

Hamgram

Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Apr 2005

www.w0ne.org

Meeting Notice

The April meeting of the Winona Amateur Radio Club will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. on the lower lever of the County Courthouse Annex on 3rd Street. Todd Shea, of the National Weather Service in La Crosse, will be providing a program with "refresher tips" for SKYWARN storm spotters. All radio club members and radio enthusiasts are invited.

President's Column

Greetings to all our members, and an especially warm welcome to all our fellow area amateur radio enthusiasts.

A few short months ago, I was at a meeting and was invited to run for an office. If anyone would have told me that I would be writing this letter to you as the president of the club, I would have thought said, "Not Me!" however here I am.

My husband Lance was the first to be licensed in our family and the first to join the club. He dove in head-first wanting to participate with all the curiosity and passions of a small boy with a new toy. He would meet and participate in events, talk to his buddies and eventually we would go to the breakfasts and other area club functions. Slowly I felt more comfortable with all our new friends. I couldn't understand the fascination, but after about a year he planted the seed and then I went in and tested. It took me twice, but eventually I passed. All this time and although I appreciated the idea of a club, the excitement and passion for these people came to fruition at a Hamfest in the Cities when I was buying my first iambic keyer kit!! I had just passed my 5 wpm test and knew there were lots of hams out there, but being in a place like that really gave me the global picture. Today I have a passion and a love for radio and even though life gets in the way, the support and camaraderie of the people who share my hobby still excites me.

The Winona Amateur Radio Club is a great place to meet people who have the same interests as you do, as well as other areas of expertise. There are very few organizations where you find people with different professions and knowledge in the same location. I happen to be very social, which is my interest in the club, but if I need to know how to build an antenna, there are many members who can help me and I can leave with an understanding of the process.

Another area that is a really important function of the club is the educational aspect, both within the club and the community outreach. I find it so refreshing to be with people who like to learn and grow. With this comes a compassion for humanity in where we want to help others. In turn, our community benefits. Along with offering classes to license and upgrade people, we support opportunities like Minnesota City Days, Shakespeare Festival and Field Day.

I am totally fascinated by all the diversity in amateur radio. I have talked about the social aspects but there are training and technical aspects too for those who are interested. Radio control (planes, cars, boats, etc.), radio voice communication, video communication, computer communication via radio, radio electronics and mechanical construction are examples of the interests we take in amateur radio. How about that storm spotter wanting to keep their neighbors safe? Only through an organization like this!

Our club offers many benefits to members and non-members alike. I have listed a few, but did you know that our repeaters are also supported by the club? In many communities you cannot access the repeaters unless you are a club member. In Winona, we believe that they should be available to all amateur radio people to communicate free and clear. We are known for our courtesy and friendliness.

In the past, you may have been a member for a year or two or you may be new to the area. Possibly, you are thinking about getting your license or it has been awhile and you are wondering whether to keep your license going. Maybe you have a teen at home and want to share a hobby while teaching that kid practical math and physics knowledge? This is a family-friendly environment.

I would like to extend a personal invitation to check us out by attending any of our upcoming functions, meetings or breakfasts. Whether or not you have interest in the club, I want to extend all our services to you from changing your address on your license if you have moved to information on upgrading your license and everything in between.

I am sure your old friends would like to see you or if you are looking for a fellow enthusiast to hobby with, check us out at our new web site--
www.WØNE.org or contact any WARC member.

73,

Darlene Tagliapietra KCØCTH
WARC President
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507-474-1195

The Winona Amateur Radio Club invites all area Amateur Radio Operators to attend its April meeting.

By Les, KØBAD

In an effort to completely fill the Courthouse Annex Conference Room, the Executive Board of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. announced the start of a new member initiative by inviting all area hams to attend the April meeting.

There are many changes afoot in the club and the Executive Board members aim to reach out to all area hams, determine their needs as radio amateurs, and help the club to meet those needs as best it can.

What can our radio club do for you?

By Les, KØBAD

The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. is an ARRL affiliated club and is among the oldest continuously active amateur radio clubs in the state of Minnesota. Organized shortly after WWII, this club has conducted licensing classes, sponsored special events stations, organized contest station events, and helped to organize valuable public service communications activities. The club, through its members and with the support of the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), has provided emergency communications support for several Mississippi River floods, numerous tornadoes and severe weather events, flash flooding in surrounding communities, law enforcement communications outages, and numerous SKYWARN activations.

Through active club organization, members of the Winona Amateur Radio Club have also conducted event communications for bicycle road races, mountain bike races, walk-a-thons, and bicycle tours.

Through the collaborative efforts of club members, the Winona Amateur Radio Club has built and now maintains three voice repeaters and a packet APRS node for the free use and benefit of all area Amateur Radio Operators. These communications systems, which benefit the community as a whole during times of emergency or public service, are supported by members' dues.

Many people become interested in Amateur Radio because it can serve a specific purpose in their lives. Club membership offers opportunities for these people to experience the nearly unlimited range of activities that this great hobby offers. Club membership provides opportunities for licensed radio amateurs to move beyond the interest that motivated them to become licensed and to see the unlimited challenges, enjoyment, and comradeship that this great hobby has to offer.

Come and check us out.

Minnesota City Day special event station being planned by WARC

By Shari, WA9IGK

The Winona Amateur Radio Club will operate a special event station at Minnesota City Day on May 21. The station will be active from 1600Z-2200Z (1100-1700 CDT) on Saturday May 21, 2005. Operations will take place on the General portions, phone and CW; 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80m. QSL cards should be sent to WØNE, PO Box 1264, Winona MN 55987.



Minnesota City Day 2004

Great River Shakespeare Festival special event station planned by WARC

By Les, KØBAD

The Winona Amateur Radio Club will operate a special event station during the second weekend of this year's *Great River Shakespeare*

Festival. The station will be active from 1400Z July 02 through 2130Z July 03 on 7050 (CW) and 3870, 7250, 14250 (SSB).

Certificates are available from WØNE, 1340 Conrad Drive, Winona, MN 55987.



MINUTES WARC MEETING, March 17, 2005.

After some difficulty getting into our room for our March meeting because only a key for the outside door was issued by the County Administrator's office, our meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by our president, Darlene, KCØCTH.

Our talk this evening was a presentation by Walt, KEØXI, using a video prepared by Jim, KBØTHN, showing Jim constructing a low voltage disconnect kit that Jim had designed and packaged. Several of us at the meeting constructed the kit as Jim narrated and demonstrated the kit building using his unique video. Walt gave us kit builders useful hints as we progressed. About one hour and fifteen minutes later we had our own low voltage disconnect, useful for protecting a car battery from complete discharge after forgetting a running transceiver.

Following the program, Shari, WA9IGK, announced that the LaCrosse Amateur Radio Group had added our new website, WØNE.org, as a link on their web site and we will be on their mailing list for club bulletins. Jim, NØWE, wondered how we could sign up for their bulletins. Shari, listed their email as: lacrossehams@qth.com. Web site: lacrossehams.org.

Shari, WA9IGK, also reported that she had received an apology letter from the Winona Daily News for not getting our meeting notice published in their paper. They said they would try to do better in the future.

Treasurer's Report: Dick, NØVV, reported our bank account shows a balance of \$1769.18. Adding to this un-deposited checks and cash results in a total of \$1829.58.

Shari, WA9IGK, noted that in the March Board minutes, the April speaker will give a mini-SKYWARN presentation rather than a tornado drill as listed. A full SKYWARN course must be accomplished every two years for certification. Details of SKYWARN can be seen on skywarnwinona.org.

Motion by Phil, NØOWU, to approve the February Meeting and the March Board minutes as written after the change to the board minutes noted in the previous paragraph. 2nd by Walt, KEØXI. Carried.

Darlene, KCØCTH, asked members to sign-up for committees on the individual lists that were circulated at the beginning of the meeting. She also mentioned that Jim Carroll, KBØLZ, donated \$100 toward the funding for the *Hamgram* outreach project that Les, KØBAD, is organizing. The last \$100 the club received for a similar project in the '80s was from Wade Brown, KAØVV according to Les. Clare, KØNY, moved to thank Jim for his generous donation. 2nd by Lance, KBØYJU. Carried. Darlene asked committees to get their budget requests to her by April 5th.

Announcements:

1. The New Club Website is at www.wOne.org. Les, KØBAD is adding new information to the website regularly. Clare, KØNY, noted that nothing was transferable from the old website, winonaarc.org that ceased operation in February.
2. Tuesday, March 22 at 7 pm is the SKYWARN meeting at the Wilson Fire Hall. Contact skywarnwinona.org for pre-registration.
3. Community Ed Class for Amateur Licensure April 6 at Winona Middle School. Information is on page 7 of the Community Education Catalog.
4. Please volunteer to be an "Elmer" to a new ham or new club member who would like a buddy and a mentor.
5. VE session May 11 during the last session of the Community Education Class at the Winona Middle School. The club will be providing refreshments and information about the club during and after the testing.
6. Saturday, May 14, we will hold a breakfast at Prime Steak and Cake for new hams or those who want help in licensure. Another "Elmering" opportunity. Even though this is the 2nd Saturday of the month, this breakfast will be at Prime Steak.
7. Minnesota City Days, May 21. Please see Walt, KEØXI, if you can help with this special event station.
8. Field Day, June 25-26. This is headed by Lance, KBØYJU, and Clare, KØNY. A sign-up sheet is going around for all interested in participating. Next month, all persons interested please stay after the regular meeting to organize and discuss the field day plans.

- 9. A Special Event Station is being promoted for the Great River Shakespeare Festival sometime around June 24. Len, KCØRSX and Les, KØBAD are coordinating. Les is asking for pictures of past club activities for promotion of the project with organizers of the Great River Shakespeare Festival. He is seeking photos of temporary station setups that look “good.”
- 10. We now have to open the Court House Annex ourselves after checking out keys the day of the meeting. Try to be on time for the meeting so that you can get into the building.
- 11. Executive board meeting April 5, 7 pm. At Darlene’s, KCØCTH, house.

Treats for 2005:

Jan: Club Party, No Treats
Feb: Lance, KBØYJU
Mar: Shari, WA9IGK
Apr: Tom, KAØMLO
May:
Jun: Dick, NØVV, at his cabin on the river

Jul: Club Picnic, No Treats
Aug:
Sep:
Oct:
Nov: Tom, WØMK
Dec:

Members Present:

Ken	NØJP	Jim	NØWE
Jake	KC9CRM	Clare	KØNY
Pete	KC9ERJ	Phillip	NØOWU
Bob	NØPDD	Duane	W9HWQ
Walt	KEØXI	Jerry	WAØX
Lance	KBØYJU	Wally	KBØTYC
Erik	WBØNIU	Kim	KCØCTG
Dick	NØVV	Jim	KCØTXJ
Tom	WØMK	Jan	NØWRQ
Delores	NØNUO	Mark	N9UNW Galesville
Les	KØBAD	Nancy	KC9HDU Galesville
Darlene	KCØCTH	Mark	KBØNZZ
Shari	WA9IGK	Sue	KEØS

**Minutes of WARC Board Meeting
4-5-05 held at KCØCTH’s house.**

Present: Darlene, KCØCTH; Tom, WØMK; Les, KØBAD; Shari, WA9IGK; and Clare, KØNY.

Call to order by President, Darlene, KCØCTH, at 7:00 pm. Darlene moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting after correcting the item listing the April program as a Tornado Drill to a mini SkyWarn program. 2nd by Shari, WA9IGK. Carried.

Shari, WA9IGK, reported that there was an article in the paper promoting the special event club station at the upcoming Minnesota City Days. Shari suggested we set up a List-Serve for email to get out messages to our members.

The Treasurer, Dick, NØVV, was not at the meeting. Darlene, KCØCTH, reported that she has not received any budget requests so we have no budget items for a Budget Committee to act on at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Programs:

- A. Todd Shari is scheduled to present a mini-SKYWARN Class to our group at the April meeting.
- B. Russ, NØQK, may have to reschedule his Amateur TV presentation if facilities are inadequate at Dick, NØVV’s, cabin, since the June meeting is scheduled there.

Community Ed Class and VE Licensing have been canceled since only one person signed up for the series of classes. Another attempt to have a class might be organized through the YMCA. If we have a VE session we must have over a one-month lead-time so it can be posted in QST. Jim, NØWE, will check and will hold a class if enough interest can be found. A few more people have expressed interest since the deadline for registration at the Community Ed Class expired. The plans for an Elmering session and for treats at the time of the final meeting have of course been canceled. The Elmering list will however be passed around again for more volunteers.

Les, KØBAD, reported the Shakespeare Festival Board has approved our request to set up a special event station at a location near the theater this summer. Les also showed us a potential design for a certificate to send to contacts made at this special event station. There will be a QST announcement of the operating schedule. Initial plans are to operate out of the Winona State site on Saturday and Sunday, July 2nd and 3rd.

Les, KØBAD, moved that we allocate \$100.00 for a plastic banner for our event stations. No 2nd was made and the motion was put on hold. Suggestions for a logo have been put forth by Jim, NØWE, with a theme of water, sky and bluffs. Les agreed to email to the board some

expressions of this type of logo. Darlene moved to look at Jim's ideas for a logo. Les moved to work with Jim's logo and to put together a half dozen iterations of this logo and to present them to the club to select a choice. 2nd by Shari, WA9IGK. Carried.

Clare, KØNY, stated that packet continues to run at the Chicken Ridge site. It supports APRS at 144.390 MHz simplex.

Emergency Management contacts. Dan Goltz, WKØW, and Mark, KBØNZZ

Darlene, KCØCTH, will report at the club meeting on the sign up lists for committees and these will then be finalized.

No budget requests have been received.

Les, KØBAD, indicated that the club outreach mailing had not yet been done.

He also reported that the club website was up and running. There is still work to be done on the website.

No one has shown interest in the Swap Fest. Les, KØBAD, moved to drop the Swap Fest if no interest is shown at the April club meeting. 2nd by Shari, WA9IGK. Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Darlene, KCØCTH, requested ideas on membership development, growth and education. Les, KØBAD, suggested a sign-up at Minnesota City Days and to plan with Walt, KEØXI, a Tri-Fold handout with information on Minnesota City Days, Field Day and the Shakespeare Special Event Station. Les, suggested an annual budget be made at the start of the year and should include items for outreach and education to satisfy our 501-c(3) status. Clare, KØNY, suggested we could base the budget on previous expenditures.

Tom, WØMK, will pick up the key for the April meeting. The June meeting will be held at Dick's, NØVV, cabin and the annual picnic will be held at the park in July.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Field Day organization after club meeting.
- B. Minnesota City Days May 21.

The next board meeting will be at Darlene's, KCØCTH, house on May 3rd at 7p.m.

Club Minutes respectfully submitted,
Tom Wilmot, WØMK, Secretary
(507) 452-6961
1776 Edgewood Road
Winona MN 55987-2149
tmwilmot@msn.com

Technician Classes cancelled

The Winona Amateur Radio Club Community Education Technician class has been cancelled. There was not sufficient interest for the class to be held. Club members discussed the most effective means of reaching people who may be interested in pursuing an Amateur Radio Service license. They decided that the rather impersonal manner of the Community Education approach was not the best way to recruit new hams. Club members will continue to discuss the prospect of taking classes with likely candidates and a club sponsored class will soon be scheduled.

Members of the Education and Testing Committee are in communications with other area clubs to determine when best to schedule a VE session in the Winona area.

Interested in Morse?

By Les, KØBAD

If you've ever thought about learning the Morse Code, a Winona Amateur Radio Club membership may prove to be a real asset. Building code proficiency is difficult to do alone. Code classes have long been a staple of the Amateur Radio licensing process. Even though Morse code proficiency is no longer required, the way to achieve that proficiency is to become a part of a code class. Join the club. Help start a code class.

April 2005

Test Your Amateur Radio Knowledge

by Len Litvan KCØRSX

The following are from the FCC exam pool—Technician, General and Amateur Extra:

#1 - Approximately how long is the driven element of a Yagi antenna?

A. 1/4 wavelength

- B. 1/3 wavelength
- C. 1/2 wavelength
- D. 1 wavelength

#2 – Which statement about a three-element Yagi antenna is true?

- A. The reflector is normally the shortest parasitic element
- B. The director is normally the shortest parasitic element
- C. The driven element is the longest parasitic element
- D. Low feed-point impedance increases bandwidth

#3 - What device is typically used as a stable reference voltage in a linear voltage regulator?

- A. A Zener diode
- B. A tunnel diode
- C. An SCR
- D. A varactor diode

Answers to Exam Pool Questions:

#1 - (C); #2 - (B); #3 - (A)

Choose Your Sockets Carefully

By Walt, KEØXI

Did you wonder why they sell both Cigarette Lighter Sockets and Power Accessory Sockets? What is the difference?



A power plug has a pin that should fit into the center structure of an accessory socket to transfer current

Ken, NØJP, told me to look into them closely and I would see that there is a bi-metal clip in the cigarette lighter socket that holds, then releases, the lighter when it gets hot enough. The accessory socket has a molded center pin that contacts more surface area of the plug so it does not get hot. That, Ken said, is why you should buy accessory sockets for accessories.

Although plugging low-current accessories into cigarette lighters will not likely be either a danger or a

problem, plugging higher-current accessories, especially using multi-socket adapters, and for extended times, will warm things up considerably.

Here are the sockets and a plug up close so you can see what Ken was talking about and why it pays to take his suggestions – most of the time.



An Accessory Socket has a large contact area for the pin of a power plug. It also does not have the all-metal construction needed to withstand the heat if a lighter is placed in it.



Cigarette Lighter socket does not have the full contact area for the pin on the power plug and can get quite warm when used for long periods of time

A Picture Potpourri



A portable VHF/UHF contest station at dusk



The famous Wolf-Hong



Holiday Party



A Rainy day at Field Day



"Here's how to make a Field Day Contact."



The VHF/UHF Field Day antenna farm



A Field Day Team

Maintaining an Amateur Radio communications infrastructure is a primary function of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

By Les, KØBAD

One of the more important roles of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. is to construct, install, and maintain a communications infrastructure for the use of all area and visiting Amateur Radio Operators. These repeaters and APRS relays have been put into place and are able to be maintained only because of the membership dues paid to the club by interested area ham operators.

By gentlemen's agreement, ham operators have free use of repeaters and APRS relays throughout the country because it is assumed that they help defray the costs of such infrastructure in their hometowns.

The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. maintains two VHF (2 meter) FM repeaters (146.04/64 and 146.235/835 MHz) one UHF FM repeater (442.225/443.225 MHz) and an APRS relay (144.390 MHz). The 146.64 and 442.225 repeaters are co-located and have an autopatch (telephone interconnect) feature.



The original "64" machine is taken to its position at the KAGE-FM tower site.

The very first VHF amateur radio MHz machine. It was placed into service by KØBAD in 1975. The repeater has run continuously since that time and it was donated to the club in 1984. Since that time the RF and control systems have been replaced but the duplexer from the original repeater remains in service.

The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

President:	Darlene Tagliepietra darlenet@hbc.com
Vice President:	Shari Jarvis sharijarvis@hotmail.com
Secretary:	Thomas M. Wilmot tmwilmot@msn.com
Treasurer:	Richard Kolter kolter@luminet.net 1128 West Mark Street Winona, Minnesota 55987
Member At Large: 01/01/05 to 06/30/05	Leslie Hittner, KØBAD KOBAD@arri.net

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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or KOBAD@arri.net

Board meetings are announced in advance (WEPNet)

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.

Hamgram

C/O The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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