

Hamgram

April 2017

Winona Amateur Radio Club
Winona, Minnesota

NØJP recognized for 47 years as NCS



ARRL Section Officials, along with Winona Amateur Radio Club members, honored Ken Spittler, NØJP, April 1 for his 47 years as Net Control Station for the Minnesota Section Net. Section Manager Skip Jackson, KSØJ, Section Traffic Manager Robert Meyer, WØLAW, and Assistant Section Manager Brian Mc Inerney, NØBM, presented Spittler with a plaque in honor of his long service.

"He ran a great net that was very efficient and he was a great mentor," noted Mitch Schultz, WBØGKH. And he's still working, said Claire Jarvis, KØNY, "running the go-to-work net in the mornings."

NØJP explained his retirement is due to difficulty getting to his shack. The only other excuse he used was when net duties conflicted with his wedding anniversary, Delores, KØNUO, winning that contest.



Get out the tux, the top hat and a sash, you are an ambassador! Maybe add an umbrella because you and the rest of us in the Winona Amateur Radio Club are officially NOAA Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors™.

According to Dan Goltz, WKØW, the Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador initiative is an effort to formally recognize NOAA partners who are improving the nation's readiness against extreme weather, water, and climate events. As a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador, the club is committing to work with NOAA and other Ambassadors to strengthen national resilience against extreme weather.

Learn more about Weather-Ready Nation at www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/force.html

As persons interested in the weather and being trained storm spotters club members are positioned to set an example for being "weather-ready" (e.g., making employee preparedness a priority and having a disaster plan); promoting Weather-Ready Nation key messages in outreach activities; and sharing success stories with NOAA.

Conversations

We live in a technological universe in which we are always communicating. Our radios make it possible to contact people on every continent and yet we have sacrificed conversation for mere connection. Sure, we exchange calls, signal reports and, if we push it, find out what radios and antennas are involved, but rarely do we *converse* with the other Ham.

One of my favorite contacts was on an afternoon when I heard a German Ham calling CQ on 20m. I gave my call and he came right back. I expected a quick exchange – call, QTH and signal strength – followed by scores of American Hams clamoring for that piece of DX. But the guy kept talking with me. We found – through conversation – that we both live in cities on major rivers, he on the Rhine, me on the Mississippi, and that we had many things in common. It was a great conversation and it was clear ("5-9") and interesting. After signing off I ran, jumped and hollered my way

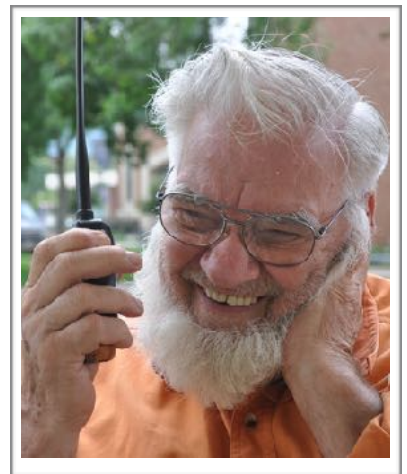
through the house exclaiming my joy at meeting this very interesting German! The conversation made Ham radio more exciting for me and more like the Ham radio that first interested me 57 years ago.

Idle chit-chat is a big turn-off to a lot of folks who would otherwise be interested in the Ham radio, but thankfully there are ways for the mic-shy to get on the air and truly converse.

Making conversation can be difficult. Sometimes you feel shy, or maybe you don't have much in common with the person you're talking to. Learning to become a good conversationalist is not difficult, but it does require some practice. There are many easy conversation starters for you once you've given the signal report:

Strike a positive tone. Offering a cheerful comment is usually more effective than saying something negative.

It takes at least two people to have a great conversation. Do your part and actively participate in the



discussion. Ask questions that allow the discussion to develop naturally. Instead of "It's a nice day, isn't it?" say, "How are you planning to enjoy this beautiful weather?" Ask questions that require more than one word.

Many Hams have developed life-long friendships with other Hams simply because they had conversations so they enriched their lives long past the QSL card.

- Bob Seaquist, W9LSE

WARC Board Meeting

Tues., March 7, 2017, Watkins Hall, Winona State University

Present: Board Members: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, Syed Faruque, ACØVA, Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, Dan Goltz, WKØW, Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, Erik Brom, WBØNIU, Mike Foerster, WØIH.

Non Board Member: John Kowalik, K2OPT, Tom Wilmot, WØMK, Mike Cizek, WØVTT.

Called to order by Paul at around 7 PM.

Before discussion on minutes, Syed made a correction on sent Minutes. Mike, WØIH, was listed as non-board member but is actually on the board. Syed apologized for the error and stated a correction would be made. Minutes were approved with no further correction/changes.

Treasurer report was on hand. Lance mentioned we should be sending \$75 Rooster's Ridge for 835 APRS and Repeater access. The amount has already been approved. Paul mentioned we should have a budget amount for listserv use.

Lance mentioned we also should have standing budget for domain name access. Lance mentioned we should add \$ 200 a year for liability insurance. Syed mentioned \$ 100 for both parties (summer picnic and holiday party). Harro mentioned we pay \$ 70 for keeping the P.O. Box at Post Office. Harro also disclosed that he found \$ 6 discrepancy in the Treasury report he is carrying for a long time. Last September Harro had a mistake on deposit and that was the reason for \$ 6 discrepancy. Treasury report as submitted was approved.

Board approved Dan's expense of WiresX box. It was stated that WiresX expense was already approved in previous meetings. Paul thanked Dan for making the purchase.

Board then discussed acquisition of ICOM 7300 for Witoka Tower. Mike explained the Witoka status. Mike mentioned we will not need another tuner but only the radio. Board discussed more on ICOM 7300 and the

purchase of ICOM 7300 Radio to be used in Witoka Tower for remote operation. Harro mentioned half of the cost of the Radio has already been donated by members. Lance explained club does not have sales tax exemption. Forms to get sales tax exemption were never filed. John, K2OPT, suggested to add extended warranty based on his experience of ICOM. Board decided not to pursue sales tax exemption. Syed mentioned although club is funding the ICOM 7300, we should still be seeking donation for the radio. Finally the purchase of ICOM 7300 was approved. Paul will arrange to order the radio.

Paul mentioned our Skywarn callout list no longer functions because we terminated our executive listserv. There will be additional few dollars cost to add Skywarn to our existing listserv. Dan stated Skywarn callout has been very successful in the past. In short time, everybody could be notified and that is mighty help in emergencies. Dan mentioned callout could be used for other events not necessarily only for weather. Syed asked Paul how much is additional cost and Paul replied it will add \$ 2 to our monthly bill. Syed moved to approve addition of costs and board approved addition of Skywarn callout to current cost. Paul stated new list will be generated and people will need to sign up for new Skywarn callout. Dan /Paul will work together to get the names of people interested. The information needed will be cell phone number and cell phone provider.

Mike, WØVTT, announced the program for Service Award to Ken for his Service of Net Control Station for MN Traffic net for last 47 years. Few distinguished guests of ARRL are coming to town for the award. Award ceremony is set for Sat., April 1, during our regularly scheduled breakfast meeting at Winona Family Restaurant. Paul will send an announcement in reflector and also same during upcoming club meeting.

Two-meter simplex net standard protocol in Vermont

Vermont has set a 2 Meter Vermont Simplex Frequency to be used as a central gathering point for potential emergency/disaster response situations -- 146.490 MHz. The Central Vermont Amateur Radio Club has been using this frequency to meet on after their Sunday evening net on the local repeater. They have had great success with it.

The value of having a standard simplex frequency is to have a place to go to in the event that local repeaters are off the air during an emergency or disaster response.



WWW.ARRL.ORG

Take it to the field

We head to the field and test our emergency communication skills Fri-Sun., June 23-25, at FD17, ARRL Field Day. FD coordinator Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, is enlisting volunteers to plan and execute the annual weekend of radio fun and food. In addition, there'll be a refresher of the N1MM logging software and the club radios at the June 15 general membership meeting according to Tagliapietra.

Put Sunday, June 1, on your calendar for Trinona. Once again Winona Amateur Radio Club members will exercise their emergency communication and public service muscles keeping tabs on the swimmers bikers and runners of the community's huge exercise event. To quote event planners, "YES! YES! YES! We would be ecstatic if you would take the lead once again!"

Tornado drill April 20

Minnesota and Wisconsin will have statewide tornado drills starting at 1 p.m., Thursday, April 20. There is expected to be a check-in and net at about 1:30 p.m.

The official Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 17-21.

For more information go to: http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/news/2017/Tornado2017Media_Packet.pdf

WØNE Repeaters

146.640 PL 100.0 Hz *

146.835 PL 131.8 Hz **

444.225 PL 100.0Hz FM Voice C4FM Digital *

442.150, 100 Hz. FM Voice C4FM Digital *

SkyWarn Net when activated.

** Sunday Night Net—8:30 p.m.

Winona Amateur Radio club meetings are 7 p.m., third Thursday of the month at the Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St., Winona. The monthly program is open to the public.

Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. P.O. Box 1451, Winona, MN 55987

President: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, pschumacher@winona.edu

Vice President: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, lancetag@hbc.com

Treasurer: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, Harro@hohenner.com

Secretary: Syed Faruque, ACØVA, sfaruque@yahoo.com

Custodian: Erik Brom, WBØNIU, ewbrom@hbc.com

At Large: Dan Goltz, WKØW; Mike Foerster, WØIH

Dues: \$25 per calendar year per license holder. \$30 per calendar year for all licensed members of the same family within the same household.

Send dues to: Treasurer, P.O. Box 1451, Winona, MN 55987

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