Leon Rediske, K9GCF, SK

Adapted from the ORC Newsletter
by Tom Macon, K9BTQ

Leon Rediske, K9GCF, well known ham and aviator around Milwaukee passed away in on May 4th, 2014 in Ft Myers, Florida.

During his high school years Leon got interested in electronics and earned his first amateur radio license in 1957. He attended UW in Madison in 1959, then transferred to Milwaukee Institute of Technology (now MATC) where he earned a degree in broadcast engineering. In the late 60's he worked for Allis Chalmers Electronics for several years.

Leon's dad, Ed, started Rainbow Airport in Franklin in 1946 and made it into a full-time business by 1956. During this time, Leon grew up, became a pilot and learned the airport business. When Ed retired in 1973, Leon bought the business and continued to operate it until 1996 when Rainbow closed permanently. In addition to his private pilot's license, Leon was a Certified Flight Instructor and A&P aircraft mechanic. He logged over 20,000 hours in the air. After moving to Grafton, Leon continued to fly his Piper Comanche out of Timmerman field and West Bend airport.

Leon was a WARAC member in his earlier years until he took over the airport. After Rainbow closed, he and his wife, Jane (originally KB9SYI, now KK4HQG), moved to Grafton and Leon became active in the Ozaukee Radio Club, where he was a five-term president and Field Day chairman. He was also active with OZARES (Ozaukee Amateur Radio Emergency Services), the Milwaukee Fox Hunter's group and, at their winter home, with the Ft. Myers Amateur Radio Club and the Florida Contest Group. In recent years he was a regular check-in on the Milwaukee-Florida Net and also the 75-meter Nut Net when he was in Wisconsin.

Was it all flying and amateur radio? No, he and Jane took particuliar pleasure in their Corvettes (one in Wisconsin, one in Florida) driving them in various events and parades with the Corvette Club.

Thanks, Leon. We certainly miss K9-Good-Clean-Fun in Greater Grafton.

- *Thanks to Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR, for permission to reprint*