

# *Hamgram*

*Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Sep 2005*

[www.w0ne.org](http://www.w0ne.org)

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## **Amateur Radio volunteers filling communication gaps in gulf region**

(ARRL Letter, Sep 09, 2005) Hundreds of Amateur Radio operators from the Gulf Coast and elsewhere in the US continue to volunteer their skills and expertise as the Hurricane Katrina relief effort heads into its third week. ARRL Section Managers (SMs) and Section Emergency Coordinators (SECs) across and around the affected region have been teleconferencing daily to keep their efforts on the same page. In the field, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and other volunteers are assisting as needed to support communication for relief agencies as well as for state and local government and even the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Louisiana SEC Gary Stratton, K5GLS, says Amateur Radio was the only means for state officials at the state emergency operations center (EOC) in Baton Rouge to communicate earlier this week with the so-called "Florida parishes" above Lake Pontchartrain.

"We have had praise from one end of Louisiana to the other about Amateur Radio operators," Stratton said. "There was a communication to the EOC in Baton Rouge from FEMA that said, 'Ham radio is our prime communications with you, and they should get anything they need,' so FEMA recognizes the importance of ham radio." He also recounted how state officials arriving at the EOC were using ham radio to get through to their hard-hit parishes.

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A marshaling center has been established in Covington, Louisiana. ARES has been continuing to support Red Cross shelter and Southern Baptist Convention debris-clearing in St Tammany parish, as well as Baptist Men's Kitchen canteen operations. In Washington Parish, ARES volunteers--including more than a dozen from South Texas--have been providing critical communication among hospitals and the parish EOC, among other functions. Field teams were continuing to use HF to maintain communication with the EOC in Baton Rouge...

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## **Meeting Notice**

The September meeting of the Winona Amateur Radio Club will be held on the 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the lower level meeting room of the County Annex Building. Club member Duane Fruechte will present a program on "exotic" modes (some of the strange sounds heard on the ham band).

All club members and radio enthusiasts are welcome.

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## **Executive Board Meeting Notice**

The next Executive Board meeting of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will be held at the home of Darlene Tagliapietra (KCØCTH). The meeting will begin at 7:00 in the evening.

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## **MINUTES WARC MEETINC, August 18, 2005**

President, Darlene (KCØCTH) called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. The speaker, Jim (NØWE) was introduced by Shari (WA9IGK). Jim gave an interesting talk and demonstration on HF mobile ham radio gear. He showed a multi-band multi-tap vertical antenna and a vertical antenna called the Screwdriver that has a motor driven loading coil built in. This antenna is a bit top heavy so it needs additional support over and above the base mounting. Good grounding is imperative for acceptable noise conditions when operating a mobile station. Hams can rag-chew, contest or do CW while operating mobile. Several compact transceivers are now

available that have a good power output. The ICOM 706 series has been a pacesetter.

The Business meeting was called to order by President, Darlene (KCØCTH) at 7:34. Ken (NØJP) was asked to give a short report on the club picnic that he and Delores (NØNUO) organized. The group that attended the picnic had a good time. It would be nice to get a better turnout of members but there are many conflicts in the summertime. Ken reported that Jake (KC9CRM) was elected as the at large member to the board for the second half of 2005.

Shari (WA9IGK) announced that next month Duane (W9HWQ) will give a presentation on exotic modes in Amateur Radio. She put out a call for someone to do the treats in September and also asked for suggestions for meeting topics in 2006.

The treasurer, Dick (NØVV) reported \$1877 in our club bank account and \$193 in outstanding checks at the present time.

The Remote 64 receiver project is starting to come together with several problems already solved.

There was discussion by Walt (KEØXI) and Clare (KØNY) on noise on the 835 repeater.

Darlene (KCØCTH) asked for a volunteer on our end to coordinate with the Galesville club for the September 10<sup>th</sup> Swap Fest. Tables will be available for the Swap Fest and there will also be a VE testing session.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Walt (KEØXI) mentioned that member turnout for SKYWARN has been quite light lately. Mark (KBØNZZ) mentioned that Winona County would soon have an automated call-up dialing system for things like SKYWARN and he felt this should help in notifying members quickly and hopefully result in a better turnout.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Shari (WA9IGK) announced that she and Clare (KØNY) are again inviting members to watch the Goodview Days Parade, Sunday afternoon, from their front lawn and that there would be grills available for barbequing and some beverages. Bring your own meat to cook and a dish to pass.

Walt (KEØXI) announced that the Friday evening eat out would be at Betty Jo's tomorrow at 5:30 pm.

Dick (NØVV) stated that he had received a letter from the Habitat Fundraiser Biking Group thanking our club for the use of the repeater during their event the week of July 10 –16. The letter stated that, "To date we have raised over \$237,000---."

Ken (NØJP) announced that Jake (KC9CRM) would operate a ham special event station at Farmfest at a farm between Fountain City and Arcadia, WI on Labor Day Weekend September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Ken also announced that Myrtle Walsh, the widow of Keith Walsh, a prior club member, had died this past week.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:15 by Clare (KØNY); second by Ken (NØJP). Motion carried.

**Treats for 2005:**

Sep:

Oct:

Nov: Tom, WØMK

Dec:

**Members Present:**

|         |        |       |        |
|---------|--------|-------|--------|
| Ken     | NØJP   | Jake  | KC9CRM |
| Pete    | KC9ERJ | Lance | KBØYJU |
| Dick    | NØVV   | Tom   | WØMK   |
| Darlene | KCØCTH | Jerry | WAØX   |
| Shari   | WA9IGK | Walt  | KEØXI  |
| Jim     | NØWE   | Sue   | KEØS   |
| Clare   | KØNY   | Terry | WØEUU  |
| Mark    | KBØNZZ |       |        |

Respectfully submitted,  
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## Test Your Amateur Radio Knowledge

by Len Litvan KCØRSX

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

**#1 - To determine compliance with the maximum permitted exposure (MPE) levels, safe exposure levels for RF energy are averaged for an "uncontrolled" RF environment over what time period?**

- A. 6 minutes
- B. 10 minutes
- C. 15 minutes
- D. 30 minutes

**#2 – External RF power amplifiers designed to operate below what frequency may require FCC certification?**

- A. 28 MHz
- B. 35 MHz
- C. 50 MHz
- D. 144 MHz

**#3 - What are the receiving and retransmitting frequency bands used for Mode U/V in amateur satellite operations?**

- A. Satellite receiving on Amateur bands in the range of 21 to 30 MHz and retransmitting on 144 to 148 MHz
- B. Satellite receiving on 435 to 438 MHz and retransmitting on 144 to 148 MHz
- C. Satellite receiving on 435 to 438 MHz and retransmitting on Amateur bands in the range of 21 to 30 MHz
- D. Satellite receiving on 144 to 148 MHz and retransmitting on Amateur bands in the range of 21 to 30 MHz

Answers to Exam Pool Questions:

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

## Weed Whacking

By Les, KØBAD

After looking over the 146.64 repeater site earlier in the month, Walt (KEØXI) decided that if the club was ever to get its 220 MHz link receive antenna mounted, we would first have to remove a lot of the volunteer



Leslie Hittner (KØBAD) prepares to remove the grape vines from the building (Photo by Walt KEØXI)

vegetation that blocked access to both the tower and the building feedline access point. With that goal in mind, Walt and Les (KØBAD) approached the tower site Sunday September 11 armed with a heavy duty John Deer riding mower, two Stihl gas-powered shrub cutters and a cross-cut saw. In about an hour and a half these mighty woodsmen of the north clear-cut about 1/12 of

an acre and trimmed the edges of the access road. They also removed hundreds of feet of wild grapes, several small locust trees and many other unidentified shrubs and bushes.

Buried deep beneath the grass and underbrush Les begins the job of removing the grape vines from the transmitter building. was a discarded commercial antenna that looks like it could be prime piece salvage for the club. The antenna is a high-band (like two meters) four-pole. It needs some work but can



Wow! You can now see the building and the tower base! (Photo by Walt, KEØXI).

likely be repaired for far less than its original value. Four-pole arrays can be arranged to produce omnidirectional, bidirectional or unidirectional patterns. This antenna can be either side mounted or top mounted on a tower.

**The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**

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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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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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