

The Hamgram

February 2021



NEXT

The Winona Amateur Radio Club could run “like always” but “same-old, same-old” tends to get tired and worn out. Members get bored and new Hams don’t bother.

Having a healthy amateur radio club requires an interesting, active group; strategic planning allows a continued flow of interesting programs at monthly meetings, well-executed operating events, public visibility and just-plain fun. Suggestions to maintain the club’s good health include: a ‘greeter’ at meetings; having good communication (newsletter, listserv, nets) good activities such as building projects (Raspberry pi builds; antenna builds; participating in public service events (Trinona, RTR, Waumandee); having operating events (Field Day, MNQP, special events); continued social events (picnics); public classes/testing; free memberships and Elmering for new Hams; public displays (Historical Society); membership renewal mailings including for former members.

So the club established a program/planning committee to look ahead at programs and activities for the coming year. Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, will chair it assisted by Dan Goltz, WKØW, Keith Laken, KEØIJ, and Mike Foerster, WØIH.



“Breakfast” on Zoom

Get back into the Saturday club breakfasts without the fear of Covid. The Winona Amateur Radio Club will meet 9 a.m. Saturdays on Zoom, <https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/3120290434>
Pass: WarcBoard



The damn curse of home station Field Day participants will again be foisted upon our annual ARRL Field Day. But there will be some relief in the form of a 150 W PEP output power limitation imposed on Class D (Home Stations) and Class E (Home Stations-Emergency Power) participants.

For Field Day 2021: Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points. This year, however, Class D and Class E stations will be limited to 150 W PEP output.

Last summer, a record 10,213 entries were received.

Field Day unmasked?

There are many questions to answer before June 26 and the 2021 ARRL Field Day. Will the Winona Amateur Radio Club operate? Will there be social distancing? Where will the club locate, back to Granny’s farm, Windcrest Park, the Port Authority land? Who will head up Field Day? Planning for this popular annual event should be underway soon if the club is to have a fun and successful operation.



MNQP score beaten



The magnificent 2020 MNQP 131,040 point score claimed by Winona was beaten significantly this year by guys using the call WØM. Members of the Mississippi Valley Amateur Radio Association (MVARA) from La Crosse, but operating in Houston County at the WXOW TV site, tallied 203,392 points.

The MVARA has a full-sized emergency communications bus that the club has been refurbishing. To test out some of the improvements, as well as to test a viable HF communications center in less than ideal conditions the group chose the Minnesota QSO party for a challenge.

Cold temperatures, had them going with dipoles (one each for 20m, 40m, and 80m, up about 20-35 feet) and two transmitters.

The operation nearly came to tragedy when Bill Kleinschmidt, N9FDE, noticed brakes on the bus failed just before he was to drive down the very long, steep hill into La Crescent.

New antenna for Witoka remote

There's a different antenna for the 160 and 80m bands for the club's Witoka remote station. Previously, there was a double length ZS6BKW antenna for 160, 80 and 40M, with mixed results on 160 and 80. For the 20, 15 & 10m bands, we have the driven element off a Mosley Classic beam.

WØIH constructed an EFHW (End Fed Half Wave) for 160 and 80. The EFHW is a good antenna for harmonics, and should work well on both 160 and 80m. Best SWR on 160 is 1.8:1 at 1900. Best SWR on 80M is 1.2:1 at 3900.

Using the Arduino driven antenna selector, 40M (1.2:1 at 7200) is still operative on the current double length ZS6BKW, and the Mosley driven element on the higher bands.

All is not solved. There is a problem at the tower so that if you are using either 160 or 80M, there is some extremely strong arcing or interference that occurs intermittently.

It gets much worse.

It seems to be coming from either the nearby farm house or the large 4-square tower nearby.

If you try to use the IC-7300 up at Witoka on either 160 or 80, you may find that the **Noise Blanker** helps considerably.

Refer questions to Mike Foerster, WØIH.



Be prepared

Amateurs interested in helping with emergency communication as well as public service events should learn about the nationally recognized Incident Command System (ICS). The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers free courses recommended for amateurs interested in emergency response: ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-700. These courses explain the basics of incident command which is the backbone of any emergency response. There is no charge for these online courses. <https://training.fema.gov/nims/>

Clare Jarvis, KØNY, has suggested having a challenge to club members to earn certificates for all three courses.

Try WiQP March 14

This year's Wisconsin QSO Party (WIQP) is 1 p.m. Sunday, March 14. Here are good reasons why you should fire up the radio and join in the fun.

Hams try to reach as many of Wisconsin's 72 counties as possible. There are similar events but Wisconsin's is one of the best in terms of activity.

- 👉 You don't need a big station to do well.
- 👉 You don't need HF privileges or fast CW skills.
- 👉 It's great practice for operating on Field Day.
- 👉 You can help your club in the club competition.
- 👉 Win certificates and awards.
- 👉 Rare Wisconsin counties are active.
- 👉 Say hello to old friends (and make some new ones).
- 👉 Learn more about contesting.
- 👉 Operators tend to be laid back.
- 👉 Have fun!

Read about the WIQP on the WARAC web site (<http://www.warac.org>).

WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Wednesday, February 4, 2021, via Zoom

7:03 p.m.

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

Minutes: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE.

Treasurer: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM

Balance on 12/31/2020 \$4,494.23

Deposits:

Dues \$300.00

Dan Rukavina donation \$116.50

Payments:

P.O. Box Rental \$106.00

Balance reported by bank \$4,804.73

Paid members 30

Donations

- Kenneth Spittler Memorial Fund \$205.00
- William Davis Memorial fund \$100.00

Witoka: Mike Foerster, WØIH, The Double Size ZS6BKW was updated to use an End Fed Half Wave (EFHW) antenna cut for 160M. It should work for 160 and 80 but on 40m the resonant point is above the band. Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, donated 14 gauge wire that we needed. The approximate length of the EFHW is 260'.

I built a stack of three 240-43 ferrite cores and wound a 1:64 matching transformer on them.

You can't buy the plastic boxes anymore so the transformer is inside PVC tubing. The transformer is fed with 25' of LMR400 and goes into the automatic antenna switch, position 3 (automatically selected for 160 and 80m).

The existing ZS6BKW antenna is still set for 40 meters.

WØIH gave "Club" permissions to (no transmit privileges) to allow some 75M group members to listen when he's logged into the Witoka rig.

Approved.

Nearly all of the cables and connectors donated to the club by Dan Rukavina have been sold for \$116.50. Marv Rodvold, AC9TO will purchase the rest for \$27.50.

Ben Kuhn, KUØHN, will install the DC to AC converter at Rooster Ridge as backup power.
Interconnect

Public Service: Dan Goltz, WKØW: The LaCrosse National Weather Service has indicated they will be doing online Skywarn training this year. No dates have been set up yet.

Winona County Emergency Manager Ben Klinger has indicated that for Skywarn events this spring and summer we can probably return to operating net control from the Emergency Management office in the law enforcement center, but he indicated that working net control off-site worked well and he was pleased with the response and reporting last summer.

FEMA courses recommended for amateurs interested in emergency response: ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-700. These courses explain the basics of incident command which is the backbone of any emergency response. There is no charge for these online courses. <https://training.fema.gov/nims/>

Clare Jarvis, KØNY, suggested having a challenge to club members to earn certificates for all three courses.

Club Strategic Planning: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE. Having a healthy amateur radio club requires an interesting, active group; strategic planning allows a continued flow of interesting programs at monthly meetings, well-executed operating events, public visibility and just-plane fun. Suggestions to maintain the club's good health include: a 'greeter' at meetings; having good communication (newsletter, listserv, nets) good activities such as building projects (Raspberry pi builds; antenna builds; participating in public service events (Trinona, RTR, Waumandee); having operating events (Field Day, MNQP, special events); continued social events (picnics); public classes/testing; free memberships and Elmering for new Hams; public displays (Historical Society); membership renewal mailings including for former members.

Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, suggested having a weekly Zoom coffee klatch while we're not able to meet in person for Saturday breakfast. Marv Rodvold, AC9TO suggested the club organize a contest team for HF events.

Clare Jarvis, KØNY moved the board continue planning at its March meeting.

Adjourn: 7:44 P.M.

The toll

Over the last few months the Pandemic, the political climate, the isolation all seem to have taken a toll. I keep running into people that don't believe in science—or believe that medicine is not science... Yet some of these same people firmly believe and know for a fact that $E=I \cdot R$, that frequency and wavelength are related, and that yes—there are some things about propagation that seem like magic until we apply science and learn how they work! Please read about the history of science!

Recently, we all read about a reminder from the FCC that basically said: don't use your ham radio to do illegal stuff... The questions I received pertaining to that message ranged from "What happened?" to "They are taking our freedom away..."

All I can say is keep up with the news and read part 97 over again...

All of that is discouraging in terms of the positive aspect that Amateur Radio should be conveying.

-ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager Patrick J Moretti, KA1RB

Storm spotter training

The National Weather Service is again offering virtual storm spotter training this spring. Go on-line to register for one of the 90 minute sessions.

Schedule link: https://www.weather.gov/arx/skywarn_schedule

Storm spotters are encouraged to receive training at least every other year, though well-done presentations make annual training interesting.

- ★ March 11 - 6:30 p.m. CST
- ★ March 16 - 6:30 p.m. CDT
- ★ March 22 - 10 a.m. CDT
- ★ April 1 - 1 p.m. CDT
- ★ April 7 - 6:30 p.m. CDT
- ★ April 15 - 10 a.m. CDT
- ★ April 20 - 6:30 p.m. CDT



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.

President: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, wnpauls@yahoo.com

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.

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.

