

# The Hamgram

August 2022



A WINONA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBER DOES SOME ELMERING. THE CLUB HAS BEEN AFFILIATED WITH THE ARRL 75 YEARS.

## RTR presentation set

The intimate geography of rural Winona, Fillmore, and Houston counties is a bicycle rider's dreamscape and the location of Winona Rotary Club's Ride The Ridges Sept. 17.

Members of the Winona Amateur Radio Club provide communication support for the event understanding the beautiful terrain and gorgeous vistas provide large challenges for radio. It will take four repeaters and a digipeater plus ARMER public service radios and cell phones to do the job.

Hear details at the WARC meeting, 7 p.m. Thursday, August 18, on Zoom.



## Analysis

# Planning ahead for Field Day

By Sam Resto, KF0ACN



ARRL Field Day 2022 has come and gone. There were victories and defeats, good and bad, steps and missteps so I've come up with some ideas to solve some of the issues experienced. My goal is to do as much as possible so that whomever takes the mantle for FD 2023 has less work. I hope my suggestions will help everyone involved gets to enjoy the activity that I love.

### **Separate N1MM Master Computer**

I will set up a separate computer wired directly to the router with its own battery backup that will be master for logging.

### **12V Power Source for Router**

A 12V battery-backed power source for the router will keep it online during any outages.

### **Rig Configurations**

Have a single configuration for all of the rigs that work on: SSB, CW, and FT8. People intending to operate bring their own

equipment -- that will not be provided.

### **Reference Cards**

Pictorial reference cards/sheet(s) should be built to address the commonly used functions (*ie. Mic gain, output power, mode*) and at every operating station. There will be one on basic usage of N1MM on how to change operators, log a contact, and how to launch FT8.

### **Antennas**

Obtain a DX Commander POTA/SOTA vertical along with the two wire antennas that were available this year. We need to look into the coax situation as well to ensure we have long, medium, and short runs.

### **Power Redundancy**

Something like a West Mountain Radio ISOPwr+ connects a load, a battery, and a power source and will automatically switch between battery and power source as needed while keeping the battery charged.

### **Laptop OS**

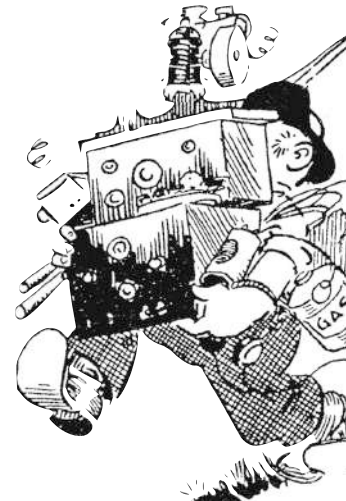
There should be a single OS image that is fresh for all laptops so that they are as de-cluttered and lean as possible.

### **Location, Location, Location**

Secure the location for FD 2023 so we can scout ahead and figure out what we need with ample time to get everything ready.

### **Conclusion**

There were several lessons learned this year and we can make FD 2023 better by planning sooner.





# WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Wednesday, August 10, 2022, via Zoom

Board Members: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Dan Goltz, WKØW; Clare Jarvis, KØNY. Guests: Tom Wilmot, WØMK; Sam Resto, KFØACN; Keith Laken, KEØIJ; Bill Lippert, ACØW.

Called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT

**Minutes** (Published in the July 2022 Hamgram and sent via the reflector): Bob Seaquist, W9LSE.

*Approved.*

**Treasurer's Report:** Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM.

*Approved.*

Balance on 6/30/2022	\$5,005.36
Expenses:	None
Balance reported by bank	\$5,005.36
Paid members	37

**Donations**

... General	\$700.00
... Kenneth Spittler Memorial Fund	\$205.00

June expenditure to Dan Goltz, WKØW, should be for first aid kit renewal and not Field Day.

**In-person meetings:** Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT. A consensus is to have the August meeting on Zoom and perhaps return to in-person meetings in September. Lance will investigate if there is an internet connection in the county room so that meetings may be hybrid of in-person and Zoom.

**Public Service:** Committee activity centers on preparation for the Ride The Ridges and the Waumandee Time Trials. Communication continues with both Mike Bernatz of the Winona Rotary Club and Ray Sylvester of SOAR for RTR, and Marv Rodvold,

AC9TO, has been in contact with Tom Hazen for the Waumandee Time Trials.

Ride The Ridges hopes for 600 riders. Clare Jarvis, KØNY and Sam Resto, KEØACN, will prepare APRS map overlays. Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, will request permission from Riverland Amateur Radio Club in La Crosse for use of their 146.97 repeater for Ride The Ridges.

Ben Klinger of Winona County Emergency Management asked for input on equipping the new county command trailer. Delivery is expected February 2023. Equipment will be installed professionally. A group from WARC will meet with him.

Jodi Brom would sell some of Erik's, WBØNIU (SK) equipment, including a painter pole and vhf/uhf antennas. **MOTION: Clare/Dan. Buy gear up to price of a new painter's pole.**

Bud Baechler, WBØHFC, should receive a receipt for \$1,500 for gear donation. Harro will send.

**Witoka:** Mike Foerster, WØIH. Ends of the Off Center Fed Dipole were moved out in the field in preparation for mowing hay.

PC at Witoka needs to be replaced. Checking in remotely to run the updates keeps it running.

**Repeaters:** Minor changes are needed at the KAGE tower site so change control codes match the other repeaters.

**Next meeting:** (7 p.m., Thurs., Aug. 18, on Zoom) A presentation to prepare for Ride The Ridges; also, a brief Field Day video.

**Adjourn:** 7:57 p.m.



THE ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC, JULY 21, INCLUDED, L-R, LANCE TAGLIAPIETRA, ADØUT, KATHIE STEINHOFF, KC9ZEZ, JOHN KOWALIK, K2OPT, SYED FARUQUE, ACØVA, WALT KELLY, KEØXI, AND CLARE JARVIS, KØNY.

## 'Dead' bands

By John Shannon, K3WWP

There are two reasons a band sounds 'dead':

1. Conditions in the ionosphere, i.e. propagation does not permit communication at the time.

2. Everyone is listening on a band, but no one is transmitting.

Number 2 is much more likely to be the reason.

Even if #1 is true, there are still other means of getting your signal from here to there. There is ground-wave coverage allowing communication between stations in a certain geographical area, the size of which depends on frequency, local terrain, and other factors.

The bottom line tip is: If you tune across a band and don't hear anything, try calling CQ for a few minutes or more. You may be surprised what will happen. There are often answers to CQs on 'dead' bands and then some good solid rag chews exotic DX.

## QRP: low and easy

Of the many challenges in Ham radio, from propagation, feed lines, time of day and bands, one challenge stands out from the others as a reward: operating at low power levels, "QRP." Some Hams believe more is better and they hammer the full, legal 1,500 watts; little do they realize that 5 watts is just a few dB down and can be heard pretty darn well.

Operating QRP marks an operator as an artist and making a QRP contact feels like landing a record trout with a light fly rod. QRP gear tends to be small and compact so you can easily go outside and enjoy a pretty day while romancing the airwaves. The Rolls Royce of QRO gear is the Elecraft KX2, an extremely sophisticated radio that's about the size of a small paperback book. Build a "Tuna Tin," ( QRP:ME ) and get a very small (it's a tunafish can! Really!) radio that you built yourself.

Take your very small radio with its small power and enter a contest or QSO party. Not a lot of folks will enter in the QRP category and you'll have a much better chance of placing near the top of the pack than in a worldwide contest. YOU will be the rare DX during the contest.



### RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SWAPFEST

AUGUST 20, 2022 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Located in the Onalaska American Legion

731 Sand Lake Rd. Onalaska, WI 54650

Talk in: 146.970 PL 131.8



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.

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)



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Vice President: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, [lancetag@hbc.com](mailto:lancetag@hbc.com)

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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](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, 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.