

# The Hamgram

April 2023



## Searching for Madeline

The mass search April 7-8 for the missing Winona woman, Madeline Kingsbury, included Hams, including those assisting law enforcement using county radios.

More than 1,800 volunteers showed up Friday in Winona and Rushford to search for evidence in the case. Another 700 searched Saturday.

A number of Hams provided communication on the buses transporting volunteers throughout the county. "This was extremely different from anything we've done," noted Dan Goltz, WKØW. "We didn't use ham gear but county-provided public service radio equipment." Goltz said the Winona Amateur Radio Club's Winona Emergency Preparedness Net Sunday nights trained Hams on what to do in a situation like the search.

Those involved in communication can be proud of the fact that public service agencies recognize Winona Amateur Radio Club Hams as communicators, and trust us to get the traffic through using their equipment and frequencies.

Comments from officials complimented Hams about their radio discipline and effectiveness.

The investigation into Kingsbury's continues. Authorities credited the search, said to be the largest ever in Southern Minnesota, with aiding their efforts.



## Skywarn training Wednesday

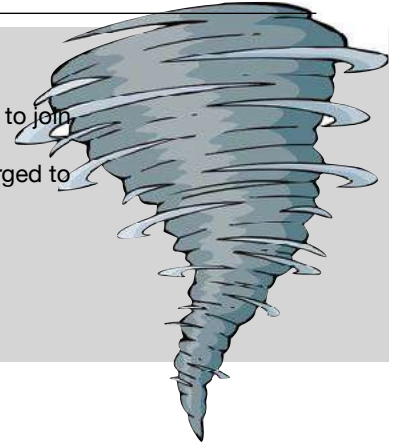
The National Weather Service encourages anyone with an interest in public service to join the SKYWARN® program. The Winona Amateur Radio Club is active in the county's stormspotting. Training is free and typically lasts about two hours. Participants are urged to attend training at least once every two years.

▶ **Wed. April 19, 6:30 p.m.**

Winona County Historical Society, 160 Johnson St, Winona.

▶ **Wed, April 26, 7 p.m.**

Black River Beach Neighborhood Center 1433 Rose St, La Crosse



## Winona fourth in MNQP



**WINONA MNQP OPERATORS JUSTIN MCEL MURY, KFØBSI, LEFT, AND MARV RODVOLD, AC9TO, SCRAMBLE FOR SOME OF THE CLUB'S 80,776 POINTS AND A FOURTH PLACE MULTI-OP WIN.**

Dakota Division Director Bill Lippert, ACØW, beat us in the Minnesota QSO Party (MNQP) Feb. 4 but the Winona Amateur Radio Club still took a solid fourth place with 80,776 points.

In the multi-op category ACØW (incidentally, a Winona member) and one other Ham took first with a stunning 295,608 points. La Crosse's Mississippi Valley Amateur Radio Association, operating as WØW from the WXØW TV site in Houston County, took second while the Twin City DX Association was third.

This year 519 logs were received, 146 logs from Minnesota stations. There were just slightly less than an

additional 4,000 people who joined in at some level of participation. Eighty-two of 87 Minnesota counties were activated.

The Winona Amateur Radio Club operated with funky antennas from the comfort of Paul Degallier's, ADØUU, garage. Participants included; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Paul Degallier, ADØUU; Justin McElmury, KFØBSI; Sam Resto, KFØACN; John Kowalik, K2OPT; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; Peter Ebertowski, KDØYOB; Russ Marsolek, NØQK; Dan Goltz, WKØW.

# SDR on-line receivers introduction

By Mike Foerster, WØIH

When you want to hear your own signal and see how you're getting out or you want a different perspective on what's on the air, try a WebSDR. There are a plethora of WebSDRs (Software Defined Radio) on-line that are free for and available for you to use. A WebSDR is a Software-Defined Radio receiver



(Log Periodic). These available sites can be filtered by band (LF through UHF) or region (North America, Europe, Asia/Pacific, etc.). There is another similar list of SDRs at *rx-tx.info* which not only includes a table of the SDR sites, but also includes a map to show where the

connected to the internet, allowing many listeners to listen and tune it simultaneously. SDR technology makes it possible that all listeners tune independently, and thus listen to *different* signals; this is in contrast to the many classical receivers that are already available via the internet. These have many uses, even if you have your own transceiver at home. The SDR receivers are available for use on any standard computer or cell phone browser. Most of these SDRs allow a large number of concurrent users at the same time and with each user listening on a different frequency. Pretty much all of them also include a waterfall display for the signal identification S-Meter and support multiple modes (AM, FM, SSB, etc.) as well as AGC, notch, noise reduction and waterfall adjustments.

There are two very good starting places for exploring the various SDRs on-line. First is *websdr.org* which is a comprehensive list of the different SDRs that boasts 172 active servers as well as the number of current users. The antennas used are also listed, which can be from the mundane (dipole) to the exotic

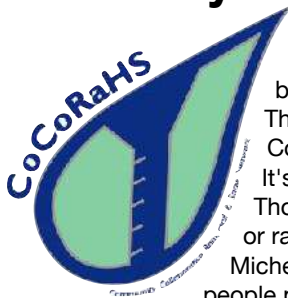
SDRs are located. It sometimes takes a little playing around to figure out the operation of the different SDR receiver's, but you will discover many similarities.

One of my favorite sites is the *sdrutah.org* which I use often. However when exploring, I found myself listening on an SDR in Iceland on 20m SSB and shared the receiver with someone from Bucharest, Romania as well as others.

One of the most common uses that I've found for the SDR receivers, other than just listening, is when I'm on a schedule with friends and the band changes so that I can no longer receive them. I can log into an SDR and take advantage of the difference in propagation to continue working the station. In this case, when transmitting, I hear my own signal echoed from the SDR with some delay. This can be quite confusing to some (especially me!), so I rigged up a small relay off the PTT output of my rig that drives a relay to short out the low level audio to my computer speakers. This mutes the speaker when I transmit, eliminating the problem.

Have fun exploring the world of SDR Radios!

## Backyard weather needed



You can help emergency managers, state climatologists, and local meteorologists from your backyard.

The National Weather Service seeks volunteers for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow network. It's better known as, CoCoRaHS or "coco-ross."

Those in the network report how much snow they've gotten, or rain. They can also report on any storm damage they see.

Michelle Margraf, an observing program leader for NWS, said people providing that information helps them forecast for future disasters.

"As this winter has gone on all the measurements of snow and precipitation throughout the winter have helped us look ahead to the spring flood outlook to see what the potential is for flooding as the snow melts," said Margraf.

All you need is a ruler to measure snow, but you can also report rain using a rain gauge. To sign-up go to <https://www.cocorahs.org/application.aspx>



### Dates

- Wed April 19: Skywarn training
- Thurs April 20: Club meeting
- Sat April 22: Storm The Park

# WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Wednesday, April 5, 2023, via Zoom

**Present:** Board Members: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Sam Resto, KFØACN; Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Mike Foerster, WØIH; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Clare Jarvis, KØNY. Guests: Dan Goltz, WKØW; Tom Wilmot, WØMK; Ron Severson, KD9OHQ; Russ Marsolek, NØQK; Bill Lippert, ACØW.

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

**Minutes** (Published in the March Hamgram): Bob Seaquist, W9LSE. Corrected to include AC9TO as being in attendance. *Approved.*

Discussion of official club document storage  
Secretary instructed to send a get well card to Marianne Hohenner, KDØROD.

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

Balance on 3/1/2023	\$5,918.16
Income:	
Dues	\$65.00
Donations	\$175.00
Expenses:	
Mike Foerster (W0NE license renewal)	\$35.00

Mike Foerster (Repeater Coax)	\$30.56
Balance reported by bank	\$6,092.60
Paid members	28

**Public Service:** Dan Goltz, WKØW  
Winona County Emergency Management is planning a multi-agency exercise in October at Winona Health. The club has been invited to participate either with logistics or as a participant.

**Skywarn:** For our part very little has changed. Ben Klinger feels we are doing a good job, has confidence in our abilities and sees no reason to change the way we perform. La Crosse Weather will hold a Skywarn training session Wed. April 19, at 6 p.m. at the Winona County History Center.

**New Facilities:** With the new jail construction, and the relocation of the dispatch center, it's likely that our radio room at the LEC will be moved into the current dispatch center on the main floor. That would give more room, and put us closer to the dispatchers. It would be a good time for the county to replace the antennas and coax.

The county's new communications trailer has been delivered; the outfitter will install cabinetry and equipment. A new, larger generator will be able to power the equipment, refrigerator and air conditioner. The trailer may be ready for WARC to use for Field Day. We requested the tower trailer as well.

Club members may be requested to assist in the search for a missing person April 7-8.

**Trinona:** Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT. The club has officially been asked to provide support for Trinona June 11. Highway construction means the international bike course will be rerouted.

**Trustee:** Mike Foerster, WØIH. The two cables for the portable repeater arrived, were labeled, color coded and added to the portable duplexer box at NØQK's storage.

Mike Cizek, WØVTT contacted me about the Windows XP laptop that he had used for programming the portable repeater. I picked up the portable repeater from NØQK's storage and I'm investigating what it will take to maintain the programmability. The CDROM, programming module and cables that Mike used were in the case but I still need to do the testing with an older PC. The Windows 7 machine that I have doesn't work, so other avenues are needed for testing.

Repeaters and the Witoka HF rig are working well.

**QSL Card:** A QSL card from KD8YWF requesting a QSL card from an MNQP was confirmed.

**Adjourn** 7:37 p.m.



## Field Day June 24-25

ARRL Field Day is just over two months away, but like spring cleaning, it pays to start getting ready now.

2023 Field Day will be held June 24 - 25. It is ham radio's open house. Every June, hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to communities and the nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Some participants may also choose to operate from home, using the exercise to develop and practice their personal radio communications capability.

Field Day has been an annual event since 1933 and remains the most popular event in ham radio.

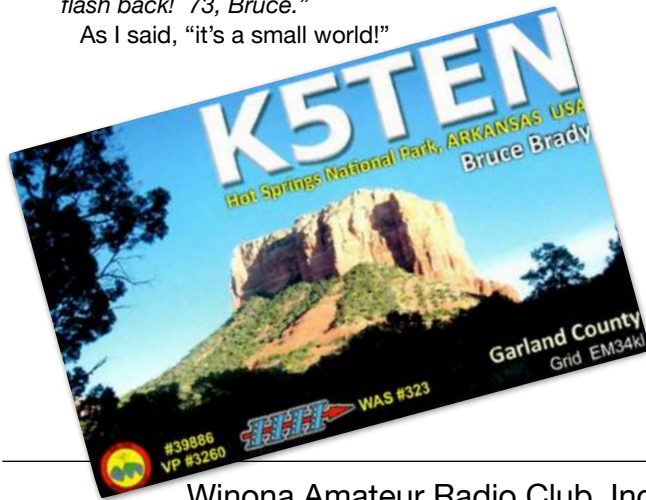
# It's a small world!

By Russ Marsolek, NØQK

It really is a small world! Many of you know that several Winona hams have experimented with contacting other hams through the International Space Station (ISS) Cross-Band Repeater that they have on board. And when I would make a contact with a grid square from a ham that I need, I'd send them a QSL card. And 95 percent will return one!

Well today I received a card from K5TEN who use to be KAØNIU, along with a letter that reads; "Hi Russell! Thank you for the contact thru the repeater on the ISS! Your card blew me away as I made my first ham QSO's as KAØNIU, Room 222, Richards Hall, Winona State University! My Elmer was Les, KØBAD who had a small electronics store near WSU. I'm now K5TEN, in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, EM34. Thank you for the college flash back! 73, Bruce."

As I said, "it's a small world!"



welcome

Welcome to Winona's newest Hams: Brenna Andres, KFØLMT; Trevor Multhaup, KFØLMV; Phil Dombrowski, KFØLMU; Mitch Auman, KD9WNO; Mike Hines, KD9VXU; Paul Appichelli, KFØKQL; Phil Huerta, KFØKQW; Nora Huxtable, KFØKQV; and Austin McElmury, KFØLMB.

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 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.