

The Hamgram

March 2023



Crimping at club meeting

When you have two cables that should be one cable you have to figure out how to join them. Experienced builder and Ham Mike Foerster, WØIH, offers a solid solution, crimping. Join Mike for this marriage of wires at the March meeting of the Winona Amateur Radio club 7 p.m., Thursday, March. 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.



The National Weather Service encourages anyone with an interest in public service to join the SKYWARN® program. Winona County Skywarn training is 6:30 p.m., Wednesday April 19, at the Winona County Historical Society, 160 Johnson St, Winona. Training is free and typically lasts about two hours. You'll learn: basics of thunderstorm development; fundamentals of storm structure; identifying potential severe weather features; information to report; basic severe weather safety.

Alternative sessions:

Wed, March 29, 6:30 p.m.

Olmsted County
Empire Event Center, 1517 16th St SW,
Rochester

Thu, March 30, 6:30 p.m.

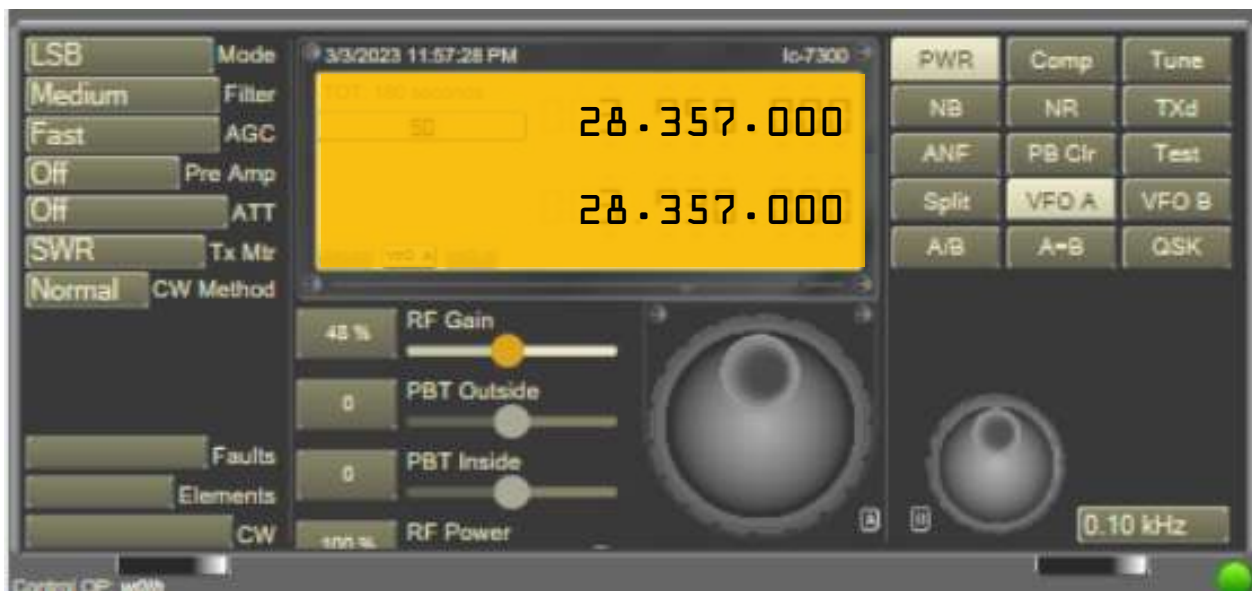
Buffalo County
Buffalo County Courthouse, County
Board Room, 407 S 2nd St, Alma

Mon, April 10, 6:30 p.m.

Fillmore County
Mabel City Hall / Community Center, 201
S Main St, Mabel

Wed, April 26, 7 p.m.

La Crosse County
Black River Beach Neighborhood Center
1433 Rose St, La Crosse



WINONA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB'S REMOTE RADIO CONTROLS LOOK LIKE THIS ON YOUR COMPUTER.

New Techs, get on 10 Meters SSB legally and for free!

By Mike Foerster, WØIH

Congratulations to all the new hams in the area! Did you know that the Winona Amateur Radio Club (WARC) provides your first year of membership to the club free of charge? And the club has an ICOM IC-7300 which you can operate remotely at no cost. It's a part of your membership!

As you probably remember from studying for your license, your Tech privileges allow you to operate on 10m from 28.300 to 28.500 using Single Sideband (SSB). Interestingly enough, that is one of the most active portions of the 10m band for voice. Coincidentally, the solar cycle is definitely on the rise so 10m activity is very good for DX and promises to improve even more. Using the club's HF rig remotely is a way to explore the HF 10m band and you only need your computer, saving your investment in an HF

rig for later. Most of the activity on 10m is during mid-day. The application that you install on your computer to operate the radio remotely looks and operates very much like a new digital radio.

What's more, the IC-7300 has a digital display, like most of the newer radios. There is a camera pointed at the display of the radio so you can view the signals on the band as you operate.

To get setup, all you need to do is follow the instructions at <https://w0ne.org/w0ne-remote-station/>. This includes detailed instructions on installing and configuring your Windows PC (doesn't work on MAC or Linux) and using the station. Refer your questions to me at w0ih@arrl.net.

One more thing, all the other existing members are invited to participate as well!

Special Storm spotters are needed, this time for the "Storm" series of athletic events running April through December. Many of you know some local Hams provided communication support for the Storm The Bluff race in December. As far as the organizers are concerned, "it went great!." They want our help again for The Storm The Park at Whitewater State Park, April 22, Storm The Farm July 22, and Storm The Bluffs Dec 2.



The "Storm" series is to encourage people of all skill levels to participate in trail racing events, to get outdoors and to enjoy the beautiful local trails in Southeast Minnesota. Now it's also a test for Hams to provide

communication in interesting spots.

The principal point of contact is Russ Marsolek, NØQK. He asks you to contact him if you're interested in participating—on the radio, not running—in any of the events. Marsolek may be reached at 507-458-8480 (text) or rmarsole@hbci.com.

WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Wednesday, March 1, 2023, via Zoom

Present: Board Members: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Sam Resto, KFØACN; Mike Foerster, WØIH. Guests: Dan Goltz, WKØW; Tom Wilmot, WØMK.

Called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT.

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

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

Balance on 2/1/2023 \$5,648.16

Income:

Dues (for 2023) \$270.00

Balance reported by bank \$5,648.16

Paid members 28

Trustee: Mike Foerster, WØIH. *(Detailed report on page 4)* KAGE Tower 146.64 repeater repair of the duplexers is complete. One of the coax cables needed repair. repaired both ends and checked all the others. I strongly suspect that this has been a problem for quite some time.

The other repeaters appear to be working well.

Portable repeater cables are missing. **MOTION:**

Purchase two coax cables for portable repeater for about \$33. (Approve)

We need to profile repeater coverage for each of the four repeaters, while they are running correctly to have reference for receive sensitivity and the transmit power and coverage.

In the case of a problem contact WØIH, Dan, WKØW or Russ, NØQK for help with repeater controls. Witoka Tower Work:

Tyler Scott, KFØCQX, indicated he would do tower climbing and maintenance in the spring.

Public Service: Dan Goltz, WKØW. This month's county emergency coordination meeting was cancelled. Winona County Skywarn training is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Wednesday April 19, at the Winona County Historical Society, 160 Johnson St, Winona.

The group that sponsored Storm the Bluffs has requested Amateur Radio support for additional upcoming events this year. Russ Marsolek, NØQK, will coordinate.

Program: Sam Resto, KFØACN. The March club program will be crimping.

Adjourn: 7:39 p.m.

STORM PLANNING TIMELINE

A few days out	The day before	The day of
<p><i>If the forecast calls for severe weather in a few days, start preparing now.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Make sure that you have emergency suppliesKnow your safe placesHave a family communication plan	<p><i>The day before, forecast accuracy continues to improve.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Adjust plansMake sure your phone can receive WEAsEnsure your shelter is clean and accessible	<p><i>Remain vigilant and aware of any active Watches. A Warning may be issued at a moment's notice!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Remind your family of the communication planKnow how to evacuate and/or get to safety from wherever you areWhen a Warning is issued, you may only have seconds to take action!

weather.gov

Tower report

Duplexers from the 146.64 repeater at the KAGE tower were removed at the end of December after complaints of poor sensitivity. One of the coax cables was separated at the N connector, and the other end was loose. Both ends were repaired and all others checked.

Tuning appears to be stable. There is a detailed report for the work on the duplexers for future reference attached to the duplexers.

Russ Marsolek, NØQK, helped remove the portable repeater duplexers and re-install the original set Feb. 20. The Kendecom repeater and amp were reconnected, and the Yaesu DR-2X was reprogrammed back to 444.225. They seem to be working well.

The KAGE tower lightning arrestor might have caused the problems. There was no arrestor installed! We had a few available so one was installed on the coax below the rack cabinet. There is a copper ground strap right under the cabinet in a trough to which we grounded the device right where there is a cable connection. It's easy to get at for maintenance.

Two cables for the portable repeater duplexers (N to PL259, RG-214) are missing and some other cables were substituted. Pre-made replacements have been ordered.

Portable duplexers are Wacom WP-641 with a pass-through loss about 1.5dB for both the transmit and receive

sides, and the isolation was acceptable on the order of 86dB. The duplexers were returned to NØQK's garage for storage.

It is apparent that repeater coverage should be profiled for each of the four repeaters, while they are running correctly. This would provide a reference to receive sensitivity and the transmit power and coverage.

When the weather warms a battery check should be performed at the repeater sites. The battery at Witoka is in reasonable condition, but the batteries at Rooster Ridge and the KAGE tower have been there for years and probably do not have much backup charge. There is a new generator the KAGE tower that our system will fall back on.

Recently there was an error message at the end of the 146.64 repeater ID. This can be triggered if there is a loss of AC power at the repeater and it drops back to battery power. They could have been testing the new generator at the site.

In case of repeater problems you may contact WØIH, mchllfrstr@gmail.com; Dan Goltz, WKØW, dgoltz@hbc.com; or Russ Marsolek, NØQK, rmarsole@hbc.com for help.

Sam Resto, KFØACN, installed a new operating system in the Dell laptop. Software required to put it back to replace the slower Lenovo X230.

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 100.0 Hz 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.

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Password: WarcBoard)

The monthly program is open to the public.

President: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, lancetag@hbc.com

Vice President: Elisamuel Resto, KFØACN, sam@samresto.dev

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: 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 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.

