

The Hamgram

June 2023



THE WINONA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE

THE ARRL FIELD DAY AND RECEPTION

NOON SATURDAY, JUNE 24 THROUGH NOON SUNDAY JUNE 25 AT WINCREST PARK, 1342 WOODPARK RD, WINONA

RSVP AT W0NE.ORG

Fun

Experimenting, making Qs, chatting, eating

Learning

Hams share their knowledge and passion

Motivation

Inspired by other Hams' excitement

Emergency

communication firsthand experience





Storm hams

RUSS MARSOLEK, NØQK, LEFT, AND AUSTIN MCELURY, KFØLMB, CASUALLY PROVIDE COMMUNICATION FOR THE STORM THE PARK EVENT.

There is little, if any, cell coverage in Whitewater State Park, just south of Elba, but Ham radios work. That was proven on a wet, cold, April Day when mega-activity enthusiasts had their Storm The Park event. Storm The Park is one of three "Storm" events now supported by the Winona Amateur Radio Club.

In this "Storm" Hams were about a quarter mile apart providing communication support and safety for the event. Winona Amateur Radio Club participants included: Justin McElmury, KFØBSI; Austin McElmury, KFØLMB; Nora Huxtable, KFØKQV; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; Clair Jarvis, KØNY.

It was a quite cold, wet, yucky day. Not a lot of communication was needed but when we performed it was perfect.



The Riverland Amateur Radio Club swap fest will be 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday Aug. 5 at Bethany Free Church, 3936 Country Rd B, La Crosse.



LUKE RICKERT, KEØMDW, AT FIELD DAY 2017. HE IS RECIPIENT OF A PRESTIGIOUS ARRL SCHOLARSHIP.

Academic honor

Winona Amateur Radio Club member Luke Rickert, KEØMDW, will be receiving the CTRI/Chris Seeber, KA1GEU, Memorial Scholarship from the ARRL Foundation this year. The scholarship was created to honor Seeber, of Charlestown, RI, the Technical Operations Manager for the Broadband division of Norwood Electric Light.



Dates

- Sat-Sun June 24-25 Field Day
- Storm The Farm, July 22
- Sat Aug 5 Riverland Swap, La Crosse
- Sat Sept 16 Ride The Ridges Support
- Sat Sept 23 Waumandee Time Trials Support



The simplest tower issue

By Bob Seaquist, W9LSE

THREE EXPERT MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS, FATHER, SON AND GRANDSON, ALL USED TO DEALING IN TOILETS, HVAC, WELDING AND SEWERS, ARRIVED WITH A TRUCK-MOUNTED WINCH, A JOHN DEERE TRACTOR, AND LOTS OF TOOLS TO FIX MY TOWER.

Something was clearly wrong last year when my rotor wouldn't respond. The beam only pointed North. And it was at the crummy time of the year when it was too late to lower and repair the damage.

Mine is a modest station set up for a modest operations. Outside stuff features a 40-foot aluminum Universal tower, an eight foot mast topped by a Comet VHF UHF antenna and a beautiful five element three band Hygain TH5DX Thunderbird beam. There's also a Mystery dipole hung as an inverted Vee. Or it was hung before the bargain bin rope used to hang it succumbed to UV and transformed from rope to what looked like toilet paper flags. Rotor was a CDE Ham III that quit working.

Crucially important clue: check your connectors!

So commenced a long and relatively radio-free winter despite superlative propagation. True, I could use the beam on its northerly heading and I could use an attic mounted PAR Endfedz all-band antenna. Neither were fun to use.

Apparently my small tower qualifies my station as one that is very well equipped and we all know guys that do not have towers or other amenities yet earned DXCC with a fence post and paper clip.

Fast forward to late spring: I figured I'd have to replace what seemed to be a failed rotor and, as luck would have it, found a CDE Ham IV at a swap fest and purchased supplies I thought would be needed to repair the tower. The headache was getting someone to lower the tower (it's not safe to climb a self-supported aluminum tower, something I am too old and feeble to do even if it was safe). Fortunately, out here in Holmen's Spring Coulee there are many generous, helpful neighbors and three of them, hearing my plight, generously offered to lower the tower.

On the appointed day, the three, father, son and grandson, all expert mechanical contractors used to dealing in toilets, HVAC, welding and sewers, arrived with a truck-mounted winch, a John Deere tractor, and lots of tools. They hung a pulley from the tractor's bucket, stretched a cable through it to the tower (grandson had to stand in the bucket to attach the

cable to the tower) and gently lowered my 40-foot aluminum joy.

We discovered that several months without a brake let the beam weathervane back and forth enough to dang near destroy the rotor's mount on the tower. We also found when we mounted the new Ham IV rotor, it didn't work though it worked wonderfully when I tested it in the shack. We fussed with the rotor, the wiring and the mount for a while concluding that the rotor mount needed remachining and I had to find a rotor expert. Some adult brewed beverage settled nerves.

Mike Cizek, WØVTT, once professionally worked on ham towers. So I phoned him and begged for his help. I don't think I needed to beg because he's a helpful kind of a guy. The next day he was here doing detective work. He checked voltages at the tower, at the tower's base and in the shack. He checked electrical continuity. We put the new rotor on the tower. Didn't work. We put the new rotor at the tower base where it didn't work. We took the rotor into the shop and disassembled it. (Ham IV rotors are very heavy duty and quite simple; they are rocks and probably could go forever). Worked fine there. We put the old rotor on the tower where it, not surprisingly, did not work. We suspected the control wire grounding device was shot but to bypass it required a trip to Menards.

This project, beside phone calls, big box travel and electrical measurement necessitated a great deal of seafaring language, perspiration and five hours of trudging up and down my hill until we almost accidentally found the issue, one badly crimped spade lug in the shack. All of a sudden, I could point the beam in different directions!

It is true the tower had to be lowered anyhow for routine maintenance like lube for the thrust bearing and checking cables, not to mention replacing the bargain rope with some very tough and UV resistant Mastrant guy line. Finally, the W9LSE aluminum radio wave magnet was back in its place of prominence. Working!

But Geez, one badly crimped spade lug in the shack!

WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Wednesday, June 7, 2023, via Zoom

Present: Board Members: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Mike Foerster, WØIH; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Sam Resto, KF0ACN. Guests: Dan Goltz, WKØW; Tom Wilmot, WØMK; Clare Jarvis, KØNY.

Called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT.

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

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

Balance on 5/1/2023	\$6,122.60
Income:	
Dues	\$30.00
Expenses:	Insurance \$200.
Balance reported by bank	\$5,952.60
Paid members	29

Public Service: Dan Goltz, WKØW. *Approved.* There is no new information on the Winona County command trailer. It's hoped it will be available to us for Field Day.

There have been delays with equipment procurement for the new dispatch center at the new jail. We will not be moving until this is resolved possibly the fall of 2023.

Our next public service event is Trinona June 10. Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, heads the event.

Field Day is June 24 and 25. Marv Rodvold, AC9TO, heads that event.

The "Storm the Farm" event, headed by Russ Marsolek, NØQK, is scheduled for July 22.

Ride the Ridges, Sept. 16, routes and rest areas remain the same as last year. Map overlays are easily retrievable. We will want to tweak the coverage map, as we found some dead spots last year.

The Waumandee Hill Climb is Sept. 24.

Winona County Emergency Management is planning a full scale exercise in October. Amateur radio will be invited to participate.

Several amateurs participated in an amateur radio demonstration at the Ridgeway Elementary School May 30. The students seemed to enjoy it.

Twenty-two amateurs attended Skywarn training in Winona this year. There have been no Skywarn activations yet.

I am open to suggestions as to how to improve this committee. All those interested in public service and emergency preparedness are invited to participate.

Trustee: Mike Foerster, WØIH. *Approved.*

Computer issues at Witoka included the Lenovo X230 Laptop shutting down and installation of a faster HP Probook.

The license plaque donated by Russ Marsolek, NØQK was placed; there's one for Rooster Ridge.

No word so far from Tyler Scott, KFØCQX, on a date for climbing the tower. He knows Winona County requires the \$1 million liability policy. Everything is ready at the tower when he calls.

The KAGE and Rooster Ridge repeaters are working well.

Trinona: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT. Trinona is June 11. There are new owners that are non-profit. The International bicycle course was changed because of possible work on Gilmore Road. There is concern that Trinona's web site is not properly recording our volunteers. Overall volunteers are down 200 this year.

Field Day: Marv Rodvold, AC9TO and Lance. Our request for Wincrest Park is before the city council. Radios will be 7300s set up by Sam Resto, KF0ACN. He also will arrange an on-line sign-up. Volunteers for setting up will be requested at the club's June 15 meeting.

Adjourn: 7:48 p.m.



June 24-25

Field Day a legend since 1934



Winona Ham Radio Operators demonstrated their ability to assist the city in time of emergency during the 24-hour field day conducted last weekend on a nationwide basis by the American Radio Relay League. The local club contacted 292 ham stations in the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada and Australia. Left to right, seated, Robert Czapiewski, Paul Brom, Robert Stanek, Martin Peterson and George Boller, and standing, Robert Kauphusman, Arnold Martinson, Keither Walsh, Steve Boller and Willard Hoeft. (Daily News photo)

WHO: Amateur radio operators, friends and community
WHY: Demonstrate emergency ability of amateur radio and to have fun
WHAT: Amateur Radio shows off for the community.
WHERE: Wincrest Park, 1342 Woodpark Rd, Winona
WHEN: 1 p.m. Sat June 24–1 p.m. Sun June 25 (set up at 9 a.m. Sat)
HOW: Two HF stations and a GOTA radio have Winona on-the-air.

New and old Hams and even families put the last full weekend in June on their calendars because that's the time for ARRL's Field Day. It combines the great out-of-doors, delicious snacks, crackling radios, sweat, and the charm of a State Fair. This unique event is an unparalleled opportunity for ham radio operators to immerse themselves in the dynamic and vibrant world of amateur radio.

Trustee report

By Mike Foerster, WØIH

The Witoka Lenovo X230 Laptop shut down. When I visited the site I took along the faster HP Probook and installed that successfully.

The ACP UPS Power Supply had a fan squealing, I removed it and will get it to Ben Kuhn, KUØHN, for repair or replacement. Ben also wants to switch out one of the network switches for a smaller one.

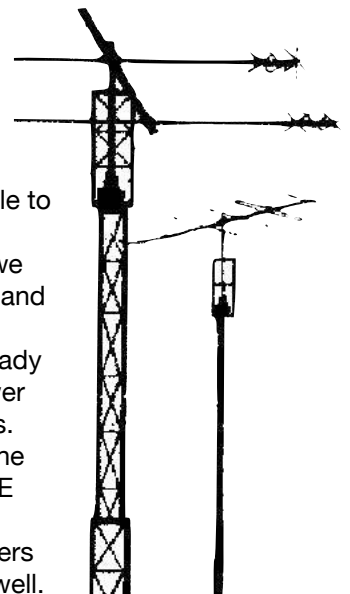
I put the license plaque that was donated by Russ Marsolek, NØQK up at the Witoka tower. I still have the one for Rooster Ridge.

This year we will not remove the HF antenna from the field at Witoka this year unless notified by the guy that cut the hay (weeds), as he never mowed it last year. I will remove the 160M antenna, or at least pull in the wires from the field. 160m isn't typically used during the summer months. I wrote on the (faded) sign my phone number in case the guy wants to mow the hay, so I can move the wires.

No word so far from Tyler Scott, KFØCQX, on a date for climbing the tower. He is aware Winona County requires the \$1

million liability policy. He should be able to do the work anytime, as we are available and we have everything ready up at the tower when he calls.

Currently, the Witoka, KAGE and Rooster Ridge repeaters are working well.



March of technology

When you pull your smart phone out of your pocket to use one of its options, maybe even making a phone call, know that on May 13, 1946, the Federal Communications Commission granted Southwestern Bell a license for radio-telephone service, which enabled those in St. Louis to be the first in the nation to make and receive phone calls in their car.

Covering a 75-mile radius of downtown calls to an auto had to be placed through a mobile operator. This was transferred over normal telephone lines to the office, where the call went out over VHF radio from the 250-Watt transmitter on the building's roof.

Service cost \$15 a month, after a \$25 installation fee. There was an additional charge per call, depending on time. Necessary equipment took much of the trunk space. The first radiotelephone call was placed in St. Louis on Jun 17, 1946.



Radios go to school

Ridgeway school students were introduced to Amateur Radio May 30 by Melanie Reap, KDØNTM, and other Winona Hams.

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 Niiht 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
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



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