



# The Hamgram

December 2020



WARC wins FD honor

## Field Day cup for winning Minnesota



Field Day, Covid-style, was a success in many ways for the Winona Amateur Radio Club. The latest recognition is from the Minnesota ARRL Section that awarded the club a traveling trophy for the highest Minnesota score in the 3A category.

WONE operations were 21st on the 3A list with 3,070 points. Top club was Indy United where its 32 ops scored 17,330. Officially, Winona made 878 contacts through the efforts of 16 members.

The appropriately socially distanced Winona Field Day was at a Minnesota City farm owned by Erik Brom's, WBØNIU, family. Three widely spaced tents sheltered each of the club's stations.

John Kowalik, K2OPT, Sam Resto, KFØACN, and Erik Brom, WBØNIU contributed to our FT8



score, along with 50 anonymous QSOs made by the mysterious WØNE. (Not everyone remembered to log on when they started operating and "WØNE" was the default.)

AC9TO and ADØUT led the charge on SSB with 197 and 179 QSOs respectively. Nearly everyone else, including WØNE, contributed to the total of 436 QSOs on SSB.

Clare Jarvis, KØNY, Dick Lindner, WØRIF, and WØVTT teamed up to make 368 QSOs on CW, all on 40 meters.

As expected, 20 and 40 meters were the "money bands" with 432 and 390 QSOs respectively. We also made 48 QSOs on 80 meters, 3 on 15 meters, and 5 on 10 meters. Kudos for all the members that participated.

Winona's 2020 Field Day committee consisted of Mike Cizek, WØVTT, Mike Foerster, WØIH, Marv Rodvold, AC9TO, and Bob Seaquist, W9LSE.



### INSIDE

Skywarn	2
Going to Arecibo	3
Board minutes	4
Annual minutes	4
Witoka antenna	5
10M contest	5



# Skywarn Recognition in a Covid year



The unusual nature of 2020 activities continued with the National Weather Service's Skywarn Recognition Day Dec. 5. The La Crosse NWS office operated virtually using the Google Meet conference app and Hams at their home radios. In normal years Hams were invited to its Granddad Bluff home above La Crosse for food, socialization and some radio operating. The day was a success according to John Wetenkamp, KB9UMX, Service Hydrologist / Meteorologist.



**WAYNE OLIVER, KØWLO**

"We had a great virtual turnout and preliminary numbers show that the group made 178 contacts including 36 states, three countries. and 29 NWS Offices!"

Begun in 1999, the event's purpose is to test amateur radio operations and equipment between NWS Offices nationwide, and it is open to all stations. Participants exchange signal reports and basic weather information (e.g., "sunny," "cloudy," "rain") with stations at NWS Offices and elsewhere. This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, operation from NWS forecast offices was

minimal, so the focus shifted to contacting as many participating trained SKYWARN spotters as possible.

Club participants included Mike Cizek, WØVTT; Tim Jacobson, N9CD; Wayne Oliver, KØWLO; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; and Bob Seaquist, W9LSE.

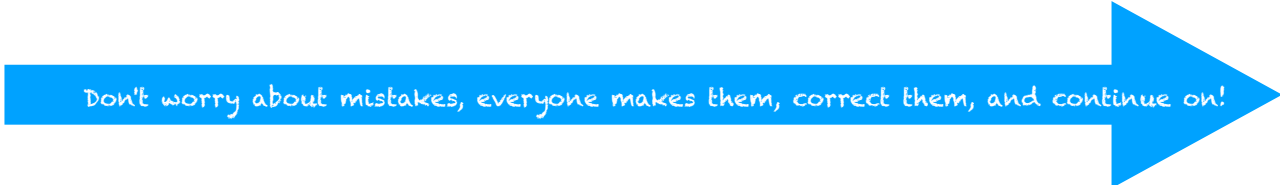
"It was fun," noted Oliver, KØWLO. Remote operators signed up for one-hour blocks. "I had 36 QSO's and even ran into a few Illinois/Indiana clients of mine," said Oliver.

Todd Shea, KB9YXS, Warning Coordination Meteorologist thanked

Amateurs for their support. "Although it was virtual (and we couldn't share pulled pork and cookies), it was still good to chat with many of you online and see the contacts grow," he said. "As we move into 2021, and hopefully better times, we look forward to your support with storm spotting and hazardous weather communication. We are lucky to have so many dedicated operators and clubs in the region."



**TIM JACOBSON, N9CD**





# Getting to Arecibo

By Bob Seaquist, W9LSE



I got to see the famous world class Arecibo Observatory when it was still operating. It—the massive spherical dish—is just junk now. The ravages of time, humid tropical air and sea salt caused its catastrophic collapse earlier this month. Head of telescope operations, Angel Vazquez, WP3R, in a recent streamed interview with Tim Duffy, K3LR, said the old cables started giving out in August with the final collapse Dec. 2. “These were 3” bridge cables snapping like guitar strings,” he said.

Our family was in Puerto Rico in May of 2011 for my son’s destination wedding. I’m not sure what the point of the beach wedding because he and his wife were married a couple weeks earlier in the Wisconsin state capitol. Anyhow, it was fun seeing Puerto Rico for the first time and lolling at a seaside villa. There was culture shock for sure; it was dripping hot, most signs were in Spanish, and navigation would’ve been impossible without a Garmin to guide us. Additionally, a dark cloud in the sky meant the power would go off and a noisy generator would roar away.

Being a good Ham, I brought along my little Yaesu FT-817 radio, an endfed antenna and some headphones, setting up overlooking the villa’s beach. There was plenty of time to operate because the female

portion of the family, had many important errands in preparation for the wedding such as getting their nails done. A fine bottle of beer and the radio kept me busy and I ended making 5W contacts along the eastern US coast including checking into the 14.300 maritime net. I had no traffic.

I knew of the radio telescope and didn’t want to miss a chance at it so my wife, Mary, and I escaped the estrogen dominated household and headed off on the short 44.5 mile drive to the observatory. I thought in terms of Wisconsin miles and was shocked when the Garmin said it would take us two hours to get there. How could it take two hours to drive the equivalent of Stockton to La Crosse?

We headed off scraping through village streets jammed with cars and having our side mirrors brushing parked vehicles. Sure, there was some open road, much like a state highway in Minnesota, but the open road didn’t last. Soon we went back and forth on what we, at home, call “not maintained” roads. Scarcely gravel and, with luck, a car’s width wide.

Finally, at the end of a mountainous valley we arrived at the thoroughly modern and gracious visitor center. A few steps later were gazing at the enormous dish and the massive buildings suspended over it.

It was a thrill, first to find the place, but especially, to witness the awesomeness of it. The famous dish that is pictured in newspapers, magazines and books, is magnificently huge. The antennas and control structures suspended above it are from out of this world, hanging like Christmas ornaments over a giant’s wok. It was worth the trip. It was once the world’s largest single-dish radio telescope. Arecibo’s 900-ton equipment platform, suspended 500 feet above the dish, fell after the last of its healthy support cables failed to keep it in place.

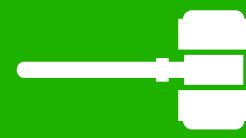
Arecibo did some fun Ham radio work thanks to the Hams that worked here. Vazquez recalled using the immense dish as a Ham radio antenna for EME (Earth-Moon-Earth). Using a one-watt HT connected to the dish he made a 2m call to another Ham in Puerto Rico. (August 2010 QST).

The Arecibo Observatory’s work will continue, according to Vazquez, with a 12-meter telescope, LIDAR and a photometer.



# WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Wednesday, December 2, 2020, via Zoom



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

Called to order at 7:07 p.m. on Zoom.

**Minutes:** Bob Seaquist, W9LSE (approved)

**Treasurer:** Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM (approved)

Balance on 11/1/2020 \$3,598.63

Balance reported by bank \$3,598.63

Paid members (2020) 41

**Silent Key:** Paul Schumacher, KØZYV. The board voted in November to give amateur radio books to public schools but Dan could not find appropriate books. One idea is to buy tech and General books the club could loan to new Hams. **TABLED**

**Link:** Marv Rodvold, AC9TO. No action due to illness. He will contact Mike and Ben for planning. KAGE is the last site to be fitted.

**Public Service:** Dan Goltz, WKØW. Good news, Winona County should be a hub for Covid vaccine distribution and that should occur by the third week of December. Covid has prevented many of the activities

we would have normally participated in this year. Most of our contact with other agencies has been through on line meetings.

Walt Kelly, KEØXI, and WKØW put together a suggested list of equipment needs for our emergency management involvement, and this has been forwarded to our county emergency manager.

Our plan is to get back into the emergency management office as soon as conditions allow, and do a thorough inspection and test of our station there.

Another item is to take another inventory of our emergency response capabilities including personnel, qualifications, and equipment availability. It has been some time since that was last done.

**Witoka:** Mike Foerster, WØIH. Computer re-loaded **Skywarn:** Marv Rodvold, AC9TO and Bob Seaquist, W9LSE. Encourage Hams to sign up as WX9ARX stations for Skywarn Recognition Day Sat. Dec 5.

**SK Gear:** Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM. Bill Davis', WØMZN, gear will be listed for sale on the reflector.

**Adjourn:** 7:48 p.m.

# WARC Annual Meeting (unofficial minutes)

Thursday, November 19, 2020, via Zoom

Attendees: Dan Goltz, WKØW; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Mike Cizek, WØVTT; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; Mike Foerster, WØIH; Walt Kelly, KEØXI; Erik Brom, WBØNIU; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; Syed Faruque, ACØVA; Tom Wilmot, WvMK; John Kowalik, K2OPT.

Called to order at about 7 p.m. by Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT Discussion of **Minnesota QSO Party** and if we could do it in the Covid era.

**Sweeps:** Of the group, ADØUT, AC9TO, KØNY and W9LSE planned to do SSB Sweeps. WØVTT acknowledged only CW Sweeps.

**Odd modes:** Discussion of those doing modes such as EME,

meteor and others.

**Zoom.** Paul, KØZYV, is concerned about his access to Zoom. Harro's wife has a professional (paid) version so he will check to see if we can use it.

**Election:** Bob Seaquist, W9LSE. The terms of Lance Tagliepietra, ADØUT; Dan Goltz, WKØW; and Mike Foerster, WØIH expired. Foerster declined to seek reelection. The slate forwarded by the board was Lance Tagliepietra, ADØUT; Dan Goltz, WKØW; and Clare Jarvis, KØNY. Nominations from the floor were called for three times with no response. The slate was elected by acclamation (Seaquist/Schumacher).

**Adjourn** 8:02 p.m.

## FT8 featured at December Club meeting

The mysteries and joy of digital communication using FT8 will be on tap—maybe on 'click,' for the Winona Amateur Radio Club's Thursday, Dec. 17 meeting.

Dick Lindner, WØRIF, a longtime proponent of the original digital mode (CW), has been into the very popular FT8 mode and he'll demonstrate how a radio, a sound card and a computer can use tiny amounts of power for some powerful connections.

The 7 p.m. meeting will be on Zoom at <https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/3120290434> (password: WARCBOARD)



## 10 Meter Contest

This weekend, the ARRL 10 meter contest will take place from 6 p.m. Friday through 5:59 p.m. Sunday. All amateurs have access to the relevant spectrum (28.000-28.500 MHz, although general and extra licensees have additional spectrum above 28.500 MHz), and with the recent increase in solar activity, there could be some great openings. Put up an antenna, turn on the radio, call CQ, and find out! More information on the contest can be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>



## New antenna at Witoka

A single tri-band element from a Mosely TA-33 beam has been installed at Witoka by Dan Goltz, WKØW, Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM and Mike Foerster, WØIH. It was donated by Skip Green, K7YOO. This gives us a better SWR on 20, but also gives us 15 meters.

Three different pieces of mast got the element up to about 28 feet. The mast is attached to the corner fence post and is turned to face about 45 Deg, favoring Europe and the Southwest. Coax, some LMR400, is from one of the previous antennas.

Additionally we had previously swapped out the ZS6BKW antenna with a double length ZS6BKW to give us access to 160 meters for the winter. The top end of 160 seems to tune OK, but the bottom end doesn't work so well.

An automatic antenna switch is in place that selects the ZS6BKW for 160, 80 and 40M (along with 6m) and selects the beam for the 20/15/10 meter element. The tri-band element is also selected for 10m, 17 and 12M.

Reference: <https://ncjweb.com/bonus-content/WØIH-MultiRadioBandSwitch.pdf>



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

The Hamgram is published monthly by The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Distribution is via e-mail and the [WØNE.org](http://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](mailto: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.