

Harlem Valley Rail Ride 2006






August 7, 2006


On Sunday July 30 area Ham Radio operators provided Safety & Emergency Communications for the Third Annual Harlem Valley Rail Ride which is an organized bicycle tour that winds through roads & trails in NY, CT, & MA. Presented by [Bike New York](#) with a portion of the entry fees going to benefit the [Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association](#) the ride was a great success, with over 1,000 bicyclists participating.

Communications were coordinated by the [Mt Beacon Amateur Radio Club](#) (MBARC) with operators (& several non-Ham family members) from five NY counties (Orange, Sullivan, Dutchess, Westchester, & Columbia) as well as an operator from Bethel, CT.

Primary repeater coverage was provided by the MBARC Portable Public Service Repeater however several other repeaters were used to cover some problem areas thanks to the cooperation of the ***Southern Berkshire Amateur Radio Club*** (for info contact [Ed N2JBA](#)) & the [Rip Van Winkle ARS](#). The tour went over & around several mountains which made the portable repeater invaluable for this event. The antenna was located near Millerton, NY on top of Winchell Mountain thanks to the generosity of [Bill Brunese](#) who allowed us to use his property to install a 55 foot mast with a 22 foot antenna on top of it. This was the first time out for this military surplus mast system, that was donated to me by Al, W2EBL, and it worked great withstanding several summer thunderstorms.

Communications went very smoothly thanks to all the volunteers, we had fixed stations  at eight

 locations, three bicycle mobiles  (Hams on bikes covering the Rail Trail portion of the ride where motor vehicles can't go), and five mobile operators in Sag vehicles. Radio traffic ranged from locating the missing "Porto-Johns" to three rider injury reports (the most serious being a broken collarbone), and even a

non-ride related MVA (motor vehicle accident) which was reported by a Ham in a Sag vehicle. 

These events can only be successful if enough people step up and volunteer. I'm very happy to say that during my tenure as MBARC VP the volunteer response has been AWESOME! Thanks everyone for all your time and energy! For those of you that have not had the opportunity to participate in the pastjump in and volunteer, we always have a good time and it really is a great opportunity to "showcase" Ham Radio to the public.

Thanks to the following volunteers;

Fixed Stations

Jerold Davis, KC2POZ
Scott Dunlavey, KC2NTV
Megan Dunlavey, non-Ham
Brenda Spagna, N2TTO
Bob Turner, WB2DUW
Janet Duffy, KC2LUR & her mom Bert
Larry Barnes, N6BQD & Elvis (his dog)
Jim Peterson, K2CSS
Frank Tomesch, KA1GL & his Wife
Rich Otis, N2ZKX

Bicycle Mobiles

Tom Gutierrez, N2NZD
Ed Nisley, KE4ZNU
Karen Nisley, non-Ham
Mary Nisley, KF4NGN

Mobile Sag

Gary Kilmer, WA2AQH
Noel Wheate, KE2FI
Tom Fegan, KB2ZAM
Herb Kommritz, N1KWV
Jim Baker, KC2KZB

Special Thanks for technical & setup help; Rob, K2ROB, Rich, N2EYH, Ed, N2JBA, Arnnie, KC2CBV, Bill, WA2AHR, Frank, W2GIO

Thanks for being part of this exciting Amateur Radio Public Service Event