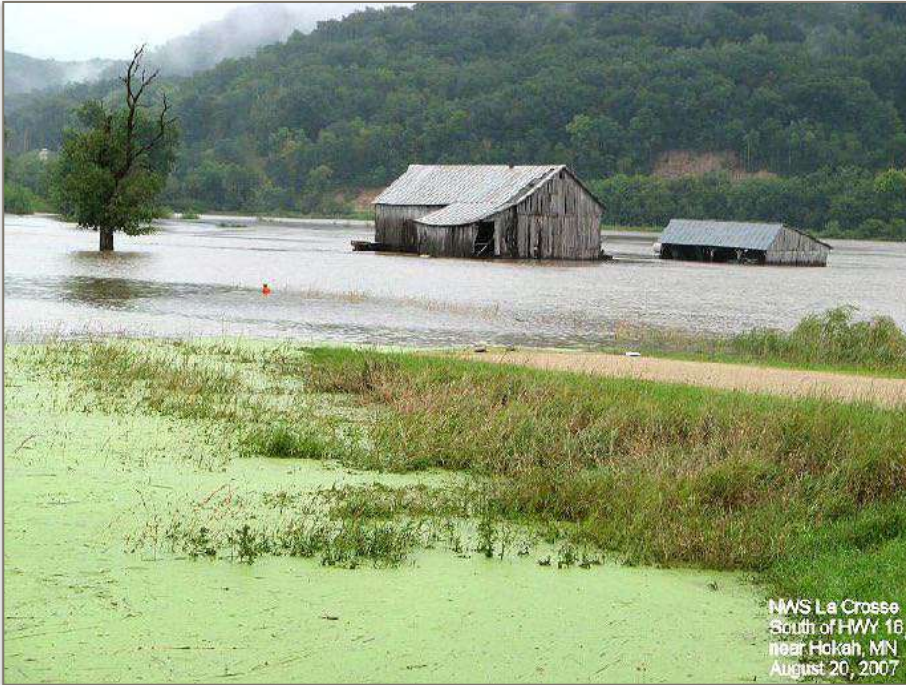


# Hamgram

September 2019

Winona Amateur Radio Club  
Winona, Minnesota



NWS La Crosse  
South of HWY 16,  
near Hokah, MN  
August 20, 2007

## 2007 floods required Ham help

Rain came in biblical proportions 12 years ago, an event that brought out the best in Amateur Radio operators. From Aug. 18-20, precipitation came down at rates of 1-2 inches per hour, according to the National Weather Service. Seven people were killed in the Midwest and damage costs likely exceeded \$200 million. Residents of Rushford discovered the dikes protecting the became a bowl that filled with millions of gallons of water from a “back door” creek.

Rushford is in a difficult location for radio communication, hampering public service officials trying to bring aid. Operators from the Winona Amateur Radio Club used their ingenuity to get signals in and out of the village. Club members and Hams called upon to help, manned the emergency shelter and provided coverage for hours.

The National Weather Service said the flooding of 2007 was likely caused by a stalled frontal boundary that acted as the focus for the continuous redevelopment of showers and thunderstorms throughout the weekend. The nature of the storms caused heavy rain to persist hour after hour across southeast Minnesota into southwest Wisconsin. Hokah was really soaked with 23.86”, Witoka received 17” and Nodine 13.4”.

Houses slid from hillsides near Brownsville as well as Stoddard, Wis. And many, like Red Haines, WOØW, were trapped in their homes when roads and driveways washed away.

Club’s major public service event

## Ride the Ridges Saturday 9/21

The very large ‘Driftless Area’ covered by Ride The Ridges Bicycle Tour presents communication challenges and requires voice communication to be on three different repeaters.

### Frequencies

|         |          |            |
|---------|----------|------------|
| 442.150 | PL 100   | Primary    |
| 146.970 | PL 131.8 | East/south |
| 146.835 | PL 131.8 | Winona     |

Tactical messaging and position tracking will be on APRS at 144.390



Sept. 19 club meeting will be 7 p.m. in room 105 Watkins Hall on the WSU Campus.

## A widow's Ham shack

By Bob Seaquist, W9LSE

When a local, noted DXer died unexpectedly a couple years ago he left his widow with a horrible mess. According to the story I heard, she had no idea about the gear in his shack so she was ready to call the Salvation Army to haul it away. And what a haul it would've been because this guy had two shacks, one at home and one at their cottage, jam-packed with radio stuff. Plus, it turns out he was squirreling away more gear in some sheds!

There was a huge disposal sale attended by a mob of Hams and bottom-feeders pawing through a garage chock-full of stuff. Apparently the sale netted this unwitting widow thousands and thousands of dollars that she almost gave away because she had no idea if it was worth anything.

I know my kids think my stuff is junk but my pre-widow would like some estimation of its value.

Most Hams should ask themselves: 1) if they have any idea what they have; 2) what its value is; 3) where is it going once he's gone.

As soon as I got home from the SK's estate sale I started an inventory in my shack listing everything I could remember by make, model and description, when I got it and the price I paid. WOW! It is difficult to imagine how getting an item-at-a-time can add up to so much money! My very modest collection of Ham gear is worth lots and lots of money, that is, if it would be disposed properly.

## "Mutiny" location bounty for Hams Oct. 18–Nov. 1

In mid to late October listen for Mike Cizek, WØVTT, as he works with the Pitcairn Island DxPedition. In addition for our fellow club member Cizek, you may also contact Glenn Johnson, WØGJ, of Decorah, Iowa.



The Pitcairn Island DxPedition, Oct. 18 – Nov. 1, is planned to be fun for everyone. Work them on as many bands and modes as you like, share your QSO accomplishments and challenges with your friends, invite the Scouts or the

fifth grade class to your station, tell others of the unique history of this island, talk to your barber about it, and have a great time with them.

The plan is for eight stations, each capable of maximum legal power, with monoband Yagis for the high bands and verticals with good radial systems and directional receive antennas for the low bands. Remember the big 160 meter antenna DX Engineering designed for Bouvet, that never made it ashore? Fear not, it is going to Pitcairn Island.

## WARC Executive Board (unofficial minutes)

Wednesday, September 4, 2018, Watkins, Winona State University

Present: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV; Clare Jarvis, KØNY; Dan Goltz, WKvW; Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM; Erik Brom, WBØNIU. Guests: Keith Laken, KEØJI; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; John Kowalik, K2OPT; Tom Wilmot, W0ØMK.

**Treasurer's Report** for September: (Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM)

|                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Balance 7/31                        | \$3,225.27 |
| Deposits: Dan Goltz picnic supplies | \$15       |
| Balance reported by bank:           | \$3,240.27 |
| Paid members                        | 41         |

**Minutes:** (Clare Jarvis, KØNY) approved

**Ride the Ridges** (Dan Goltz, WKØW)

As of Sept. 3, there have been some major changes to three of the four courses, including four new locations for rest stops. This is due to incomplete road construction. This will require re-examining our coverage capability and resources needed. Paul, ADØUU, and I plan to do some of this survey work Friday Sept. 6. We are close to having a full compliment of operators. We are still in need of guy wires and stakes, and a couple 50 foot lengths of coax.

I met with our county emergency manager Sept. 3 regarding our Ride the Ridges event. I have requested the use of four amateur radios and mag mount antennas, one public service radio, safety vests, and two 50 foot rolls of RG-58 coax. He has given us unlimited access to his resources.

I started to update software on the HP ToughBook laptop the county has loaned to us. It has not been updated since

February 2016. This will take some time. The laptop is Windows 7 Professional, and currently has FLDIGI, APRS-32, APRS.FI, as well as some standard PC programs installed. We will want to have some remote ham software installed, and other programs that we may need. The capacity/life of the current battery is questionable.

We have been invited to participate in a full scale exercise with Emergency Management and the railroad 8 a.m.–noon, Sat. Oct. 12. Our function would be to assist with comms and in the Com van. I have to go on line to indicate our willingness to participate and tell how many people we will have. They are asking if we will have a boat.

Emergency Management is also expecting that we will provide the program for their quarterly meeting Wednesday Dec. 18. I need to confirm the date as previously it was stated to be Dec. 19. Ben said it would be worthwhile for the other county agencies to know what kind of backup communications we can provide. Bob, W9LSE and Mike WØIH have agreed to assist in planning this demo.

Ride The Ridges rehearsal set for 6:30 p.m., Wed. Sept. 11, Goodview Haven

**Witoka:** (Erik Brom, WBØNIU) Still searching for climber as second one declined.

**Education:** (Paul Schumacher, KØZYV) John Kowalik will coordinate Tech class.

**Repeater:** (Erik Brom, WBØNIU) KAGE repeater will be put back into place Sat. Sept. 7.

**WARC Executive Board** (unofficial minutes)

Wednesday, August 14, 2018, Watkins, Winona State University

Present: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, Clare Jarvis, KØNY, Dan Goltz, WKØW, Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM, Mike Foerster, WØIH, Erik Brom, WBØNIU. Guests: John Kowalik, K2OPT, Bob Seaquist, W9LSE.

**Treasurer's report** for July 2019 (Harro KG6RLM)

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Balance on 6/31/2019     | \$3,213.9z |
| Deposits:                |            |
| Dues (new member)        | \$25.00    |
| Payments:                |            |
| Dan Goltz, Field Day     | \$13.70    |
| Balance reported by bank | \$3,225.27 |
| Paid members (2019)      | 41         |

**Minutes** of the July 3 meeting approved.

**Tower climb update:** (Mike Foerster, WØIH) Mike and Mike Cizek, WØVTT, will continue searching for a climber for the Witoka tower.

**Public Service:** (Dan, WKØW) Our first aid/CPR training sessions are complete. 10 club members participated. The course was taught by Josh Erickson, Winona County SOAR training officer. I am pleased with the response.

There have been three or four SKYWARN activations since our last report. We have had good response, good reporting, and emergency management and La Crosse National Weather Service has been pleased.

Ride the Ridges is our next major planned event that we have been asked to support communications for. It will take place Sept. 21. The event is a bicycle tour sponsored by the Winona Rotary Club. The event consists of four separate loops, an 18.2 mile ride, a 44 mile ride, a 67 mile ride and a 104 mile ride. These rides cover hundreds of road miles over two counties through some very challenging terrain. Some of the areas on the course are communication dark holes.

We want to provide communications for seven rest areas, at least three SAG wagons, the ride coordinator, ride headquarters, our net control, and interface with the Winona Police Reserve and the Winona County SOAR team. I have been in touch with the ride coordinator and SOAR and will be meeting with them possibly Aug. 17. We will be using the Witoka UHF repeater, the Riverland Radio Club's 146.97 repeater, and APRS. Our projection of APRS on a large TV at ride headquarters has drawn lots of interest in past years.

We need about 15 operators to fill all the positions and we are very close to having that commitment at this time. We

plan to have a briefing for all participants before the event to make sure everyone knows how to use their equipment and where their assignments are and what to expect.

This is the fourth year we have been asked to support this. See the attachments and note from Michael Bernatz, ride coordinator. After Ride the Ridges we will be asked to participate in an exercise planned by Winona County Emergency Management and Canadian Pacific Rail. The site will be along the river near Dakota. Details are pending.

Following that exercise we will have to do some serious planning for the amateur radio demonstration for the quarterly Winona County Emergency Management meeting. That meeting will be in December and will showcase our capabilities to EM, county dispatch, county fire departments and emergency responders.

**Education Committee:** (Paul Schumacher, KØZYV) neither Melanie Reap or Paul are able to conduct classes this fall. Volunteers will be sought at the August 15 club meeting.

**September 19 club meeting:** a location is needed; WSU may be available but parking is a problem. Clare, KØNY, will contact Dahl Toyota about using its community room.

**Compliments:** (Paul Schumacher, KØZYV) Dan was highly complimented about organizing the CPR and First Aid classes.

**Remote Hams:** (Mike Foerster, WØIH) Remote Hams finally accepted the club's \$25 donation.

**Witoka:** (Mike Foerster, WØIH) Mike and Mike, WØVTT are discussing some antenna modifications.

**Repeater:** (Erik, WBØNIU) Apparently the KAGE machine is ready to be put back into place. Clare, KØNY, reported that it is probably ready.

**Swap:** (Harro Hohenner, KG6RLM) received letter promoting swap fest in Cologne.

**Equipment loan:** Acting on a request from John, K2OPT, Clare, KØNY, seconded by Erik, WBØNIU, moved that John be in charge of loaning the club's IC 718 to club members. The radio will be loaned for a fixed time with the recipient being reported to the executive reflector. John believes newer Hams may be more excited if they have a radio to use. The loan will include the radio, tuner, power supply and microphone.

The Sept. 19 meeting of the Winona Amateur Radio Club will be 7 p.m. in room 105 Watkins Hall on the Winona State University Campus. The building is at the corner of West King and Winona Streets. Parking is available in the Central Lutheran Church parking lot, Huff and West 8th Streets. Do not park in the university's Silver lots. The club's usual meeting space in the Winona County office building is temporarily not available.



There is a movement to raise club dues to \$30. Presently, and for as long as many can recall, individual dues have been \$25 per year. Members will be asked to vote on the proposal at the club's November annual meeting.

# Making conversation beyond the report

By Denny Rybicki, K9LGU

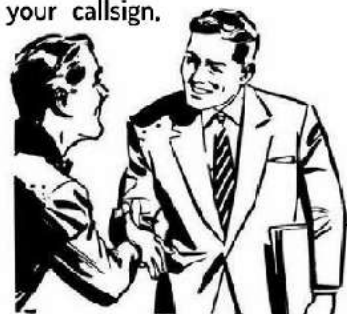
When you're listening to Hams chatting on-the-air you hear a signal report but then the conversation stumbles. Sure, there are the usual topics of interest. You're talking with another amateur, so you can compare radios, antennas, locations, and license history. You might share some theories about propagation and band use. Lots of accessories such as microphones, software, keys and keyers, digital connections, and test equipment can be worthy of discussion.

You'll find some areas of agreement – “Yep. That's the way the shortwave ratios.” And you may discover other points of view. “ I've heard the stories about NVIS propagation, but I've always found. . .” Stories about your Ham experiences are good. You may even share more personal notes about your family, your pets, or your work.

Want to become a more interesting conversationalist? Listen more. Ask plenty of questions about the other operator and really listen to the answers.

Another broad area of discussion may be operating interests. Hams are a diverse bunch. Want to help with communications during a disaster? ARES/RACES has a place for you. From brass pounders to EME enthusiasts, from experimenters to designers and builders, from

I can't recall your name or your callsign.



But you have an IC-7610 and a Kenwood TH-D74A, right?

contesters to traffic handlers – there's a lot of interest.

My point is this. They overlap. (No, not the operators – their interests) A Ham who experiments with antennas can try them on a traffic net. Someone who finds success in digital DX-ing can apply those skills in a contest – or to pass formal traffic. Learning to speak clearly and use phonetics properly can help a DX station find you in a pile-up as well as support accurate handling of a radiogram. Keeping your equipment in good shape pays off in emergency readiness and in more enjoyable ragchewing.

The SMARTS Radio Club of Chaska is having its SMARTSFEST hamfest from 8 a.m.-noon, Sat. Sept. 28, at the Cologne Community Center, 1211 Village Parkway, Cologne. For details go to [smartsfest.com](http://smartsfest.com)

**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

President: Paul Schumacher, KØZYV, [pschumacher@winona.edu](mailto:pschumacher@winona.edu)

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

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

Secretary: Clare Jarvis, KØNY, [jarvis@jarviscomputer.com](mailto:jarvis@jarviscomputer.com)

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