

Hamgram

Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. – December 2002
http://www.jarviscomputer.com/warc/hamgram/active_issues.php3

Meeting Notice

The December meeting of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will be held at the Winona County Courthouse Annex Building at 1900 on Thursday, December 19, 2002. This is the club's Annual Meeting. The election of officers for the upcoming year will be conducted at this meeting. It is an important meeting for all members to attend.

Nominating Committee Report

By Ken, NØJP

The following candidates for office have been announced by the WARC Nominating Committee:

President	Tom Mauszycki, KAØMLO Joe Gorak, KCØMBL
Vice-President	Paul Schumacher, KØZYY Duane Fruechte, W9HWQ
Secretary	Clare Jarvis, KØNY
Treasurer	Dick Kolter, NØVV
Members-at-large	Russ Marsolek, NØQK Ken Spittler, NØJP Scott Hayes, KCØMBN

Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

November 2002 club minutes

Steve, N9MFH acting secretary

The November meeting of the Winona Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Jim Jefferson at 7:01 p.m. in the Winona County Courthouse Annex.

A number of "new" faces were among us so President Jim had each of introduce ourselves.

In the absence of both the treasurer and the secretary no reports from those offices were given.

Old Business

- WEP Net changes were discussed. Lance, KBØYJU, informed the club that beginning soon, twice a month, a swap fest would be included as part of the nightly net. This swap fest would be announced one week before it was to happen so anyone interested would have time to prepare their goods.
- Jim (KBØTHN) gave the club an update of the problems occurring with the .835 repeater. Some possible solutions were also discussed. Dr. Earl will assist with technical problems.

Ken (NØJP) also discussed problems and possible solutions to the repeater and encouraged more use of it.

- Jim (KBØTHN) gave the club an update of new packet activities in our area. It was noted that Albert Lea would be installing new digipeaters on abandoned military towers in that area.

New Business

- Russ (NØQK) questioned whether the club had received any money from D. T. I. Communications Corp. Since the Treasurer was absent, no one was sure if any funds were received. Steve (N9MFH) stated that he had DTI as a long distance carrier since a presentation was made to the club and that he had specifically told them that the WARC should be the recipient of his participation. Wally (KBØTYC) also stated the same. It was also noted and encouraged that as many as possible participate in the DTI carrier to financially help the club. Any questions you may call DTI in Winona. Jim (KBØTHN) will check with Dick (NØVV) as to the status of cash receipts from DTI.
- A discussion concerning club membership and lack thereof as well as a current listing of members was held. It was stated by several the needs for a current, updated list as was noted in the club handbook of 1996. It was hoped that Dick (NØVV) would take care of this.
- Ken (NØJP) reported on the Nominations Committee work thus far for candidates for club offices for 2003. They are attempting to have two people for each position. Ken stressed that anyone in “good” club standing could be nominated from the floor for any club office. Ken also stressed the importance of a good club member turnout. At this point the club Constitution was discussed in regard to what constitutes a quorum for voting and how many (members) need to be present to make the election valid. Again it was stressed about the importance of having good membership turnout. Possible Constitutional changes will be discussed soon to help alleviate this quorum problem.
- Lance (KBØYJU) announced that the club is again responsible for the lighting of the Wilke (paddle wheel). This is to be done after breakfast on November 30. It was hoped that at least 8 to 10 people would turn out to assist. It should take about 1 ½ hours to do the job.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47.

There was no program this meeting.

Letter to Editor Letter to Editor Letter to Editor Letter to Editor **Do we have a Quorum Problem?**

Recently there has been much discussion about the WARC’s membership, lack of attendance at meetings and what have you. Is there a problem or is it a case of a normal up and down cycle in interest in the hobby? This phenomenon is not unique to Amateur Radio. Some items that have been mentioned are boring meetings. Is this because too much time is spent on reports, policy and procedures, lack of programs, etc? Or are members forgetful and don't read their newsletter and mark their calendar? Or is Amateur Radio too low on the priority ladder? But does “boring meetings” explain the fact that maybe half of the membership attends the annual picnic and winter party where there is no boring meeting? Does that explain the difficulty in getting anyone to participate in a community support event? Or are these boring too? Maybe it is because much can

be handled by cell phone now. Is it because probably half of the people holding Amateur Radio licenses in Winona are not active as Radio Amateurs? Is it because of an attitude of "let GEORGE do it" (apologies to KØDHI). Remember, the club is what you make it. Contribute in some manner. Remember that Amateur Radio exists because it is a public service.

The December meeting is especially important because of the elections. This year there is a slate of candidates. Come and vote.

...Ken Spittler, NØJP

Editorial

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The following editorial does not represent an official position of the Winona Amateur Radio Club.

Do We Really Have a Quorum Problem?

Club member Ken Spittler brings up some valid issues in his letter published above. I would contend, however that "Quorum problems" won't be solved by changing the Constitution. The *problem* is not a constitutional issue. As Ken rightfully notes, the *problem* probably has multiple facets and simply making it easier to conduct business (the constitutional change) won't solve the *problem*. It merely sweeps it under the rug (In communications terms we could say the *problem* becomes lost in the QRN).

One of the possibilities that Ken discussed was "boring meetings." I wonder...No matter how exciting a meeting is, it won't attract people if they don't know what the meeting is going to be about. In the 10 or so years that I have been editor of the *Hamgram* I can count on the fingers of my hands the number of times that I have been provided with information about an upcoming program. One primary purpose of the *Hamgram* is its role as a meeting announcement. The club officers miss a good chance to attract members to meetings by not providing advance notification of the subjects and presenters for meeting programs so that information can be included in the *Hamgram*.

Clubs, whether they be specialty clubs such as ours or service clubs like Kiwanis, have a tendency to *turn on and off* like a CW signal. CW clubs turn on just before the meeting and turn off right after the meeting. They are characterized by poor follow through because decisions made at meetings are often not resolved before the next meeting. When was the last time the Repeater Committee actually had a meeting? Are these meetings monthly? They used to be. Does the Packet Committee meet? What about the Amateur TV Committee? What about the Finance Committee (They could have looked at the DTI controversy saving much club meeting time)? There are many issues being discussed at club meetings that clearly should be delegated to committees *but such delegation is futile if the committees do not meet!* How often does the Executive Committee meet to plan meetings and to make routine decisions?

There was a time not long ago when committees, including the Executive Committee, met monthly. It takes more effort and it takes more participation by more members, but it's worth the effort. Maybe then the *Hamgram* could publish articles on upcoming programs.

CW clubs fade away. Let's not become a CW club.

-Leslie Hittner, KØBAD
Editor

W.A.R.C. 2003

HOLIDAY PARTY

PLEASE

JOIN US
THURSDAY JANUARY 16, 2003
BEIERS FAMILY RESTAURANT
6:00PM FOR THE SOCIAL HOUR
6:30PM FOR DINNER

THE FARE WILL BE:
HAM, CHICKEN AND RIBS WITH CALIFORNIA MEDLEY, CORN OR BEANS, POTATOES,
STUFFING, BREAD AND ROLLS.
SOUP AND SALAD AND A NUMBER OF ITEMS FOR THE SWEET TOOTH
INCLUDING STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE, CHOCOLATE MOUSE, WATERGATE SALAD,
STRAWBERRY SALAD, AND GLORIFIED RICE.
ALSO INCLUDED WILL BE COFFEE AND SODA

THERE WILL BE A SHORT PROGRAM WITH MORE DETAILS IN THE DECEMBER HAMGRAM

AS ALWAYS THERE WILL BE PRIZES FOR ALL.
AS IN THE PAST WE WILL ACCEPT DONATIONS FOR PRIZES. WE WILL ALSO BE
PURCHASING ADDITIONAL PRIZES WITH MONEY PROVIDED BY THE RADIO CLUB.

COST OF DINNER IS \$11.95 +TAX AND TIP
THIS IS A BIT HIGHER THAN EXPECTED DUE TO AN UNFORSEEN INCREASE.

WE WILL NOT BE COLLECTING MONEY THIS YEAR FOR THE PARTY.
THE RESTAURANT IS TAKING CARE OF PASSING OUT THE INDIVIDUAL BILLS FOR
EVERYONE.

WE WILL NEED TO HAVE A COUNT OF THOSE ATTENDING TO THE RESTAURANT BY
FRIDAY JANUARY 10, 2003.
WE URGE YOU TO PLEASE CONTACT DELORES OR SUE AND LET US KNOW IF YOU WILL
BE ATTENDING.

WE WISH EVERYONE HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!

Welcome back, Gary!

WEPNet Training Activities

A couple of months back, I offered to compile a listing of WEPNet training activities and to create a curriculum book of sorts that could be used on an ongoing basis to conduct emergency communications training. Others involved with WEPNet were to send me listings of the activities that have been conducted so far. I have not received any listings so felt it might be helpful to begin listing activities and subjects. WEPNet may become a “CW” net before too long if we don’t revitalize it.

Here are some starting points:

1. **Emergency traffic handling – formal written messages:** NCS stations could send check-in reports to the Net manager by Amateur Radio for starters. Never could figure out why e-mail was being used for that purpose. ARRL format could be discussed. ARRL Numbered Texts could be discussed. The history of written message traffic and its value in emergency situations could be discussed. Finally, an ongoing formal traffic handling activity could be provided so that net members have the opportunity to hear and practice the skill.
2. **Emergency traffic handling – Shadowing:** Local VHF/UHF networks often involve official shadowing activities. This sort of emergency communications has three facets: (a) the physical activity of shadowing, (b) the nature and method of communicating to-from the person that is being shadowed, and (c) the nature and method of communicating to-from other radio units. The tools of a shadow might be discussed as well. For instance, it is vitally important to have a notepad and a pencil. Spare batteries, too, are important. We could also practice shadowing communications exercises in realistic drill scenarios.
3. **The care and use of emergency generators:** How does one keep an emergency standby generator in top performing condition? How often should it be run? Gas and diesel fuel both get stale and lose their potency. How best to deal with that issue? What are the pluses and minuses of multi-fuel generators? How do you calculate the load balance when hooking equipment to emergency generators? How can emergency generators be legally hooked up to home wiring?
4. **The care and use of emergency battery power sources:** Ken’s specialty.
5. **Emergency or Portable Antenna Structures:** What kinds of simple antenna structures can be built that can be rapidly assembled and disassembled? What are quick and effective ways to put up HF wire antennas? How important is grounding?

6. **APRS and GPS systems:** What are the useful applications for APRS and GPS in emergency situations? What applications exist in public service communications?

The New Ham Shack, Part V will appear in the January issue of *Hamgram*.

Hamgram is published monthly by
The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Editor: Leslie Hittner, KØBAD.
Distribution:
Mail: Ken Spittler, NØJP and Delores Spittler, NØNUO
Electronic: Leslie Hittner, KØBAD

Please address comments and correspondence to:
Leslie Hittner
916 38th Avenue
Winona, MN 55987
or
KØBAD@arrl.net



Happy Holidays!

Hamgram
C/O The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
PO Box 1264
Winona, MN 55987-7264