

# The Hamgram

February 2023



| BAND    | MODE    | QSOs   |
|---------|---------|--------|
| 40M     | CW      | 54     |
| 40M     | PH      | 205    |
| 20M     | CW      | 35     |
| 20M     | PH      | 151    |
| 10M     | CW & PH | 10     |
| Score = |         | 83,700 |

PAUL DEGALLIER, ADØUU, LEFT, LOGS FOR LANCE TAGLIAPIETRA, ADØUT, FEB. 4 DURING MINNESOTA QSO OPERATIONS.

Winona’s 2023 shot at the Minnesota QSO Party was “a blast” according to participant and host Paul Degallier, ADØUU. He’s not the only Ham happy with the Feb. 4 event: Sam Resto, KFØACN, was instrumental in putting stations together and then operating. “I made half as many contacts in a few hours then I’ve made for myself as a licensed ham nearly,” said Resto. “It was plenty of fun!”

The location was Degallier’s bluff top garage which is comfortable and spacious. Operators had two radios to choose from, a Kenwood or an Icom, and plenty of snacks and beverages to fuel their efforts. There were some hitches such as cold, deep snow and antennas that struggled. In frustration with a balky antenna during Friday’s set-up John Kowalik, K2OPT, manufactured a new one.

The idea of MNQP—beside having casual contact fun, is to contact as many of Minnesota’s 87 counties as possible plus give out-of-state stations a chance to “score” Winona

County. Combining phone and CW our guys knocked off 50 counties and earned 89,960 points. (unaudited)

Participants included; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Paul Degallier, ADØUU; Justin McElmury, KFØBSI; Sam Resto, KFvACN; John Kowalik, K2OPT; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; Peter Ebertowski, KDØYOB; Russ Marsolek, NØQK; Dan Goltz, WKØW.



PHONE AND CW POINTS WERE SCORED BY PETER EBERTOWSKI, KDØYOB.



PAUL DEGALLIER, ADØUU, ATTEMPTS TO USE THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION'S RADIO AS A REPEATER.

At least two club members have their heads in the clouds. Heck, Paul Degallier, ADØUU, and Russ Marsolek, NØQK, have their heads waaaaay above the clouds into outer space. They've discovered the repeater on the International Space Station (ISS) which can contact other Hams over a huge distance using something as simple as a handheld.

They use satellite tracking software to know when the ISS will be "visible" from their stations. (At night you can easily see the ISS streak by). When it gets within range they start calling giving their call sign and grid square location. Winona's is EN44ea. Often many stations are calling and because the ISS is shooting by at 4.76 miles/second, making a contact can be frustrating and it must be brief.

Equipment can be basic VHF UHF radios. Degallier has made contacts using the ISS repeater standing in his backyard with an HT. A typical ground station for contacting the ISS station includes a 2-meter FM transceiver and 25-100 watts of output power. A circularly polarized crossed-Yagi antenna capable of being pointed in both azimuth (North-South-East-West)

and elevation (degrees above the horizon) is desirable. But successful contacts have even been made with vertical and ground plane antennas.

For more information visit the "Beginners" sections of

the [AMSAT-NA](#) or [AMSAT-UK](#) websites for information

on getting started with all modes of amateur radio satellite operation. If you're really lucky ISS crew members make random, unscheduled, amateur radio voice contacts with earth-bound radio

amateurs. They can make radio contacts during their breaks, pre-sleep time and before and after mealtime. Astronauts have contacted thousands of hams around the world. The work schedules of the ISS crew dictate when they are able to operate the radios. The crew's usual waking period is 0730 - 1930 UTC. The most common times to find a crew member making casual periods are about one hour after waking and before sleeping, when they have personal time. They're usually free most of the weekend, as well.

**Frequencies for Amateur Radio ISS contacts**

Voice and SSTV Downlink: 145.80  
 Voice Uplink: 144.49  
 VHF Packet Uplink and Downlink: 145.825  
 UHF Packet Uplink and Downlink: 437.550  
 VHF/UHF Repeater Uplink: 145.99 (PL 67 Hz)  
 VHF/UHF Repeater Downlink: 437.80

# WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)



Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023, via Zoom

**Present:** Board Members: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Mike Foerster, WØIH;. Guests: Dan Goltz, WKØW; Clare Jarvis, KØNY.

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

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

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

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Balance on 1/31/2023                                      | \$5,474.16 |
| Income:   |            |
| Dues for 2023   | \$380.00   |
| Expenses:   |            |
| Honorarium to Jodi Brom                                   | \$100.00   |
| Paul Schumacher (QTH.com renewal)                         | \$16.88    |
| Balance reported by bank                                  | \$5,648.16 |
| (Three checks (\$90) refused by bank due to missing data) |            |
| Paid members  | 20         |

**Public Service:** Dan Goltz, WKØW. The new emergency management command trailer is due to be delivered to the county this month. It will be outfitted with cabinets, electronics, antennas as well as a Yaesu FTM 400. It should be available to county groups such as fire departments, dive rescue, SOAR, amateur radio, etc, by the first week of July.



A mass casualty drill is planned for October. Amateur radio has been included in these exercises in the past.

I attended a Skywarn instructor recertification class sponsored by Minnesota Homeland Security and taught by the National Weather Service staff from the Chanhassen office. I have new information on storm spotting. Winona County Emergency Management has requested Skywarn training for Winona County, and the La Crosse office of the NWS will be providing that. I can supplement their training schedule if needed. The date for Skywarn training in the county has not been determined.

**Custodian:** Mike Foerster, WØIH

**WØNE license:** The WØNE license is due March 18. The license should be renewed ahead of the renewal date.

**Repeaters:** We replaced the Kendecomm repeater on 146.64 with the Yaesu DR-2X repeater in the process of troubleshooting a de-sense problem relating to the duplexers. The plan is re-aligning the original duplexers and putting them back with the 444.225 repeater.

**Witoka:** The HF rig, the IC-7300 is running well.

**Program:** Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT. The club's February program meeting will be "PL tones."

**Education:** Paul Schumacher, KØZYV. Plans to reactivate the committee; it's time to resume license classes.

**Adjourn:** 7:27 p.m.

## Be prepared for disaster



### WINONA HAMS PARTICIPATED IN A 2019 RAIL DRILL.

A derailed train car carrying a hazardous chemical in the midst of a burning freight wreck was headline news recently. That, and the Feb. 4 fire at Mississippi Welders Supply in Goodview bring back memories of the 2019 derailment exercise held in Dakota and a reminder that disasters can occur in our area.

Train wrecks, Turkey and Syrian earthquakes should have you testing your radio grab-and-go and emergency supply kits.

You could operate from your home station or portable by setting up your grab-and-go kit in your backyard, or

on your deck or patio. How well do you and your grab-and-go kit work in the winter? Don't forget power. Can you sustain operations without using commercial power?

Don't have an emergency supply kit? Go to Ready.gov to learn how to prepare yourself and your family for small emergencies or large-scale disasters. Remember, it takes a while for the government to organize a response to a disaster.

Even here in the United States, it can take 72 hours or more before any government organized relief arrives in a stricken area. In the case of disasters like Katrina and Sandy, some areas didn't see organized government help arrive until weeks later. That's why it's vitally important we are prepared to fend for ourselves at least during that initial 72-hour period. See if your kit will in fact sustain you. If it doesn't, it means your kit will need to be reevaluated.

## Expand club membership

By ARRL Roanoke Division Vice Director Bill Morine, N2COP

I talk with hundreds of hams each year, many of whom are newly licensed or returning to the airwaves after an absence. I ask them if they belong to a club. **To my surprise, many reply no, and cite two reasons why they don't join. First, no one responds to a call from them on the club's repeater, and secondly, they feel awkward at club meetings because few members wear badges to identify themselves.** Both situations can easily be remedied.

Make it a club policy for members to monitor the club's designated repeater for at least one hour ahead of meeting times, not only for regularly scheduled meetings, but also for any informal events, such as breakfasts, lunches, or dinners. Answer unfamiliar calls, and invite the caller to your event, confirming the location. Remember that VHF/UHF FM equipment sold 30 years ago is still fully functional, so lots of returning hams still expect repeaters to be the primary conduit to communicate with members before meetings.

Many hams have gotten out of the habit of wearing a badge. While most members may know one another by sight, a visitor does not. Wearing a badge at a gathering helps associate a name and call sign with a face, and makes the visitor feel at ease. An easy way to make sure everyone is identified is to have blank adhesive name badges from an office supply store and a marker by the entrance to the meeting room.

Monitoring the club's official repeater and wearing a badge are two simple ways to make nonmembers feel welcome and part of your club, with the hope they will join.

## Club meeting Thursday

"PL" tones will be unraveled at the February meeting of the Winona Amateur Radio club 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 16, 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.

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

Vice President: Elisamuel Resto, KFØACN, [sam@samresto.dev](mailto:sam@samresto.dev)

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: Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; Paul Schumacher, KØZYV

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.

