

# Hamgram

August 2018

Winona Amateur Radio Club  
Winona, Minnesota

## Bikes, Austin-Healeys and radios



**C**reaky, dottering, English automobiles as well as a group of other 30+ year old vehicles will be snarling up 2.3 miles, 18 turns and a 430-foot ascent and members of the Winona Amateur Radio Club will be there for the Minnesota Austin Healey Club Waumandee hill climb Sat. Sept. 22.

"This is going to be a challenge for us," according to Erik Brom, WBØNIU. Club members will provide communications for the hill climb.

The event is planned for County Road EE northeast from Waumandee, Wis. and it is rapid-fire requiring our best Amateur Radio communication abilities. Hams will be stationed at the bottom, at the top, several checkpoints between plus one will be in a roaming speed radar speed trap on the return road.

Everyone will have to be sure of the power situation for their handhelds and have spare power packs.

The automobile excitement is punctuated by a catered lunch and dinner for volunteers. And, if you're interested, a roaring trip up the hill in one of the cars.



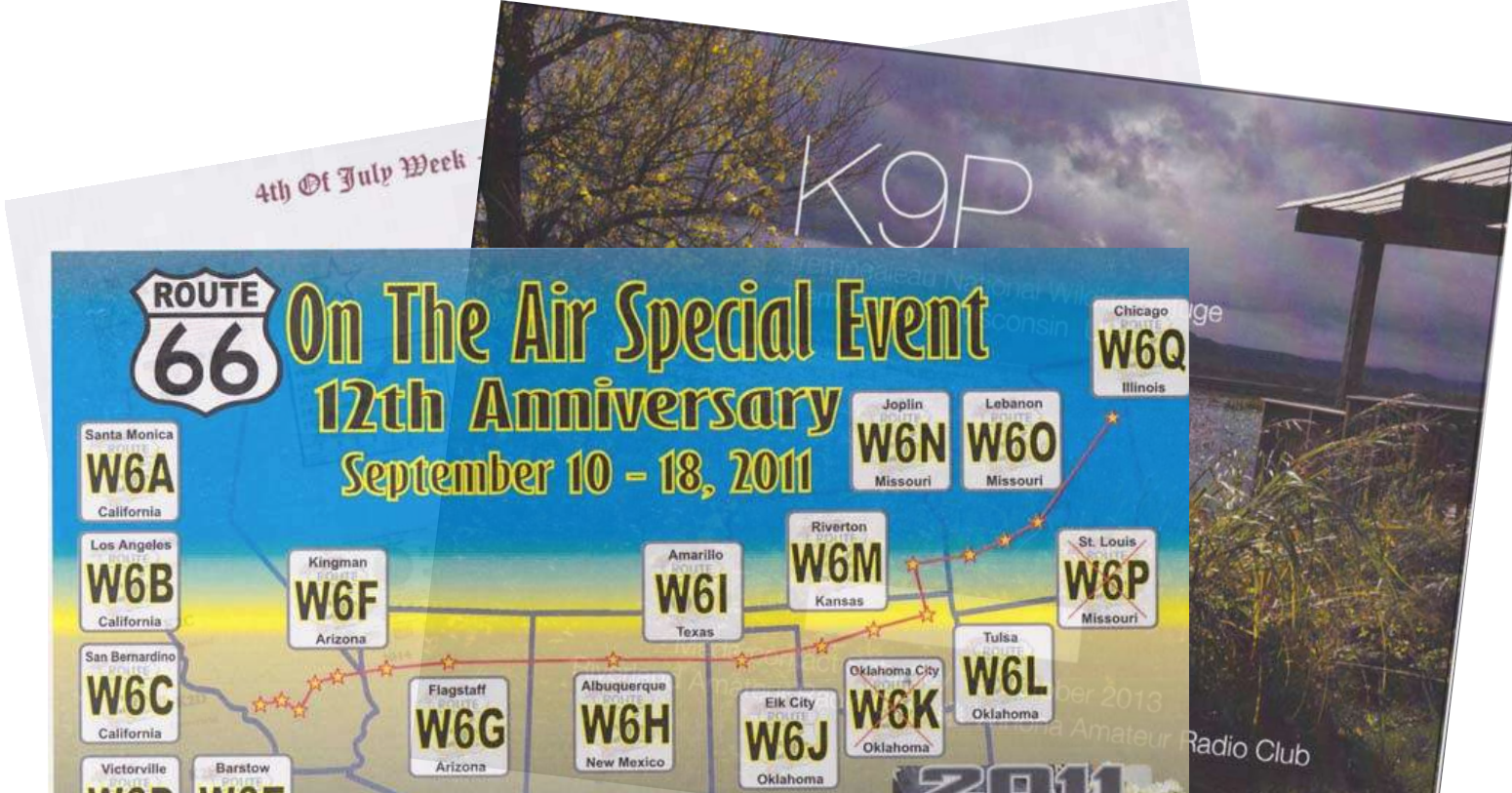
**B**icycles scattered over Southeastern Minnesota will be monitored for the third consecutive year by members of the Winona Amateur Radio Club Sat. Sept. 15, for the Ride The Ridges bike ride. The event is the major fund raiser for Winona Rotarians with the money donated back to the community. Providing communications is a huge undertaking for our club as the course covers an area from Winona to Houston to La Crescent and back to Winona.

There are six rest stops to man, three SAG wagons, the ride coordinator, the middle school, a net control and a floater. Last year this required 13 hams, several starting at 5:30 a.m., and finishing by 4 p.m. This year the start should be a little later as vehicles will be set up the night before.

To make communication work there will be APRS, remote digipeaters, Igates, the Witoka UHF repeater, the La Crescent VHF repeater, live APRS mapping into the car of the ride coordinator, and, finally, a 60 inch monitor at the middle school showing the maps and where the SAG wagons, ride coordinator, and our floater were in real time via APRS.

We will coordinate our activities with the Winona County Sheriff's Department SOAR team using their public service radios use cell phones and text messaging. "Our goal has been, and continues to be, get the message where it has to go, by whatever means needed," says Erik Brom, WBØNIU. "We are communicators. We can make this ride better and safer by being good communicators."





## The special place in radio for special events

By Bob Seaquist, W9LSE

One of radio's joys arrived in my mail the other day, the "clean sweep" certificate from the Original 13 Colonies Special Event. I've gotten better special event certificates if you're talking about designs, but this one signifies contacting 14 stations over the five or so days of the event.

Special event stations are one way to spice up your amateur radio fun, getting you away from the tiresome "check-ins" with the various nets. Special events require some searching, some patience, and then some push-through-a-pile-up persistence.

The Winona Amateur Radio Club has experience running a nice special event, the annual Shakespeare Festival special event station N2B. It'd set up during the festival. There'd be a radio and some club members hopefully calling "CQ."

Another of the local special events was the National Wildlife Refuge Week Special Event station K2P held at the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge with the Riverland Amateur Radio Club of La Crosse. This was neat because, for a couple of the years, a dozen or so other wildlife refuges also had activations.

A magazine article about the wildlife refuges got me started on special events. Some of the other guys also were excited and, for several years, we spent fine October days at the refuge fielding calls.

The challenge of chasing special events came from Ken Spittler, NØJP, who talked about the Route 66 On The Air Event (this year Sept. 8-16; <http://w6jbt.org/>) in which you try to contact all 20-or-so W6\* stations.

The 13 Colonies event is much like the Route 66 event because the search for each of the stations is difficult. Sometimes very difficult! Of course you have to find them first, and with different clubs running the different K2\* stations there are times when no one is operating, or the operator is only doing CW or running in Extra-only portions of the bands. Crummy propagation is an obvious challenge and battling the immense pile-ups with only 100 watts is hard.

So, with all these challenges why chase special events? Getting a pretty certificate is nice and often looks pretty on the shack wall; for me it's that I prove to myself that my Ham radio operating skills are good enough to succeed.

### Core strength

A lack of core strength can cause your body to want to slouch at the operating position. Slouching at the operating position is bad for your back, shoulders, and neck, and causes pain. Pain can hinder your operating enjoyment and limit your operating time. Too much pain, and your body will start to compensate by trying to use other muscles to sit in other bad positions -- which can cause other parts of your body to have pain. Avoid entering this vicious cycle by keeping your core strong. While there are plenty of how-to's for core strengthening, none of the good ones are performed while sitting in a chair.

# WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2018, Watkins, Winona State University

**Present:** Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Erik Brom, WBØNIU; Dan Goltz, WKØW; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Mike Foerster, W0IH. Guests: John Kowalik, K2OPT; Marv Rodvold, KD9GJV; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE.

**Treasurer's Report** for July 2018

Balance on 6/30/2018 \$2183.14  
Balance as reported by Merchants Bank \$2,183.14

**Minutes:** Not available

## Public Service Committee

- Attended County Emergency Preparedness meeting
- Thanked by Commissioner Pomeroy; has heard good things about our group.
- County Fair communications trouble: Winona County Emergency Manager Ben Klinger has a plan to fix that using amateur radio operators as net control.
- September table top exercise with railroad. This is a precursor to a full exercise. WARC will be invited to participate.
- Preparing for Ride the Ridges and Waumandee Hill climb.
- Notified by Yaesu that there is a software upgrade for the WIRES-X box that the club owns at Witoka. Recommended that this be done as soon as possible.
- Plans for later in the fall: demonstration of amateur radio capability for emergency management and dispatch.
- Later this month, will be meeting with Emergency Manager to discuss preparedness and response.
- Emergency Manager has been in contact with county attorney regarding our use of the Witoka tower. In the

interim, we have an email from the Emergency Manager allowing us use of the facility. It does not spell out what we may and may not do there, but we will not be shot as trespassers for being there.

- Ben Klinger is looking to take the technician exam in October

**Web:** The club Web site has not been transferred to [QTH.com](http://QTH.com) yet. Marv will be Webmaster once it is restored.

**Waumandee:** There is a need for 12 Hams at the hill climb Sept. 22 though Erik would prefer to have 14. He asks for club members to do a little recruiting.

**Repeaters:** planning is continuing on the repeater interconnect project. Marv estimates (roughly) it will cost about \$800. Permission to climb Witoka must be obtained from the county.

**Membership:** Paul would like an accounting of who is a member and who thinks he or she is a member but who has not paid dues. He would like the club to be more active in collecting dues (nicely).

**Equipment loan:** John suggests the club loan its IC718 on a short-term basis to new Hams so they may taste the excitement of HF. A policy must be developed first.

**Witoka:** Mike reports there is a repeater, antennas and cavities that could be used as a portable repeater. Also, he would like permission to Mike, W0VTT, to climb the tower and install the beam antenna.

## Ham radio may be at “the dawn of its greatest era”

The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) believes that Amateur Radio innovation is alive and well. “Amateur research and innovation is far from over; indeed, we may well be at the dawn of its greatest era,” the UK’s International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member-society concluded in an RSGB 2022 strategy narrative posted on its website.

“In an age where the costs of commercial equipment can be as little as [about \$25] for a new and capable VHF/UHF FM handheld, some may wonder if the incentive to experiment and construct may have withered,” RSGB observed. “However, the sheer variety and low cost of equipment, sophisticated parts, free software, and the advent of SDR [(software-defined radio) have] created unprecedented opportunities for those inclined to dabble, hack, and innovate. Across all our bands, we have already witnessed the rise in digital modes, software, and advanced equipment.”

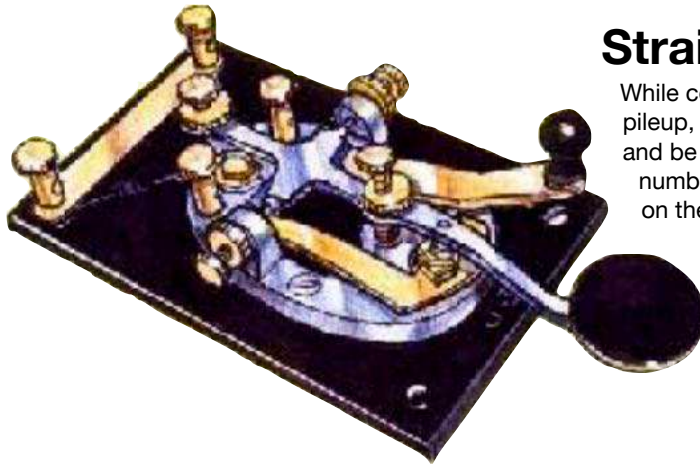


## You, you and you

Finding new members - make it your personal task to recruit at least two new people into Amateur Radio! Just think about it select a target audience and see if at least two of those folks can join into the excitement that Amateur Radio can generate!

## Paid your dues?

Do you consider yourself a member of the Winona Amateur Radio Club? Have you paid this year's dues? Memberships are a very inexpensive \$25 (one year free for new Hams). Check with Harro, KG6RLM, [Harro@hohenner.com](mailto:Harro@hohenner.com) to see if you're in good standing.



## Straight through a pileup

While competing for a contact with other stations in a pileup, you want your signal to be distinctive, to stand out, and be easier to copy than other stations. There are a number of ways to achieve this and the best one depends on the operator and pileup. In a receiver pass band of computer-generated CW, artisanal hand-sent CW can sometimes be enough of a differentiator to make it through before others. Remember, the objective is for the other operator to copy your signal quickly and effectively, so make sure you're sending excellent well-formed elements.

### 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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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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Distribution to individual members by USPS is available upon request. Editor: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE. Address comments and Hamgram correspondence to: Bob Seaquist, 202 Zephyr Circle, La Crosse, Wis. 54601 or [seaquist.robe@eagle.uwlax.edu](mailto:seaquist.robe@eagle.uwlax.edu) Monthly club programs are held on the third Thursday. The submission deadline for the Hamgram is Wednesday of the week prior to that of the club programs

