
KDØCI's Radio NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 Number 4 - Supporting Amateur Radio in East Central Minnesota - March 6, 2007

SO, WHAT'S HAPPENING????

A day hardly passes that I wonder to myself, "What's happening?" On the one hand, I look at the positives and see hope. On the other hand, I look at the negatives and I really start to wonder.

As the days and weeks pass since the effort began to establish an Emergency Preparedness presence in East Central Minnesota, it has been a roller coaster ride at best. On the upside, there are more licensed operators now than there were a year ago. The downside is that many of them have not yet been on the air.

Again on the upside, the word is out about Ham Radio via Public Service Announcements on broadcast radio and in publications in Pine County, and the Princeton Fire Station will soon be installing a two meter antenna. On the downside, there seems to be a big problem coordinating frequency pairs for two meter repeaters. Responsibility for the problem of repeater frequency coordination rests solely with Minnesota's Repeater Coordinators who have not been at all bashful about issuing repeater pairs to past the point of saturation. In other words, there are way too many two meter repeaters! Now I could take up a considerable amount of space in this newsletter to explain the problems, but I'm not going to bore you with the details of an issue I can't control.

Another upside is that we've been able to establish and maintain a two meter simplex net every Tuesday evening. The downside is that we have accomplished little in the way of training for a host of reasons. One of the biggest reasons we have accomplished so little revolves around the still unclear status of the Public Health Center in Milaca. Since many operators still don't have equipment of their own, the only viable option for them is the Milaca PHC. However, it has been months since the last transmission was made from there on a Tuesday evening.

After weeks of using this forum as an appeal point, I feel like I'm pretty much ready to throw in the towel over any hopes of hearing any transmissions from the Milaca PHC anytime soon, if at all. It's a shame to see all that valuable resource wasted, but that's exactly what's happening.

INPUT NEEDED FOR PACKET PRESENTATION

As you know, Packet Radio is a vital component of our overall Emergency Preparedness effort. Tom Jameson WØKGW has offered to make a presentation on Packet Radio for interested parties. Arrangements have been made with St Mary's Catholic Parish in Milaca to make their Parish Center available for a Thursday evening yet to be determined. The actual presentation taking place will depend on how many people are interested.

We would like to see enough respondents to make the presentation worth while. Tom operates Packet, and is quite knowledgeable on the subject. Please respond to me if you're interested at kdzeroci@ecenet.com by no later than March 15th so the presentation can be scheduled.

DX IS GOOD ON 75 METERS, BUT....

Ham Radio is not all about Emergency Preparedness and two meter nets. What follows is a case in point.

My recent retirement has enabled me to play more late night radio. By late night, I'm talking hours past midnight. In fact, I've been on the radio more during the late night hours just in the last two months than what I have cumulatively logged over the past 20 years! One of the rewards of late night operations has been my ability to snare some good DX on the 75 meter band.

Not widely accepted as a DX band, there have been some decent DX openings on 75 meters of late. I have worked countries from as close by as Cuba, to as far away as Spain and Ireland. I even worked a fellow on Revilla Gigedo Island, off the west coast of Mexico. I've heard other countries as far away as Yugoslavia and Poland, but working with a Yaesu FT897 capable of a mere 100 watts, and with other stations piling up, I don't stand a real good chance of making those longer contacts, unless I'm lucky. That factor is part of the challenge and, as the old saying goes, "if you can hear em, you can work em." Patience is definitely required!

I do have my Yaesu FT-101E with the matching FL2100B amplifier, together are good for about 600 watts, however it is times like these that I really wish I still had my old Yaesu FTDX401. That was THE radio for DX. Capable by itself of over 350 pep watts out, working with a Wilson System 33 Tri-band Beam at about 55 feet, I never once ever had to make more than one call with that rig to establish a contact. Yes, the D-104 microphone helped drive the audio so it cut through any noise [QRM] like a knife. I must have had it set at the right level as I never received a report of distorted audio.

One fellow ham used to kid me about the FTDX401 being able to "create its own conditions", and I almost believed it at times. For example, I can't tell you the number of times I outgunned other stations I knew were running amplifiers. That radio was particularly impressive on the 20 meter band, the world-wide band that is home to the big gun DXers. I pretty much exclusively used that radio for 20 meter DX, although I used in on 10 meters occasionally, with the same results.

I often ask myself why I ever parted with the old 401. I guess it was one of those situations you live to regret, given time. On the other hand, radio can be just as interesting and challenging when you make DX contacts like those aforementioned with a limited capability. I'm going to continue my late night efforts in the "DX Window", typically around 3795 kilohertz, and see what I can do.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in order to the following radio amateurs:

Upgraded from Technician to General -
Scott KCØYBK - Milaca
Phil KCØUZL - St Cloud [now N1ARM]
Ben KØBLR - St Cloud

Newly licensed -
Kathy KCØZNC - Mora

In **ONE DAY!**

become a **Technician** Grade Ham Radio operator
or **Technicians** can upgrade to **General**

Talk to people around the world.
Contact the International Space Station,
Contact the Space Shuttle,
Take part in emergency communications,
Have your own Television station,
Bounce signals off the moon,
Use satellites dedicated to Ham Radio,
Be a tornado spotter, and lots more...

PLUS ---> No Morse Code requirement*

The Sherburne County Amateur Radio Operators are presenting a one day class and test session. You can go from knowing nothing to becoming a licensed Technician Amateur Radio Operator or upgrade to General in one day. The class is on **April 28, 2007**, from 8:30 AM, to around 5:00 PM at the Great River Energy offices in Elk River MN.

The class and study material are **FREE**. There is a \$14.00 fee for the administration of the FCC test.

For more information or to register, contact Bob Mershon, W0BFK, at 763-263-8080 or by e-mail at roberts@izoom.net .

* As of February 23, 2007, the FCC has removed the Morse Code requirements from **ALL** Amateur Radio Licenses.

UPCOMING VE TESTING

March 10th 2007

Sponsor: Anoka Amateur Radio Club

Location: Blaine City Hall, Blaine Minnesota

Time: 9 AM

Info: www.anokaradio.org

Note: Info courtesy of John NØYR

March 24th 2007

Robbinsdale Amateur Radio Club Midwinter Madness

Buffalo Civic Center

1306 County Road 134

Buffalo Minnesota 55313

Time: 8 AM

E-mail: k0ltc@k0ltc.org

Phone: 763-537-1722

Website: www.k0ltc.org

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: NØYR@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: NØYR@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: NØYR@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

Net Roster and Net Control [NCS] Stations for the Mille Lacs County Emergency Preparedness Net

[7 PM Tuesday @ 146.565 Mhz Simplex – Roster of as of January 16th 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
N1ARM	Phil	St Cloud [ex: KCØUZL]
KØBLR	Ben	St Cloud
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
KCØYUE	Aaron	Milaca
KCØYUL	Audrey	Princeton
KCØYLF	Sara	Ogilvie
KCØZNC	Kathy	Mora
KDØCI	Kenny	Ogilvie
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