

The Hamgram

July 2023



Club picnic July 20

The Winona Amateur Radio Club's July meeting will be a picnic 5:30 p.m., Thursday, July 20, at the Lions Shelter, also known as Gepner Pavilion, 522 Lake Park Dr., Lake Park. There'll be a grill provided. This is a potluck so bring a dish to pass and your own meat for grilling. Let us know if you're coming and what you plan to bring to pass.

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Public Safety Day at the Winona County Fair means Amateur Radio will be on display Wednesday, July 12. Members of the Winona Amateur Radio Club will operate a station amid displays by emergency first responders.

The purpose of this event is to highlight the agencies that respond to emergency situations in Winona County. Mike Cizek, WØVTT, and Mike Foerster, WØIH, are heading the effort. If you want to help represent the club and Amateur Radio there, contact one of the Mikes, mchllfrstr@gmail.com or mgcizek@gmail.com

This is a cool opportunity for the public to see Amateur Radio and for us to just-plain-operate.

WHAT: Winona County Fair Public Safety Day

DATE: Wednesday, July 12


TIME: Noon-8 p.m.

WHERE: Winona County Fair, 506 W 6th St, St Charles, MN 55972



Dates

- Winona County Fair, July 12
- Club picnic, July 20
- Storm The Farm, July 22
- Riverland Swap, La Crosse, Sat Aug 5
- Ride The Ridges Support, Sat Sept 16
- Waumandee Time Trials Support, Sat Sept 23



VOLUNTEERS ON THE AIR 2023

You may represent the ARRL on-the-air the week of August 2-8 when Minnesota stations will operate W1AW/Ø for the Volunteers On The Air (VOTA) event. The Winona Amateur Radio Club represented Minnesota for VOTA May 12.

Again, the station will be at the QTH of Mike Cizek, WØVTT. He is asking for operator interest. Contact him at mgcizek@gmail.com. He said we can sign up for the weekend of August, 5-6 plus the club could request some weekday time slots if there is enough interest. "We had fun the last time," he adds.

With the solar cycle ramping up, 10 meters and 6 meters have been doing well, and you can put W1AW/Ø on the air with a dual-band FM radio and make some nearby contacts.

OK MARCONI!
FIELD DAY IS OVER.
THE LAWN IS CALLING.



Field Day in the old trailer

Field Day, our annual exhibition of emergency communication, was an example of frustration —and joy—of setting a communication operation in a remote spot. The Winona Amateur Radio Club chose Wincrest Park, high above Winona, as its spot. But before we started members dropped like flies from illness, disabilities, family obligations and a myriad of other reasons. The Emergency Management trailer badly needed a cleaning, lightning struck nearby, antennas frustrated us, band pass filters were on the wrong antennas but the coffee and quiche came anyway.

It worked anyway, two stations got on the air, happy Hams operated, generous amounts of food were served and we even hosted ARRL Minnesota Section Director Bill Mitchell, AEØEE who delighted the crowd by operating CW and snagging seven CW contacts with his tiny J-38 straight key.

There were some malfunctions but everything smoothed out and operations overnight were successful. Surprisingly 20m and 40m were open all night and into the early morning, Even with the bands fading KFØACN still managed to log Cory, VK4KA, from Australia and Rene, NP30, from Puerto Rico.

There was one lightning strike close enough to suspend operations, and some rain, but not nearly as much as forecast.

Participants included: Kevin Aponte, KD9DLE; Paul Degallier, ADØUU; Phil Dombroski, KFØLMU; Mike Foerster, WØIH; Dan Goltz, WKØW; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; John Kowalik, K2OPT; Keith Laken, KEØIJI; Justin McElmury, KFØBSI, Austin McElmury, KFØLMB; Bill Mitchell, AEØEE; Terry Peterson, WØEUU; Sam Resto, KFØACN; Iliana, KEØZFU; Luke, KEØMDW; Kevin KEØMDX and Miriam Rickert; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; Kelly Sauke, KE1LYS; Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT.



OPERATORS (CLOCKWISE FROM FRONT) PAUL SCHUMACHER, KØZYV, MARV RODVOLD, AC9TO, KELLY SAUKE, KE1LYS, AND LANCE TAGLIAPIETRA, ADØUT.



MINNESOTA SECTION DIRECTOR BILL MITCHELL'S, AEØEE, J-38 STRAIGHT KEY.

| | CW | Digital | Phone |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 40M | 7 | 7 | 146 |
| 20M | 8 | 30 | 64 |
| 15M | | | 12 |
| Total | 15 | 37 | 222 |

FIELD DAY IMAGES BY SAM RESTO, KFØACN AND BOB SEAQUIST, W9LSE



Less power is more

By Bob Saquist, W9LSE

On the old TV sitcom “Home Improvement” comedian Tim Allen’s mantra was “more power” and the results often got him in trouble. More power in Amateur Radio may not be an answer to a Ham’s problems, and, in fact, maybe less power—even minimal power—may be a better deal.

Long ago many Hams built their own transmitters out of salvaged parts and their rigs often put out pretty small signals like one watt or less. My own first transceiver, a Heathkit HW-8 managed a couple watts. Many of those rigs are still happily in use today.

A few years ago I was taken by the small, book-sized, Yaesu FT 817, a “DC to Daylight” QRP rig. I liked its huge frequency range from 160m to UHF and I liked it being so small I could take it anywhere with me.

With that little FT-817 on a balmy night in the US Virgin Islands I threw a wire up in a tree, stretched out on a chaise lounge and, at five battery powered watts, made phone contacts in northern Europe, Russia, Canada and parts of the eastern US.

Many times on the air I hear stations calling “QRP” that are indistinguishable in strength or signal from the other nearby operators.

During the ARRL National Parks On The Air in 2016 I activated five western parks running an

Elecraft KX3 with a BuddiPole and achieving pileups from stations across the US. Not bad for five to 10 watts!

The KX3 has an excellent reputation as a high performance radio and it still ranks near the top of the famous Sherwood Engineering charts. There are other darlings in the QRP field of small, agile, fine radios like the Icom IC 705.

John Rehak, N6HI, has used his IC 705 for about three years and has tallied 10,018 QSOs with it, 8,011 contacts were initiated and completed with Output Power of ONE HALF WATT, the rest were at 5 Watts! And that’s using a 20’ wire.

The QRP world offers some interesting options like the Tuna Tin stations offered as kits by Rex Harper, W1REX, at QRPme. Truly, he offers radios that you build in and on a tuna fish can!

You don’t have to be a kit builder or to even buy a new radio to try QRP. Simply lower the output on your transceiver to five watts and give it a spin. A realistic operator knows it is challenging to make contacts at low power especially when you’re completing with lids running California kilowatts and deep pocket guys with immense antennas but give it a try. Pretty soon you’ll find yourself running with a wire in a tree, a small radio, and enjoying a beautiful park.

WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Wednesday, July 7, 2023, via Zoom

Present: Board Members: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE. Guests: Dan Goltz, WKØW; Tom Wilmot, WØMK; Clare Jarvis, KØNY.

Called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT.

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

The secretary is arranging storage and preservation of club materials with the Winona County Historical Society; there is also a plan to add to club bylaws that the secretary will annually turn copies of club newsletters and other documents to the society so they are safely kept.

Treasurer's Report: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM.

Balance on 6/1/2023 \$5,952.60

Income:

 Dues \$60.00

Expenses:

 KØNY ZOOM Payment \$160.96

 KØZYV QTH Renewal. \$16.88

Balance reported by bank \$5,834.76

Paid members 31

Trustee Mike Foerster, WØIH, had three expenditures approved by the president as they were each under \$50.

Picnic: The club's annual picnic will be 5:30 p.m., Thursday, July 20, at the Gepner (Lions) Pavilion in Lake Park at 522 Lake Park Drive.

Public Service: Dan Goltz, WKØW.

WARC Field Day activities were supported by comments from the emergency manager at

the County Emergency Preparedness meeting June 27.

The new county command trailer is expected to be completed in August. WARC will have access to it when requested. The emergency manager said the future of the 1997 former FEMA trailer, used by the club at Field Day, is uncertain but if the county decides to scrap it he would notify WARC.

There have not been Skywarn activations for 2023 which is highly unusual.

New communications equipment for the county dispatch center should be functional in September with our equipment to be relocated to the current dispatch center.

Trustee Report: Mike Foerster, WØIH.

There's a new PowerPole extender to enable DC battery backup at Witoka. In addition, the 160M dipole has been disconnected for the summer.

Rooster Ridge got weed maintenance and several extra furnace type filters. A UPS for a non-functional 900 MHz was disconnected; Battery banks there were tested and found to still be serviceable.

For Field Day the Mosley Classic 33 Beam from Witoka, along with some of the club's masts were supplied. However some intermittent issues and the SWR changed drastically so we abandoned it and went with wire antennas.

After Field Day coax was measured, wrapped up, marked and returned to NØQK's storage locker.

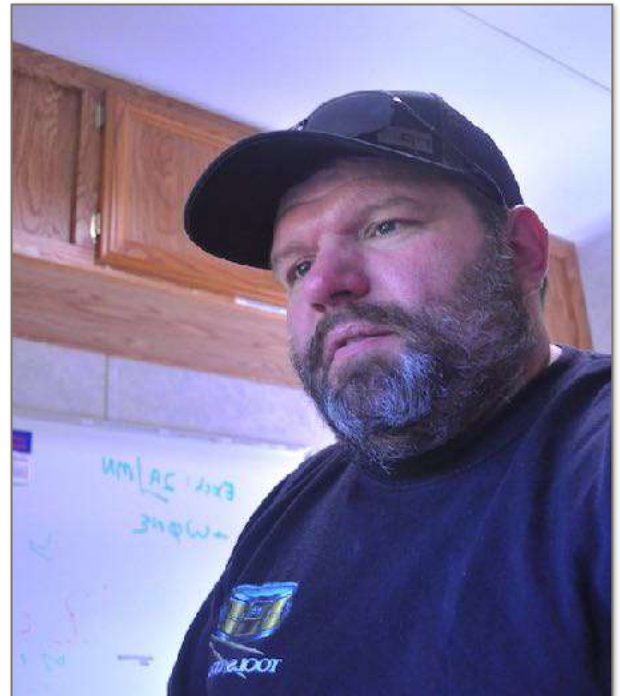
Adjourn 7:30 p.m.

Net skills

Remember that the skills we learn in net operation and in traffic handling transfer to the times we may be asked to support communications for a served agency. For example, use of the ITU phonetic alphabet to spell out names, homonyms, or unfamiliar terms works in formal as well as tactical traffic. Clear sending and accurate receiving are what we offer and what we practice.



ILLIANA RICKERT, KFØZFU, CONTRIBUTES CONTACTS TO THE WINONA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB'S FIELD DAY.



FIELD DAY. OPERATIONS WERE SERIOUS BUSINESS FOR KELLY SAUKE, KE1LYS.

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.

** Sunday Night 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



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.
