
KDØCI's Radio NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 Number 5 - *Supporting Amateur Radio in East Central Minnesota* - March 25, 2007

PACKET PRESENTATION SET FOR THURSDAY APRIL 12

Arrangements have been made with St Mary's Catholic Parish in Milaca to be the host site for a presentation on Packet Radio on Thursday April 12 at 7 PM. Tom Jameson WØKGW, a Packet Radio enthusiast, will be making the presentation.

This is an all important presentation, especially for Amateur Radio operators who will be involved in communications from hospitals and health centers during an emergency. If you are one of them, you are urged to mark this date on your calendar and to make plans to attend this session.

St Mary's Parish Hall is located at 645 3rd Avenue Southeast in Milaca. To get to Milaca from the north or south, follow US Highway 169 to the State Highway 23 exit. Go west on Highway 23 into town to 3rd Avenue Southeast, then turn left to go south on 3rd Avenue Southeast. There is a sign at the 3rd Avenue intersection with Highway 23 pointing the way to St Mary's. If you come in from the west on Highway 23, proceed two blocks east past the stop light, then turn right to go south on 3rd Avenue Southeast. If you are coming to Milaca from the east, stay on Highway 23 as you come into town, then turn left to go south on 3rd Avenue Southeast.

St Mary's is at the end of 3rd Avenue. You'll find a large parking lot at the site. The Parish Hall is inside the Church.

NAME CHANGE BEING CONSIDERED FOR TUESDAY NIGHT NET

Aware that the Mille Lacs County Emergency Preparedness Net has outgrown Mille Lacs County, the net may soon undergo a facelift of sorts. A name change is being considered in order to more accurately reflect the current coverage area, which is basically a good portion of East Central Minnesota.

The original intent of the net was to train newly licensed operators in, and counties immediately surrounding Mille Lacs. However, with operators having checked in from vicinities as far away as St Cloud and Isanti, it is time to consider the name change to reflect the growth. One of the names being considered is **The East Central Region Emergency Preparedness Net**.

At present, the primary coverage area for the net appears to include parts or all of the following seven counties: Benton, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, and Sherburne. Although not a given, extended coverage could include areas beyond those counties, but probably not beyond an area bordered by a line from roughly St Cloud, north to Little Falls, east to Aitkin and Moose

Lake, to the Minnesota – Wisconsin border along the St Croix River south to Taylors Falls, then west to Elk River and St Cloud. However, coverage in these fringe areas is more of a challenge.

Another reason for the change is to encourage other stations in the region to get involved. The final decision regarding a name change will be made soon.

ATTENDANCE IS GOOD AT SKYWARN PRESENTATIONS

On Wednesday March 7th, I attended one of the several Skywarn Weather presentations being given in East Central Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin. These sessions were part of an effort by the National Weather Service to prepare the region for the upcoming severe storm season.

The session I attended was in Finlayson, and was presented by Meteorologist Kris White and Warning Coordination Officer Carol Christenson, both from the Duluth office of the National Weather Service. The session was well attended as nearly every chair in the room was filled. Most of those who attended were residents of Pine County, some of whom were aspiring Ham Radio operators. To my knowledge, I was the only person in attendance from Kanabec County.

Hams are an integral part of the National Weather Service's trained team of severe weather spotters. NOAA relies heavily on spotters to advise them of on site weather conditions during severe weather outbreaks. Information passed on to NOAA by these spotters could mean the difference between life and death for people in areas ahead of an approaching storm.



National Weather Service Warnings Coordination Officer Carol Christenson [standing in foreground] addresses attendees at the March 7th Skywarn Training Session in Finlayson. Meteorologist Kris White [standing in background] made the main presentation to the group. Photo by KDØCI.
Skywarn.....continued

In speaking with Duluth Warning Coordination Officer Carol Christenson, she made it a point to emphasize to me how important it is for the National Weather Service to have spotter coverage in Kanabec County. She explained that while weather radar is effective in detecting possible tornado activity, Kanabec County is on the very fringe of their radar coverage area. Trained spotters are an invaluable source for confirming what is actually taking place on the ground in this area, and could transmit lifesaving information to NWS Duluth in time to issue a warning or warnings for immediate areas in, as well as east or north of Kanabec County ahead of a tornado outbreak.

During that same week, there was a Skywarn presentation made by National Weather Service Duluth personnel in Siren Wisconsin. As you may recall, the Siren area was devastated by a tornado on June 18th 2001. Three people were killed and 16 were injured in that storm.

There was also a Skywarn session in Sauk Rapids where I'm told upwards of 60 people attended. That session was presented by the Minneapolis [Chanhassen] office of the National Weather Service.

Hams are encouraged to become active in Skywarn, and a list of upcoming training sessions can be found on NOAA Websites. In the East Central Minnesota region, a list of training sessions for the Minneapolis/St Paul coverage area may be viewed at www.metro-skywarn.org. This site also provides links to other various weather related sites.

For areas of East Central Minnesota falling within the Duluth Northland Skywarn coverage area, information on upcoming Skywarn sessions can be obtained from the National Weather Service at <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dlh/?n=skywarn2007>

Christenson also invited me to attend an Open House for Northland Skywarn Observers at 10 AM on Saturday March 31st at the National Weather Service Office in Duluth. It should be interesting, and I plan to attend.

Volunteers Wanted For Skywarn Group in Cambridge area

Aaron Diers, KCØWKP, is looking for Amateur Radio volunteers in Isanti, Eastern Mille Lacs, and Western Chisago Counties that might be interested in forming a Skywarn Group for the area. This Skywarn group would be working within range of the Cambridge/Crown Repeater.

Aaron is also interested in hearing from operators who might not be able to work as spotters, but who would be willing to work instead as Net Control stations during severe weather. If you have questions, or are interested in the formation of this Skywarn group, please contact Aaron as soon as possible. He can be reached at aaron@diers.us.

Operators Hint - When Is “Z” Not “Z”?

You may have heard me and other veteran Hams pronounce the letter “Z” on the airwaves as “ZED” [rhyming with “led” or “red” or “dead”, etc]. Well, that is just a simple way in which Hams differentiate the letter “Z” from similar sounding letters, especially when they are communicating through a lot of noise [QRM/QRN] conditions. This is another little helpful hint to keep in mind, especially if your call sign includes the letter “Z”.

The Phantom Mobiler – Providing Valuable Coverage Information

Dave, KCØYBX, has been given a new title - “The Phantom Mobiler”. You just never know where he’s going to set up shop for a given session of the Mille Lacs County Emergency Preparedness Net on Tuesday evenings, but lately you can count on him being almost anywhere except home.

On the first week of his random adventures, he set up his mobile operations in a school parking lot in Cambridge. The next week he was transmitting from the Wayside Rest about 10 miles north of Milaca along US Highway 169. Last week he posted himself at the entrance to a gravel pit along Mille Lacs County Road 24, roughly 6 miles north of Bock.

Dave likes to move around from week to week to test his mobile from various locations, which at the same time help provides good information regarding mobile or portable coverage in the area.

The question is, from where will the Phantom Mobiler transmit next? Only the Phantom Mobiler knows for sure, or does he? Stay tuned.

UPCOMING VE TESTING

The following exam info courtesy of ARRL

28-Apr-2007

Sponsor: UNSPONSORED

Time: 5:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: JOHN J SMOLENSKI

(763)263-8741

Email: NOYR@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: **GREAT RIVER ENERGY BUILDING**

2 CONFERENCE ROOM

ELK RIVER, MN 55309

PLEASE NOTE THE LOCATION FOR THIS SESSION!

THIS SESSION INCLUDES AN ALL DAY CLASS FOR TECH AND GENERAL PRIOR TO THE TEST.

26-May-2007

Sponsor: UNSPONSORED

Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: JOHN J SMOLENSKI

(763)263-8741

Email: NOYR@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: AMERICAN LEGION

525 RAILROAD DRIVE

ELK RIVER, MN 55330

23-Jun-2007

Sponsor: UNSPONSORED

Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: JOHN J SMOLENSKI

(763)263-8741

Email: NOYR@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: AMERICAN LEGION

525 RAILROAD DRIVE

ELK RIVER, MN 55330

NET INFORMATION - [Post near your radio for handy reference]

MILLE LACS COUNTY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NET

Every Tuesday Evening @ 7 PM – 146.565 MHz [Simplex]

Preamble and Format for the Mille Lacs County Emergency Preparedness Net

[Updated on February 11th 2007, and supersedes all previous issues]

Preamble:

This is [your call sign] calling the Mille Lacs County Emergency Preparedness Net. This net meets each Tuesday evening at 7 PM Central Time on a frequency of 146.565 Megahertz for the primary purpose of operator training. This net also provides dissemination of Amateur Radio information and bulletins. All stations are welcome to join the net, and are asked to check in by the use of their call sign only. This is a directed net. Transmit only at the direction of the net control, and please pause between transmissions so others may join our group. Each station will be recognized in the order they check in, and they will be given an opportunity for informal comments. Again, your net control station is [your call sign], my name is [your first name], and I'm located at [your location].

Format:

Standby for Emergency Traffic

Standby for check-ins from Mobile Stations only [Follow by asking for any relays on mobiles]

Standby for Announcements or Bulletins

Standby for general check-ins

Training and/or Informal Session [Standby periodically for any additional check-ins]

Close the net:

Thank all participants; return the frequency to general amateur use.

Other Area & Regional Nets**CENTRAL REGION EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NET**

First Wednesday of every month @ 1 PM – 147.015 [WØMBD Repeater, St Cloud]

UPPER MIDWEST TEN METER NET

Every Thursday Evening @ 8 PM – 28.475 USB [Net Control KBØHDA]

NEWCOMERS NET

Every Monday Evening @ 8 PM – 147.015 [WØMBD Repeater, St Cloud]

EMERGENCY PACKET FREQUENCY

145.010 MHz

Information On The World Wide Web

Information on this and more local and regional Amateur Radio activity is posted on the St Cloud Amateur Radio Club website at www.w0sv.org

Mille Lacs County Emergency Preparedness Net**Net Roster and Net Control [NCS] Stations****[7 PM Tuesday @ 146.565 Mhz Simplex – Local Roster of as of March 15th 2007]**Stations in **RED** are newly licensed. Stations in **BOLD** type are Net Control stations.

<u>CALL</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
KAØAJF	Mary	Ogilvie
KBØHDA	Tim	Isanti
KBØTXV	Sylvia	Princeton
KCØDNT	Jay	Milaca
KCØEQE	Jim	Foreston
KCØVSN	Toby	Foley
KCØVYZ	Steve	Princeton
KCØVZA	Pat	Princeton
KCØVZB	Bev	Princeton
KCØVZE	Casey	Milaca
KCØVZF	Tony	St Paul
KCØVZG	Mike	Onamia

KCØWHK	Andy	Princeton
KCØYBK	Scott	Milaca
KCØYBX	Dave	Milaca
KCØYLF	Sara	Ogilvie
KCØYUE	Aaron	Milaca
KCØYUL	Audrey	Princeton
KCØZNC	Kathy	Mora
KDØCI	Kenny	Ogilvie
KØBLR	Ben	St Cloud
N1ARM	Phil	St Cloud
WØMBD	Jack	St Cloud

If I left anyone out, or if there are those who would like to be an NCS, let me know.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Newsletter Comments, Questions, Etc.

Permission is granted to subscribers to reprint this newsletter for distribution to others. Material herein may be used elsewhere, as long as this newsletter is referenced as the source. Your comments, questions, etc for this newsletter are welcome. Send to kdzeroci@ecenet.com

73,

Kenny Broshofske KDØCI