

Hamgram

Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
March 2004

Meeting Notice

The March Meeting of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will be held at the Winona County Courthouse Annex on Thursday, March 18, 2004. Our meeting this month will open at 7:00 pm with a program and discussion.

A coffee-social follow the program. Interested persons are invited to attend.

EDITORIAL EDITORIAL EDITORIAL

Comments On the ARRL Licensing Petition

By Les, KØBAD

While looking for input for this issue of *Hamgram* on the 64 repeater, Gary, NØOWS, came onboard and suggested that I write an article on the ARRL Licensing proposal. I haven't paid too much attention to their proposal or the movement away from Morse Code in general. I don't see the elimination of Morse requirements as leading to the demise of the hobby. I know and love the "code" and will continue to use it for as long as I am able. My first reaction to Gary was "I really don't know enough about the League's proposal to write about it." I still don't but I did read the editorial in the April QST. David Sumner, K1ZZ hit it right on the head when he said "Once in a while we hear the complaint about new amateurs, 'They can't even solder a coax connector.' If true, the exam system is not the place to look for a solution. We should look a bit closer to home."

We do have new types of people entering the Amateur Radio community – and the lack of knowledge of Morse Code has nothing to do with who those people are. What is important to realize is that the hobby itself must adapt to the needs and desires

of its constituents – and it will. So, where is Amateur Radio headed?

1. We are moving into an era of extreme complexity in the design and construction of "competitive" communications products. Even technically qualified amateurs shy away from complex repair efforts on modern communications equipment. Not only knowledge but expensive test and alignment equipment are required to do the job right. Who could justify such expense to maintain one or two transceivers? It's not necessary to know what goes on inside.
2. We are seeing the creation of increasingly sophisticated modes of communications. PSK31, MFSK16, Hellschreiber, Slow Scan TV, RTTY, AMTOR, Packet, and digital voice are but a few. These systems are sophisticated. They can be implemented in software interfaced to a transceiver. They offer new and interesting technical challenges to the new breed of amateur.
3. The awareness of the emergency and public service communications capabilities of the Amateur Radio Service has drawn many people into the hobby. In the old days the need for and ease of service of communications equipment drew many new licensees into the technical challenges of the hobby. Today one might have to intentionally break a piece of equipment just to have a reason to open up the cover. If a new licensee does open the cover she quickly realizes that the technical challenges are well beyond what one might easily learn outside of an electrical engineering course. Many new licensees who entered the hobby because of its public service capabilities, therefore, never move beyond that focus. They don't need to.
4. Many new amateurs have obtained their licenses in order to communicate with spouses or other family members. These amateurs too, do not need to be drawn into technical minutia in order to be able to use their communications equipment effectively. They can "fix" their gear the same way that

most of the tech-savvy amateurs do – They can send the gear to the manufacturer.

“Old timers” like me need to take a close look at our hobby and to decide how we can **help** the hobby to *become what it is going to become* (we can’t change that.) We must work to maintain respect for the rules, build technical and operational knowledge and skills, and help all Amateur Radio Operators both old and new to expand their horizons. We can best accomplish these goals by exposing them to all of the varied activities of this great hobby – and that can best be accomplished through a strong educational outreach by local Radio Clubs.

That’s what David Sumner is saying. Are we listening?

MINUTES of WARC INC. February 19, 2004

Meeting called to order by Tom, KAØMLO, at 1900.

Walt, KEØXI presented a program about “The Art of Ham Radio” consisting of several sample questions used in preparation for an Amateur Radio License Test.

Multiple Choice Questions were directed at the audience such as:

Who Writes the Rules for Amateur Radio? What are the Fundamental Purposes of the Amateur Radio Service? When can an amateur radio operator broadcast? Can business be transacted on amateur radio? What Identification is required? How long can radio transmissions be made after the license expiration? Frequency vs. Wavelength? Above what frequency is it considered a radio transmission? Unit of Frequency? Atmospheric and distance of radio transmissions? Ducting? Sunspots? Coordinating Communications?

Following the informal give and take offered to the questions presented by the speaker, we moved into the business part of the meeting.

The business meeting was called to order by President Tom, KAØMLO.

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion by Ken, NØJP that the minutes of the December Meeting be approved as submitted in the *Hamgram*. Second by George, KØDHI. Approved.

Motion by Arne, KCØJZE to approve the treasures report as given by our treasurer, Dick, NØVV. Second by Ken NØJP. Approved.

Ken, NØJP thanked for all those who helped organize the Club Holiday Party in January and also those who helped procure the prizes.

NEW BUSINESS

From the president, Tom, KAØMLO:

1. Skip Green has offered to present a couple of programs to our club

2. The officers and the board have been discussing the loss of club membership over the past few years and methods we might pursue to attract more members in the future.

3. It was suggested by the president that we should begin sending out statements for club dues that are in arrears. He has done this at his own expense for the members of the club who have not paid their 2004 dues. If the dues are not paid, he felt the *Hamgram* should stop.

4. A visit was made to the Dive Rescue Group to get feedback as to why the individuals, which represent about 16 ham radio operators, do not participate in the Winona Amateur Radio Club.

Discussion ensued:

Les, KØBAD, stated that there is no cost to the club for Email *Hamgram* and that we should get as many email addresses of hams as possible and distribute the Email *Hamgram* as widely as possible in hopes of inciting interest in those hams who are not active in the club at the present time. Walt, KEØXI, suggested stopping the mailed *Hamgram* to persons who had not paid their

dues because of the club cost of postage but to continue the Email *Hamgram* since there is no cost to the club.

Matt, KFØQ indicated that he had brought several used gel cell batteries to the club meeting for those who might be interested in them for emergency power. First come first served.

Jerry, WAØX, made a plea for our club to support the WIAW Endowment Fund and maybe also support the cause to prevent the distribution of broad-band signals on power lines.

Tom, KAØMLO, suggested the club donate \$100 to the WIAW Fund.

Joe, KCØMBL, pointed out that the club web page located on Clare's, KØNY, Web Site had not changed in over 18 months. It has apparently not been serviced since Jim, KBØTHN left for college. With encouragement from Tom, KAØMLO; Joe, KCØMBL agreed to update the web page. Les, KØBAD, noted that it would be a minimal expense for the club to get our own web site. Walt, KEØXI, moved to spend up to \$70 for development of our own URL & Hosting Service by getting a Domain DNS assigned. Second by Jerry, WAØX. During the discussion, Les, KØBAD, suggested posting the new address on the ARRL re-addressing site for clubs. Motion passed. Joe, KCØMBL, volunteered to investigate these options.

With no more business to be acted on, Tom, KAØMLO asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn by Bob, NØPDD. Second by Arne, KCØJZE. Passed. Meeting adjourned.

Treats for March: Tom, KAØMLO.

Treats for April: Delores, NØNUO.

Present at the Meeting:

Walt, KEØXI	Len	Les, KØBAD
Tom, KAØMLO	Joe, KCØMBL	Bob, NØPDD
Ryan, KCØMBU	Dick, KCØMBT	Tom, WØMK
George, KØDHI	Shari, WA9IGK	Delores, NØNUO
Gordon, NØTNC	Kim, KCØCTG	Ken NØJP
Matt, KFØQ	Dick, NØVV	Arne, KCØJZE

Mark, KCØRGA	Mark, N9UNW	Steve, N9MFH
Jerry, WAØX	Pete, KC9ERJ	Jake, KC9CRM

Treats schedule 2004:

January: Holiday Party, no treats.

February: Clare, KØNY, and Shari, KCØRGB

March: Tom, KAØMLO

April: Delores, NØNUO

May: Bob, NØPDD

June: Dick, NØVV

July: Picnic, no treats.

August: Joe, KCØMBL

September: Erik, WBØNIU

October: Tom, WØMK

November: Les, KØBAD

December: Lance, KBØYJU

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Wilmot, WØMK, Secretary

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Winona Amateur Radio Club Treasurer's Report February 29, 2004

Bank Balance	\$1943.30
Petty cash	42.26
Outstanding checks	-25.00
Total:	\$1960.56

Club WEB site renewal

By Joe, KCØMBL

Since I was given the responsibility of obtaining a club URL and a Web Site last month I have made some progress. Although there is some more work to be done on this Web Page, I feel that there is enough to give everyone a chance to look, and make contributions that I hope will improve it as time goes by, I have been trying to obtain more info and

picture but its kind of like pulling teeth (You know what I mean don't you Tom?)

I want everyone to know that I delegated the Web Site construction to my wife Charmaine, KCØRFW, and the graphic animation to my 11 year old daughter Shelley. I just sat around and tried to feed them information to work with.

So here are the results. Let me know what you think.

<http://www.winonaarc.org/>

The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

President:	Thomas E. Mauszycki tmauszycki@charter.net
Vice President:	Paul Schumacher pschumacher@winona.edu
Secretary:	Thomas M. Wilmot tmwilmot@msn.com
Treasurer:	Richard Kolter kolter@luminet.net 1128 West Mark Street Winona, Minnesota 55987
Member At Large: 01/01/04 to 06/30/04	Scott K. Hayes skhayes@savacaf.com

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@arrl.net

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.
PO Box 1264
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