaigns, and the mass COVID testing. An alternate time is still to be scheduled.

Access to the amateur station in the law enforcement center remains limited due to county COVID policy, but would be available under emergency circumstances.

Repeaters: Erik Brom, WBØNIU

The portable repeater, after some trial and error, is working and is available for the Waumandee event. Programming software is coming so the machine may be more flexible.

There is also a "frog" noise on the '64 fixed repeater that needs investigation.

The MESH connection of repeaters may be within a week, according to Marv Rodvold, AC9TO.

Education: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV

An on-line request for help by Kelly Herold begs the question of if the club should offer another testing or class session.

Witoka: Mike Foerster, WØIH

Harro helped separate elements on the club's Mosely Classic 33 beam giving a minimum transport length of 18'. Colored tape is on the disconnected pieces to make it easier to re-assemble; it's wrapped for better storage.

The Windows 10 system is backed up to a "Recovery Drive" (16 GB USB, thanks Mike, WØVTT). Some of the other data ("Documents" and the RCForb directory) are backed to the same drive. The USB drive is up at the tower on the desk.

The fan on the Kenwood TG-707 for the APRS TX/RX node is very noisy. A new fan should be ordered to replace the existing fan.

We'll need to replace the garbage bag up there.

A working DC-AC converter that Dale Cohenour, KEØEKD, fixed is in storage and should be sold or given away. One unit is fully functional, the other may work, but is mostly for parts. The design takes the 48V from the four internal batteries and puts out 120VAC.

Are you a member of the ARRL?



Are you new to ham Radio?

Have you been licensed for a while but not active?

Are you active but never explored the ARRL?

It is time to let other hams know about the ARRL. Of course you may think, "it's just another group that wants my money because I'm a Ham." But there is more to it than that, they truly want to grow the hobby.

So here are two links you can explore to see what the ARRL offers Hams. Take a look.

ARRL Benefits at <http://www.arrl.org/membership>

The Value of ARRL membership <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/QST/This%20Month%20in%20QST/>



WARC'S PORTABLE MOTOROLA REPEATER.



Emergency Management an Ambassador of Excellence!



COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR BEN KLINGER, KEØTNM, TALKS ABOUT WINTER SAFETY WITH SECOND GRADERS.

For the fourth year, NOAA and the National Weather Service recognize Winona County Emergency Management as “Ambassadors of Excellence” -- a select number of WRN Ambassador organizations that have made significant contributions to building a Weather-Ready Nation.

Winona County Emergency Management has been an excellent core partner and as a WRN Ambassador where they have engaged their community by organizing outreach events. They started a Winter Safety Program for second graders. At Ridgeway School, they spoke with the kids about winter weather and how to be safe outside. This didn't end when the school day was over. They provided a survival kit that the kids could take home and put in their family's car with educational materials for the parents. Emergency management plans to continue and hopefully expand this program.

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.

** Sunday Night 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

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. 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.

