

Hamgram

Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. – March 2002
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Meeting Notice

The March meeting of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will be held at the Courthouse Annex on Thursday, March 21 beginning at 1900. Meet in the conference room on the lower level.

Beargrease 2002

Well, after a winter full of “warm and warmer”, there finally was a John Beargrease Dog Sled Race held this year. Postponed until March due to a lack of snow, the race actually produced some very fast times. Trail conditions were remarkably in great shape!

My position for the race over the past four years has been to cover Sawbill Crossing Checkpoint, which is located 6 miles west of Tofte MN (90 miles north of Duluth). This is a beautiful area in the heart of the Superior National Forest. If you’re looking for an “out of the way place”...then Sawbill is for you! Next year my role will change as I have been elected as the new Checkpoint Coordinator.



My partner this year at the crossing was KBØSPB (Fred Floura). Fred has been associated with the Beargrease for a very long time and can tell some great stories of races held in the past. A wonderful guy that will keep you laughing the entire time you are there.

I thought that this year I would tell you all of John Beargrease himself. John Beargrease was the son of Chippewa Chief Moquabimentem, and was born in 1858. He married Louisa Wishcob, with whom he had 10 children.

John is best known for being a mail carrier along the north shore. During the summer months he rowed or sailed on his route while during the winter months he used a team of four sled dogs. He was even known by some as the “pilot of Lake Superior”, dangerously challenging its thin and shifting winter ice on a regular basis.

John Beargrease carried the mail from Two Harbors to Grand Marais, making at least one and sometimes two round trips weekly. He was the only outside link for many who lived there, especially during the winter months. His dogs were equipped with bells on their collars to scare off the wolves from his path and, needless to say, were a welcome sound to the settlements along the way.

In 1895 John Beargrease received a two-year contract with the government for \$728.00 a year (less than \$2.00 a day!) to deliver mail on this route. John Beargrease would average 30 – 40 miles a day on his trips in the winter, however he made it from Two Harbors to Grand Marais once in 20 hours! There were no snowmobile trails then to follow as nowadays! And that again was with only four dogs pulling a sled weighing over 400 pounds!

John Beargrease lived a heroic life, and died performing a heroic act. While going to the aid of another mail carrier whose boat was caught in high waves off Tamarack Point at Grand Portage Bay, Beargrease contracted pneumonia, and died in 1910. He is buried at a cemetery at Beaver Bay...a site that I hope to visit this summer.

At the beginning of the John Beargrease Dog Sled Race, team #1 departs first, and then every two minutes another team will depart (team #2, #3 etc). Well team #1 belongs to John Beargrease and this race is in his honor. Should you ever work this race as a communications volunteer, and if you listen very closely at Sawbill Crossing, before the crowds start to arrive...you can actually hear John Beargrease and his team go past you, along with the winds through the pines.

Will I be there next year? You already know the answer!

73's de Russ / NØQK

Footnote: Much of this historical information was provided in the race packet given to all communication volunteers.

MINUTES WINONA ARC, INC. FEBRUARY 21,2002

Meeting called to order by Jim, KBØTHN at 7:58 PM after a good program on repeater use and aero-aprs and aero-atv.

Everybody introduced themselves because of the large turn out of new people.

Jim, KBØTHN, insisted that Clare, KØNY, read the minutes of the December meeting, even though they were published in the *Hamgram*. Moved by Paul, KØZYV, and second accepting minutes as read. Approved.

Treasurer's report: by Dick, NØVV. Balance in January was \$949.48 with revenue of \$751.51 and checks written of \$449.50. Petty cash is \$18.03 bringing the balance to \$1,354.51. Move by Paul, KØZYV, and second by Darlene, KCØCTH to accept. Approved.

Old Business:

Lance, KBØYJU, said that the home show will be March 2-3. He will be out of town. Jim, KBØTHN, also will be out of town. Clare, KØNY move and Jerry, WAØX, second, not participating in Home show this year. Approved.

Touch Stone Bike Race is June 15. Lance, KBØYJU, said that John Scott, NØHZN, offered help from their group. Discussion concluded that Lance should accept offer. Clare, KØNY, agreed to assist Lance.

Jim, KBØTHN, thanked Sue, KEØS, Delores, NØNUO, and Jan, NØWRQ, for the good work for the holiday party.

Walt, KEØXI, reported about the new mailings. He mailed about 55 old hams that weren't currently participating and about 19 new hams.

New Business:

March of Dimes walk, "Walk America" is May 18, 7:45 to 11:45 AM. Lance, KBØYJU, moved and Clare, KØNY second that the club participate in the walk as radio operators. Adam, KBØVYO, will head the effort. Motion approved, Jennifer opposed.

Russ, NØQK, has nearly finished the skywarn book. It will be available at the ARES meeting following the skywarn class March 19.

Darlene, KCØCTH, club archivist, made a plea for more input. She needs archiving material and will submit a budget request. She reminded the club that material given the club are club property and if you need a picture or item back, then you will get a copy.

Walt, KEØXI, surveyed the club about interest in General License classes and code classes. There was significant interest.

Paul, KØZYV, moved and Bob, NØPDD second adjourn. Approved 8:45 PM Gary, NØOWS, opposed.

Present:

KØDHI	KØNY	KØZYV	KBØELR	KBØNKX	KBØPOQ	KBØTHN
KBØYJU	KBØYVO	KB9OJY	KB9YZX	KCØCTG	KCØCTH	KCØJYZ
KCØJZA	KCØJZF	KCØJZI	KCØMBL	KCØMBT	KCØMBU	KCØMBV
KEØXI	NØJP	NØJPN	NØNUO	NØOWS	NØPCY	NØPDD
NØQK	NØVV	NØWRQ	NØWWG	N9BRG	N9MFH	W9HWQ
W9ZWM	WAØX	WOØW				

TREATS 2002

March- Clare, KØNY
April- Delores, NØNUO
May- Adam, KBØVYO and Jim,
KBØTHN
June- Dick, NØVV,
August- Walt, KEØXI and Jan,
NØWRQ
September- George, KØDHI
October- Sue, KEØS
November- Gary, NØOWS
December- Lance, KBØYJU

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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
KØBAD@arrl.net

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