

Hamgram

Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. – March 2001
http://www.jarviscomputer.com/warc/hamgram/active_issues.php3

Meeting Notice

The March meeting of the Winona Amateur Radio Club will be held on Thursday, March 15 at the Courthouse Annex building beginning at 1900.

Minutes WARC, INC. February 2001.

Meeting called to order by Jim, KBØTHN at 1902.

Minutes of the December, 2000 meeting were read by Clare, KØNY. Minutes approved as read.

Treasurer's report as published in the *Hamgram* by Dick, NØVV, was approved.

Walt, KEØXI, reported no activity from the repeater committee.

Jim, KBØTHN, reported on packet committee activity. The committee will remove the 147.555 high-speed node and the 145.090 node from service. They were not being used.

Finance Committee:

The repeater committee requested \$286.00. \$50.00 for Scott Howard repeater project and \$236.00 for the controller for the \$146.64 MHz repeater. (This is in addition to the \$750.00 allocated last year.)

The packet committee requested \$100.00. That is \$60.00 for WinAPRS registration and \$40.00 for a deep cycle battery.

The finance committee approved both committees' requests.

OLD Business:

There will be a bike race this spring in Western Winona County and Eastern Olmsted County. Clare, KØNY, moved and Ken, NØJP, second use of the repeater for the bike race. Motion passed.

There will be the Bob Kierlin run April 21. Volunteers are needed. Lance, KBØYJU, will lead.

Russ, NØQK, made WinAPRS report for packet committee. They want to register a copy of the program for the club. The cost is \$60. This could be moved to various computers in emergency or as the need arise. Paul, KØZYV, moved and Les, KØBAD second. Motion passed.

Ken, NØJP, brought up the better living show. It is March 3 and 4. We have been invited to have a booth again this year. Les, KØBAD, moved and Lance, KBØYJU, second club participation. Motion passed. Lance, KBØYJU, was appointed coordinator of our effort. Darlene, KCØCTH, club archivist, will prepare a display but needs pictures.

Russ, NØQK, is selling ARES connectors. \$5.00 a bag.

Gary, NØOWS, announced the club September 8, swapfest.

Dan, WKØW, announced March 22, SKYWARN class in St. Charles. Dan, WKØW, said he would put on the class for Winona.

Paul, KØZYV, moved for adjournment, second by Russ, NØQK. Motion passed at 1939.

Program presented by Jim, KBØTHN, and Adam, KBØVYO, with an assist from Russ, NØQK, on ARES packet.

Treasurer's Report 3-1-2001

Bank balance as of 1-31-2001	\$1726.63
Petty cash on hand as of 3-01-2001	\$ 30.84
Receipts deposited	\$ 460.85
Checks outstanding	\$ 30.00
Checks	\$ 68.00
Undeposited receipts	\$ 80.00
Balance as of 2-01-2001	\$2200.32

ARES Camp-O-Rama

March 24 - 25 (Noon to Noon)

Prairie Island Campground - Winona MN.

Tired of winter yet? Ready for a break! Then join us in Winona for a weekend camp-out!

Bring your personal or club's emergency trailer and share ideas and stories with other hams. The location for the event is the Prairie Island Campground located in Winona MN (146.640- call-in frequency) or track to the location via APRS. (NØQK-7).



This campground has many trees near each campsite...perfect for a wire antenna should you desire to operate a little HF! There is also commercial power (110 Volt) at each site.

The main purpose of this weekend get-together is just that...to get-together! There is no better way to see how you might be able to improve your emergency station then to see how others have designed theirs.

So come on...Call Russ (NØQK) at 507-452-6888 for additional details. Stay an hour or stay the weekend!

For Sale

Kantronics KPC-3 TNC	\$ 50.00
Kantronics Kam-Plus	\$100.00

Contact Russ Marsolek / NØQK
507-452-6888

***Please let your club members know about a Hamfest that will be held in
Brainerd on July 21st.***

<http://www.uslink.net/~brdham/hamfest/hamfest.html>

You could link it onto your website too. Thanks 73's Mark WØMH

***Mark Persons
M. W. Persons & Assoc, Inc.
mark@mwpersons.com***

Rochester Amateur Radio Club

Indoor/Outdoor Swapfest 2001

Date: Sunday, April 22, 2001

Location: Digger's in Kasson, MN

**Time: Vendor set up - 9 am
Sales - 11am to 4 pm**

Talk-In: 146.820 Repeater

Hamgram is published monthly by
The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Editor: Leslie Hittner, KØBAD. Printing: Gary Kohner, NØOWS.
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
Lhittner@VAX2.winona.msus.edu



Beargrease

2001

By Russ Marsolek, NØQK

Well my third annual trek to Minnesota's North Shore was again underway Feb. 3rd. I was to take my small Jeep and pull my 13' camper over to Rochester where I would rendezvous with Gary and Gladys Peterson (NØZOD & KBØTUT). Then our two vehicles were to catch Steve Wiebke (KBØPSS) and his three friends Max Wendel (KMØD), Rande McAlexander (KCØCJN) and Mike Christian (KCØGNF) just north of Rochester as they traveled in a 30' motor-home. The four of them became known as the famous "Quatros Amigos"!

We made voice contact with Steve's group however they were not ready to travel yet so they suggested that Gary, Gladys, and I go on without them, and that they would meet up with us in Duluth. So our trip this first day went "almost" as planned, arriving around 1:30 PM in Duluth.

Along the way Gary and I were running APRS so we constantly knew how far apart we would get from each other. Also near Zumbrota my radio "came to life" as my son Andy (KCØGGI) sent us a digital message from Winona. "HI DAD, I SEE YOU" is what my screen had read. It seems that Andy had been following us on the APRS computer at my home, watching Gary and my icon play "cat and mouse" on highway 52 north!

Steve's group arrived later, closer to 4:30 PM with a story of being pursued by the law. I guess that you don't drive off from a gas station without paying the \$60.00 charge! As it turned out, it was an honest mistake (really it was!) with one person thinking that they were paying at the pump with a credit card, not knowing that the pump itself had been turned on "pay inside"!

Saturday evening we all attended the pre-race dinner and meeting for amateur radio operators. During the meeting election of officers were held. Yours truly was even nominated for NCS Officer of the club! I decided to decline the nomination however, due to the distance from Winona to Duluth. It was a great meeting, with a total of nine hams attending from southern Minnesota. (Roland and Marilyn Matson had joined us too).



After the meeting is was off to the only night I would get in a "motel bed" as Gary, Gladys, Max, and myself "guarded" the NCS station at the Buena Vista Motel.



Sunday Morning I decided to skip the start of the race and head directly to Sawbill Crossing. Sawbill Crossing is about 95 mile north of Duluth towards Tofte Minnesota. Once at Tofte go west on County Road #2 for 6 miles. There you go into the great Superior National Forest (see below) and setup near the Temperance River. This was one of the first times that I had driven to Sawbill Crossing during the day. Talk about natural beauty? Some of the finest sights along the entire north shore are between Duluth and Sawbill Crossing. Places such as Split Rock Lighthouse, Gooseberry Falls, Carlton Peak and many others will excite you on this two-hour leg. At Sawbill Crossing I was met by "silence". No mushers were due to arrive here until noon on Monday. Almost 24 hours alone at this beautiful, quiet location!

The first thing that I wanted to do however was to make communications with the NCS in Duluth so, up goes the 20' mast with my 440/2 Mtr. dual-band antenna. Point it towards Bayfield Wisconsin (the repeaters up north are all linked during the Beargrease race) key the mic and we're in. Solid with no "white noise". The next hour was simple. Unload the water and put it into the camper, setup the generator, straighten things a little, eat a little snack, and then...sit back and relax, listening to the progress of the race as it travels northward towards my location.



After a great night of sleep in a constant 70 degree setting I was awakened by the sounds of some people starting to gather here (The serenity was over...at least for awhile!). Shortly after that, Gary and Gladys arrived to assist here. The "Quatros Amigo's" were working at Zimmerman Road Crossing and then from there they went to Finland to help at the Finland Checkpoint. "ZOD", "TUT" and myself have a pretty good system for working this location. One person works outside near the dog teams calling into the camper "on simplex" the needed information, one person logs and transmits to the NCS the reports from the camper, and the third person rests! "Rest" is as important as any of the other two positions, as you might find this location active for 48 hours straight!



Sawbill was going to be very busy this year due to the fact that the 150 mile Mid-distance Race was going to end at Sawbill. The Marathon Race (450 miles) was coming to Sawbill as usual, the teams rest there, and then they head up north as they continue the race. But in addition to this is the fact that the Marathoners would make a loop up north and come back down southbound through this location again! Needless to say, a very busy place! Three people are needed when both races are running. But once all of the Marathoners are through "up bound", and all of the Mid-distance racers have ended it becomes a "one-person" show. With only 7 Marathon teams, the time between might be minutes, or it might be hours. By listening to other checkpoints and doing a little math (average 8-10 MPH per team) you could come fairly close as to when you would be greeted by a team. Of course an HT would not work from the staging area into Bayfield...but "Crossbanding" works great! A team would come in and I would call in the report as follows: "NCS this is Sawbill. Sawbill reports Bib number 6, with 11 dogs, arriving at 2032. N0QK". That is all there is to it!

I did have a few problems on this trip though. An "open mic" for about 3 minutes (cold weather can freeze it up quickly!), a generator that died in the middle of the night, (found the problem and fixed it the next morning), and a few other very minor ones also. But I am glad that I had those problems for it allowed me to test "readiness". If nothing would have gone wrong, then I





would not have learned anything! That for me is one of the reasons that I joined the BARC (Beargrease Amateur Radio Coalition). To see something that is almost unheard of in southern Minnesota, to meet some great people, and to test my equipment and personal abilities in a sometimes "not-so-friendly" environment. And when you leave, you take back with you a very rewarding sense of accomplishment.

Will I be back next year? I certainly plan on being there! In fact before I left Sawbill Crossing on Feb. 7th I had contacted the Checkpoint Coordinator Fred Floura (KB0SPB) and "reserved" Sawbill again for 2002. If you to want to enjoy this event log onto www.beargrease.com and link from there with "volunteers". It is a great get-away for a few days, "playing radio" in a setting so different then here, and meeting some wonderful people and critters. From the hams, the judges, the vets, the volunteers, and of course...the dogs.

73's de Russ Marsolek / N0QK

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C/O The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

PO Box 1264

Winona, MN 55987-7264