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# KDØCI's Radio Newsletter

Volume 2 Number 13 - Supporting Amateur Radio in East Central Minnesota - November 25, 2007

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## **OGILVIE REPEATER MOVES TOWARD COMPLETION**

The KDØCI repeater, [147.24 Mhz - PL Tone of 146.2 Hz], the main component of the Highway 23 Communications Corridor Project that will eventually link St Cloud and Duluth, moved a step closer to completion on November 17<sup>th</sup> with installation of the antenna and coax cable on the tower site near Ogilvie. However, the antenna could not be mounted at the 200 foot level as planned due to a previously unknown 4.9 GHz Microwave antenna mounted at that height.

On hand for the installation were Project Engineer Jerry Whitaker WBØOFB, Repeater Custodian and acting Project Coordinator Kenny Broshofske KDØCI, Kanabec County Emergency Management Director Lowell Sedlacek, and a two man tower climbing crew.

After concluding that mounting it higher on the tower would not work due to guy wires in the vicinity, the antenna was mounted at the 160 foot level. The process took nearly four hours.

"This has been a very satisfying day," KDØCI said about getting past this step, and then he added, "A big part of this project was completed today, but we are not done yet."

According to another Project Engineer, Art Carlson WAØNJR, the repeater itself is very close to being completed. The installation of the repeater equipment at the site is expected to take place within the next few days. Several days of testing will follow once the equipment installation is complete to insure a proper signal pattern, and that there is no interference to other communications interests that share the site, or to the Chippewa Falls Wisconsin repeater operating some 115 miles to the southeast on the same frequency.

The project is far from finished however, as the all important link into St Cloud remains to be completed. There has been no word indicating that bids have been obtained for the equipment shelter, or that anything is underway at the proposed site in Foreston. With snow and subzero cold a virtual certainty very soon, any hopes for construction of the equipment shelter for the VHF/UHF Link site at Foreston before winter arrives have pretty much disappeared.

Earlier it was reported that locating existing infrastructure in the proximity of the site was a problem that was further complicated by the health of one of the people working on locating where the underground water lines run.

## **NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> RELOCATION DRILL HELD**

The annual exercise for relocating in the event of an emergency at the Monticello Nuclear Power Plant was held on Wednesday November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Princeton High School. While there was a full crew on hand for the drill, including Federal inspectors, there were some disappointing aspects.

The biggest issue was the number of Ham Radio operators present. What appeared to be an excellent opportunity for new Hams to learn and be a part of an emergency training effort, only three Hams showed up for the drill. According to one official, eleven Hams could have easily been deployed to the various stations. The other disappointment was the lack of volunteer "victims" for the decontamination teams to train with.

One of the interesting findings however was the number of communications "dead spots" inside the high school. Mike Berg KCØVZG, who deployed to several locations in and around the building during the drill, found spots where using a handheld radio was challenging, especially in the basement. "You have to be in exactly the right spot down here," he reported to KDØCI, who acted as net control from the main lobby area using a Yaesu FT-2800 mobile rig connected to a battery and a ¼ wave magnet mount mobile antenna. Dave Winn KCØYBX, also deployed with his handheld to various locations and found the same situation as Berg did.

It is hoped that next years drill will attract a more active response by Hams.

## **SURVEY QUESTION REMAINS AN UNANSWERED QUESTION**

Earlier, there appeared to be a great deal of interest generated for some sort of social get-together, which seemed to be centered on the possibility of forming a local ham radio club or organization. The interest for such a get-together was based on comments made during and after the recent licensing of several operators in Kanabec County.

Considering the disappointing level of response [less than 5% feedback] on the recent survey question however, there doesn't appear to be as much interest as was thought. So for now, the subject will remain open to comments only until after the first of the year, when the possibility of a gathering will once again be explored.

## **Ernie Matthews KØDUM – Silent Key**

Ernest "Ernie" Matthews KØDUM of Isle, formerly of Minneapolis, became a silent key on November 5<sup>th</sup>. He was 74 years old.

Matthews was on hand in Isle during the tornado outbreak on Mille Lacs Lake in July 1991. Acting as net control on the WBØSYO/KØHPY repeater system during the event, Matthews coordinated reports from mobile units observing the tornado. The activity drew the attention of TV and radio stations in Minneapolis and St Paul who were kept up to date on the latest observations. He earned the Minnesota Section "Amateur of the Month" recognition for his efforts.

Matthews was a long time radio amateur and a member of the Zuhrah Shriners of Minneapolis.

A memorial service was held in Crystal on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **HAMMING 101 – Buying That First Radio**

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, especially as long as Christmas is just ahead, let's talk once again about buying that first radio.

In 1981, after spending nearly eight months as a Novice, I passed my Technician Exam on the first try. I had no VHF or UHF equipment so until I passed my General Code Exam, in order to use my new talking privileges I would need a new radio, for the short term at least. So the logical choice, as I saw it then, was to buy a two meter hand held radio. So, I dropped in at a candy store [otherwise known as an Amateur Radio Equipment dealer] that was located in North Minneapolis at the time, and bought a Yaesu FT-207. It was quite the two meter rig, rugged and dependable. I actually found out how rugged it REALLY was after I sold it. The ham who bought it dropped it not so gently and not just once, but twice, and it came up working both times.

The point I'm trying to make is if you are undecided about that first equipment purchase, a good hand held rig is an excellent short term choice. Believe it or not, a hand held dual band rig like a Yaesu VX-6R is on my own Christmas wish list this year. The thing about today's hand holds are that most of them are far more complicated, and have more bells and whistles in them, than is really necessary. Try shopping for a simple two meter hand held rig to begin with, like I did. With so many repeaters in the area, including the soon to be operating Ogilvie repeater, a two meter hand held would make a very nice Christmas gift, especially for that new ham in your family who has no radio at all.

Here are some choices for around the \$150 range. Being a Yaesu guy, I'd personally recommend the rugged VX-170 for starters. Icom also makes a rugged two meter hand held, like the IC-V82. Kenwood's offering at this level is the TH-K2AT, while Alinco offers their DJ-V17T. One other thing - when shopping for that two meter hand held, spend a moment checking on any accessory items you might need, such as a speaker-mic, cigarette lighter adaptor for in the car, or a mobile antenna adaptor for extended range.

There are several ham radio suppliers to be found on the Internet, including AES in Milwaukee, R & L Electronics in Hamilton Ohio, Burghardt's In Watertown South Dakota, and Radio City in St Paul. Most suppliers have toll free 800 numbers if you prefer ordering by phone. Oh, by the way, Merry Christmas shopping to you all!

## 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.

## “CABIN FEVER RELIEVER” AND “MIDWINTER MADNESS” HAMFESTS SET

With the onset of winter, ones thoughts eventually turn towards looking for a way to break the after Christmas winter doldrums. Well, here are a couple of events to help you out, especially if Christmas came and went without any radio equipment purchases. Make your plans now to attend one or both of these upcoming winter hamfests.

The St Cloud Radio Club announced that it's annual “Cabin Fever Reliever” Hamfest will be Saturday February 16<sup>th</sup> at the National Guard Armory, located at 1710 8<sup>th</sup> Street North in St Cloud. Talk-in on the 147.015 [PL 100.0], or 146.94 repeaters. More info available at the St Cloud Radio Club website: <http://www.w0sv.org> or email [wa0njr@hotmail.com](mailto:wa0njr@hotmail.com).

Then, on Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup>, the annual Midwinter Madness, sponsored by the Robbinsdale Amateur Radio Club, will take place at the Civic Center, 1306 Calder Drive, in Buffalo. Talk-in on the 147.00 repeater. More info is available at <http://www.k0lfc.org>, or email [k0lfc@k0lfc.org](mailto:k0lfc@k0lfc.org).

## SO WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE – YAESU MOTOROLA OR MOTOROLA YAESU?

In case you hadn't heard about it, Motorola announced on November 5<sup>th</sup> through a press release that it plans to make a tender offer for controlling interest in Vertex Standard, the parent company of Yaesu. If the transaction is successful, Motorola will acquire 80% of Vertex Standard, while control of the remaining 20% will be retained by the Japanese Company “Tokogiken” and will henceforth operate as a joint venture.

So now, the question on a lot of people's minds is, will the company's products continue to display the Yaesu or Vertex brands, or some variant which might include the Motorola label? There will also be that always present question that follows every corporate acquisition, “What about product quality?” I guess that remains to be seen.

*Some of the information in the preceding two stories was obtained from the ARRL website.*

## **REGIONAL INFORMATION – Courtesy of ARRL & Other Sources**

### **UPCOMING VE TESTING IN EASTERN MINNESOTA AND WESTERN WISCONSIN**

01-Dec-2007

**Sponsor:** ST PAUL RADIO CLUB

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

**Contact:** DAVID M BUENDING

(952)486-0836

**Email:** [AD2B@ARRL.NET](mailto:AD2B@ARRL.NET)

**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)

**Location:** ROSEVILLE CITY HALL

2660 COUNTY ROAD C

NW COR CTY RD C & LEXINGTON AVE

ROSEVILLE, MN 55101

01-Dec-2007

**Sponsor:** DUNN COUNTY AREA AMATEURS

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

**Contact:** JAMES L GUENTHER

(715)232-2625

**Email:** [GUENTHERJ@UWSTROUT.EDU](mailto: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, WI 54751

04-Dec-2007

**Sponsor:** BRAINERD AREA ARC

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

**Contact:** ALDERIC J DOREE

(218)575-2404

**Email:** [DOREEAJ@BRAINERD.NET](mailto:DOREEAJ@BRAINERD.NET)

**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)

**Location:** BRAINERD FIRE STATION, 501 LAUREL ST, BRAINERD, MN 56401

22-Dec-2007

**Sponsor:** UNSPONSORED

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

**Contact:** JOHN J SMOLENSKI

(763)263-8741

**Email:** [N0YR@ARRL.NET](mailto:N0YR@ARRL.NET)

**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)

**Location:** AMERICAN LEGION, 525 RAILROAD DRIVE, ELK RIVER, MN 55330

05-Jan-2008

**Sponsor:** ST PAUL RADIO CLUB

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

**Contact:** DAVID M BUENDING

(952)486-0836

**Email:** [AD2B@ARRL.NET](mailto:AD2B@ARRL.NET)

**VEC:** [ARRL/VEC](#)

**Location:** ROSEVILLE CITY HALL

2660 COUNTY ROAD C

NW COR CTY RD C & LEXINGTON AVE, ROSEVILLE, MN 55101

## **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 [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 FM Simplex [& soon 147.240 MHz @ Ogilvie]

Regional Packet: 145.670 MHz

National Weather Service [Duluth]: 147.00 MHz [Mahtowa] [& soon 147.240 MHz @ Ogilvie].

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.

## KØBLR Appointed As MSPN/N Net Manager

Ben Ramler, KØBLR, of St Cloud has been appointed as the Net Manager of the Minnesota Section Noon Phone Net. MSPN/N is on 3860 KHz daily at 12 Noon. Ramler replaces John Smolenski, NØYR, who was temporarily filling in as Net Manager for Karl Koppelman, WAØTFC. Koppelman suffered a stroke earlier and has not returned to the air. The appointment of Ramler to the MSPN/N Net Manager post leaves the Minnesota Slow Speed [CW] Net as the only statewide traffic net without a net manager.

Ramler is also an active operator on Central Minnesota VHF Nets, including as a participant on the Tuesday Night East Central Minnesota Emergency Preparedness Net.

## 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	<a href="http://www.w0sv.org">www.w0sv.org</a>
Arrowhead Radio Amateur Club	<a href="http://www.thearac.org">www.thearac.org</a>
Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club	<a href="http://www.brainerdham.org">www.brainerdham.org</a>
Minnesota ARRL Section News	<a href="http://www.mn-section.com">www.mn-section.com</a>

## 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](mailto: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'm willing to give them one. I would prefer the Wahkon, Isle, or Onamia area come first! Arnie Ryba, K0HWG, Wahkon. 320-495-3586

## TUESDAY NIGHT NET HONOR ROLL ROSTER & HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Recently, a request was submitted for the **Newsletter** to list all members of the Tuesday Evening Net. The idea has merit as it helps the Net Control stations identify those who check in. A Tuesday Night Net Honor Roll based on the most active recent check-ins is being developed. If YOU want to be on the list, you should have either been a recent participant, or check in at least once between now and the planned January 25<sup>th</sup> release date of the list.

Also, the final net session for this year will be on December 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be no Tuesday night net sessions on December 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of Christmas, or on January 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of New Years. The net will resume on Tuesday January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. We are also looking for more volunteer Net Controls. Let KDØCI know if you want to give it a try. It's not that hard, but more important, it provides training for you as an operator.

## 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.

*"You have put together a well written document. It contains a lot of information."* KBØWV, Minneapolis.

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

73, Kenny Broshofske KDØCI