

# The Hamgram

March 2022



Club heritage  
**Winona Ham radio in 1965**

**DOWNTOWN WINONA IN 1965 WHEN AMATEUR RADIO HELPED THE COMMUNITY SAVE ITSELF.**

From April 12 to April 19, 1965, the Mississippi River at Winona rose seven feet in seven days, going from flood stage, 13 feet, to a record 20.77 feet, higher than much of the city. If the city’s defenses—dikes, pumps, and plugs in the sewers—had failed, most of Winona would have been underwater. The entire city found itself in a fight against widespread devastation. A fight it nearly lost.

Amateur radio volunteers served a crucial role, providing the link for relaying messages between Civil Defense commanders at city hall and crews on the dikes.

At the peak of the flood-fighting effort, Winonan Walt Kelly, now KEØXI, did not get much sleep. The 21-year-old Saint Mary’s University senior drove the biology department’s amphibious truck, the Duck. The Duck was a GMC designed for beach landings in World War II. The university used the Duck for biology field work, but when the flood came, it was the only amphibious vehicle in an area suddenly full of water. “We used the Duck for an awful lot of jobs where it was tough to get to someplace. With the Duck it was duck soup,” Kelly joked.

Kelly and the Duck were dispatched on missions nonstop, powering through flooded streets and fields.

As Kelly and other workers labored through the night, the Duck suddenly started taking on water. A propeller shaft seal cracked and water was seeping into the workhorse.

Kelly drove the waterlogged Duck to a local garage, that had a mechanic with knowledge of DUKWs. He identified the parts needed to fix the problem, but where could they get them? Amateur radio operators connected with the command center at SMU, who relayed the message to the National Guard in St. Paul. They had the parts and dispatched state troopers to deliver them by five in the morning. The Duck was working again the next day.

“I was impressed that anything we needed or had questions about, we called and ‘poof!’ We got it,” Kelly said. “You need parts for a 1945 amphibious truck? Hell, just call the National Guard. They’ve got the parts.”

Downtown, Dr. Thomas Mauszycki’s, now KAØMLO, father was boating to work at Bay State Milling, where he was responsible for running pumps in an effort to keep the big mill’s equipment from being ruined.

“You see it coming up and you think, ‘Oh, it can’t get here, and then all of sudden one morning it’s there and rising,” a Winonan reflected. “I never thought it would get as bad as it did.”

For those who were there, the most powerful memory from the flood of ‘65 was the cooperation and determination the entire city showed in the fight against the flood. Winona became known as “the city that saved itself.”



# The Ham radio trip

By Bob Seaquist, W9LSE

One of my dream trips is to New Zealand, that lovely, English speaking isle in the far south seas. At the other end of the world there are the Canary Islands, another spot fascinating to me. I've been to both, in a manner of speaking: my first-ever DX contact was with a Canary Island Ham, with whom I had a nice conversation, and during this year's ARRL Worldwide DX Contest, I spoke with a New Zealand Ham, a member of the East Coast Contester Club in Hawkes Bay.

There was a Ham in Paraguay who had a station much like my own with 100 watts, a 40' tower and a five element beam. The rush of the Worldwide DX contest made me forget to ask what radio he was using, but it still was a thrill to speak clearly with a ham several thousand miles away using the same basic set-up. That happens a lot, talking with Hams running fairly modest stations.

When I make a radio breakthrough such as New Zealand or a guy in New Mexico with my exact set up (radio, power, antenna) I find myself running through the house waving my arms and talking loudly. My wife, Mary, nods, grunts, and does that affirming thing that parents do with excited small children. She seems happy I have a hobby that doesn't involve loose women or drink and she even encourages me with the radio. But she doesn't "get it." Many ordinary people don't "get" amateur radio. The college students with whom I exercise noisily roll their eyes, if that's possible, when I try explaining our contact sport. I suspect most have rarely heard a commercial broadcast radio much less Amateur Radio.

Just the same, there is genuine excitement in amateur radio, all tied up in a neat desk top box, a radio, and an antenna just outside.



## TWIT

If you're looking to put up your first HF antenna, don't get caught up in "**Paralysis by Analysis.**" There's gotta be about a zillion different designs out there, and you can drive yourself crazy trying to figure out which one is the "best." **Guess what? They all work.** Yep, some better than others, but they all work. And keep in mind that this will be your first, not your last, antenna. **TWIT!! Throw Wire In Trees**, get on the air, and make contacts.



June 25-26, 2022



# WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Monday, March 7, 2022, via Zoom

**Participants:** Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Dan Goltz, WKØW; Tom Wilmot, WØMK; Russ Marsolek, NØQK; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; John Kowalik, K2OPT; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; Mike Foerster, WØIH; Clare Jarvis, KØNY.

Called to order 7:03 p.m.

**Minutes from Feb:** Bob Seaquist, W9LSE. *Approved*

**Treasurer:** Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM. *Approved*

Balance on 2/28/2022 \$6,043.70

Income:

Dues \$65

Balance reported by bank \$6,108.70

Paid members 32

**Donations**

... General \$140

... Ken Spittler Memorial Fund \$205

**Programs:** Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT. There was a request to make a presentation regarding using radio for veterans; more information is sought regarding it. The plan for March had been to present a program on direction finding/ fox hunting but that is postponed so Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, will present a heart rending account about moving one's shack.

In April a fox hunt presentation and making a tape measure yagi is planned.

**Trustee:** Mike Foerster, WØIH. Repeater Status:

Documentation for the repeaters is in the works. A trip is needed to the Rooster Ridge site for updates. A minor hardware mod to add a dummy load is planned for repeater at the KAGE tower. When System Codes are entered, the secondary output on the DR-2X outputs power for about ½ second. To be safe, a dummy load will be attached to that output.

Witoka: The Windows 10 update on the PC was delayed and it went into hibernation and the IC-7300 remote was down. I had the go up there to restart the PC. I was in contact with Ben Kuhn, KUØHN, and we decided replace the PC with something that will allow a Wake-On-LAN command, to allow restarting the PC remotely. The other modes that we had planned, didn't work out very well, for the current PC. Ben thinks that he has a couple laptops that may work.

Witoka snow was unexpectedly deep and got my AWD vehicle stuck. Russ Marsolek, NØQK, retrieved my vehicle with his Jeep and winch.

**Activities:** Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, reached out to Trinona and offered support.

**WIRES X:** Russ Marsolek, NØQK: On March 6 he and Paul Degallier, ADØUU, hosted about a dozen hams and familiarized them with various Yaesu WIRES X digital modes. Probably will resume WIRES X learning on-the-air.

**Public Service Committee:** Dan Goltz, WKØW. March 1, we presented an overview of our activity with Ride the Ridges to Riverland Amateur Radio Club in La Crosse.

SKYWARN news: April 7 is Minnesota and Wisconsin tornado awareness day. No test warnings will be issued but it will be announced on NOAA weather radio. SKYWARN training in Winona will be 6 p.m., April 27, at the County History Center.

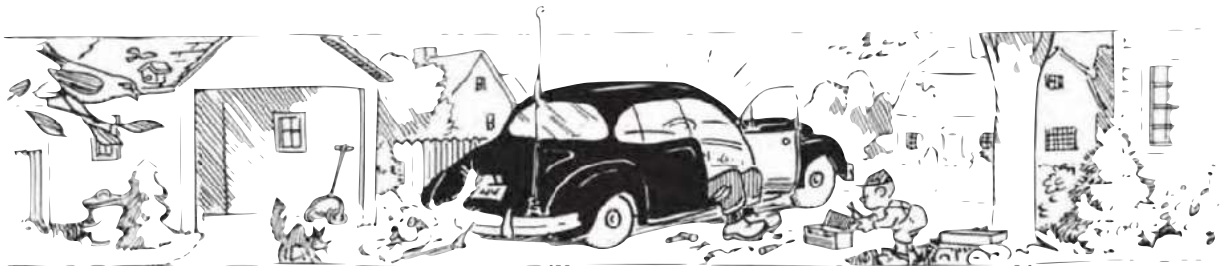
Spotter Activation Notification System: the NWS will continue to send spotter activation notices. Spotters can sign up with email or cell phone to get alerted. This is not meant to replace county spotter activation routines. <http://www.weather.gov/arx/activation>

Witoka tower service update: no further information on county-scheduled tower maintenance or climb at this time.

I attended a meeting of the Winona County Emergency Coordination Committee March 1 for the Southeast Minnesota ARMER tabletop exercise "Chaos at the Car Show." The exercise intended to discuss interagency communications using ARMER. Amateur radio utilization was not planned into the exercise, but amateur radio utilization came up in the discussion. The scenario involved a car show where driver created multiple casualties then flees. Amateur radio resources would be needed because public service responders will be overwhelmed. We are in a good position to practice operations.

**Meeting question:** Marv Rodvold, AC9TO. When may we go to in-person meeting? Answer: seems likely to be April. ADØUT will contact the county to make sure the meeting room is open; also if it's possible to have a hybrid meeting.

**Adjourn:** 8:08 p.m.





## Local repeater frequencies

City	County	Frequency	PL tone
Austin	Mower	145.470	100.0
Austin	Mower	146.730	100.0
Faribault	Rice	146.655	136.5
Faribault	Rice	146.790	100.0
Galesville	Trempealeau	442.500	131.8
Galesville	Trempealeau	147.000	131.8
Glenville	Freeborn	146.685	100.0
Glenville	Freeborn	146.880	100.0
La Crosse	Houston	146.970	131.8
La Crosse	La Crosse	146.090	131.8
Owatonna	Steele	145.490	100.0
Owatonna	Steele	147.105	100.0
Red Wing	Goodhue	147.300	136.5
Rochester	Olmsted	147.255	100.0
Rochester	Olmsted	146.820	100.0
Rochester	Olmsted	146.625	100.0
Wabasha	Wabasha	146.745	136.5
Winona	Winona	146.640	100.0
Winona	Winona	146.835	131.8
Winona	Winona	444.225	100.0
Winona	Winona	442.150	100.0
Wycoff	Fillmore	147.015	110.9



## SKYWARN Training April 27

Skywarn 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 County Historical Society, 160 Johnson St, Winona**

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](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: Mike Foerster, WØIH, [mchllfrstr@gmail.com](mailto: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](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.