

The Hamgram

September 2023



Some of the state's most scenic areas hosted nearly 500 bicyclists Sept. 16 for the ninth Ride The Ridges. About 20 members of the Winona Amateur Radio Club with members of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club of La Crosse provided communication to keep the ride safe and fun for participants. There was thick fog, sun and some thunderstorms.

Hams were at the ride's headquarters, rest stops, SAG wagons, and other support vehicles.

"Scenic," for bicyclists means horribly hilly; for amateur radio operators it means challenging communications so the club uses four repeaters, cell phones, ARMER (Public Service), Digipeaters, Packet (APRS) and whatever else that gets the message through.

Participants included: Karl Bernatz, KFØJMJ; Paul Degallier, ADØUU; Phil Dombroski, KFØLMU; Syed Faruque, ACØVA; Dan Goltz, WKØW; Shawn Hicks, KD9KGQ; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; Rick Kolter, KD9GVS; John Kowalik, K20PT; Russ Marsolek, NØQK; Austin McElmury, KFØLMB; Justin McElmury, KDØBSI; Wayne Oliver, KØWLO; John Roche, KBØELR; Sam Resto, KFØACN; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; Al Rothering, KFØGTF; Lee Schultz, AEØML; Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Ken Weigel, W9GM.



Misty, scenic Ride The Ridges



NET CONTROL PHIL DOMBROSKI, KFØLMU, OPERATING TWO OF FOUR REPEATERS FOR RIDE THE RIDGES.



Dates

- Club meeting, "Winlink," Thurs. Sept. 21
- Waumandee Time Trials Support, Sat Sept 23
- ARRL 2023 Minnesota State Convention, Sat. Oct. 14



Ride The Ridges support



HAMS PAUL DEGALLIER, ADØUU AND LANCE TAGLIAPIETRA, ADØUT.

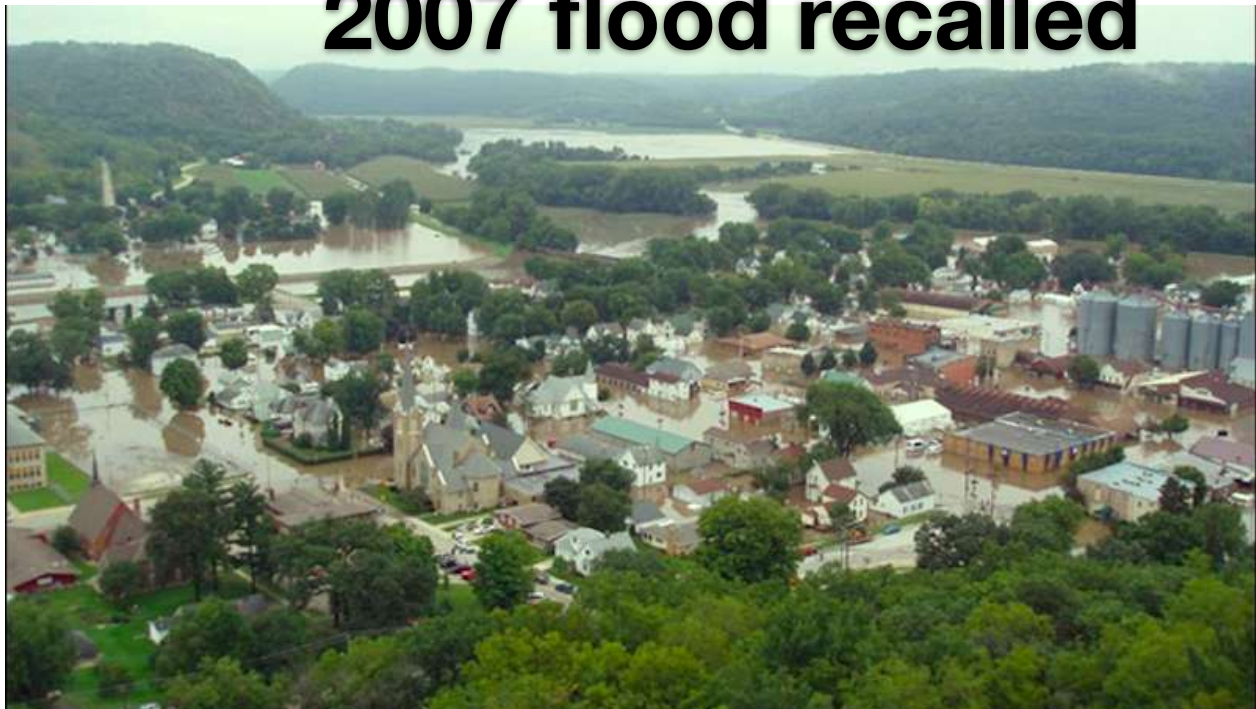


RIDE CHIEF MIKE BERNATZ, DAN GOLTZ, WKØW, AND JOHN ROCHE, KBØELR



SYED FARUQUE, ACØVA, AT THE NEW HARTFORD REST STOP.

2007 flood recalled



THE HISTORIC 2007 FLOOD INUNDATED RUSHFORD. WINONA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERS PROVIDED HOURS OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION DURING THE EVENT.

Rainfall and flooding of historic proportions struck parts of the Upper Mississippi River Valley Saturday, Aug. 18, 2007 continuing through Sunday, Aug. 19. The damage resulted in members of the Winona Amateur Radio Club to respond with communication support. Hams from Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire and La Crosse helped.

Rainfall in excess of 15 inches fell in some areas, with the main swath of heaviest rain centered along a line from Claremont and Rochester, to La Crosse, Viroqua, and Muscoda. [A 24-hour rainfall record was set for the state of Minnesota](#) near Hokah, with 15.10 inches, while unofficial readings may have exceeded 17".

- Hokah, (23.86")
- Spring Grove, (19.87")
- Genoa, (19.80")
- Caledonia, (18.96")
- Winona, (18.84")
- Lanesboro, (17.40")
- La Crosse NWS (17.00")

There were numerous mudslides, roads washed out, and flash flooding that killed 7 people. The community of Rushford was flooded by Rush Creek and infrastructure remained damaged for months. Club members manned an emergency shelter there. Damage costs likely

exceeded \$200 Million.

Due to the training nature of the storms, heavy rain persisted hour after hour across southeast Minnesota into southwest Wisconsin, with rainfall rates of 1 to 2 inches per hour common.



BILL DAVIS, WØMZN

Davis honored with sim lab

Dr. William "Bill" Davis, WØMZN, SK, a longtime Winona physician, is remembered for his dedication to his patients and also his passion for technology and teaching.

Bill was an active member of the Winona Amateur Radio Club up to his death.

When his family wanted to find a meaningful way to share his legacy, they found the perfect fit, a simulation lab for Winona Health.

Bill served as the Chief Medical Information Officer of Winona Health while the hospital implemented electronic records in 2002.

He went to college for electrical engineering (full ride scholarship) but switched to Lutheran ministry and finally headed to medical school.

WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Wednesday, September 6, 2023, via Zoom

Present: Board Members: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT; Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Sam Resto, KFØACN; Marv Rodvold, AC9TO. Guests: Dan Goltz, WKØW; Tom Wilmot, WØMK; Clare Jarvis, KØNY.

Called to order at 7 p.m. by Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT.

Minutes (Published in the August Hamgram): Bob Seaquist, W9LSE. *Approved.*

Treasurer: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM. *Approved*
Balance on 8/1/2023 \$5,768.85

Income:
Dues \$30.00

Expenses:
Bank – Re-order checks \$26.75

Balance reported by bank \$5,772.10

Paid members 32

Trustee: Mike Foerster, WØIH. The tower climber is expected at end the of the month to remove splitters and put up new antennas.

Ben Kuhn, KUØHN, maintained Rooster Ridge APRS equipment and installed a network switch and power injector. The 900MHz radio will need more work.

Sam Resto, KFØACN, is working on the Witoka 900MHz to link the three Yaesu DR-2X repeaters.

Tyler Scott, KFØCQX, is planning Witoka tower work. Mike Cizek, WØVTT, who has done professional climbing, will help. Tyler said that he would get insurance certification to us before the work.

We are not going to do anything with the tower lights. We will replace our antennas on the tower with two, new, Hustler G-6 antennas, along with the 10' lead in cables between the existing heliax and the antenna.

Witoka Surplus Antennas: Consider selling antennas donated to the club last year by Bud Baechler, WBØHFC, including a Cushcraft 11 element 2M beam and the remnants of an HF tri-band beam.

MOTION: Paul/Harro. Sell. Approved.

An apparent power failure at the KAGE tower caused the repeater to use the “EP” tail (Emergency Power).

We responded to a Repeater Council (MN) annual questionnaire.

Public Service: Dan WKØW. The club’s two largest events of the year, Ride The Ridges and the Waumandee Time Trials are in September. Both require the participation of many people, and exercise our ability to provide communications in geographically difficult areas, utilizing equipment not normally used. We also work with amateurs from outside of our club.

The county emergency manager will be in town and plans to observe RTR.

The county command trailer is progressing.

The county mass casualty exercise has been postponed until spring.

On a number of missing person searches Amateur operators used public service radios as communicators in one event. The search occurred in Whitewater park area, where ARMER communications were challenging. Amateur radio would have been called on if the search had lasted longer.

This winter we will move the LEC amateur station to the current dispatch center.

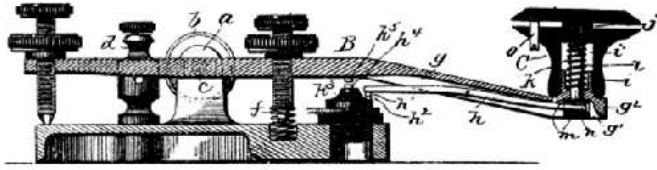
Waumandee Time Trial: Marv Rodvold, AC9TO. Preparations seem to be in good shape.

ADJOURN: 7:42 pm

Review the Morse Code elements and compare them to learning a foreign language:

- You don't have to learn the spelling of words, just memorize a few abbreviations and Q signals.
- There is no sentence diagramming or dangling participles.
- Learning declensions, grammatical inflections or tenses is not needed.
- No pronunciation or umlauts need to be learned.
- And no Morse Code tests will be given!

All in all, learning Morse Code is 75 percent easier than learning a new language!





Ham radio resources

Ham radio has many great resources on the Internet, ones every ham radio operator should have bookmarked. Here are some useful tools:

PSKReporter – Map digital reception reports.

Reverse Beacon Network – Ham stations reporting what stations they hear.

KiwiSDR – Web-based receivers so you may listen to HF frequencies.

WebSDR – Directory of Software-Defined Radio receivers connected to the internet.

WSJT-X – Software that is the primary FT8 software.

GridTracker – This will change your FT8 operating experience!

DXHeat – Allows you to see bands with the most stations from foreign countries.

DXSummit – Another DX cluster.

N3FJP Amateur Radio Software – King of contesting logbooks.

N1MM Logger+ – N1MM is free and works well.

RadioMobile – Predict the coverage of RF.

Proppy – Propagation prediction on a given band.

Voice of America Coverage Analysis Program (VOACAP) – Free professional high-frequency propagation prediction software that lets you see when and where your signal may be heard.



KEØMDW is ARRL scholarship recipient

A college education became a bit more affordable for Luke Rickert, KEØMDW, because he's this year's recipient of ARRL's CTRI, Chris Seeber, KA1GEU, Memorial Scholarship.

Luke now attends Saint Mary's University of Minnesota in Winona majoring in cybersecurity.

Though the application process was a long one Luke hopes to re-apply for an amateur radio scholarship again.

General Class license study

Increase your radio knowledge, get on the HF bands and contact hams around the world!

The Maple Grove Radio Club will run General Class study classes starting Monday, Oct. 9, for 11 to 12 weeks on Zoom. Sessions are 6:45 - 9:15 p.m.

There is a \$10 fee. In addition, students must purchase the ARRL General Class License Manual.

Refer questions to: registrar@mnyarc.org Include your name, address, and phone contact information as well as your email address.

The license exam will be online for an additional \$15



Winlink is Sept program

Winlink is a network of amateur radio and government stations that provide worldwide radio email and is well-known for its role in interoperable emergency and disaster relief.

We can learn more about this mode at the September meeting of the Winona Amateur Radio Club, 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21, in person or on Zoom.

Winlink communications uses radio pathways where the internet is not present. The system is built, operated and administered entirely by licensed Ham volunteers. It supports email with attachments, position reporting, weather and information bulletins, and is well-known for its role in interoperable emergency and disaster relief communications. It is capable of operating completely without the internet--automatically--using smart-network radio relays. Licensed Winlink operators/stations use both amateur radio and government radio frequencies worldwide

Winona Amateur Radio Club

- Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St., Winona or
 - Zoom video conferencing. (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6881820303?pwd=Z0JuRjZlUXJ2U1RMK1BFs3lvUEhsZz09>
Meeting ID: 688 182 0303
Password: WarcBoard)
- The monthly program is open to the public.

Amateur operators help because they want to not because they have to. When we offer our services to an agency, we do it because we want to contribute to their success. We can be proud of our motives. That's why we want to do an exceptional job providing communications for them. – K9LGU/STM

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 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 or Zoom video conferencing. (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6881820303?pwd=Z0JuRjZlUXJ2U1RMK1BFs3lvUEhsZz09>
Meeting ID: 688 182 0303
Password: WarcBoard)
The monthly program is open to the public.**

President: Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, lancetag@hbc.com
 Vice President: Elisamuel Resto, KFØACN, sam@samresto.dev
 Treasurer: Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, Harro@hohenner.com
 Secretary: Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, seaquist.robe@eagle.uwlax.edu
 Custodian: Mike Foerster, WØIH, mchlfrstr@gmail.com
 At Large: Marv Rodvold, AC9TO; Paul Schumacher, KØZYV
 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.