

The Hamgram

November 2022



Election season isn't over

Club annual meeting Nov. 17

Winona Amateur Radio Club members will elect board members and conduct other club business at the club's annual meeting at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 17. Members will elect three board members to fill spots now held by Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Clare Jarvis, KØNY, and Dan Goltz, WKØW. Goltz is not running for re-election.

Nominations will also be taken from the floor. All club members are eligible to be on the club's board and they are encouraged to run.

Board responsibilities include one board meeting a month and leadership in club operations. It's simple!

The meeting is 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 17, in the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St. and on Zoom, (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6881820303?pwd=Z0JuRjZIUXJ2U1RMK1BFS3lvUEhsZz09>

Meeting ID: **688 182 0303** Password: WarcBoard)

Current club board members include: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; and Bob Seaquist, W9LSE. The club's custodian is Mike Foerster, WØIH. The custodian automatically is a member of the board.



New club Zoom log-in

There is a new log-in for the Winona Amateur Radio Club's Zoom account:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6881820303?pwd=Z0JuRjZIUXJ2U1RMK1BFS3lvUEhsZz09>

Meeting ID: **688 182 0303**

Passcode: **WarcBoard**

The club had used Paul Schumacher's Winona State University account but that was discontinued following his retirement.

NEW!

Skywarn Recognition Day virtual again

By Todd Shea, KB9YXS, Meteorologist-in-Charge

NWS La Crosse will host a Virtual SKYWARN Recognition Day from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Saturday Dec. 3.

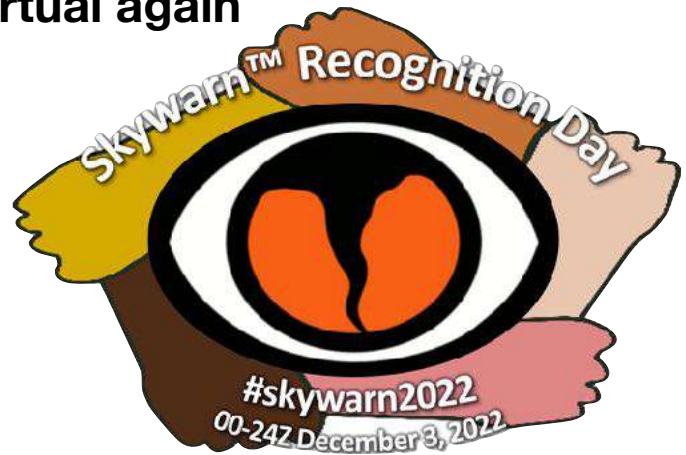
You won't have to watch for supercells but you could earn one during Skywarn™ Recognition Day. Get on the air and see how many National Weather Service offices you can contact. Your effort may result in a handsome "Supercell" certificate.

The La Crosse National Weather Service office is planning a virtual event again due to limited staff availability and the possibility CDC COVID risk levels for La Crosse County would rise to the point of prohibiting visitors to the office. Here is the link to the virtual meeting (using Google Meet) if you would like to join the group for a few minutes, a few hours, or for the day: meet.google.com/jrm-rdqn-cbt

Area amateur radio clubs or individuals are asked to operate as WX9ARX from your own location. There are one-hour block signup times: <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/idlejZA1Pze>

Hams planning on operating as WX9ARX should sign-in on Google Meet that day to coordinate bands and operators. NWS will use Google Sheets to log contacts when operating as WX9ARX. Refer questions regarding operating as WX9ARX to Todd Shea (todd.shea@noaa.gov).

Of course you can take part in the day by just making your own contacts around the country as part

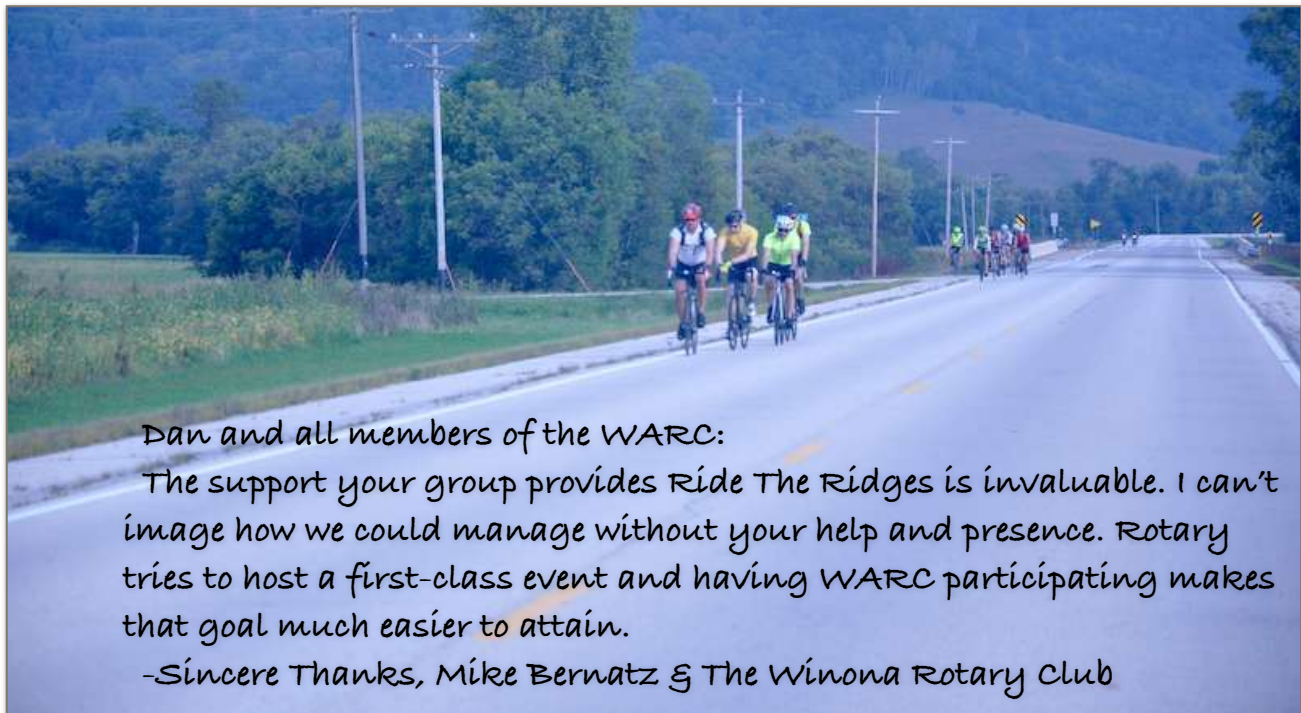


of SKYWARN Recognition Day. The event technically runs from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC on Dec.3. Information can be found at: <https://www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition>

If you are operating on your own share your contacts into the Google Meet account.

Radio operation will be on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 2 meters. Primary modes of communication are SSB and FM, but feel free to use any other amateur radio modes from your home station for communication. Exchange call sign information, signal report, QTH, and a one or two word description of the weather occurring at your location (sunny, partly cloudy, windy, etc.).

NWS will provide more information and updates closer to the event.



Dan and all members of the WARC:

The support your group provides Ride The Ridges is invaluable. I can't image how we could manage without your help and presence. Rotary tries to host a first-class event and having WARC participating makes that goal much easier to attain.

-Sincere Thanks, Mike Bernatz & The Winona Rotary Club

WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022, via Zoom

Board Members: Mike Foerster, WØIH; Dan Goltz, WKØW; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Guests: Marv Rodvold, AC9TO.

Called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Paul Schumacher, KØZYV.

Minutes (Published in the October Hamgram): Bob Seaquist, W9LSE. *Approved.*

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

Balance reported by bank 10/1/2022	4,874.16
Income	
Lions donation	\$ 50.00
Rotary donation	\$ 250.00
Dues	\$ 35.00
Balance	\$4,924.16

Public Service: Dan Goltz, WKØW. WARC received a \$250 donation from the Winona Rotary Club.

Russ NØQK is organizing support for a running race Dec. 3. This is a smaller scale event using handheld radios and fewer people than other events we have supported.

The November Winona County Emergency Preparedness meeting was cancelled this month.

Trustee: Mike Foerster, WØIH.

Repeaters: Yaesu DR-2X forums did not provide solutions to the repeaters locking up so a WatchDog timer may help. Most of the parts for the Arduino circuit are gathered together and the code is written, and it just has to be assembled. It's planned for Rooster Ridge and possibly the KAGE tower sites.

Witoka: The new PC is running on the IC-7300 for RemoteHams that Ben Kuhn, KUØHN, donated, and it seems to be working well. It doesn't require the constant hand holding that the previous PC did, though it is considerably slower.

There was an issue earlier this week where one of the members noted that the SSB wasn't working well, but rebooting the RCForb.exe app (remotely) cleared up the problem.

Keith Laken, KEØIJI, helped to assemble the 160 meter dipole (fed with coax) up at the Witoka site earlier this month. We had to move the current 80M Off Center Fed Dipole to the other side of the tower to eliminate any possibility of a conflict with the power lines. The 160m dipole is working from 2.0 to 1.9 MHz but at this point won't tune below 1.9 MHz.

Another member could not get 10 meters to work, but that turned out to be a configuration error. All bands, 160 through 10m should be working as well as 6 meters.

Election: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT. Incumbents Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, and Clare Jarvis, KØNY, will be on the ballot at the annual meeting. Dan Goltz, WKØW, is not running for re-election. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Video conferencing: Clare Jarvis, KØNY. Various video conferencing softwares and their costs will be evaluated for possible club use if the club plans continued hybrid meetings.

Adjourn: 7:26 p.m.

Clean up on Sweeps



The leaden skies of November signal the time for you to blow the dust off your cloud burner and see how wonderful the new sun cycle is for Hams. An easy place to start is the ARRL November Sweepstakes, Nov 19-21.

The bands are chock-full of other Hams chasing a clean sweep in the Sweeps. This may be your first time in a contest and your station is small but you are welcome according to super-contester Craig Thompson, K9CT. "Your QSOs help other testers," explains Thompson, "plus you get great operating experience."

Sweepstakes is the ARRL's oldest "domestic" contest and is one in which stations may only contact each other once on any band. The object is to exchange the required contact information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. The Clean Sweep mug — for working all 83 ARRL/RAC sections is available for anyone who completes more than 100 contacts during Sweepstakes.

Winona to Winona via the ISS



By Russ Marsolek, NØQK

They say that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. Well.....they're wrong!

Many many years ago I helped a Winona ham, Ed Crowell, set up his satellite antenna array. It was huge! But with it he could track satellites as they crossed the skies above us. Well two weeks ago I sat in on a ham radio class where the instructor spoke of comms with the International Space Station (ISS) and that got my attention. I have no plans on installing what Ed had setup.



**RUSS MARSOLEK,
NØQK**

The ISS several years ago installed and turned-on a cross-band repeater. After doing just a little research (thanks YouTube!) I knew that the two frequencies were 145.990 for the uplink and 437.800 for the downlink using a 67.0 tone. So that was the first step.

I didn't want to use two radios although you certainly could, so I decided to use my Yaesu FT-991A. I had to use a split which was new to me never having used a "split" setup on the rig. Ever! Anyway I set the split mode so VFO-A was the 437.800 MHz and VFO-B was 145.990 MHz. About two weeks ago I added an app to my cell phone titled GoISSwatch and thus I knew that the ISS would be in

range today at 6:49 AM. In preparation for the pass I tried my set-up with Paul Degallier, ADØUU, and it seemed like I was good-to-go.

The morning of the pass I had the radios on and was watching the path of the ISS on my I-Phone. Once my QTH was in the red circle of coverage I started calling my call sign. Within one minute WO3T from PA answered me. **MY FIRST CONTACT THROUGH THE ISS's CROSS-BAND REPEATER!!!**

A minute later I had another contact, KK4TW from TN. This old man was excited!!! Talking on just a omni directional dual band repeater, using 50 watts I was able to reach the ISS (275 miles up!) and then out to PA and TN!

Paul and I spoke after that and we knew that the next path of the ISS would be directly over us in about 90 minutes so I set the alarm clock. This time it was even better: I watched the "waterfall" on the 991 and tuned my receive slightly to handle the doppler effect so to be hearing exactly what I was seeing on the waterfall. This time I made contact with K8YSE, W3DO, and finally ADØUU, all of 3.8 miles away in Winona via the ISS 275 miles above us! Paul was able to go through the ISS's cross-band repeater too!

And all of this without spending any extra money.

The bottom line is, thanks to ham radio I guess that you really can teach an old dog some new tricks!

Trying short-range HF for emergencies

On a sunny, warmish October morning near La Crescent, some horses whinnying nearby, a small group of Hams experimented with short-range emergency HF communication. Not exactly stormy conditions, but that was the point, in good conditions



WAYNE OLIVER, KØWLO, WORKING NVIS CONTACTS

to see how well they could communicate beyond VHF radio range in case there would be the need for regional radio contacts. Contacts as close as a couple miles and as far as a couple hundred were excellent—“5-9.” “This has possibilities,” noted Wayne Oliver, KØWLO.

The NVIS (Near Vertical Incident Skywave) exercise was the product of the La Crosse Area Emcomm Group to see what’s needed for two-way radio communication in an emergency. KØWLO worked phone on 75 meters while Shawn Hicks, KD9KGQ, sent Winlink messages via a nearby repeater.

The group was assessing how effective a tool Near Vertical Incidence Skywave can be in providing reliable communications in the Western Wisconsin, Eastern Minnesota, and NE Iowa region. An August run-through worked 40 meters successfully and the late October exercise worked other Hams with dynamite signals on 75 meters.

Emergency communicators wanting to make regional contacts—ones too far for VHF or UHF—turn to HF (High Frequency) radios and antennas set up for nearby contacts. An example would be a communicator in La Crescent reaching out to an emergency center in Rochester 60 miles away. Regular HF signals would jump way over Rochester so the solution is NVIS antennas which tend to shoot a signal almost straight up to the ionosphere so it will come almost straight down.

The La Crescent antenna was a wire suspended about three feet off the ground from plastic fence posts.

Before storms and rain shut down the August 40 meter exercise,

Drew Neve, AB9NE, made contact after contact ranging from N9ETD in Onalaska to Hams in Ohio, Southern Illinois, and Michigan. “We wanted to have an exercise to generate interest,” noted Neve. He added, “we wanted to see if this (NVIS) is an effective replacement.”



THE NVIS ANTENNA

Oliver explained that NVIS would be a good communication tool if, for instance, we would have a tornado and floods and we needed to communicate with state headquarters in Madison or St. Paul.

Gear was simple: a 100 watt Yaesu FT 450 transceiver and a 40 meter dipole hung about five feet above the ground. A nearby volleyball net served as a great support.

On Facebook the group invited all amateur radio clubs and individuals in the Tri-State area, (WI/MN/IA) to test their NVIS capabilities on 40/80 meters.

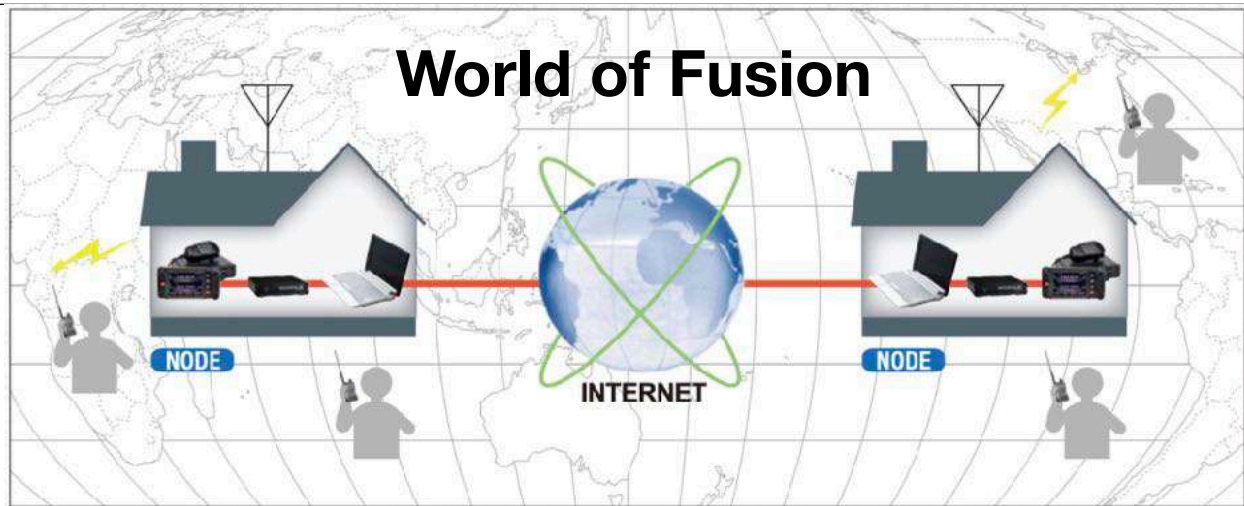
“We are doing this to learn,” said Oliver.

Bottom line for the area’s winter...

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center forecast for December-February:

- Temperatures: *Colder than normal*
- Precipitation: *Wetter-than-normal*





Those who are restricted with antennas and/or are interested in a different aspect of Ham radio have the world at their finger tips if they have a Yaesu C4FM radio. Three of our club repeaters function as FM repeaters but, when prompted by a Yaesu-toten Ham, can link to the world-wide WIRES-X network of repeaters and groups. Also known as “Yaesu Fusion” repeaters, Winona’s are on the 146.835 PL 131.8 Hz, 444.225 PL 100.0Hz and 442.150 PL 100.0 Hz machines.

A popular room is America Link which frequently has 100 people attached to it from around the U.S. and the world. Press and hold the Dx button on your Fusion radio to access the Wire-X menu. Then select Search and Direct

to search all nodes or search for a named room or enter the room number of your favorite to dial straight to it. See Yaesu’s Wires-X page for more details: <https://www.yaesu.com/jp/en/wires-x/>

If you are new to Wires-X on a Yaesu Fusion Radio, you can access the digital transceiver by selecting one of our three frequencies and tap the Dx button on the radio toggling you from FM to DN. Our Fusion / Wires-X repeaters afford our C4FM members the opportunity to participate in national and international nets. If you don’t have the right gear maybe Santa to help you into a Fusion radio soon.

Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. P.O. Box 1451, Winona, MN 55987

WØNE Repeater

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 Niaht Net—8:30 p.m.

Winona Amateur Radio club meetings are 7 p.m., third Thursday of the month at the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St., Winona or Zoom video conferencing. (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6881820303?pwd=Z0JuRjZlUXJ2U1RMK1BFS3lvUEhsZz09>

Meeting ID: 688 182 0303

Password: WarcBoard)

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: Mike Foerster, WØIH, mchlfrstr@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.

