

Hamgram

Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. – December 2000
http://www.jarviscomputer.com/warc/hamgram/active_issues.php3

Meeting Notice

The December meeting of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will be held on Thursday, December 21, 2000 at 1900 in the conference room of the Winona Courthouse Annex building. This is the annual meeting at which the election of officers will take place.

Minutes Winona ARC, Inc. November 16, 2000

Meeting called to order by Russ, NØQK, at 6:59 PM.

Gary, NØOWS, moved and Ken, NØJP, second approval of October 2000, minutes as published. Motion Passed. Gary, NØOWS, moved and Ken, NØJP, second approval of October 2000, treasurer's report as published. Motion Passed.

Committee Reports:

No Repeater, ATV or Packet committee reports.

Budget requests submitted were from the Holiday Committee requesting \$50 for the holiday party and \$75 for Field Day Picnic.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dick, NØVV reported that Erik, WBØNIU will be unable to chair lighting of the Wilke. Adam, KBØVYO, and Jim, KBØTHN, volunteered to co-chair the task.

Gary, NØOWS, moved "The club will purchase a two meter mobile rig as an attendance prize for the holiday party and the party ticket price will not go up." Seconded. Motion failed.

Walt, KEØXI, reports on the work of the repeater controller sub-committee. The sub-committee approved a controller by Pacific Research model RI300. Ken, NØJP, asked several questions about the operating capabilities of new controller.

Walt, KEØXI, reported on the work of the nominating committee. Candidates recruited so far are:

Jim Jefferson	KBØTHN	President.	Adam Frisch	KBØVYO	Vice-President.
Clare Jarvis	KØNY	Secretary.	Dick Kolter	NØVV	Treasurer.

Others are encouraged to contact the nominating committee of Walt, KEØXI, Ken, NØJP, and Gary, NØOWS.

Walt, KEØXI, voiced an opinion that meetings should contain more program and less business.

AUCTION:

Russ, NØQK, first bid scared other bidders away and he took home the CB converted to 10 Meters with matching antenna and carrying case for \$5.00. Dick, NØVV, was high bidder for the Radio Shack HT Mic for \$7.00.

Ken, NØJP, asked the status of club callsign change to WØNE. Russ, NØQK, assigned Clare, KØNY, to

do it.

Clare, KØNY moved and Walt, KEØXI, second adjournment. Motion passed at 8:14 PM.

Present

KEØS	NØQK	KØNY	NØWE	NØJP	NØNUO
KØBAD	NØVUS	KFØQ	KEØXI	NØOWS	NØPDD
KBØNZZ	NØVV	KØDHI	WAØX	WBØPVO	KBØTHN
KBØVYO	KCØGHW	WKØW	WBØEUU	KBØELR	

Solar Toolbox

by James Jefferson KBØTHN

During the August meeting I presented material about solar power. As part of my hand-out I mentioned that it would possible for most amateurs in the Winona area to power their equipment using solar power. I gave an example of a small setup for powering a mobile rig for a few hours of use each week. I decided it was hypocritical to speak about solar power in the shack, but not to have it myself. I created the solar toolbox for both emergency use and daily use. I have found the secret to making sure your equipment works during an emergency is to use the equipment routinely.



The heart of the system consists of three 10-amp/hour gel cell batteries (item 3), a 10-watt Solarex™ solar panel, a 4.5-amp Morningstar™ charge controller (item 2), and an ATC fuse panel (item 1). The 12-volt batteries are wired in parallel to provide 30 amp hours of capacity. I cannot speak highly enough about the Buss ATC fuse panel; it provides a convenient place to connect each of the loads with fuses and it has spare negative connections too! The charge controller accepts DC in from the solar panel and provides a regulated charge output on. The output from the charge controller simply connects to a 5- amp fused connection on the panel. Everything is bolted to a cheap K-Mart plastic toolbox.

Adam Frisch (KBØVYO) and I have standardized on 50-amp Anderson connectors for all of our heavy-duty DC connections. The connectors are polarized and exceedingly well built. They are not cheap (\$7 each), but they are rated for hundreds of insertion/removal cycles, unlike the inexpensive Radio Shack connectors. Item 4 is an eight foot chunk of 6AWG wire, an Anderson connector, and ¼” lugs. With this arrangement I can connect to my big deep cycle batteries in the garage, to my truck, or to Adam’s Jeep.

For emergency use or during extended cloudy periods the 1.5-amp charger (Item 5) will keep the batteries charged whenever 115-volt AC power is available. When AC power is not around the 150-watt inverter and cigarette lighter receptacle (Items 6&7) provide enough AC power to operate a laptop computer or other small electronics items.

In the future I'm going to acquire a collection of crimp connectors for connecting random devices to the solar toolbox. I'm also investigating compact fluorescent lamps for emergency lighting.

A 20-amp Astron power supply costs \$120, but it only provides 20 amps and it only works when AC line power is available. A solar toolbox can be built for less than \$150 and it will provide enough power to talk on a mobile rig for a few hours a week and will still work during a power outage. I use the solar toolbox for all of my daily radio chat. It powers my TM-733A, charges my handhelds, powers various TNCs, and occasionally charges my laptop. Since I built the solar toolbox I have disconnected my 20-amp Astron power supply entirely. I enjoy knowing that I'm not using fossil-fueled power and I enjoy knowing that I can pick up my toolbox and have enough power to provide communications for the community.



If you have any questions please feel free to e-mail me (jjeffers@deskmedia.com) or catch me at a club meeting.

Item #	Description	Source	Cost
1	Buss ATC Fuse Panel	Hamfests, Newark	\$14.99
2	Morningstar SunGuard	Northwest Arizona Sun & Wind	\$28
3	10 amp/hour Gel Cells	Ken Spittler (NØJP)	free - \$40
4	6AWG wire / Anderson Connector	Newark, Northwest Arizona...	\$10
5	1.5 amp automatic battery charger	Fleet Farm	\$23.99
6	DMM	Radio Shack, Fleet Farm	\$20
7	150 Watt DC to AC Inverter	Fleet Farm	\$38
8	Cigarette Lighter Cord	Fleet Farm	\$3
	Solarex MSX10 Solar Panel	Northwest Arizona Sun & Wind	\$125
		Everything	\$263
		Essentials	\$175

November Sweepstakes

By Matt, KFØQ

Every November the League sponsors two separate contests: November Sweepstakes CW and Phone. They are held on the first and third weekends in November respectively. My first November SS experience was in 1990 when I did the phone contest (I have only participated in one CW contest and quite frankly did more logging than copying). Sweepstakes is a bit of a different contest in that there can be some "finality" stemming from working a station in each one of the 80 ARRL RAC sections otherwise known as a "clean sweep". Therefore part of the challenge of the November event is to get a "sweep". The League has in the past awarded prizes for this achievement in a few forms; coffee mugs of late, and even brooms in the distant past.

I always enjoy the challenge of the Nov SS contest and look forward to the meeting the hundreds of ops that regularly participate. Adding to the challenge of the "sweep" is the lengthy exchange:

(serial number, power level/class known as precedence, callsign and "check" the last two digits of the first year you were licensed as an amateur). For years I ignored my contest logs for a source of verifying contacts, but SS is a great place to work many of the states that normally are tough to reach in casual operating. I finally decided that the only way I could get a WAS endorsement would involve tapping in to those logs. Even still it took me almost ten years to get my first WAS endorsement (mixed band phone only). A few years ago I made a claim that it should be possible for an average home station to work all states in one weekend in one contest. For the 2000 phone event I set out to do just this. (I was actually hoping for the sweep too.. more about that later). So with this thought in mind and armed with my vertical antenna and 100W HF transceiver I set out to see how close I could get.

The contest started at 2100Z on a Saturday afternoon, I started out on 10M and quickly moved to 15M before there was too much of a crowd. The sections (and States) fell rapidly. My 35th section was WY, which I picked up at 2313Z. My meager station seemed to hold its own on the 15M and even the 20M band. By 0237Z I picked PR for my 57th section and noticed that all the sections in the 1, 3, 4, 8, and 9th call districts were already done! As the night progressed I dropped to the lower bands of 40M and 80M where I picked up sections from both coasts and parts of the Midwest. I continued operating until 0636Z where I had collected 62 sections.

After a night's rest I started up again on Sunday morning at 1330Z working the 40, 20 and 15M bands. In the middle of the morning on Sunday I heard two stations I knew would help my quest: VY1JA (NWT) and VO1WET. VO1 (Newfoundland) was on 15M with a pileup of calling stations of epic proportions! I heard a weak, but workable VY1JA calling the VO1 station - hoping for a relay: (I guess even the Northwest Territories needed Newfoundland for the sweep!). I



struggled for a long time trying to get the VO station, but it was a waste of time. During this mayhem I called the VY1 station and he actually replied back! As the frequency was tied up with hundreds of others calling VO1, it was not possible for me to make the required exchange with VY1 needed for a contact.

To my surprise (and disappointment) I noticed that the SD section was still needed.

I typically work some station in SD on the first night of the contest, but not this year! I switched between 10M and 15M trying to get WØSD (the only station that I knew was in South Dakota). From time to time I could hear WØSD on 10M, but no way was he to hear my faint signal above the noise. A brief moment of satisfaction occurred when I was able to work HI (Pacific section) at 1649Z and AK at 1816Z. At this point I realized that all I needed was AR and SD and I would have worked all states in the contest!

As the remaining sections fell there were only 3 left for the sweep in the last 2 1/2 hours of the contest; VO (Labrador/Newfoundland), NWT (Northwest Territories) and South Dakota! My 78th section was VY1JA (0048Z) for NWT. I once again heard WØSD on 20M now but pretty much the same result as before; no contact. Finally after hearing him all day I got to work WØSD when he switched to 40M for my 50th state and 79th section with just 37 minutes left in the contest! I searched/called and looked all over for one of the two VO1 stations that were rumored to be on earlier, but gave up about 20 minutes before the end of the contest knowing that the conditions needed for me to work Newfoundland were gone by now. I didn't leave the contest unhappy; rather I was surprised that I even got this close! In all I made 425 contacts in all 50 states and 79 of 80 sections with my average station and a vertical antenna.

W.A.R.C. Inc. Holiday Party Wednesday January 17, 2001

JOIN US FOR A WONDERFUL EVENING OF LIVELY CONVERSATION AND A
DELICIOUS MEAL.

The menu will feature: Roast beef, Ham & Chicken
 Potatoes, Gravy & Dressing, Vegetable & Salads
 Relish Tray, Rolls & Butter, Coffee, Milk and Cake

There will be prizes for all.

The location for the party will be:

The Elks Club
4540 N. Service Drive
Goodview, Minnesota

6:00 PM Social Hour
7:00 PM Dinner
8:00 PM Prizes

Cost is \$8.00 per person

Please have your reservations and money in by January 13, 2001
We will not be accepting reservations or cancellations after this date.
Reservations and payments can be made to Delores NØNUO or Sue KEØS.

FINAL>>>>>>>>>AUCTION

The last two items that were donated to the WARC will be auctioned off to THE **HIGHEST BIDDER** at the December 21st monthly meeting. They would make great Christmas gifts, too. An overflowing attendance is expected at this meeting, so you will want to be sure to get there early for a good seat. The items are:

- 1) Kenwood TR-7800, 2-Meter Transceiver (5/20 Watt)
- 2) CDE/CDR Control Box and Rotor

(Bring your wallet &/or checkbook, as bidding is expected to be heavy on these items.)

Treasurer's Report 12-1-2000

Bank balance 11-30-2000	\$1416.08
Petty cash 12-01-2000	\$ 30.84
Undeposited receipts	\$ 17.00
Checks outstanding	\$ 30.00
Balance 12-01-2000	\$1433.92
Allocated for expenses	
General expenses	\$ 091.50
Emergency reserve	\$ 250.00
Repeater committee	\$ 750.00
Un-appropriated	\$ 342.42

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Just a reminder from the Holiday Party Committee that we will be accepting donations for prizes as we have in the past. Please contact Delores or Sue or bring them to the Party. Thanks and hope to see everyone there. 73 Sue KEØS

Happy Holidays
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C/O The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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