

The Hamgram

February 2022



LES HITTNER, KØBAD, MAKING ADJUSTMENTS AT THE CLUB'S 146.64 KAGE SITE. THE WINONA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB CELEBRATES 75 YEARS AS AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB IN 2022.

Winlink is Feb club program

Radio waves are the only real way to communicate when the grid goes down. Voice communication is one thing, but there is a handy alternative, according to Ken Weigel, W9GM, and that is Winlink. Winlink Global Radio Email is a network of amateur radio and government stations that provide worldwide radio email.

Weigel will present Winlink to the next Winona Amateur Radio Club meeting, 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 17, on Zoom.

Weigel has had an interest in digital modes since the 1970s when the US Army taught him RTTY — the old, oily, noisy, mechanical RTTY.

WIRES X learning sessions

The powerful digital aspects of Yaesu Fusion are being explored in a Zoom series by Russ Marsolek, NØQK, and Paul Degallier, ADØUU. They are interested in setting up portable/mobile Wires-X nodes and engaging area Hams in the process.

Wires-X Area Net is on Zoom Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. The ZOOM link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89797485602?pwd=dkNqTDNub0xsVkFhS005RGF3K0ZLZz09> If needed the password is 21884 All area Hams interested in learning more about WIRES X are invited.

Winona Amateur Radio Club
Zoom link for meetings:

<https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/3120290434>
Password: WarcBoard





Image by Winona Daily News

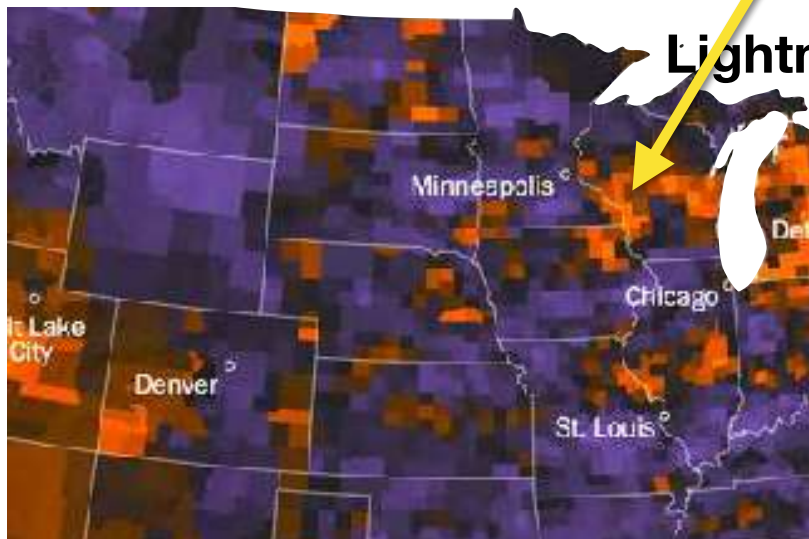
WINONA HAM DAN GOLTZ, WKØW, LEFT, GAVE EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC. HE'S RECOGNIZED BY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR BEN KLINGER, KEØTNM.

Winona Ham's volunteerism recognized

The past two years have been extraordinary with a virus changing the world and our lives. In the process, public health professionals have battled to the impact of COVID-19 through vaccination clinics; efforts have required volunteers and professionals.

The Winona County Community Health Board gave its thanks to all, included a Winona Amateur Radio Club member, who have given time to prepare vaccinations, give shots, register for appointments, complete contact tracing early on in the pandemic, provide education and outreach, and provide comforting activities for children.

Volunteer Dan Goltz, WKØW, was recognized for his extraordinary service. Goltz's volunteering in public safety began in the 1970s. "As a licensed pharmacist his knowledge was instrumental in being able to start clinics so quickly and do them on the scale we did," said Ben Klinger, Winona County Emergency Management Coordinator. Goltz's contribution totals over 300 hours at Winona County vaccination clinics while also volunteering for clinics at Winona Health.



Lightning hits increasing

Many Hams have big lightning rods—their towers—sticking straight into the sky. Hopefully these towers are well grounded because, nationally, and especially in our area, lightning strikes are up.

Newly released data shows there has been more lightning last year than in the previous five years on average.

Lightning is a large natural spark of electricity, caused by an imbalance of electrical charges in the atmosphere. Most lightning is formed from thunderstorm clouds, which develop when warm, moist air rises into cold air, often during warmer seasons.

WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Thursday, Feb. 3, 2022, via Zoom



Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Russ Marsolek, NØQK; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; Tom Wilmot, WØMK; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Dan Goltz, WKØW; Mike Foerster, WØIH, John Kowalik, K2OPT; Elisamel Resto, KFØACN; Paul Degallier, ADØUU; Ron KD9OHQ; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO

Called to order by Paul Schumacher, KØZYV: 6:30 p.m.

Minutes: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE. Approved

Treasurer: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM.

Balance on 12/31/2021 \$4,259.70

Income:

Dues \$895.00

Expenses:

P.O. Box Rental \$166.00

Subtotal and WARC balance \$4,988.70

Balance reported by bank \$4,259.70

Erik Brom memorial donations, \$1,065.00

and check to Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

Dan Goltz, WKØW: Jodie Brom, NØNUO, has checks for the Erik Brom, WBØNIU, fund and an idea for long-lasting memorial.

Repeater, Mike Foerster, WØIH.

The FCC has approved naming WØIH Trustee for the club's repeaters. KUØHN created two email addresses for the club for official business, admin@w0ne.org which is forwarded to the WØIH email address and contact@w0ne.org which is forwarded to KUØHN from the web site.

WØIH registered with the Minnesota Repeater Council and is attempting to register with the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters.

I figured out the control commands for all four club repeaters. The DR-2X had a lot of dust that was cleaned; the other repeaters need cleaning later.

John Kruk, Yaesu, helped with the DR-2X configuration. The ways of configuring the repeaters is now documented. The Yaesu manual is not great.

I made minor reconfigurations to the 442.150 repeater for control purposes. Ben came along and worked on the IMRS configuration and network switches.

Earl Quinell, WAØELW, gave us a copy of the Kendecom 3-CR PLUS upgrade manual. I documented the Kendecom configuration.

I documented control commands for the Rooster Ridge repeater and re-configured the 444.225 and 442.150 repeaters for remote control. We now have a document specifying control of all four repeaters specifically for the control operators. Control operators are: Dan Goltz, WKØW; Russ Marsolek, NØQK; and myself. Two of these documents should not be made public.

MOTION: KØNY: let trustee make decision on additional control operators as well as where the material will be stored. Approved

Documents and configuration data for the repeaters will be password protected on WØNE.org.

MOTION: Reimburse Dan Goltz, WKØW, for keys made about \$12 Approved

Public Service: Dan Goltz, WKØW. There is no information on the tower climb for the Witoka tower. The county is still interested in installing a backup generator at Witoka.

Winona County Emergency Management will host a live Skywarn training session by the National Weather Service—La Crosse at the Winona History Center. The date is to be determined.

La Crosse NWS indicated there were 27 confirmed tornadoes in their jurisdiction during the historic December 15 storm. Several were in Winona County. That is the largest outbreak ever recorded in the La Crosse jurisdiction. They reiterated that trained spotters are an invaluable asset to the weather service. Here's a link to the presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMJeYuMZJYI>

The Chanhassen NWS will not hold Skywarn instructor refresher training this year due to Covid, but they will send updated materials.

The county/state tabletop communications exercise was again postponed due to increasing Covid.

The Ride the Ridges coordinator indicated having us support their event.

Erik Brom's, WBØNIU, daughter and son-in-law invited us to use their site for field day again this year.

Plans for a new county emergency communication trailer have been postponed due to Covid.

Witoka: Mike Foerster, WØIH. HF Remote: a remote relay that would run off the Witoka Raspberry-Pi is planned to allow turning the PC On or Off, including a 10 second hold to FORCE the PC off in case the PC is turned off. The PC's BIOS will allow this.

I submitted a "Request for Quote" for replacing the two antennas at the Witoka Tower, at the same time that the lights are being replaced.

WIRES X: Russ Marsolek, NØQK. ADØUU and I are hosting a WIRES X knowledge net for Hams in Olmsted, Winona and La Crosse.

Program: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE. Tentatively planned: February: Winlink (Ken Weigel, W9GM); March: Clare Jarvis, KØNY, introduces Fox Hunt; Subsequently: Fox Hunt activity; April: Moving one's shack: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; May: Trinona/Field Day/ICS—Public Service preparation. Dan Goltz, WKØW; *Warm weather:* Parks On The Air (activity)

Adjourn: 7:14 p.m.

Strife

By Patrick Moretti, KA1RB

There seems to be so much "strife" in our society and in our communities that I sometimes wonder what it looks like from the outside. Amateur Radio gives us an opportunity to "have that look" - to see what we look like to outsiders, foreigners whose perception of "us" comes from their information media and from conversations over Amateur Radio with the likes of "us".

To me it is refreshing to see that most of my DX contacts still regard us with respect and positive attitudes. We still see folks aspiring to emigrate to the US - not because they are specifically "oppressed" but because they still see the US as land of opportunity (like my parents did).

Sometimes I detect a touch of envy for our ability to operate our radios just about anywhere. We have privileges that make our hobby/avocation easier to attain and maintain. We have an ability to travel within our vast territory and to bring our radios along.

We have supportive clubs in just about every part of our country. In contrast, while there are foreign clubs and associations representing Amateur Radio in their country, many of my DX contacts are isolated, a single operator in a city or town. No local club to go for support or to share the joy of our common hobby.

Sometimes they are so isolated as to almost be secretive and while they do want confirmation of QSO's they are cautious and request "unmarked envelopes" with no indication that it is a QSL card. This is not everywhere of course, but it should make us think about our own situation and appreciate the actual freedom we enjoy. Of course if you live in an HOA with nosy neighbors... I understand.

Talking of clubs... Every club has an annoying member... Some are outright trouble makers that enjoy the strife they cause. Others are more passive aggressive and are just "annoying" because they may not know any better.

Just so you know - if you believe that your club doesn't have one... You either have an exceptional club, or it means that you are probably "IT!"

Take a cleaning detour

By Bob Andre, KE0EXE

While I finish my 10m-band, attic antenna, I'm taking a Cleaning Detour, because, after not being able to find some power converters I bought a few years ago, it's time to go through my life-long accumulation of parts.

My main action-verbs for this grand undertaking are: motivate (very important!), declutter, throw, donate, dismantle, recycle, plan (for conversions and future projects), pre-prepare, clean, deodorize (if possible--actually, I love that old, musty-electronics smell--but my wife, "not so much"), group, organize, box, label, and stack!

My tools: various sizes of clear-plastic storage boxes I've been saving; one big, black, permanent marker; sticky, white labels; clear packaging tape; and blank, white, 3x5 cards (used as bigger labels). Also, a [de]-soldering iron and a few basic tools are coming in very handy. I've also discovered that cut-down (~2"-tall) cardboard boxes make nice trays, for keeping parts together, inside the larger storage totes.

In times past, I've made a good start, using plastic-bin "organizer cabinets" and cigar boxes full of like things, such as switches, potentiometers, bulb sockets, power transformers, wire, various ham gadgets, ... (I'll leave the complete list to your own imaginations--many of you, no doubt, don't have far to walk, anyway, to view real-life parallels...) How often has the whole solution simply been to find a slightly larger box?)

My rules: continue to prefilter (i.e., be very selective now, on purchases); be persistent until it's done; for conversions, make a written plan, and store it with the items, in a "project box"; and "a place for everything, and everything in it's place" (merely "shuffling" items accomplishes little, long-term). Oh, and, in the words of Marie Kondo, it must "spark joy!" (or at least "spark," in this case).

When I get low on zeal, for the work of decreasing entropy, I consider this: Do I really want to deal with a *real emergency* under the present, chaotic conditions? Not too much.



Storm spotter training planned

Real-time storm reports, combined with radar data, are critical for issuing accurate severe weather warnings. Spotters provide ground-truth information serving as a critical link for the National Weather Service.

SKYWARN training for storm spotters is being scheduled for virtual as well as in-person sessions. They are free of charge and open to all.

- March 30, 6:30 p.m., Virtual
- April 5, 2 p.m., Virtual
- April 19, 6:30 p.m., Virtual
- April 27, 6:30 p.m. Winona



ARRL Field Day rules updated

- The maximum PEP output for a transmitter used by anyone submitting a Field Day log will be 100 W.
- Class D (Home) stations will continue to be able to earn points for contacts with other Class D stations.
- The club aggregate scoring change initiated in 2020 will become permanent.
- Field Day participants will now be required to obtain publicity, not just try to do so

MN ARES System Fusion room

MN ARES now has a dedicated System Fusion room. The MNARES-ROOM (node ID 45019000) This node was created to support emergency communications and public service activities on System Fusion and encourage experimentation with that mode through-out the Section. This node is open and available to all amateurs and stations are active in that room over the lunch hour as time permits. If you have questions contact k0jcr@arrl.net .



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 Nisht 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. (<https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/3120290434> Password: WarcBoard)



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: Mike Foerster, WØIH, mchllfrstr@gmail.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, W5735 Woodhollow Rd., Holmen, WI 54636 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.