

# *Hamgram*

*Newsletter of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. – September 1999*

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## **Meeting Announcement**

The September meeting of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will be held on Thursday, September 16 beginning at 1900 hours local in the conference room of the Courthouse Annex. After the meeting Dan Goltz will talk on SKYWARN reporting: the right way to do it and what to report.

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## **Shack of the Month – KFØUK Revisited**

By Matt, KFØUK

*Editor's note: The following description of Matt's station was not received in time to be included with last month's issue. It's a good article. Read on...*

The contest station KFØUK/Ø was setup august 7,8 on a farm in Winona County near I-90 grid square EN43. The ARRL UHF contest is held every year on the first full weekend of August. All amateur bands 222Mhz and above are allowed for the contest. Simplex FM, SSB, and CW are the typical modes used for the contest. Exchange is callsign and grid square. The ARES communication trailer from NØQKG was used for the operating position, and a push-up mast was used for the antennas for the contest. Power source for the equipment was a 1750 watt portable generator. For this contest I operated in the single operator class with the following bands: 222MHz (1.25M), 432MHz (70cm), 902MHz (33cm), and 1296MHz (23 cm). 144MHz was used for "spotting" or digging up some contacts from VHF operators that were not in the contest. I really enjoyed the UHF contest making 76 contacts in six states and one province for 46 total grids.

I have been licensed for over ten years. I have been contesting on the HF bands since 1989. My first VHF contest was the ARRL VHF QSO Party in September 1998. I enjoy contesting on all the bands but the type of operating on VHF is a bit different than HF. This type of operating on VHF is known as "weak signal" work and typically stations announce their operating plans (grids activating if portable/rover, bands operating from and calling frequencies used) on the internet or other ways. The plans etc make it possible to "find" weak signal stations on the band as openings may not occur, or could change without warning. I actually do some casual operating typically mobile; sometimes at home, but I do not have any antennas up at home for the VHF/UHF bands as the elevation at my home is 749ft above sea level. This is why I can usually be found operating mobile/portable/rover in a high place somewhere! I typically enjoy phone operating on SSB and have WAS on HF SSB. Lately I have been turning to CW more as it is the only mode that may work at times on the weak signal VHF/UHF and microwave bands. Goals

for amateur radio for me: one day earn 5BWAS, and obtain VUCC (100 grid squares on 50.1Mhz or 144MHz, and fewer on the uhf bands). I am also working on DXCC for HF with 84 countries confirmed. I enjoy building, talking about, and dreaming up new antennas as well.

#### Antennas:

Top antenna "home-brew" 16 element yagi for 222Mhz. Next antenna on the stack Cushcraft 719B 19 element boomer for 432Mhz. Loop yagis for 902Mhz (33 elements) and 1296Mhz (45 elements). Bottom antenna 124B Cushcraft 4 element boomer for 144MHz. A CDR rotator was used to turn the stack.

#### Equipment: (left to right)

##### On the stove:

(2) Astron RS-35A power supplies. On top CDR rotator box and RFC2-317 170W amplifier for 144.

##### Portable console: (table top)

Top: IC706mkII transceiver (used for IF for 222 and 902/1296), Kenwood TM-455A 70cm all-mode transceiver.

Second row: Down East Microwave (DEMI) 222-28 transverter, DEMI 902-144 transverter, DEMI 1296-144 transverter.

Bottom row: Mirage 120W 222 amplifier, DEMI TIB transverter interface for 28Mhz IF used with 222-28, and RFC4-310 100W amplifier for 432.

Other equipment included Vectronics keyer and bencher paddle for 432, Bencher paddle for 902/1296, and 35W amplifier for 1296 and (2) AOS-144 transverter interfaces. A notebook computer running NA was used to log contacts.

## Cherry Bomb

By Les, KØBAD

Mountain bike racing and road touring events in Winona on Sunday, August 15, were both coordinated by Amateur Radio operators on the '64 repeater. Neither event knew of the other until that day, but all went well. Some of us were concerned about "SAG 4" from the Twin Cities group that coordinated the touring event, however.

The Cherry Bomb mountain bike race came off without a hitch again this year. It is always a pleasure to provide communications for this well-run event (besides, I like their shirts!) As usual, NØWE and KBØSAA did an excellent job of coordinating our participation in this event.



## Minutes WARC, Inc. August 19, 1999

Meeting was called to order at 19:02 by Ed, W5TWR. Minutes of the June, 1999 meeting were published in the HAMGRAM. There were no questions or correction of the minutes made.

Treasurers report, by Lance, KB0YJU:

Starting Balance:	\$1,683.83
Expenditures:	\$124.34
Collections:	\$110.00
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Ending Balance:	\$1,669.95

Equipment insurance is due 10-1-1999. Jim, AA9BB moved and Jim, KB0THN, seconded to accept the treasurers report.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There was no packet committee report.

**ATV Committee:** Gary, N0OWS has the ATV receive antenna installed on his towers.

**Voice Repeater:** Erik, WB0NIU, spoke about planned work on the repeaters. Since Joe, KB0VUR changed his QTH to Florida, it was suggested that the Joe tone project be moved to the 146.835 repeater.

Gary, N0OWS moved and Jim, KB0THN seconded to move the Joe tone to the 146.835 repeater. Motion passed.

The 835 will be out of service for 1 week starting about September 5, 1999. Jim, KB0THN will help with the project.

At the club picnic, Walt, KE0XI won the grid dip meter and Bill Green won the antenna.

Gary, N0OWS reminded the club that the swap fest is September 18th in the Hampshire brands parking lot.

Clare, K0NY move and Les, K0BAD seconded that W0NE and WB0BDI QSL cards for \$15. Motion passed.

Ed, W5TWR, asked about comment on Field Day. Jim, KB0THN said that it would be better if there was a logging computer for the Novice-Tech Plus station. The computers should be linked.

Jerry, WA0X , moved and Jim, AA9BB seconded to wait til next meeting to place an order for shirts, hats, and sweatshirts. Motioned passed.

Wally, KB0TYC handed out old copies of the WARC handbook.

Clare, K0NY, invited everybody to his house for the Goodview Days Parade.

Walt, KE0XI moved to seek funds for the new 146.64 repeater controller and other unspecified project. The motion was not seconded.

Sue, N9XGS moved and Les, K0BAD, seconded that the Finance Committee be in charge of fund raising. Motion passed.

Jim, AA9BB announced the formation of Trempleau County Amateur Radio Society. He also asked for QCWA info.

Gary, N0OWS moved that field day and the annual picnic be combined on the field day weekend. Motion passed.

Walt, KE0XI moved and Erik, WB0NIU seconded that the non-annual picnic be held in July on the night of the meeting. Motion passed.

Dr. Tom, KA0MLO, was honored for his work as field day publicist.

Jim, KB0THN move for adjournment. Passed.

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