

The Hamgram

January 2021



Club officers re-elected

Club officers agreed to serve again at the Winona Amateur Radio Club's Jan. 6 board meeting: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, president; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, vice-president; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, treasurer; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, secretary. Erik Brom, WBØNIU, was again appointed repeater trustee.



President

Paul KØZYV



Vice-President

Lance ADØUT



Treasurer

Harro



Secretary

Bob Seaquist

Previews Virtual Ham Expo

WØIH talks Arduino at Jan 21 club meeting

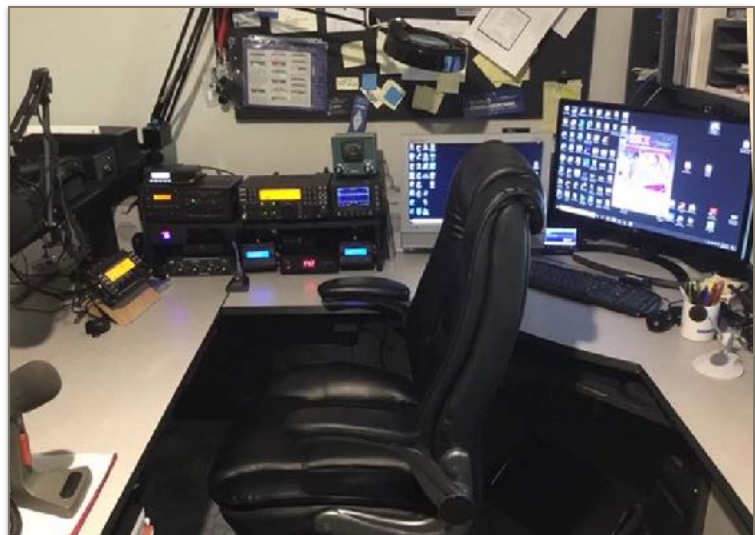
Tiny, cheap computers help many Hams with their operating; Winona Amateur Radio Club's Michael Foerster, WØIH, knows how to make your radio experience better with Arduino computing in your shack. In fact, Foerster will be giving a presentation on the "QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo" (<https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com>) March 12-13. His presentation is "Using the Arduino in Your Shack" and he will give that presentation to the Winona Amateur Radio Club at the Jan. 21 meeting as a practice run.



Foerster is an acknowledged author with five different articles in QST magazine, one in QEX, and one in NCJ (National Contest Journal) and one more pending in QST.

The [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo](#) will be March 13-14. The event is as close as your computer monitor yet it simulates being at a real Ham fest.

[Registration](#) is required, and there will be a \$10 charge to attend. Visitors can take part in live virtual kit-building workshops. (Kits will be available for purchase and delivered to attendees in time for the Expo.), walk through the "exhibit hall" to visit amateur radio vendors and see live demonstrations of the latest equipment.



MIKE FOERSTER'S, WØIH, ARDUINO-ASSISTED SHACK.



**Check your status
E-mail now
required for FCC**

Make certain the FCC has your e-mail address. Effective June 29 amateur radio licensees and candidates must provide the FCC with an e-mail address. Under Section 97.21 of the new rules, as amended, the holder of a valid amateur radio station license "must apply to the FCC for a modification of the license grant as necessary to show the correct mailing and email address, licensee name, club name, license trustee name, or license custodian name." For a club or military recreation station license, the application must be presented in document form to a club station call sign administrator who must submit the information to the FCC in an electronic batch file.

Licensees can log into the ULS [License Manager System](#) with their FRN and password to update their FCC license record, including adding an email address. For questions or password issues, call the CORES/FRN Help Line, (877) 480-3201 (Monday - Friday, 1300 - 2300 UTC) or [reset the password](#) on the FCC website.



THE WINONA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2020 MINNESOTA QSO PARTY STATION.

MNQP plans are doubtful

The wildly successful Winona Amateur Radio Club 2020 MNQP entry may not happen in 2021 due to—what else?—pandemic safety. It is not likely that we will have a club station due to Covid restrictions. We could have individual efforts, of course.

MNQP run from 8 a.m.–5:59 p.m. CST Sat., Feb. 6.

The Winona Amateur Radio Club's 2020 MNQP effort was huge starting with the undeniably huge score! The WARC took a massive first place in "Multi Operator" with **126,380** points! That's the biggest win Winona has had! That's from 215 CW contacts, 495 Phone contacts and 89 mults.

Individual stations may participate with the Minnesota members working everyone; Work stations once per band and mode. MN mobiles and rovers may be worked once per band and mode from each county, and MN mobiles and rovers may work stations once per band and mode.



THE POPULAR FT8 DIGITAL MODE OPENS THE WORLD TO HAMS DURING POOR PROPAGATION, EVEN WITH LOW POWER. DICK LINDNER, WØRIF, SHOWED HOW AT THE CLUB'S DEC. 17 PROGRAM.

WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Wednesday, January 6, 2021, via Zoom



Attendance: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Dan Goltz, WKØW; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Mike Foerster, WØIH; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Erik Brom, WBØNIU; Keith Laken, KEØIJI; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; Tom Wilmot, WØMK

MINUTES: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE.

TREASURER: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM:

Balance 12/31/20 \$3,539.23

Deposits

Dues	\$550
Bill Davis Memorial	\$100
Ken Spittler Memorial	\$205
Misc donations	\$95

Payments

Mike Foerster-Ham Radio	\$25
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Balance reported by bank \$3,514.23

Paid 2021 members 20

Donations

General	\$ 95
Ken Spittler fund	\$205
Wm Davis fund	\$100

Budgeted items

Field Day	\$200	
Holiday Party	\$100	
Insurance	\$200	(June 1)
PO rent	\$92	(Jan 31)
Picnic	\$100	
Climber	\$1,000	
WIRES X	\$200	
Linking proj	\$700	

Free membership for ARRL Division Director Bill Lippert, ACØW.

Sending club membership cards to those who've paid for 2021

WITOKA: Mike Foerster, WØIH: Tower Lights

The tower lights were out Dec. 22. Testing shows the bulbs are burned out.

We will build an optically isolated circuit to so the APRS Raspberry-PI at Witoka to monitor for similar problems once the lights are fixed.

We hope to piggyback on the tower light crew to see if we can get the antenna work done that we've been trying to do for quite a while. All the parts are in the shack at the tower with a detailed description of the work to be done so the crew could do the installation for us.

The PC that handles the Remote control was basically shut down (in hibernation). I want to pull the PC and install a set of wires on the power switch to allow remote operation activated from the APRS Raspberry-PI that Erik has running up there.

I built an End Fed Half Wave antenna that should work for the Witoka Tower for 160, 80 and 40 Meters.

Dan Rukavina donated a bunch of cables and SMA adapters to the club. We sold \$65 worth. A link to a folder that contains the items with descriptions and prices. <https://1drv.ms/u/s!Ats-2fm84F1O7EakGBrVFF4nqRA-?e=COVyPw>

Prices will drop for the what's left in the near future.

ELECTIONS: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT: Existing officers agreed to serve and were elected unanimously: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, president; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, vice-president; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, treasurer; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, secretary. Erik Brom, WBØNIU, was again appointed repeater trustee.

PUBLIC SERVICE. Dan Goltz, WKØW: Winona County ordered two Yaesu FTM-400's, one for the SOAR van, the other for the command trailer. Installation planned for the spring. Antennas have not been ordered.

County Emergency Manager Ben Klinger, KEØTNM, hopes SKYWARN events this coming season can again be managed from the LEC, but said the way it was handled last summer was effective.

Skywarn training: The National Weather Service in La Crosse is still limiting in-person contact for staff. Skywarn training sessions this spring have not been scheduled nor has there been o information from Minnesota Homeland Security and the Chanhassen NWS about holding Skywarn instructor refresher courses.

All the lights on the Witoka tower are burned out. Repairs will require a professional climber arranged by Winona County. The FAA has been notified of the lights. Professional climbers are in very short supply. Klinger anticipates it will be spring before someone will work on it. He will notify us so we can piggyback the antenna work. The light replacement is paid for by the county, and the antenna work we want done will be paid for by WARC.

Upcoming events: The only public service event that we have been asked to support this year is the Waumandee Time Trial event next fall. Other events we usually support are still pending.

REPEATERS: Erik Brom, WBØNIU: Antenna for APRS installed so we can monitor the '64 mac wine.

PLANNING: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE: To assure the club's quality as well as to attract and retain Hams a program/planning committee should be established to plan programs and activities for the coming year. Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, will chair assisted by Dan Goltz, WKØW, Keith Laken, KEØIJI, and Mike Foerster, WØIH.

ADJOURN: 7:53 p.m.



Winter Field Day is right around the corner, Jan. 30-31, to test your ability for emergency communications during a Minnesota winter. [View the rules.](#)

The Winter Field Day Association is a dedicated group of amateur radio operators that believe that emergency communications in a winter environment is just as important as the preparations and practice that is done each summer but with some additional unique operational concerns. Maintaining your operational skills should not be limited to fair weather scenarios.

Complex, menu-driven handhelds

By *Walt Mahoney, KC1DON*

There is a danger with amateur radio operators relying upon complex, microprocessor-controlled and menu-driven radio equipment in austere or emergency conditions. This is particularly true of handhelds of fragile, consumer-grade design using SMT construction, lead-free solder, and "toy"-quality switches, pots, and connectors. These are fine for the casual op. They're the last thing you want to rely on for critical communications.

In stressful and possibly dangerous situations, the last thing a responder or anyone dragged into the mess needs to deal with is a multi-step drop-down menu on a tiny screen. That's why military VHF/UHF radio designs are largely limited to having channel, volume, and squelch controls on the front panel. It's to ensure operability in stressful situations.

I understand that in an emergency, you make do and improvise with the equipment you have on hand. Hams are great at this. But if one has a choice beforehand, my recommendation would be acquiring simple, durable handhelds lacking novel features but enjoying reliable and robust construction. Representative equipment might be the Motorola MT- and later Radius- line handheld and mobile equipment. These radios were designed to survive police/fire/public utility use.

A resource for Hams doing critical communications is the second edition of the *Handheld Radio Field Guide*, by Andy Cornwall, KF7CCC. The book is a fantastic resource for all hams, older ones in particular who may have limited experience with newer technologies.



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

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; Clare Jarvis, KØNY

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.

