

# Hamgram

August 2017

Winona Amateur Radio Club  
Winona, Minnesota

Winona Rotary 

## Ride The Ridges

It is not a race it is a ride; members of the Winona Amateur Radio Club will have a "ride" of their own providing communication support for Ride The Ridges, Sat. Sept. 16. It is a fund raiser and great activity for the Winona Rotary Club and it's a great exercise for members of WARC.

Learn more at the club meeting, 7 p.m., Thurs. Aug. 17, Winona County Office Building, 202 West Third St., Winona.

### **Riders**

They are not all super athletes, just folks like us who've trained some

### **Bikes**

No Huffys! To ride more than around the block bikers want a machine that fits them and one that works well. Prices for a "decent" bike range from about \$400-\$12,000 (carbon fiber; titanium)

### **Clothing**

Bright, fun colors, but more importantly, provides comfort with seams sewn to avoid chafing and a pad where boy-meets-bike

### **Routes**

23 miles, 44 miles, 67 miles, or 105 miles. The 23 miler is too short for most of the riders but is good for folks trying out riding and those who have just a brief time.

### **"Scenic"**

When a bike ride is "scenic" that means HILLS!

A large, elegant cursive script that reads "Thank You". The letters are thick and black, with many loops and flourishes, particularly in the 'T' and 'Y'.

*"No one has ever become poor by giving."  
— Anne Frank,*

The Winona Amateur Radio Club has many features not shared by most radio clubs. There is a huge tower (Witoka), four repeaters (two that are digital), viable APRS, a remote HF station and more. Dues do not cover the cost of this, though modest, so a number of club members have stepped up to make these features available to all.

Donations to the Witoka Tower project have totaled \$1,175.

Members that have generously contributed include:

Bill Davis

Paul Rehm

Dan Goltz

Paul Schumacher

James Jarvis

Syed Faruque

Mike Cizek

Tom Mauszycki

Mike Foerster

Tom Wilmot

# WARC Board Meeting

**Tuesday, July 6, 2017**

Watkins Hall, Winona State University.  
Present board members: Syed Faruque, ACØVA, Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, Lance Tagliapietra, ADØUT, Mike Foerster, WØØIH, Erik Brom, WBØNIU, Harro Hoehenner, KG6RLM. Non Board Member: John, K2OPT.

Called to order 7 PM.

**Treasurer report** approved. Harro said Rooster Ridge farmer has been paid for the year. John asked about club spending, specially remote station at Witoka and other capabilities. He said Hams questioned the spending and were reluctant to join the club. Board consensus was that club was diligent in spending money and the results are remote HF station, third repeater, digital mode availability etc. John also questioned asking for fee for use of repeaters. Syed and Lance mentioned there were few club meetings where the spending and plan were discussed in detail. Lance mentioned all the expenses happened five years ago, and most expense was getting antennas to tower.

**Minutes approved.**

**Committee Reports**

Lance updated **Field Day**. He is about finished with log and will submit the score. Paul said we had public officials which helped score.

**Public Service** Committee

Paul said he attended meeting with country officials. He concluded they fully support the club. He doesn't recall if tower issues were discussed. Erik said when spotters are activated, dispatch will page out all county fire department spotters. Dispatch will open an ops channel for 800 MHz, amateur radio will be key player in Skywarn.

Board discussed ways to facilitate FEMA ICS training. Paul said club can arrange training to get members started. Training will take few hours to complete. Lance said club can do overview to help participants. Lance will talk to Dan about the details.

**Public Service**

The committee is working with Winona County Sheriff and City of Winona Fire Chief to assure coverage for the County Emergency Management Office until a new director is approved. The WARC appreciates the cooperation, trust and responsibility shown to WARC. We need to continue working hard to be available when needed and provide the service these agencies expect from us.

There have been several Skywarn events this season that demonstrated club abilities, commitment to public service, and ability to self direct in the absence of an emergency management director.

Dan and Paul have to work on the WARC emergency alerting system disrupted by the change of computer servers that WARC use.

The next major task will be to provide support for the Ride the Ridges Rotary Club bicycle ride. I will be unavailable, so Paul, ADØUU, will be WARC liaison. RTR support is a major task for us and could involve asking other clubs for help. Having met with Mike Bernatz of the Rotary Club, and Ray Sylvester of the Sheriff's SOAR group, we identified a number of challenges for communications. As many as 13 stations, manned or remote may be needed. There will be four routes ranging from 23-105 miles in southern Winona and northern Houston counties. SOAR's limitations include not being able to cross county lines, their 800 MHz radios in the deep valleys that the ride will take, and limited personnel available.

We have a good relationship with SOAR and should be able to overcome the problems with planning and participation by our members.

Amateur UHF and VHF FM and APRS will be used, as well as county ARMER 800MHz and cell phones to provide communications.

Our goal is to be effective communicators using whatever means necessary. Our APRS setup will be highly visible at the ride headquarters. The goal of the ride organizers, aside from a fund raiser, is to make this ride the best in the area from the safety, organizational, and logistics standpoint. We showed last year that we can significantly contribute toward that goal. This year three SAG wagons, seven rest stops, ride headquarters, and two "floaters" will need to be coordinated.

More details will be at the Aug. 17 club program.- Dan, WKØW

Paul said we need to train more people on EOC operation. Dan is working on guidelines on working in EOC according to Erik. Erik mentioned we should have carefully controlled group that have access to EOC. Recently Dan was all alone in EOC and had to give up plans to be there.

Syed updated picnic plans. He learned from city it is not cheap to book shelters so the board decided to risk first-come-first-serve the day of picnic. Syed will notify members and urge them to monitor '64 repeater. Goal is to get Lions/Gepner Pavilion.

Rooster Ridge site working well. Erik reported that Mike, WØVTT, looked at the grounding system and said it's working fine but could be better. Lance said we lost few radios there because of bad antenna.

Paul discussed transceivers that Dr. Earl has to repair need components. Paul will inquire.

Paul will work with Mel to start a fall Technician class. Lance suggested planning to finish by Thanksgiving.

Les and Paul went to KAGE tower to address issues and everything working now. Paul updated on the 900 MHz Antenna mesh. Paul, KØZYV, Les and Paul, ADØUU, working on issues. The antennas work line of sight.

**See "Board" page 4**

### Board, continued from page 3

Lance said after Field Day, he had one extra dipole antenna in his box. It may be John's. Lance might post that in reflector to look for the owner. Mike asked where club antennas are stored. Lance has some. Everything from Paul's storage came to Lance. Mike will look into what is there. Mike mentioned storing the items at Witoka tower. Poles could be stored outside.

Mike not sure who took the LP tank at Witoka tower.

Mike updated on the sale of late Matt Cummings' radio. Mike sold it and the money goes to his widow. Paul/Lance will help to locate her as she moved.

Matt Burt, KFØQ, has moved, per Paul, and left logs of previous contests. Mike said an empty file cabinet at Witoka could be used for file document storage. Mike took the logs. Syed has Les's old archive and Syed will bring files to store at Witoka.

Meeting was then adjourned.

### FT8 suddenly more popular than phone

The new, hot, digital mode invented by physicist Joe Taylor is off-and-running even though it is still a beta release. None of us were around when spark gave way to continuous wave, but all of us are witness to this. Radio Arcala plans to land on Market Reef and operate there has emphasis on the new mode:

"Tuning the poor 20m band month after month represents a major frustration nowadays. Particularly on SSB, only the occasional DX signal breaks the sea of noise, consequently reducing activity levels even further. However, that very noise could be a new lease of life, if one were to copy signals below it. They are there every day. Indeed, with their huge antennas and state-of-the art receivers, DXers can dig even deeper into the noise and log plenty of good DX faster than one can think. Martti, OH2BH/OJ0BH, and Henri, OH3JR/OJ0JR, planned to operate on Market Reef and will immediately break the noise floor by getting FT8 QSOs underway."

#### 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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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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