

Hamgram

Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
April 2004 <http://www.winonaarc.org>

Meeting Notice

The April Meeting of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will be held at the Winona County Courthouse Annex on Thursday, April 15, 2004. Our meeting this month will open at 7:00 pm with a program and discussion.

A coffee-social follow the program. Interested persons are invited to attend.

EDITORIAL EDITORIAL EDITORIAL

Those Interesting Digital Modes

By Leslie Hittner, KØBAD

During the March meeting of the club there was a fair amount of discussion about the kinds of operating activities that ham operators engage in. We discussed formal traffic handling through the National Traffic System (NTS), the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS), and the use of several new and unique digital modes of communications. Many of those digital modes are listed in the meeting minutes published elsewhere in this issue.

This was a nice discussion. I believe the membership is ready to improve the “club experience” for new members and old members alike. Let’s give up these monthly meetings and build a schedule of *activities*. The club Executive Committee, its standing committees and other Ad Hoc committees (Field

Day?) must surely meet, but why should the rest of us come to a meeting each month?

In addition to e-mail and its new WEB site the club has an excellent communications vehicle (WEPNet) for obtaining committee memberships and conducting activity “signups.” Maybe if we put the net to this kind of use, we could rekindle interest in WEPNet and the club and increase the number of people who check in. It seems to me the numbers are way off from what they used to be.

With these thoughts in mind, I would like to offer to hold a *digital modes seminar* sometime early in the fall. I already have software and a computer to run PSK31, MFSK16, SSTV, MORSE, Throb, Hellschreiber, and others. I have operated several of these modes and find each of them interesting and unique. The real magic of these modes is that all you need is a computer with a sound card, an HF (or other) radio and a license! Years ago each of these modes (except MORSE, of course) required unique (and expensive) hardware. Not so today. The ubiquitous computer can do them all. It opens a whole new world of fascinating activities to nearly any amateur operator who has the interest.

Before this seminar I’ll introduce the new digital modes by discussing PSK31 in the next few issues of *Hamgram*. With the coming of spring I’ll also resume my articles about building a new ham shack.

Then, next fall, I’ll invite you up to learn about the digital modes. Now...if the club could supply the coffee and treats we would have a new kind of meeting.

Winona Amateur Radio Club Meeting

March 18, 2004

Program

Questions from the Amateur Radio License Manual

Presenters: KEØXI Walt - President of Kelly Enterprises
KØNY Claire - President of Jarvis Computer Software

What is the difference between a digipeater and the 146.640 repeater?

A digipeater receives and transmits on the same frequency with a time delay. The 146.640 repeater receives and transmits on different frequencies without a time delay.

What is the condition of the atmosphere just before sunrise?

Low frequency communication before sunrise is very good and this is due to the decreasing amount of ionization; thus, the MUF decreases. High frequency communication before sunrise is very poor. It is the D layer of the atmosphere that ionizes more than any other layer of the atmosphere (? – ed.).

What penalty can the FCC impose if you do not have the correct mailing address?

In Part 97 (from the interpretive desk of NØJP) of the FCC Regulations and Rules, no definition of mailing address or legal residence is defined.

What is the structure restriction as defined by the FCC?

Two hundred feet is the key height. The FAA and the FCC shall be notified if the structural height is equal to or greater than 200feet.

The presentation began at 7:00 A.M. and concluded at 8:00 A.M. with a standing ovation for KEØXI - Walt Kelly and his assistant, NØNY - Claire Jarvis.

General Business Meeting

8:00 P.M. Winona County Courthouse Annex
March 18, 2004

Members In Attendance:

<u>Call Letters</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Member of the</u>
<u>ARRL</u>		
K7YOO	Skip	Yes
KC9CRM	Jake	Yes
KC9ERJ	Pete	No
N9NXW	Clarence	No
WA9IGK	Shari	Yes
W9HWQ	Duane	Yes
KAØMLO	Tom	Yes
KBØELR	John	Yes
KCØCTG	Kim	No
KCØJYZ	Amos	No
KCØMBU	Ryan	No
KCØMBL	Joe	No
KCØMBT	Richard	No
KEØXI	Walt	No
KØBAD	Les	Yes
KØZYV	Paul	Yes
NØJP	Ken	Yes
NØNUO	Dolores	Yes
NØPDD	Bob	Yes
NØTNC	Gordon	No
NØNY	Claire	Yes
NØVV	Richard	Yes
WAØX	Jerry	Yes

Minutes of the February Meeting of the Winona Amateur Radio Club:

The secretary was absent; and, the minutes of the February meeting were approved as published in the March issue of the *Hamgram*.

Motion of approval made by KEØXI Walt
Seconded by NØPDD Bob

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer presented the financial status of the Winona Amateur Radio Club.

Motion of approval made by KEØXI Walt
 Seconded by NØPDD Bob

Old Business:

A. **Winona Amateur Radio Club QSL Card:** KFØQ Matt was not in attendance; and the status of the development and printing of the Winona Amateur Radio Club QSL Card was deferred.

B. **W1AW Endowment Fund:** In the minutes of the February 2004 meeting, KEØXI - Walt presented the idea of suggestion was offered to expend \$100.00 for the W1AW Endowment Fund. A motion was made by NØNY - Claire to defer the matter until the finance committee returns with the budget for the calendar and fiscal year of 2004.

C. **Website:** In the minutes of the February 2004 meeting, a suggestion was made and offered by KEØXI - Walt to expend \$70.00 for obtaining our own domain DNS. A discussion ensued without resolving this suggestion.

The question presented by KØBAD was whether or not the Winona Amateur Radio Club really needed a Website. The discussion pursued the thought of an interactive website with each member contributing events, ideas, thoughts and topics. Otherwise, the website may be a static site without any real objective to view it often.

D. **ARRL Affiliation of the Winona Amateur Radio Club:** This matter was brought to my attention at the last meeting of the Winona Amateur Radio Club and the necessary forms were requested and received. They were forwarded to our treasurer - NØVV Dick - for completion.

The treasurer has been provided with a list of current members of the ARRL as in attendance at the last general meeting of the Winona Amateur Radio Club as well as a referral to the list of individual members. If it is uncertain as to whether or not an

individual is a member of the ARRL; the treasurer is to e-mail or telephone the individual(s) in question and obtain the correct answer as to the affiliation or absent affiliation with the ARRL.

New Business:

A. **Echo Communication:** The President requested from the members at large the status of the new form of amateur radio communication entitled Echo Communication. It is known that is being utilized within the community of the Winona Amateur Radio Club with NØPDD - Bob being one of the users. It was with some arm twisting that NØPPD will be a presenter at one of the future meetings.

B. **Hearst CW Transmitter:** We are happy to welcome a returning member of the Winona Amateur Radio Community who has been a great contributor in radio history and technology. K7YOO - Skip Green has acquired the original Hearst CW transmitter as used by the Hearst Newspapers in the 1920s. The CW transmitter will be rebuilt according to the original plans and specifications with the thought of having it fully restored and operational. As a result, the members of the Winona Amateur Radio Community will be cordially invited for a personal presentation. The date will be selected by Skip and it may or may not coincide with a club meeting of the regularly scheduled meeting nights.

C. **Programs Announcements:** The schedule of program(s) will be present in each issue of the *Hamgram* with particular announcement pertaining to the upcoming meeting of the general membership.

D. **Sympathy Card:** The Spittlers received a thank you card from our member, Russell L. Marsolek, thanking this club for remembering the loss of his mother last month. It was very nice to receive the personal note and it was read by Tom.

E. **Future Adventures into Amateur Radio:** NØNY - Claire suggested that an introduction into some of the interesting and unknown modes of operation and transmission to the newer members of the amateur radio community would be:

Amtor
Echo Link
Military Nets
Packet
PSK31
RTTY
Traffic Nets

A suggested program would involve the offering of actual modes of operation and transmission to members at the site of the radio operator and confirmation of attendance and viewing by the interest party. This would all take place within a time period prior to moving onto another subject.

No further discussion at this time.

Adjournment:

Motion made by W9HWQ Duane
Seconded by KEØXI Walt

8:30 P.M.

Interim Secretary: Thomas E. Mauszycki in the absence of
 Thomas Wilmot

NOTE: I made some corrections to these minutes. The corrections will be offered as motions at the Thursday night meeting. – Les

Test Your Amateur Radio Knowledge

By Len Litvan, KCØRSX

#1 - How can the SWR bandwidth of a parasitic beam antenna be increased?

- A. Use larger diameter elements
- B. Use closer element spacing
- C. Use traps on the elements
- D. Use tapered-diameter elements

#2 - Which statement about two-element delta loops and quad antennas is true?

- A. They compare favorably with a three-element Yagi
- B. They perform poorly above HF
- C. They perform very well only at HF
- D. They are effective only when constructed using insulated wire

#3 - What are two of the five fundamental purposes for the amateur service in the United States?

- A. To protect historical radio data, and help the public understand radio history
- B. To help foreign countries improve communication and technical skills, and encourage visits from foreign hams
- C. To modernize radio schematic drawings, and increase the pool of electrical drafting people
- D. To increase the number of trained radio operators and electronics experts, and improve international goodwill

Answers to Exam Pool Questions:

#1--(A); #2—(A); #3 - (D) [97.1]

Classified Advertisements

Standard C528A Dual Band HT 10 memories per band Good cond., 5 battery packs, etc. \$160 obo.

Rick KØRIK 507-459-3635

Mosley Classic 33 Tri-Bander \$80

Diamond MV3A HF Mobile Antenna 2,6,10,20 and 40 meter. \$75

Call Jim NØWE at 689-2581 or e-mail jbrown@luminet.net

Thoughts from Walt

Walt Kelly, KEØXI

May 15 8 AM to about 4:30. Minnesota City Day. Pancake breakfast starts the day. HF station set up in the open. Opportunity for setting up a portable station and working long distance stations without pressure of a contest.

May 23 8 AM to late afternoon. Plowline Trail State Park between Stockton and Minnesota City on CR 23. Cherry Bomb Mountain Bike Races. VHF/UHF communications opportunity with potential for medical and net-administration duties. Very exciting watching bikers race on steep hills, twisting courses over rocks and between trees.

June 26-27 Field Day. Portable HF and VHF/UHF stations. Lots of opportunity to set up antennas, generators, etc. Hands on radio work. This year will have opportunity for camping overnight and Sunday morning pancake breakfast. Probably Saturday evening pizza as well. Great camaraderie for whole family as well as operating radios. Will have Russ' 31 foot motor home for operating. Will need tent for other stations as Russ has sold the smaller trailer and Sheriff's trailer will be in use for Grand Excursion.

We need chairpersons for these events as well. Volunteer your services for being chair or for helping out. If there is an activity you would like to see, speak up. While you may be asked if you are interested, you might not be. It is not personal; we are simply poor at guessing who to ask. How much is planned is based on the interest expressed, so jump in with your ideas and your time.

From the ARRL Letter

Vol. 23, No. 14

April 9, 2004

* ARRL Certification and Continuing Education course registration: Registration for the ARRL Antenna Modeling (EC-

004) on-line course remains open through Sunday, April 11. Classes begin Tuesday April 20. This course is a excellent way learn the ins and outs and the nitty-gritty details of modeling antennas. Computer-modeling expert and noted author L.B. Cebik, W4RNL, has combined the expertise of his long career as a college professor with his love and antennas and antenna modeling to offer a comprehensive, yet practical, course of study. Registration for the Technician Licensing course (EC-010) also remains open through Sunday, April 11. Classes begin Tuesday, April 20. With the assistance of a mentor, EC-010 students learn everything they need to know to pass the FCC Technician license class test. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/>> Web page or contact the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Program Department <cce@arrl.org>.

* ARRL Emergency Communications Course registration: Registration opens Monday, April 12, 12:01 AM Eastern Daylight Time (0401 UTC), for the Level II Emergency Communications on-line course (EC-002). Registration remains open through the April 17-18 weekend or until all seats are filled--whichever occurs first. Class begins Tuesday, April 27. Thanks to our grant sponsors--the Corporation for National and Community Service and the United Technologies Corporation--the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the course. During this registration period, approximately 60 seats are being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/>> Web page and the C-CE Links found there. For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, dmiller@arrl.org, 860-594-0340.

* Young Ham of the Year nominations due by June 30: Amateur Radio Newline says the deadline is June 30 to nominate a deserving young amateur for the 2004 Young Ham of the Year

Award. A nomination form is available on the Newslite Web site <<http://www.arnewslite.org/yhoty/yhfrm204.doc>>. The YHOTY Award goes to an amateur licensee aged 18 or younger and living in the contiguous 48 states who has made a significant contribution to the community or the nation through Amateur Radio. More information is available on the Newslite Web site <<http://www.arnewslite.org>>.

The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

President:	Thomas E. Mauszycki tmauszycki@charter.net
Vice President:	Paul Schumacher pschumacher@winona.edu
Secretary:	Thomas M. Wilmot tmwilmot@msn.com
Treasurer:	Richard Kolter kolter@luminet.net 1128 West Mark Street Winona, Minnesota 55987
Member At Large: 01/01/04 to 06/30/04	Scott K. Hayes skhayes@savacaf.com

Dues: \$25.00 per calendar year per license holder.
\$30.00 per calendar year per license holder and members
of the same family within the same household.
Dues should be sent to: Richard Kolter, Treasurer

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Please address comments and correspondence to:

Leslie Hittner - 1340 Conrad Drive - Winona, MN 55987

or KOBAD@arrl.net

Monthly club meetings are held on the third Thursday. The submission deadline for the *Hamgram* is Wednesday of the week *prior* to that of the club meeting.

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