

Hamgram

Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Mar 2005

Meeting Notice

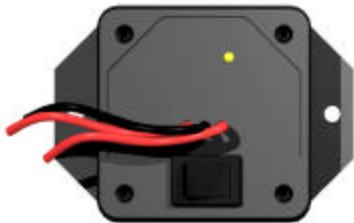
The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will meet on Thursday, March 17, 2005, at 7:00 p.m., in the County Building Annex, 202 W. 3rd St., lower level.

Walt Kelly will demonstrate the assembly and use of a simple electronic device to prevent low battery discharge. The device, designed by Jim Jarvis of Winona, is usable with gel-cell, deep-cycle, auto and boat batteries. Its controller

senses battery voltage and sounds an alarm when time to recharge. If the battery is not recharged, a timer will shut off a load of up to 35 amps.

All are welcome.

There will actually be a club construction project at this meeting. Jim Jarvis is sending up 6 automatic power-off kits that are designed to prevent a DC load from discharging a battery to the point of damage or to turn off radios in a vehicle 15 minutes after the ignition is turned off.



Minnesota City Day special event station announced

The Winona Amateur Radio Club has announced that it will operate a special event station at Minnesota City Day on May 21. The club has submitted the following special events announcement for publication in the May issue of QST:

Winona, MN: WARC, WØNE.

1600Z-2200Z. May 21, 2005.

Annual Minnesota City Days in Minnesota City, MN.

General portions, phone and CW; 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80m.

QSL WØNE, PO Box 1264, Winona MN 55987.

The 146.64 Repeater programmable controller project continues.

By Walt Kelly, KEØXI

The repeater committee is doing some programming on the controller of the 64 repeater to give it a few, but easy to use, functions.

No significant changes are planned for the basic functions, including autopatch. Two planned enhancements are User Functions.

The first is being able to change the time the repeater stays up after keying. In normal conversations, the three-second timer works very well, but if you want to cross-band repeat – such as from a handheld to your mobile to the repeater when you are miles away from the repeater, key-up and hitting #6 will change the delay to zero. The repeater will stop right after the "K". To restart the three-second delay, simply key-up and hit *6.

The second function will be to add a 100 Hz tone to the repeater output. This will allow people who don't care to listen to all the chatter to be able to leave the radio on with the Tone-Squelch (CTCSS) turned on. The general repeater operation will be without

the tone. All radios without tone-squelch enabled will hear everything, but radios with tone-squelch enabled will hear nothing. When a user wants to be heard by radios with tone-squelch enabled, simply key-up and hit *4 and the repeater will turn on the tone. You can hear this tone as a kind of low hum if the speaker on your radio is pretty good. After completing the contact, simply key-up and hit #6 to turn the repeater tone off. This will also work very well for SKYWARN call-outs.

Look at your manuals to figure out how to turn tone squelch on and off on your radios.

Bring your questions and suggestions to the meeting.

MINUTES WARC MEETING February 17, 2005.

The February 2005 meeting of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, held in the courthouse annex, was opened by President Darlene, KCØCTH, at 7:05 p.m. Shari, WA9IGK, introduced Clare, KØNY, who gave a presentation on EchoLink.

EchoLink is a way to remotely operate a radio station anywhere in the world through the Internet. Nodes represent places on the Internet. The computer needs a sound card. The space bar is usually used as a toggle switch between send and receive. Commonly the operator will wear a head set with earphones and a microphone. One can connect to a test server to get audio levels set right in his computer. EchoLink runs on a VOIP system. The computer needs ports opened at 5198 for UDP and 5200 for TCP/IP. Clare taped a typical contact and played the tape for our group. The audio quality was excellent. Only licensed amateurs are allowed to use this system and there is a qualification process before one will be allowed into the system.

At 8 p.m., the business meeting was opened by Darlene, KCØCTH.

Old Business:

Darlene, KCØCTH, asked for approval of the minutes of the Board Meeting held February 1, 2005.

Jim, NØWE, asked that the minutes reflect that both he and Russ, NØQK, are teaching the licensing class in April-May as a team. Shari, WA9IGK, requested that misspellings of her name be corrected. Clare, KØNY,

moved for approval of the minutes with the above listed corrections. 2nd by Duane, W9HWQ. Carried.

Les, KØBAD, reported for the ad-hoc committee on bylaws, that the committee at this time does not recommend any changes in the bylaws or constitution. He suggested observing and then re-evaluating bylaw changes in the future if necessary.

Shari, WA9IGK, indicated that she had completed the steps for re-affiliation of the Winona Amateur Radio Club with the American Radio Relay League. An annual report was needed and completed with the re-affiliation. She also updated the club station call, WØNE, on their records since they still had the old call sign. We need to keep our membership at 51% ARRL members. The fee is \$39 per person for a regular yearly membership. The Club thanked Shari for all her effort to get this done.

The SWAP FEST is tentatively set up for September 10 at the Eagles Club. A sign-up sheet for those interested in promoting and participating in the SWAP FEST will be out at the end of the meeting. If interest is too low, we will re-evaluate our Club commitment.

Bob, NØWTH, the Winona County Emergency Coordinator, was at our meeting. He informed us that County funding for emergency drills had been cut. Persons participating in SKYWARN must be certified. The National Weather Service will give their instructional course for SKYWARN at the Wilson Fire Hall on March 22. Some drills will be done but likely to a lesser extent than previously.

Walt, KEØXI, moved approval of the minutes of the December 2004 meeting. Ken, NØJP, indicated that he was not one of the persons mentioned in the minutes that were building a kit for the 64 repeater remote receiver project. (Note: This was probably the secretary confusing KEN with LEN, KCØRSX. It will be corrected.) 2nd by Duane W9HWQ. Carried.

To try to get more licensed hams active in our club, it was suggested that the *Hamgram* be mailed to all radio amateurs in our area. Walt, KEØXI, suggested a letter inviting hams to attend our meetings be included with the *Hamgram* mailing. Russ, NØQK, suggested we might get mostly non-ARRL hams that respond; Shari, WA9IGK, replied that those who respond might already be ARRL members. Clare, KØNY, moved to allocate up to \$100 to cover mailing costs for such a campaign. 2nd by Tom, KAØMLO. Carried.

New Business:

Darlene, KCØCTH, announced that the Board Meeting of the club would be held at her house at 7 p.m. on March 1, 2005.

Committee sign-up sheets will be out at the end of the meeting.

Shari, WA9IGK, announced the following programs for future meetings:

- March: Battery Low Voltage Disconnect, Walt, KEØXI
- April: SKYWARN Refresher, Dan, WKØW
- May: Antenna Construction, Matt, KFØQ
- June: Amateur Radio Television Demo, Russ, NØQK
- July: Picnic
- August: HF Mobile, Jim, NØWE

Darlene, KCØCTH, announced that the Winona Community Foundation was offering grants to community projects in the Winona Area. A Letter of Inquiry would be due by Tuesday February 22. She thought we might apply for funds to establish a base station at the Winona Community Memorial Hospital. Walt, KEØXI and Les, KØBAD, offered to help with the Letter of Inquiry. (Note: At the 2/19/05 Saturday breakfast, it was decided that it was too late to do an adequate letter for this round of grants.)

Dick, NØVV, our treasurer, reported that the treasurer's report in the February *Hamgram* is accurate.

Tom, KAØMLO, reported on his negotiations for the packet tower rental last year; it was his feeling that we agreed to \$75 per year for the rental. Walt, KEØXI, moved to pay \$75 for the 2005 packet tower rental. 2nd by Len, KCØRSX. Carried.

Jim, NØWE, announced that he and Russ, NØQK, would conduct licensing classes through the Community Education Program Wednesday evenings starting April 6 through May 11 from 6:00 to 9:30 in the Media Room at the Winona Middle School. There will be a VE for licensure on the final night. Cost \$19.00 for the book. Russ and Jim have purchased ARRL Videos to help with the presentation.

SKYWARN as previously mentioned will have a National Weather Service training session at the Wilson Fire Hall on March 22, 7 pm. Dan Goltz, WKØW, is also planning some additional training in May.

Len, KCØRSX, indicated that the Great River Shakespeare Festival Administration would be interested in a Special Event Station at their site on or around June 24, 2005. Les, KØBAD, and Len, KCØRSX, will coordinate this. Our Station could be the "Irregular Hamlets."

Walt, KEØXI, asked about Maps of SKYWARN sites. Russ, NØQK, stated that he had maps available.

Walt, KEØXI, stated that he would be getting training on the Audio-Visual equipment in our meeting room this coming week. He had already been informed that it was easy so run.

Shari, WA9IGK, indicated that the janitor told us we would have to be issued keys to the Court House Annex for our monthly meetings, as the janitor would no longer be available for unlocking the doors. She will get in touch with the contact person that the janitor suggested to get keys issued.

Matt, KFØQ, has contributed materials to a lending library for new hams.

Walt, KEØXI, needs a few Hams for Minnesota City Days.

Jim, NØWE, mentioned an emergency portable 440 repeater for use in no signal areas that belongs to the club and after some testing could be used in the future for emergency communications.

Treats for 2005:

- Jan: Club Party, No Treats Feb: Lance, KBØYJU
- Mar: Shari, WA9IGK Apr: Tom, KAØMLO
- May: Jun:
- Jul: Club Picnic, No Treats Aug:
- Sep: Oct: Shari, WA9IGK
- Nov: Dec:

Members Present:

Ken	NØJP	Jake	KC9CRM
Pete	KC9ER	Bob	NØPDD
Walt	KEØXI	Lance	KBØYJU
Erik	WBØNIU	Dick	NØVV
Tom	WØMK	Delores	NØNUO
Les	KØBAD	Darlene	KCØCTH
Russ	NØQK	Shari	WA9IGK
Len	KCØRSX	Jim	NØWE
Tom	KAØMLO	Gordy	NØTNC
Clare	KØNY	John	KBØELR
Phillip	NØOWU	Dick	KCØMBT
Ryan	KCØMBU	Duane	W9HWQ
Steve	N9MFH	Bob	NØWTH
Amos	KCØJYZ		

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Wilmot, WØMK, Secretary - tmwilmot@msn.com

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Minutes of WARC Board Meeting 3-1-05 held at KCØCTH's house.

Call to order by President, Darlene, KCØCTH, at 7:04 pm.

Present: Darlene, KCØCTH; Tom, WØMK; Les, KØBAD; Shari, WA9IGK; and Lance, KBØYJU.

Shari, WA9IGK, reported on the following matters:

1. For access to the Court House Annex on future club meeting dates, someone from the club will be required to sign out a key from the County Building on the corner of 4th and Main to open the building on the night of our meeting; the janitor will no longer be available for this activity. The key must be checked back in the following day. Darlene, KCØCTH or Tom, WØMK, should check out the key.
2. Our ARRL affiliation has been re-activated. Along with the letter confirming our re-activation, we received some stationary and a sheet of decals, containing the ARRL logo; Les, KØBAD, suggested that we scan in the logo and make our own Letterhead.
3. Programs for the upcoming months:
 - March, Walt, KEØXI, -- Low Voltage Battery Disconnect.
 - April, Todd Shea, National Weather Service -- Tornado Drill.
 - May, Matt, KFØQ, -- Antenna Construction.
 - June, Russ, NØQK, -- Amateur Radio Television.
 - July -- Picnic.
 - August, Jim, NØWE, -- HF Mobile.
 - September, Duane, W9HWQ, -- Exotic Modes.

Old Business:

1. Field Day -- Co-Chair Clare, KØNY, and Lance, KBØYJU. Lance suggested that an outside monitor speaker be set up carrying both sides of the conversation. Lance also pointed out that Kids Day is on the weekend before Field Day.
2. Minnesota City Days, May 21. Walt, KEØXI, will head -- looking for more volunteers to help staff. We will put out the sign-up sheet at the next meeting.
3. Swapfest -- September 10th at Eagles Club. No show of interest so far. We may have to drop this activity.
4. Les, KØBAD, volunteered to head an Operational Activities Committee.
5. Shakespeare Festival -- Les, KØBAD, moved we support the proposal authored by Len, KCØRSX, on promoting a Special Events Station at the 2005 Great River Shakespeare Festival. 2^d by Shari, W9IGK. Carried.
6. Darlene, KCØCTH decided she would get the sign-up sheets out at the beginning of the next meeting to try to attract more takers. If any committee needs funds for their projects, they should send a request to the board before April 5th for it to be considered by the budget committee.
7. Les, KØBAD, should get out our letters inviting area hams to our meetings. He stated he would craft a letter by the April Board Meeting. Shari, WA9IGK, contacted the News Editor at the Winona Daily News to see about getting our meeting announcements in the paper more reliably. She was referred to two departments at the paper. Our meeting notice in the future will be submitted both as a news item and as an entry in the club news. It is hoped that it will be printed in at least one place in the paper in the future.

New Business:

Our Web site has been shut down apparently by Joe, KCØMBL, the Webmaster. This may be due to lapse of the license. Les, KØBAD, will try to secure our domain name, WinonaARC.org, to set up a new web site through Clare's, KØNY web connection at his business. There is some question as to whether the cost to Joe for the web site last year was \$80 and he was only reimbursed \$50 by the club. Les made a motion to pay Joe the additional \$30 if this can be documented through the treasurer's

records. 2nd by Shari, WA9IGK. Carried. Shari requested Les announce the Web site in the *Hamgram* when it is again up and running. A new Webmaster will be sought. It is a considerable amount of work to keep a website current.

Announcements:

- A licensing class will be held through Community Education at the Winona Middle School, Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 9:30 pm. April 6 through May 11. The final session is a VE for licensure. The board felt that a reception with cookies and punch for the class members after the test would be helpful in making a pitch for our club. Saturday, May 14, will be set-aside for an *Elmering* session with the graduates at the Prime Steak and Cake. Shari, WA9IGK, will contact the restaurant for the back room since that is not our usual Saturday morning there.

The Licensing Class itself will be taught by Jim, NØWE, and Russ, NØQK.

- SKYWARN training will be conducted at the Wilson Fire Hall on March 22 at 7 pm.
- Our next Board Meeting will be held April 5 at Darlene, KCØCTH's, house.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Wilmot, WØMK, Secretary

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Technician Classes Scheduled

Russ, NØQK, WARC Education Chairman

The Winona Amateur Radio Club is hosting a Technician class beginning on April 6th, 2005 and running for a total of six weeks. That will be five Wednesday night classes followed by the VE Testing on the sixth Wednesday evening. This class will be taking registration through the Winona Community Education and will be held at the Winona Middle School.

The cost of the course will be \$19.00 which includes the ARRL course manual.

March 2005

Test Your Amateur Radio Knowledge

by Len Litvan KCØRSX

The following are from the FCC exam pool—Technician, General and Amateur Extra:

#1 - Which of the following are some reasons to use parallel-conductor, open-wire feed line?

- A. It has low impedance and will operate with a high SWR
- B. It will operate well even with a high SWR and it works well when tied down to metal objects
- C. It has a low impedance and has less loss than coaxial cable
- D. It will operate well even with a high SWR and has less loss than coaxial cable

#2 – How does antenna height affect the horizontal (azimuthal) radiation pattern of a horizontal dipole HF antenna?

- A. If the antenna is too high, the pattern becomes unpredictable
- B. Antenna height has no effect on the pattern
- C. If the antenna is less than one-half wavelength high, the azimuthal pattern is almost omnidirectional
- D. If the antenna is less than one-half wavelength high, radiation off the ends of the wire is eliminated

#3 - If a 1-MHz oscillator is used with a divide-by-ten circuit to make a marker generator, what will the output be?

- A. A 1-MHz sinusoidal signal with harmonics every 100 kHz
- B. A 100-kHz signal with harmonics every 100 kHz
- C. A 1-MHz square wave with harmonics every 1 MHz
- D. A 100-kHz signal modulated by a 10-kHz signal

Answers to Exam Pool Questions:

#1 - (D); #2 - (C); #3 - (B)

The Winona Amateur Radio Club is on the move! Help frame the future of this club. Join today. Participate in new and interesting ham operating activities and learn about our great hobby through exciting club program events.

More importantly, the Winona Amateur radio Club offers all people who are interested in the Amateur Radio Service an opportunity to operate the only mode in ham radio that does not require a license, EB2 (eyeball).

The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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Member At Large: Leslie Hittner, KØBAD
01/01/05 to 06/30/05
KØBAD@arrl.net

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

***Hamgram* is published monthly by
The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**

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or KØBAD@arrl.net

Board meetings are announced in advance (WEPNet)

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
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