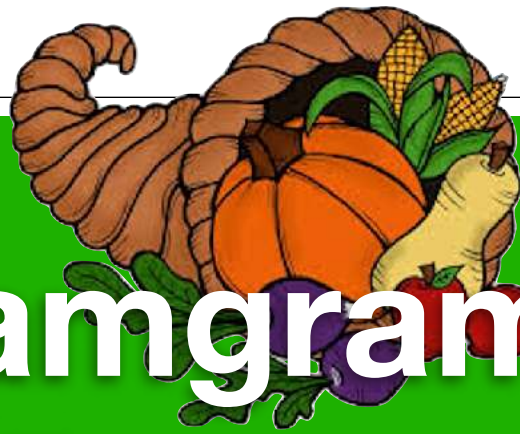


The Hamgram

November 2023



Contester shares fun

Annual meeting, elections Nov. 16

The Winona Amateur Radio Club doesn't just happen. Seven members of the executive board conduct the club's business which, in 'olden' days, was a nasty burden during regular meetings when members should've had fun.

There will be elections for three executive board members at our November Annual Meeting. You could be one of those elected!

The terms of Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, and Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, expire. Nominations are now solicited for presentation at the annual meeting.

A healthy organization requires members to step up and help with the nuts and bolts work. None of it is difficult and incumbents and others are happy to help new officers.

Winona Amateur Radio Club meeting

WHAT: Monthly meeting.

WHERE: Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St., Winona or Zoom

Meeting ID: **688 182 0303**

Password: WarcBoard

WHEN: 7 p.m., Thurs. Nov. 16.

WHY: Election of officers; contesting tips.

Contesting with Bill ACØW

Most radio contests and some Winona Amateur Radio Club meetings include Vernon "Bill" Lippert ACØW, the ARRL Dakota Division Director. This month



BILL LIPPERT, ACØW, WILL MAKE A PRESENTATION ON CONTESTING AT THE WARC NOV. 16 MEETING.

the club meeting features Bill talking about his very active contesting interest. He's been an active contest participant his entire amateur radio career, and has many top-five contest finishes, Bill's shack walls are covered by numerous certificates and plaques.

Field Day 1968 was his start in Austin where Bill witnessed the excitement of really active amateur radio. He was licensed in

1969. In 2000, he won the W/VE SO LP All Band Category in the ARRL International DX Contest and he holds numerous scoring records in various contests and has participated several times from the other side of the pile-up by operating from KH6, KL7, V4, VP5 and from the world famous "The Farm," WØAIH, near Eau Claire.

Currently Bill is the NAQP SSB Manager and the Minnesota Wireless Association President. Bill retired after 38 years working for Hormel Foods Corporation, managing the electrical engineering team for Hormel.

National Weather Service Skywarn Recognition Day will be from 8 a.m.– 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at the La Crosse office, N2788 County Rd FA, La Crosse.

Storm spotters are invited to visit the NWS office, help make contacts on the radio and in person as well as enjoy coffee and Sloppy Joes. Volunteers are sought to operate the radios for short stints and log contacts. Even if you can only attend for an hour or two, your help making contacts is wanted.

Joining the fun on-the-air from home is encouraged as well.

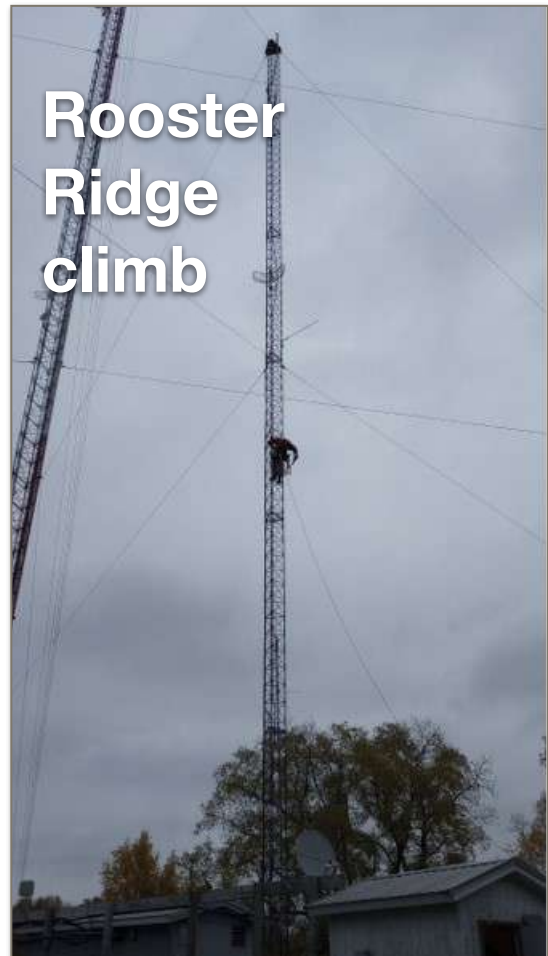


WALT KELLY, KE0XI, SALUTES AN NWS COOKIE AT THE 2015 SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY.

Annoyances. We have 'em when we're operating, handling traffic, participating in a net, and more. Here are some to avoid:

- Using Q Signals on voice. Not needed. Inappropriate. Save for CW.
- "Roger. QSL. Got it all." and similar recurring repetitive redundancies.
- Naming all the others' calls each time you identify. Just your call would do. That's what the FCC requires.
- Speech patterns. "Er. . ." "Ahhhhh. . ." "Ok-a-a-a-y. . ." or "Um . . ."
- Waiting too long before responding to a station during a net. Extended pauses makes it sound like the frequency is unoccupied or they weren't heard.
- Breaking in with unsolicited commentary.
- Using non-standard phonetics. Use the ITU list.
- Not getting the call sign right. It's a name. It's important to its owner. Listen.
- Adding an "S" to 73.

And my favorite annoyance – Giving people lists of annoyances. 73 K9LGU/STM-WI



Rooster Ridge climb

THE WINONA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB'S ROOSTER RIDGE REPEATER GOT A NEW HUSTLER G6-270R ANTENNA. MIKE CIZEK, W0VTT, MADE THE CLIMB. ALL RADIALS ON THE OLD VHF ANTENNA WERE BROKEN OFF.



Trail runners battling the steep climbs and wooded trails of Storm The Bluffs Dec. 2 will have radio operators from the Winona Amateur Radio Club with them. Hams are at the headquarters, the top of "The Bluffs" and at the aid station. Sam Resto, KF0ACN, chairs the effort.

Storm The Bluffs raises money for Family & Children's Center in Winona.

Runners experience the Plowline trails of the Bronk Forest Management Unit in Minnesota City.

WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Wednesday, November 1, 2023, via Zoom

Present: Board Members: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Harro Hohenner, KG6RML; Mike Foerster, WØIH; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO. Guests: Tom Wilmot, WØMK; Keith Laken, KEØIJ; Justin McElmury, KFØBSI.

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

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

Treasurer: Harro Hohenner, KG6RML. *Approved*

Balance on 10/1/2023
\$4,810.10

Income:
- Sale of tuner and batteries \$55.13, WØIH
- Donation from Rotary for RTR \$500.00
Expenses:
KØZYV, QTH renewal \$119.40
KØNY, ZOOM \$149.90
WØIH, antenna \$386.53

Balance reported by bank \$4,709.40

Public Service: Dan Goltz, WKØW. The City of Winona has a new fire chief, Joel Corcoran. The radio club has a fine relationship with local public service heads and agencies.

Sam Resto, KFØACN, is heading the next public service event, Storm The Bluffs, Dec. 2.

An after action evaluation of Ride The Ridges and Waumandee Time Trials identified some places where we can improve our capabilities.

I thanked Mike Bernatz, chair of Winona Rotary's Ride The Ridges for Rotary's donation to WARC. His response: *"Dan, I shared your message with the Ride The Ridges committee. Work has already begun on RTR '24. The committee is hoping for—and counting on—WARC's continued participation. The event would not be administratively sound without your group's involvement. The positive and significant benefits of your efforts impact every rider and volunteer. They may not be actually aware, but your club's support is critical. Many thanks for all you and the other club members do!"* (Signed Mike Bernatz)

Trustee: Mike Foerster, WØIH:
Some equipment was used for Ride The Ridges and Waumandee Time Trials was returned to NØQK's storage. We need a way of keeping batteries charged and maintained. The

club should inventory its equipment so we know where it is and its condition.

I am making repeater performance measurements to use for future reference.

Harro Hohenner, KG6RML, and I removed the unused 160m dipole and installed the Off Center Fed Dipole (OCFD). Other maintenance included removing the unused network switch and installed a shelf in it's place for the router and switch. The remote's laptop was rebooted. These are getting old.

The Mosley Classic 33 Tribander will be installed using the 9' quad tower, 11' mast and rotor, guyed down in front of the gate entrance this month. Mike Cizek, WØVTT, donated a thrust bearing, Skip Green, K7YOO, donated rotor cable and I bought some ground stakes and a seven pin connector for the rotator.

The Hustler G6-270R antenna for Rooster Ridge arrived from DXEngineering (\$386.53 with tax & \$35 shipping).

KG6RML and I went to Rooster Ridge to get drone shots of the current tower installation. All four radials on the VHF antenna are broken off.

Harro cut the weeds in preparation for tower work. We removed the old 2-meter amplifier that causes problems.

The 100 watt TE Systems 1405RN amplifier was removed as it may have caused interference during the Sunday night net. Due to issues may try to sell it.

Witoka has lights after a five year wait, per Ben Klinger.

Annual Meeting: ADØUT. The terms of Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Harro Hohenner, KG6RML; and Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, are up. Bob is not running. Lance will solicit nominations for the election at the annual meeting Thursday, Nov. 16.

Other: MOTION; The Executive Board to move its meetings to the first Thursday of the month. (Approved)

Adjourn 7:30 pm

Hamgram editor sought.

Will train. Indicate interest to w9lse@arrl.org.



WARC Annual Meeting (unofficial minutes)

Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022, Winona County Office Building and via Zoom

Called to order at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Attendance: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; and Dan Goltz, WKØW; Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Roger Wise, KIØF; Bill Lippert, ACØW; Tom Wilmot, WØMK; Sam Resto, KFØACN; Justin McElmury, KFØBSI; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; John Kowalik, K2OPT; Russ Marsolek, NØQK; Mike Foerster, WØIH

Election: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; then Russ Marsolek, NØQK.

There were three board vacancies to fill, that of Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; and Dan Goltz, WKØW. WKØW indicated he did not want to serve another term; KØNY suggested he would step aside for other candidates. Non-candidate NØQK took the chair. Nominations were made for Sam Resto, KFØACN; Justin McElmury, KFØBSI; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; and John Kowalik, K2OPT. Members were instructed to vote for three. In-person members voted by paper ballot and Zoom members voted via Zoom chat with NØQK.

NØQK tallied Zoom and in-person ballots: Three top vote getters are Marv Rodvold, AC9TO, Sam Resto, KFØACN and Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT.

Trustee: Mike Foerster, WØIH. Reported on repeaters. A Watchdog timer was installed on

the Rooster Ridge 146.835 repeater to cure the intermittent failure mode of repeater. The Watchdog sees if the repeater transmits constantly for more than 15 minutes, then the circuit will open the AC and DC power connections for 10 seconds to reboot the repeater to clear the fault. The circuit which is designed around an Arduino NANO using an SWR meter donated by Skip Green, K7YOO, to detect when the repeater is transmitting, inputting the voltage to one of the analog Inputs of the Arduino.

ISS repeater: Russ Marsolek, NØQK, reported on using the International Space Station as a repeater. **MNQP:** interest for participation in the Minnesota QSO Party, Sat Feb 4, is sought. The question is to

have a group effort or simply let members operate from their homes. Using the Wilson Town Hall, a site used by the club in the past, is not possible due to construction there.

Annual accomplishments: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT. Among club activities and accomplishments were Field Day; a Fox Hunt; a new license manager; new club members; new people elected to the board; public service events including Trinona, Ride The Ridges, and the Waumandee Time Trial. The club also celebrated 75 years affiliation with the ARRL.

Adjourn: 8:18 p.m.

TNC access

By Sam Resto, KFØACN

There was a show and tell during the club's October about the two TNCs that Ben Kuhn, KUØHN, demonstrated, the NucleoTNC and the TNC3/TNC4.

Regarding the non-Bluetooth unit, the Mobilinkd NucleoTNC, those components cost about \$34 from DigiKey. The PCB offered by Mobilinkd is sold for \$7, the enclosure is \$20. I believe there are alternative enclosures.

This is a capable TNC that does APRS and packet, as well as M17.

During an emergency where the internet would be down you could listen on RF for APRS packets using various programs that vary between OS to see everything your rig hears



independently of the internet (aprs-is network. You can use it to send messages to other stations via APRS network as well.

On packet, you can use it for Winlink and for general packet use like BBS. I tested the packet node to talk to the packet node up there from my QTH on the west end of Winona with no issue. In comparison to other similarly featured TNCs, it is remarkably affordable.

Clean up Saturday

You can be a hero in your home when you tell the XYL you plan to make a “clean sweep” this weekend. Your secret is that you’ll be wielding your radio and not a broom and you’ll be making contacts in the premier ARRL fall operating event, ARRL Sweeps.

The goal is to work as many stations in as many of the 85 ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada sections as possible within the 24 available hours. Be the first in your neighborhood to work all 85 and qualify for a “Clean Sweep” mug!

Even if you’re not the tidiest person—you don’t contact all or most sections—it’s still a blast being on the radio. And it’s good training to be a better operator.

For more information refer to www.arrl.org/sweepstakes



NØEXE connects Wisconsin

The downtown La Crosse NØEXE 444.750 (131.8) now has a semi-permanent connection to the FM38 system in Milwaukee via Allstar. NØEXE is near the Cathedral on a five-story building running at 35 watts. The repeater has good mobile/base coverage in the La Crosse area.

The FM38 system is a wide-area repeater system mostly on the east side of the state. (<https://www.fm38.org/HomePage>)

Jim Netwal, W9UUM, invites you to try it. Keep in mind: The repeater has a very short hang time. When using a linked system, it is good practice to leave several seconds between transmissions. Also, transmit for 2-3 seconds before speaking.

Repeaters connected to the system.

440.300+ (123.0) Delafield	444.475+ (123.0) Madison
442.350+ (123.0) Allenton	441.525+ (123.0) Lake Geneva
444.600+ (123.0) Fond du Lac	444.475+ (123.0) Sturgeon Bay
443.625+ (123.0) Oshkosh	442.600+ (123.0) Trevor
442.800+ (123.0) Green Bay	443.600+ (114.8) Iola
442.700+ (123.0) Plymouth	442.425+ (114.8) Wis Rapids
444.950+ (123.0) Ripon	442.625+ (123.0) Rockford, IL
444.500+ (123.0) Baraboo	443.575+ (114.8) Schaumburg

Refer questions to Jim Netwal, W9UUM, at w9uum@yahoo.com

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.