

The Hamgram

January 2022



Club loses longtime member

Erik Brom, WBØNIU, SK



ERIK BROM, WBØNIU, LOGS FOR NØJP, SK, WHEN THE WINONA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WAS W1AW/Ø AT THE ARRL'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

Erik William Brom, 62, WBØNIU, became a silent key Dec. 23, 2021.

He was a Winona native who graduated from the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Computer Science. In 1982, Erik started his own company, Brom Micro Systems, which he was actively involved with until his death. From 1983 he worked at Lake Center Industries (currently named BCS) and spent 38 years as a Software Design

Engineer for automotive HVAC and “center stack” control. In 2016, he started a second business, Goodview Haven, with his family home as a retreat home.

Erik got his license for Amateur Radio in 1975 and belonged to the Winona Amateur Radio Club, where he served on the board as Trustee. He enjoyed the Saturday morning breakfasts held by the club, discussing Amateur Radio and beyond. Throughout his life, he also had an interest in model railroading. He volunteered many hours at the Winona County Historical Society to provide technical support and volunteered and served in various ministries at the Cathedral of Sacred Heart in Winona, including videography, Eucharistic Minister, and Handbell Choir member.

Erik belonged to many organizations, including Minnesota Transportation Museum, Minnesota Street Car Museum, Riverside & Great Northern Railway, Chicago and North Western Historical Society, American Radio Relay League, Winona County Historical Society, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and countless other organizations to which he generously donated his innumerable talents.

He is survived by his wife, Jodi (Matejka) Brom, his daughter, Emily (Brom) Smithley and her husband, Philip, of Winona; two grandchildren, Lola and Oliver; one aunt, Jean Gardner of Winona; one mother-in-law, Jeannette Matejka of Rochester, MN; and five cats.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at the Cathedral of Sacred Heart, 360 Main Street Winona, at 11 a.m. Sat., Jan. 15. A gathering will take place afterward in Holy Family Hall. Make gifts in his memory to either the Winona Amateur Radio Club Inc. (P.O. Box 1451, Winona, MN, 55987), or the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart (360 Main Street, Winona, MN, 55987).



National Weather Service image

Historic storm rips area Dec. 15

HEARTLAND, MN AFTER THE HISTORIC DEC. 15 STORM.

Historic storms and strong winds Dec. 15-16 brought Minnesota's only December tornadoes amid 15 tornados, and another unique event, a serial Derecho. An extremely unusual weather net was on the air for the storms. The efforts were appreciated according to Dan Goltz, WKØW. "Thank you to everyone who checked into the net. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by the weather service and emergency management," said Goltz. "The reports were clear, concise, and relevant," he added. Russ Marsolek, NØQK, was net control, and Clare Jarvis, KØNY NCS backup.

Many emergency sirens did not sound because 12 county sirens had been put into hibernation mode for the winter and their batteries removed, as is usual procedure each winter.

"Your teamwork allowed for as much early warning as possible and saved lives," noted Ben Klinger, KEØTNM, Emergency Management Coordinator, Winona County Sheriff's Office.

The National Weather Service confirmed two tornadoes in Winona County, one in Wyattville, the other on Homer Ridge. In addition, tornadoes were also confirmed in Fillmore and Houston Counties to

our south, and several other counties. In all, there were 18 confirmed tornadoes in the La Crosse weather service forecast area.

"It was a long lived line of thunderstorms that had, again, a lot of reports of very strong winds: 70-90 miles per hour," said Todd Shea, KB9YXS, of the La

Crosse National Weather Service. "Then we had these embedded tornadoes that made the impact greater and the challenge of warning greater."

"It was a very historic and rare storm for December," Shea said. "You know, when you

take record warmth in the middle of December, and you add just a very strong weather system. It had a lot of energy with it, a lot of wind."

Derechos have to have at least 58 mph winds, with damage extending over 250 miles. This is the first time on record that a Derecho has occurred in December.

“ Your teamwork allowed for as much early warning as possible and saved lives

WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022, via Zoom



Attendees: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; Dan Goltz, WKØW; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Mike Foerster, WØIH; Tom Wilmot, WØMK; Ben Kuhn, KUØHN; Sam Resto, KFØACN.

Called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Paul Schumacher, KØZYV

Minutes: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE. *Approved.*

Treasurer: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM. *Approved*

Balance on 11/30/2021 \$4,498.73

Expense:

WØIH: antenna and related expense \$298.43

Balance as reported by bank \$4,259.70

Brom Memorial fund: Dan Goltz, WKØW. Jodie Brom suggested we donate to the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart sound system.

Dues: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, will send club dues reminder via reflector

Board positions: (Dan/Clare: **MOTION: re-elect incumbents.**) *Approved*

President: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV

V-President: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT

Secretary: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE

Treasurer: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM

The board elected Mike Foerster, WØIH, Trustee

Liaison: Named as liaison to events: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, Trinona; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO, and Ben Kuhn, KUØHN, for the Waumandee Time Trials; Dan Goltz, WKØW, for Ride The Ridges.

Holiday party/January meeting: Dan Goltz, WKØW. The high rate of Covid infections prevents an in person meeting so the club will have a conventional meeting Jan. 20 via Zoom.

Program ideas: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT. WIRES X ADØUU? EZNEC WØVTT? POTA by NØWE? MFJ?? RTR? Flex Radio?

Program meeting set for 8 p.m., Wed Jan 12 via Zoom.

Public Service: Dan Goltz, WKØW. Unprecedented December tornadoes and associated Skywarn activity is principal. The club's link with the NWS, Todd Shea, KB9YXS, of the La Crosse office of the National Weather Service was promoted to chief meteorologist. The promotion's effect on Skywarn training or the Skywarn program is unknown.

I am presenting a program about our communications involvement with the Ride The Ridges event to the Riverland Amateur Radio Club of La Crosse. That club is interested in the continuity of communication over a three county area.

The Winona County Emergency Management tabletop exercise has been rescheduled to Jan. 26. This exercise is designed to walk through the

interoperability of the ARMER communications system with multiple services in an emergency. Amateur radio was not planned in the exercise, but Walt Kelly, KEØXI, and I are invited observers.

Witoka: Mike Foerster, WØIH. We purchased a replacement Hustler G5 Antenna for the Witoka Tower antenna that appears to be going bad. It was \$289.86. The antenna with coax cables, anti-seize for the bolts and spare hardware (in case something drops from 340') is at the Witoka Tower, ready to install at a moment's notice.

Witoka remote was down again in December. I am working on a relay to remotely restart the PC through Erik's Raspberry-Pi. Ben Kuhn, KUØHN, will help to determine which pins are available on the R-Pi. I'm installing a 5v relay (and optically isolated 5v input) using a 3.3v to 5v level converter to protect the R-Pi. The wires are attached to the power switch in the Dell laptop (SPST button), so once the cable from the relay is built, it can be installed. This should allow remotely powering the Dell laptop ON when required (Off/reboot isn't a problem via TeamViewer).

Both Witoka antennas appear to be okay, the Off-Center-Fed Dipole (80-10) and the End-Fed-Half-Wave (160m).

The lockset at the shack is lubed and it's working better.

Other: Dan Goltz, WKØW. Help is needed to conquer the unique proprietary electronics at Goodview Haven. Lance will assist.

DMRC Grant for light trailer: Ben Kuhn, KUØHN. Need second server for backup and config for BBS and mailbox.

Adjourn: 7:56 p.m.



Recharge the club

Winona Amateur Radio Club's low-cost, high value dues are \$30 per calendar year per license holder. \$35 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

Q: What do you call an apology written in dots and dashes? A: Re-Morse Code

Set your calendar

- ~ Winter Field Day, Jan. 29
- ~ MNQP Feb. 5
- ~ FYBO Feb. 5
- ~ WiQP March 13
- ~ Trinona June 12
- ~ ARRL Field Day June 25-26
- ~ Ride The Ridges Sept. 17
- ~ Waumandee Time Trials Sept. 24

WSJT and FT8 improved (again)

The hottest mode in amateur radio, WSJT-X, just released new versions, most recently 2.5.4. The new feature for the ARRL VHF contests is an enhanced macro facility for Tx messages, aimed at making it easier to ask another station to QSY to a new band. There's also a bug fix that repairs a defect that caused occasional crashes when

contacting stations with non-standard call signs. A download link has been posted on the WSJT-X web page at [physics.princeton.edu//pulsar/k1jt/wsjt.html](https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjt.html).



New mode bypasses need to make contacts

Building on the popularity of FT8, a new mode has been announced known as FTG or "FTG" for short. In the words of lead developer Chip Anderson, K1QRP, "This mode eliminates the tiresome need to actually make contacts in order to win awards like DXCC, WAS, and the prestigious Fred Fish 6m award."

He added, "We all know your station could make the contacts if you were there, so why should you be punished just because you have to mow the lawn?"

Once you install the software (a step the developers are hoping to eliminate), you simply enter your location and details about your station - power, frequencies, antennas (optional), etc... after which the software looks at conditions and decides which contacts should go in your log.

There is even the potential to use bands not currently allocated to amateur use, since no transmissions are necessary.

The release of FTG is a stress reducer for anxious hams and a boost to marital harmony. A prominent marriage counsellor for ham operators has seen a dramatic drop in business because "...now you can watch a romantic movie with your wife without pretending to use the bathroom to work a rare DX station. It's a win- win!"



Do not practice until you get it right, practice until you can not get it wrong -N9VE

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

WØNE Repeaters

- 146.640 PL 100.0 Hz *
- 146.835 PL 131.8 Hz ** FM Voice C4FM Digital
- 444.225 PL 100.0Hz FM Voice C4FM Digital
- 442.150 PL 100.0 Hz. FM Voice C4FM Digital
- * SkyWarn Net when activated.
- ** Sundav Nialt Net—8:30 p.m.

Winona Amateur Radio club meetings are 7 p.m., third Thursday of the month on Zoom video conferencing. The monthly program is open to the public. (<https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/3120290434> Password: WarcBoard)



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

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

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

Secretary: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, seaquist.robe@eagle.uwlax.edu

Custodian: Mike Foerster, WØIH, mchllfrstr@gmail.com

At Large: Dan Goltz, WKØW; Clare Jarvis, KØNY

Dues: \$30 per calendar year per license holder. \$35 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

The Hamgram is published monthly by The Winona Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Distribution is via e-mail and the *WØNE.org* Web site. Distribution to individual members by USPS is available upon request. Editor: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE. Address comments and Hamgram correspondence to: Bob Seaquist, W5735 Woodhollow Rd., Holmen, WI 54636 or 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.