
KDØCI's Radio Newsletter

Volume 2 Number 9 - Supporting Amateur Radio in East Central Minnesota - July 25, 2007

OGILVIE REPEATER APPLICATION NEARING APPROVAL

It appears that approval for a two meter repeater frequency to be assigned to Ogilvie is near. According to Jerry Dorf, Frequency Coordinator for the Minnesota Repeater Council, the proposal was approved by Wisconsin coordinators, and has advanced to the remaining surrounding states with no opposition to date.

Wisconsin was involved from the onset to address the possible need for a "Close Space Agreement" when Mora was the proposed site because of the need to protect the Chippewa Falls repeater, operating at 147.240 MHz. Since then, the proposed site was moved to Ogilvie to take advantage of the additional height of the tower there, and to bring the repeater closer to the proposed linking site at Foreston. While the Ogilvie Tower site moved the repeater farther from Chippewa Falls, it was still not far enough to escape the need for the "Close Space Agreement" with Wisconsin.

The Ogilvie repeater will also be operating on 147.240 MHz, but will be equipped with a PL Access Tone [146.2 Hz]. The antenna, which will be mounted at 200 feet on a 250 foot tower north of Ogilvie, will be oriented to provide shielding to the southeast, providing further protection for the Chippewa Falls repeater and its coverage area. Because the two repeaters are located within 125 air miles of each other, the coordination rules specify that a "Close Space Agreement" be reached where a proposed repeater would be located between 100 to 125 miles of another repeater operating on the same frequency.

The Ogilvie repeater is the first of two main components of the new system which will provide much needed coverage inside a roughly 40 mile wide corridor along Minnesota Highway 23 from Sandstone to St Cloud. The other component of this system will be the UHF Linking Site at Foreston, which will connect the Ogilvie repeater to the 147.015 repeater at Collegetown, just west of St Cloud. The primary purpose will be to enable hospitals and public health centers along the Highway 23 Corridor, primarily in Sandstone, Mora, Onamia, and Milaca, to communicate with St Cloud Hospital. Facilities in North Branch, Cambridge, and Princeton may also be better served by this repeater.

The engineering plan for the site, developed by Jerry Whitaker WBØOFB, has been reviewed, and equipment is being gathered. Kanabec County and the Department of Homeland Security are cooperating in the effort. The target date for the repeater to be activated is this coming November 1st.

SANDSTONE HOSPITAL ACCESS

Up to now, the Sandstone Hospital has been a "no show" during the monthly Central Minnesota Hospital Net drills. The main problem has been the hospitals' ability to reach the 147.015 repeater at St Cloud, as distance and terrain obstacles presented challenges that they have not been able to overcome.

This was a major reason why the idea of the proposed Highway 23 Communications System came into being. A void in coverage existed, and a new two meter repeater near Mora, it was thought, would help solve the problem. When the proposed two meter repeater site was moved further west to Ogilvie, the question was raised what effect if any would that change have on Sandstone?

A test was recently conducted to simulate how easily the Sandstone Hospital could reach the Ogilvie repeater site. The test was conducted by Gene McLain KB9RWF, who operated the hospital radio, and KDØCI, operating from his home base located just four miles northwest of the Ogilvie Tower Site. Communications for the test were established on the locally used simplex frequency of 146.565 Mhz. Good signal reports were exchanged between them, and they were sustained during the entire test. The conclusion was that considering the proposed antenna placement on the Ogilvie Tower has a 125 foot height advantage over KDØCI's highest antenna, the test was considered successful.

Thus, Sandstone should have reliable access to the Ogilvie repeater, and should be able to participate in the monthly hospital drills once the system is completed.

FORESTON LINK SITE

Meanwhile, a meeting was held in Milaca on July 18th to discuss this part of the project with members of the St Cloud Radio Club, Mille Lacs County Homeland Security, and the City of Foreston who are cooperating with the effort at Foreston.

The biggest challenge appears to be getting the infrastructure into place at the Foreston Municipal Water Tower, site of the proposed link. Currently, there is no infrastructure at the site. The frequencies also have not been assigned, although KDØCI recently submitted the applications. Engineering plans for the link itself are still being worked out.

One of the proposals made by the St Cloud Radio Club was to utilize their UHF frequency of 446.225 MHz at our link site in order to eliminate the need for additional equipment at the Collegeville site. They reported that they are, for all intents and purposes, maxed out on the amount of equipment they can install at their site, so assigning 446.225 Mhz to the link site would be extremely helpful.

KDØCI is expected to make a formal presentation to the City of Foreston soon to detail the plans for the link site, in addition to presenting an overview of the benefits to the city in hosting a facility such as the one being planned.

HAMMING 101 – From 73 to the letter Z

One thing about being into ham radio, you often learn as you go about normal operating practices and procedures. Some Hams offer free “on the air” advice for newcomers. Most of the time they are polite about it, and gratitude should be expressed to those “on the air Elmers”. Once in awhile though, you might run into a rude someone with a chip on their shoulder, [in other words, a lid] so in order to spare you any “on air embarrassment”, I’ll attempt to do the polite thing by passing along some free advice off the air in this series called “Hamming 101”.

In this issue, I’m going to answer two questions. The first is a request from a loyal reader of this newsletter who asked about the use of the term “73”. How should it be used?

Well, 73 is a term most commonly used by hams when signing off at the end of a contact. Translated, 73 literally means “regards”. So, when using the term 73, you might say, “73 to you” or “Best 73”, or simply “73”.

All too often, I’ve heard operators use the term “73’s”, which is technically an incorrect use of the term. If translated literally, “73’s” means “regards’s”. Coming up from the CB ranks, I learned this myself early in my Ham life. Although I usually pass it off when I hear it used by others, in the nearly 28 years since then I have been very careful not to say “73’s” on the Ham bands.

The second issue regards the letter “Z”. Sometimes, letters in a call sign are hard to understand, especially if there is a lot of noise [QRM, QRN, etc] on the HF bands. Phonetics are a good substitute, and they should be used under those conditions. But what if you’re on two meters where noise is not usually a problem, and someone comes on the air with a call sign like ZCZ, or CZC in the suffix. Wow, if you have any sort of hearing problem, that might be a challenge to get right, as it was for me recently on our local two meter net. Leave it to Hams however to figure out a way to deal with that problem. They simply pronounce the letter “Z” as “Zed”. Using “Zed” distinguishes the letter “Z” from other similar sounding letters, particularly the letter “C”.

For example, if a call sign has a “Z” in it, such as KØZTZ, you’d give the non-phonetic call as “K Zero Zed T Zed”. Ofcourse, the phonetics for that same call would be “Kilo Zero Zulu Tango Zulu.”

I’m looking for subject suggestions for our next newsletter, so don’t be shy.

KDØCI Email Change

The KDØCI/KAØAJF/KCØYLF household recently signed onto **high speed internet**. As a result, the old ECENET email address will be discontinued. The change becomes effective on Monday August 6th, but you might want to update your address books now, rather than wait until the last minute to do so. The new KDØCI email address options are listed at the end of the “Comments and Questions” section, found on the last page of this newsletter.

REGIONAL INFORMATION – Courtesy of ARRL & Other Sources

UPCOMING VE TESTING

18-Aug-2007

Sponsor: SOUTH EAST METRO AREA RC

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: DENNIS J ACKERMAN

(651)769-0358

Email: KB0OQQ@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: FIRE STATION #2-LOWER LEVEL

8641 80TH ST S

COTTAGE GROVE, MN 55016

25-Aug-2007

Sponsor: BLOOMINGTON OFF/EMERGENCY MGMT

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: DANIEL J ROYER

(952)888-9756

Email: KE0OR@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: [HTTP://WWW.BLOOMINGTON-VE.ORG](http://WWW.BLOOMINGTON-VE.ORG)

1800 W OLD SHAKOPEE RD

CITY HALL - POLICE DEPARTMENT

CALL AHEAD, WALKINS UNTIL 9AM

BLOOMINGTON, MN 55431

25-Aug-2007

Sponsor: UNSPONSORED

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

Contact: JOHN J SMOLENSKI, NØYR (763)263-8741

Email: NØYR@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: AMERICAN LEGION

525 RAILROAD DRIVE

ELK RIVER, MN 55330

UPCOMING HAMFESTS -

WISCONSIN

Saturday August 18th 2007

Sponsor: Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club

Time: 8 AM – Noon

Place: Eagles Club, 2588 Hallie Road, Chippewa Falls Wisconsin.

Talk-In: 147.375 [110.9 Hz tone]

Admission: \$5.00.

More Info: www.w9cva.org

MINNESOTA

Saturday September 8th 2007

Sponsor: East Central Minnesota Amateur Radio Club

Time: 9 AM – Noon

Place: Rush City High School, 51145 Fairfield Avenue, Rush City Minnesota.

Talk-In: 145.33 [no tone]

Admission: Free.

More Info: ecmarc.org

NET INFORMATION -

Updated July 24, 2007 – Post near your radio for handy reference.

EAST CENTRAL MINNESOTA EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NET

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

Preamble:

This is [your call sign] calling the East Central Minnesota 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 [WØSV 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 MHz [WØSV Repeater, St Cloud]

EMERGENCY & SKYWARN FREQUENCIES

Mille Lacs & Kanabec Counties: 146.565 MHz Simplex

Regional Packet: 145.670 MHz

National Weather Service [Duluth]: 147.00 MHz [Mahtowa], 146.865 MHz [Giese].

National Weather Service [Minneapolis/Chanhassen]: 146.64 MHz [Cambridge], 146.835 MHz [Sauk Rapids].

National Weather Service [Duluth]: 75 Meter Net: 3.810 KHz LSB. Alternate: 3.820 KHz LSB.

Information On The World Wide Web

Information on this and more local and regional Amateur Radio activity is posted on the following websites:

St Cloud Amateur Radio Club www.w0sv.org
Arrowhead Radio Amateur Club www.thearac.org
Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club www.brainerdham.org

NEW HAMS

Congratulations to Howard Handy who passed the Technician Class Exam on Saturday July 14th, especially after having had to endure two evenings of class earlier that week with KDØCI as the instructor! Howard's new call sign is **KDØBEQ**. He is also looking for some good used two meter gear, just in case you have some.

As of this issue of the newsletter, it is not known if any others in the class of six have taken the exam.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

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.

Please take note of the new email address as the old one will be discontinued on Monday August 6th. Send your comments, as well as any "newsworthy" items for inclusion to either of my new email addresses.

Main Address:
kd0ci@arrl.net [proxy server for kdzeroci@q.com]

Alternate:
kd0ci@yahoo.com

73,

Kenny Broshofske KDØCI