
KDØCI's Radio Newsletter

Volume 2 Number 12 - Supporting Amateur Radio in East Central Minnesota - October 25, 2007

EQUIPMENT STOLEN FROM ASKOV PACKET SITE

Thieves apparently broke into and stole several pieces of communications equipment from the Askov Packet Radio Node Site recently.

According to the report passed along by WBØOFB, among the items stolen were two Yaesu FT-7800 transceivers, a Kantronics 9612+ TNC Modem, a Simplex SEC1223 Power Supply and a VHF/UHF Duplexer. The value of the stolen equipment was estimated to be worth approximately \$1000. Parts were also stolen from an EF Johnson repeater used years ago by the Highway Department, and stored at the site. There is no word as to whether any of the equipment was insured, or if there was any additional equipment or infrastructure damage in or around the shelter.

The level of security at the Askov site consisted of physical barriers, however with construction underway for the new Highway 23 Corridor Emergency Communications System, the theft of radio equipment at Askov has raised questions about the level of security there and elsewhere. Gene McLain, KB9RWF, Homeland Security Director for Pine County, had expressed concerns about the Askov site to the Pine County Sheriff's Department earlier. Now that site security has been violated, McLain plans to raise the issue again. There have been no arrests in this case so far.

While security for the Highway 23 System has been discussed, and provisions are either in place or are planned for the repeater and link sites in the system, the question becomes, how much is enough and how much will it cost?

Another concern is, was the Askov break-in an isolated event, or will this become something bigger?

The Askov Packet Site, identified on Packet as MNASK, was put together by the late Tom Jameson, WØKGW, and went into operation last May. It has been maintained since Jameson's death by Jerry Whitaker, WBØOFB. MNASK was part of the Packet Network that stretches across most of Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

While there is no information at this time as to when the Askov site will once again become operational, plans are in the works to reactivate that operation.

HIGHWAY 23 SYSTEM UPDATE

The Ogilvie Repeater phase of the Highway 23 Communications Project appears to be pretty much on track. The on-air target date continues to be November 1st. According to the latest information obtained from Art Carlson, WAØNJR, the building of the repeater equipment itself is nearly completed.

Meanwhile hopes for construction of an equipment shelter for the VHF/UHF Link site at Foreston before winter arrives are fading quickly as the City Council has yet to respond with estimates. One of the city council members reported that problems locating the existing infrastructure in the proximity of the site have been complicated by the health of one of the people working on locating exactly where the underground water lines run. Also, detailed plans for the structure which had been submitted earlier had to be resubmitted because the original submittal was somehow missed when an email address was changed. The detailed plans were necessary so that realistic estimates could be obtained. The city council reportedly continues to be very supportive of the plan, as the project issue was raised again at their last council meeting.

RELOCATION DRILL PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER 7TH

The annual exercise for relocating in the event of an emergency at the Monticello Nuclear Power Plant will be 6 PM on Wednesday November 7th at the Princeton High School. This is an excellent opportunity for all our new Hams to learn and be a part of an emergency training effort. Listen for updated information about the drill on the Tuesday night net.

SURVEY QUESTION - BREAKFAST ANYONE?

Recently, there has been interest generated for some sort of social get-together, which seems to be centered on the possibility of forming a club or organization. The interest for such a get-together has increased substantially since the recent licensing of several operators in Kanabec County (see **Congratulations To Our New Hams** on Page 6).

A social gathering, such as a group breakfast for example, would have tremendous value by bringing together people having a common interest [in this case, Ham Radio]. Everyone would have a chance to meet and talk about the hobby, as well as generate continued interest.

Considering recent input from several of you, I think the time is certainly right to explore in depth the level of interest in having a breakfast social, and perhaps even forming a club. So, let's find out just exactly how much interest there REALLY is. I've created a survey sheet below for you to fill out and resubmit to me. From there, depending on the response of course, we should work together on having some sort of social get-together – like a Saturday morning breakfast meeting somewhere in the area.

Let's hear from you on this very important survey.

1. Would you be interested in attending an Amateur Radio Breakfast in the Milaca/Mora area?
 Milaca Mora Either Rotate between these and/or other area locations (name)
2. If so, would Saturday mornings be suitable for the occasion?
 Yes No (name an alternative day)
3. What time should it start?
 8 AM 9 AM 10 AM
4. Should our first breakfast social serve as a starting point for the eventual formation of a local/regional Amateur Radio club or organization?
 Yes No Not sure
5. Should these breakfast socials become a regularly scheduled affair?
 Yes No
6. If these get-togethers become a regularly scheduled affair, then how often should they be held?
 Monthly Quarterly Other
7. Would you be willing to take the initiative in at least helping to arrange these breakfast socials?
 Yes No
8. Do you think these breakfast meetings could also serve as a setting for training sessions?
 Yes No
9. Additional comments or suggestions?

Thank you for your input. The results will be posted in the November issue of the Newsletter.

HAMMING 101 – Making That First Contact

One thing about being into ham radio, you often learn as you go about 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 “off the air” advice in this series called “Hamming 101”.

In this issue, let’s talk about making that first contact.

These days it’s pretty easy for Technicians to make that first contact on Ham Radio. Unlike when I got started as a Novice, you don’t have to worry whether or not you’re going to nervously fidget with a CW key while trying to send code, or worse yet, hope you can copy what is sent back to you. All YOU have to do is simply key a microphone and make a call on two meters, either on simplex or through a repeater.

If you’re brand new to the hobby and you’re not sure how to go about it, try listening on an active two meter repeater for awhile to get a feel for it before taking the step to transmit. Later, when the repeater becomes quiet, just key the mic and tell whoever might be listening that you’re monitoring by giving your call sign, such as “KDØEFG monitoring.” It’s that simple. Better yet, if you hear another station say they’re monitoring, answer by greeting them with a friendly “Hello, this is KDØEFG and my name is Clem, over.” Either way the chances are, unless there is something wrong, you will get an answer and your first contact is underway.

Again, whenever you intend to go on the air, you should always ask if the frequency is in use. For the benefit of our newest Hams, two meter repeaters in East Central Minnesota are listed below.

Local & Regional Two Meter Repeaters

The following is a list of known repeaters in East Central Minnesota. [Clip and post in your shack.](#)

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>OFFSET</u>	<u>PL TONE</u>	<u>CALL SIGN</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Aitkin	146.805	Minus	156.7	KCØQXC	
Becker	147.345	Plus	85.4	KØOS	
Big Lake	146.775	Minus	None	NØRPP	
Brainerd	145.775	Minus	None	WØUJ	
Brainerd	147.225	Plus	None	WØUJ	
Cambridge	146.640	Minus	146.2	WRØP	Skywarn Minneapolis
Crown	145.230	Minus	127.3	NØGEF	Skywarn Minneapolis
Elk River	146.970	Minus	None	KØCJD	
Foreston	146.745	Minus	107.2	NØGOI	
Giese	146.865	Minus	151.4	KBØQYC	Skywarn Duluth [Future]
Isle	146.610	Minus	None	WBØSYO	
Little Falls	147.315	Plus	123.0	WØREA	
Mahtowa	147.000	Minus	103.5	NØBNG	Skywarn Duluth
Milaca	145.350	Minus	141.3	WBØMPE	PL Tone Is Currently Off
Ogilvie	147.240	Plus	146.2	KDØCI	Under Construction
North Branch	145.230	Minus	100.0	NØKVL	
North Branch	147.315	Plus	91.5	KCØASX	
Princeton	145.470	Minus	114.8	KGØUY	
Princeton	146.895	Minus	203.5	NØRPP	
Rush City	145.330	Minus	None	NØABR	
St Cloud	146.835	Minus	85.4	NØOYQ	Skywarn Minneapolis
St Cloud	146.940	Minus	None	WØSV	
St Cloud	147.015	Plus	100.0	WØSV	Central Region Emergency Net

If you have updates or corrections for this list, by all means let me know.

REGIONAL INFORMATION – Courtesy of ARRL & Other Sources

UPCOMING VE TESTING

SATURDAY OCTOBER 27TH – ALL DAY CLASS AND TEST

Sponsor: UNSPONSORED

Time: All Day Class begins at 8:30 AM, Testing will be around 5 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

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

Email: NØYR@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: **TAKE NOTE OF LOCATION**

GREAT RIVER ENERGY CENTER – BUILDING #1
US HIGHWAY 10, ELK RIVER, MINNESOTA 55330

Directions: [From US Hwy 169, go west on US Hwy 10 about 1/8 mile, Great River Energy will be on the right. Turn right into driveway, then turn right again and continue up the hill, Building #1 will be on the left as you drive through beneath the overhead walkway, parking lot is immediately ahead.]

Tuesday October 30th

Sponsor: NORTHERN LAKES ARC

Time: 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: WARREN E JEWETT (218)327-2280

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: ITASCA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
123 NE 4TH ST
HIGHWAY 2
BASEMENT MEETING ROOM
GRAND RAPIDS, MN 55744

Saturday November 3rd

Sponsor: DUNN COUNTY AREA AMATEURS

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

Contact: JAMES L GUENTHER, (715)232-2625

Email: GUENTHERJ@UWSTROUT.EDU

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-NW ENTRANCE
121 10TH AVENUE AT S BROADWAY
UW STOUT MILLENNIUM HALL
NITE: 715-235-4488
MENOMONIE, WISCONSIN 54751

Thursday November 15th

Sponsor: STILLWATER ARA

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed but PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED!)

Contact: SHELDON E MANN (651)439-1272

Email: NØDRX@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: BOUTWELLS LANDING
5600 NORWICH PKWY
STILLWATER, MN 55082

Saturday November 24th

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, MINNESOTA 55330

NET INFORMATION -

dated 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 [Optional - First calls for check-ins by County]

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: 3810 KHz LSB. Alternate: 3820 KHz LSB.

MINNESOTA SECTION PHONE NET

Twice Daily: @ 12 Noon and @ 5:30 PM - 3860 KHz.

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
Minnesota ARRL Section News	www.mn-section.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW HAMS

During October, a Ham Radio class was held in Mora from which eleven new amateur radio operators emerged out of the twelve that registered for the course. The eight hour course consisted of two evening classes held on October 8th and 9th. VE examiners NØYR, NØRD, and KØMJS came from Elk River to Mora and gave the examinations on the evening of October 10th. According to the FCC Database link in QRZ.com, call signs were issued to the following new Hams on October 17th:

Craig Anderson	KDØBUL
Jeff Anderson	KDØBUP
James Cole	KDØBUJ
Joan Fluegge	KDØBUT
Aaron Heuer	KDØBUM
Robert Knoll Jr.	KDØBUR
Rebecca Larson	KDØBUN
Leonard Mattson	KDØBUS
James Slaikeu	KDØBUQ
Eugene Sheggrud	KDØBUO
R. Darnelle Van Hale	KDØBUK

One other person, Scott Stellmach KCØYBK, formally upgraded his license from Technician to General.

FLEA MARKET

New Tech manual with CD from Gordon West. Below cost \$20 with Audio CD. Rob Youcha, Operations AEC with Sherburne County ARES - kc0weo@arrl.net - Cell phone number is 763-228-0843.

I have some 2 meter mobile transceivers here gathering dust. If you have some young Hams that have limited incomes but would like to get on the air, I willing to give them one. I would prefer the Wahkon, Isle, or Onamia area come first! Arnie Ryba, K0HWG, Wahkon. 320-495-3586

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The **KDØCI Radio Newsletter** is a free Amateur Radio information publication for Eastern Minnesota and Western Wisconsin, and distributed monthly [or more frequently if required] by email to amateur radio operators and clubs, public service officials, and other interested parties. 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. Comments, questions, etc for this newsletter are welcome. Send your comments, as well as any "newsworthy" or "for sale" items for inclusion to either of my email addresses.

"Reading your Newsletter reminds me of the time we were setting up Civil Defense in the sixties around the Minneapolis area." KØHWG, Wahkon.

Primary Email Address: kd0ci@arrl.net [proxy server for kdzeroci@q.com] Alternate: kd0ci@yahoo.com

73, Kenny Broshofske KDØCI