

# Hamgram

April 2018

Winona Amateur Radio Club  
Winona, Minnesota

Something old, something new,  
and something still pretty much new!

## Public service opportunities this Summer and Fall

By Erik Brom, WBØNIU

*Note that these aren't the only public service events, but the ones I to find myself involved in, and some great opportunities to show off Ham Radio.*



### Something Old

#### Trinona - Sunday morning June 10

[www.trinona.com](http://www.trinona.com)

This is a triathlon based in Winona's Lake Park. It starts with a swim in the crystal, clear (except for the weeds, mud, and Carp) Lake Winona, followed by a bike ride, and ending with a foot race. The swim and run are contained in the park and we don't have much involvement in them. The bike ride, though, crosses the lake, and goes up and around the bluffs. We support the SAG wagons and several checkpoints. We generally set up a base station near EMS where we run both

the voice net and APRS. We track the SAG wagons, the sweep motorcycle that follows the last rider, and sometimes we shadow race officials. Activities start very early Sunday morning, and we are generally finished well before noon. This is a great event for both new and experienced hams to participate. If you don't feel comfortable holding down a spot yourself, we can pair you with someone else.

We will discuss this event in detail at the club meeting Thursday, April 19. We are taking sign-ups now. If you can help, let me know.

### Something Still Pretty New

#### Ride the Ridges - Saturday Sept. 15.

Winona Rotary 

# Ride The Ridges



<https://www.ridetheridges.bike>

This is our third year of involvement, the second in a major way. This is a fundraiser bicycle tour sponsored by the Winona Rotary Club. Funds raised go to a worthy cause. The ride starts and ends at the Winona Middle School and covers a bit more than 100 miles as far south as the Root River Valley, from Rushford to La Crescent. If you were around between 1985 and 1995, it's very similar to the Sugarloaf Classic. There are quite a few rest stops and sag wagons that we support. It's an all day event and takes quite a bit of support. The communications challenge is the valleys where even cell phone coverage is minimal. Last year we spent a lot of time planning and setting things up, both voice and APRS. Our customers (the Rotary Club) were very happy with what we did, but we came up with some lessons learned to improve for this year. I think this year's operation will be similar to last year's, although planning is just starting. It's an all-day event, but individual operators don't need

## Club meeting

7 p.m. Thurs. April 19

- ❖ A **Trinona** official will explain the event's needs and our club's participation.
- ❖ **Field Day** is about two months away; preparations must start now.

Continued next page

## Summer, Fall opportunities

Continued from page one to participate all day. We can work in shifts as needed. Once again, operators of all skill levels are appreciated. We will find a position that works for you. Although voice communications is the most important part, I'm going to see if we can expand the use of APRS messaging as our "learning experience" this year.

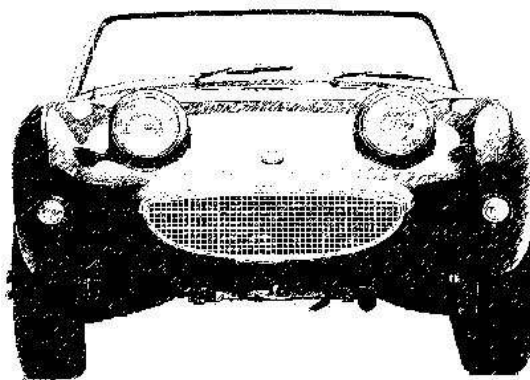
And, just one week later.....

### Something New

#### Minnesota Austin-Healey Club Waumandee Hill Climb - Sept. 22 (or 23)

<http://www.mnhealey.com/mnhealey/index.htm>

We were contacted last fall, via our website, by this club looking for communications support. It's a time-trial where various classic cars (I'm not sure if that's exactly the right term) climb a hill near Waumandee, Wis., one at a time, trying for the best time. I understand that actual times are kept secret until the end of the day. Dan Goltz, WKØW, Marv Rodvold, KD9GJV, and I met with the organizer last fall to check it out. The major traffic to be passed is that the person with the stopwatch at the top needs to know exactly when the car starts at the bottom. Secondly, there are a number of observers at various points up the hill watching for problems. Depending on the route, there may be more than one racer on the course at a time, and in case of a problem with the first one, some warning needs to be provided to the second one. The road is closed to traffic during the race, and an ambulance and tow-truck are standing by. Last year they used FRS walkie-talkies, apparently



with not-so-good success. For us, though, the actual RF part of the communications doesn't look to be much of a challenge. I think we will set up a mobile/base station at the top with a vertical antenna. Everything else needs to be handhelds. However, it sounds like it will be a long day with just a break for lunch. I think the challenge will be logistics of having people at all of the operating points all day, and keeping radios, especially handhelds, going all day. It is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 22, but will be pushed to Sunday in case of rain. I volunteered to organize this. We will start serious planning shortly as soon as the route is determined. This is going to be a learning experience for all of us and a chance to look at some cool cars that like to go fast!

## Club remote adds to HF fun

By Mike Forester, WØIH

All WARC club members have another very fine radio and antenna system to use. It's the club's Icom IC-7300 HF radio at the Witoka tower. This radio is available to all Winona Amateur Radio Club members at no cost included as a part of your membership. The IC-7300 is available for listening or transmitting on most of the HF bands. Both SSB and CW are available.

The IC-7300 radio is an HF rig that is installed at the Witoka Tower and is currently connected to a 160 meter dipole fed with 450 line. The rig uses the club's automatic tuner and consequently allows access to all of the Ham Bands 10 through 80. Presently it's not working too well on 160.

The radio controls are accessed on your Windows PC (free) or an optional Android app (\$10). Sorry, there is no supported on IOS or Linux. The controls on a PC are quite easy to use and it's almost as though the radio is sitting in front of you:

The full detailed installation, sign-up and operating instructions are in a PDF format, located on the WONE.com website at: <http://www.wOne.org/woslashne-remote-station.html>

One of the nice things about the IC-7300 is that it has a graphical display that you even have access to the display though your computer's browser. This is made available using a USB camera in front of the radio. You can see the signals on the band and the radio's responses as you transmit.

If you haven't tried it, or not used it lately, give it a try and have some HF fun.



# WARC Board Meeting

Feb. 2018 (There was no March board meeting)

Watkins Hall, Winona State University

Attendance: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Dan Goltz, WKØW; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Tom Wilmot, WØMK; Mike Foerster, WØIH; Erik Brom, WBØNIU; Paul Degallier, ADØUU; John Kowalik, K2OPT;

Meeting brought to order by Paul, KØZYV

January minutes approved

Treasurer's report approved

Balance on 1/31/2018 \$2223.14

Deposits:

Dues/contribution \$85.00

Balance at Merchants Bank \$2308.14

Paul, ADØUU, gave a WIRES-X presentation to the board, highlighting the features and capabilities of the mode, and local availability. The Witoka 440 repeater is WIRES-X configured. The possibilities for implementing at the Winona 440 repeater were discussed. Getting support for this at the LEC/Emergency management office was also suggested.

## Committee Reports:

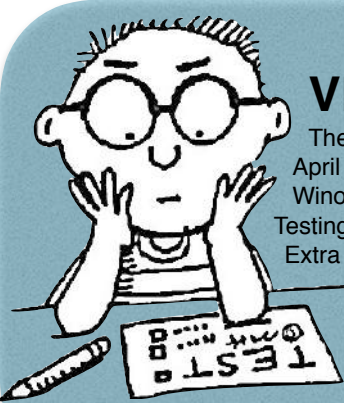
**Education committee.** KØZYV reported the spring radio class is under way with three students.

**Repeater committee.** KØZYV reported the batteries were replaced at the '64 repeater. Thanks to KBØTHN for their donation. There are several items that the committee is looking at to improve the remote and remote monitoring.

**Public service committee.** WKØW asked if there is WARC stationary. It doesn't look like any was ever created. We are still looking for a long term and climate controlled storage facility for club equipment.

WKØW moved that a \$100 memorial be made for the oldest son of NØJP and NØNUO who recently passed. Seconded by WBØNIU. Motion passed on voice vote.

Meeting adjourned about 8:30 p.m.

## VE Testing

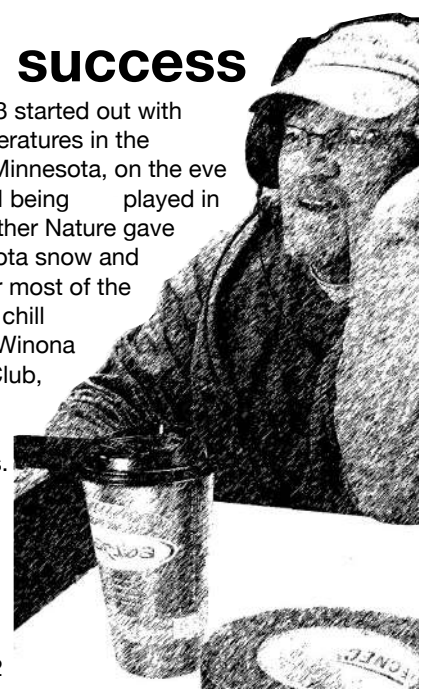
There will be VE Testing 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, in room 105, Watkins Hall, Winona State University.

Testing will be for Technician, General and Extra licenses.

Notify Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, at least five days in advance if you plan to test. Contact him at [PSchumacher@winona.edu](mailto:PSchumacher@winona.edu)

# MNQP success

Saturday Feb. 3 started out with single digit temperatures in the northern half of Minnesota, on the eve of Super Bowl LII being played in Minneapolis. Mother Nature gave northern Minnesota snow and blowing snow for most of the day. This did not chill members of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, again making its mark among Multi Op stations. WONE made 151 SSB contacts, tallied 63 multipliers and made 19026 points.



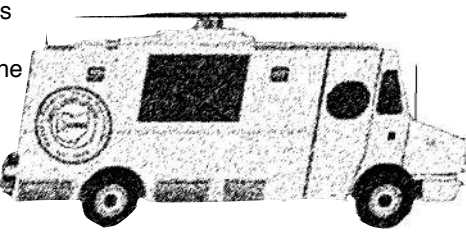
There were 312 MNQP entrants, easily setting a new participation level, surpassing the previous high in 2013. Of the 312 logs, 122 Minnesota stations submitted logs, and 190 operators submitted non-Minnesota logs.

Club members participating included: Paul Degallier, ADØUU (who also supplied his garage for the operation); Peter Ebertowski, KDØYOB; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; John Kowalik, K2OPT; Dick Lindner, WØRIF; Russ Marsolek, NØQK; Marv Rodvold, KD9GJV; Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; and Tom Wilmot, WØMK.

# Hamvention coming May 18

The one event on almost every Ham's bucket-list is Dayton Hamvention. It will be here in about a month from May 18-20. For many years it has been the world's largest amateur radio gathering, attracting hams from throughout the globe.

Car loads of Hams head to Dayton (now Zenia, Ohio, near Dayton) for what is a World's Fair of Amateur Radio.



Hamvention is famous for acres of flea market and the latest and greatest from the manufacturers. There's more such as Contest University; seminars representing all aspects of Amateur Radio; Four Days In May (for the QRP set); banquets; and a special emphasis this year on EMComm.

For more information go to: <http://hamvention.org/>

# Fishin' luck and tryin' fishin'

By Patrick Moretti, KA1RB

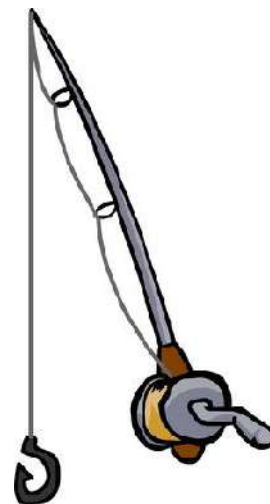
So... These two fellows were talking about their fishing experience that day. The one guy, let's call him Duffus, was complaining that the lake didn't have any fish in it... the other guy, let's call him Ruffus, was surprised. He opened his fridge and showed Duffus the bag full of fish he had caught that day. Duffus just sat there looking at the number of fish that had been caught and made a comment that Ruffus had probably emptied the lake!

Ruffus replied that he had thrown back in twice the amount that he had on display. "How can that be?" asked Duffus. "I don't know" replied Ruffus, "what are you using to catch the fish?" ... There was a long pause, then Duffus said "I just scanned for the fish with my new electronic fish finder - it scans all the different levels in the water and pinpoints any fish that are in the water. There were none in the whole lake!" "What kind of bait did you use?" asked Ruffus... another long pause "I didn't use any bait - I didn't even throw a line in - what would be the use when there were no fish?" replied Duffus.

Ruffus shook his head... "The water condition right now is so muddy, no fish finder is going to give you relief information. You have to throw a line in!"

OK - I'm stretching things a little here, but I heard a similar conversation at a recent Hamfest! "The bands are dead - I scanned everywhere and heard nothing but noise!" "oh really? I made over 200 contacts just this last week-end... where were you calling CQ?" "I didn't call CQ... there were no signals!"

We have turned into a population of listeners. Hardly anyone is actually calling CQ and that's too bad, because the bands are noisy and hard to work, but they are workable! If you take the time to call CQ everything is open at one time or another during the day/night. Just get out there and put some bait on your hook and sling it into the water! I know you will be rewarded!



**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

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Vice President: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, [lancetag@hbc.com](mailto:lancetag@hbc.com)

Treasurer: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, [Harro@hohenner.com](mailto:Harro@hohenner.com)

Secretary: Clare Jarvis, KØNY, [cjarvis@hbc.com](mailto:cjarvis@hbc.com)

Custodian: Erik Brom, WBØNIU, [ewbrom@hbc.com](mailto: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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