



WOSV

*St. Cloud Amateur Radio Club
Celebrating 90 years on the airwaves*

December 1st, 2007
Volume 3, Issue 2

Please Check Us Out Online! : <http://www.w0sv.org>

December Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

- December 20th
- Club Meeting
- February 16th
- SARC Hamfest
- June 28th-29th
- Field Day

Announcements:

Join the clubs' new email reflector!

Go to Yahoo groups page and search for the St Cloud Amateur Radio Club group or go directly to it at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scarcnm/>
A demonstration of how to sign up to the group is being planned for a future club meeting.

NET News:

The Iron Range Net meets Saturday's at 8 am on 3.919 MHz. It is a fellow ship net for the hams on the iron range but all other hams are invited to participate.

Fill-in/back-up Net Control Operators are needed for a net which meets at noon on 3.860 MHz, please contact Ben, K0BLR if you are able to assist with this.

Minutes from the Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting, November 16, 2007

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm

The president began with an announcement that a net which meets on 3.860 MHz is looking for back-up Net Control operators, contact Ben, K0BLR.

The board approved the purchase of 2 – 8 foot 2 meter antennas, one will be for the Cold Spring receive site and the other for packet. The price was expected to be approximately \$300, up to as much as \$400 was approved to be spent on the antennas.

Minutes passed from last meeting as printed in the newsletter which was mailed out by Mike, KC0UEA. Mike is taking over for KD7III and newsletters will be emailed out each month, but mailed out once each quarter.

Treasures report:

Checking	\$3,484.34
Savings	\$1,321.35
Restricted Checking.....	\$ 678.83
CD	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Total.....	\$6,484.52

Money was placed into a CD at 4.5% interest for 5 months. The plan is to purchase 2 more CD's in the future, staggering the 3 to be able to regain access to funds as needed if large expenses arise.

The Hamfest will be February 16th and Field Day will be June 28th and 29th.

An amplifier was donated to the club. It was installed on the 147.015 repeater. Art, WA0NJR thanked all those who helped with the amplifier replacement.

Special thanks were given to Art, WA0NJR

and Ed, K0VU for all their time and hard work on the repeaters lately.

Also Art, WA0NJR indicated that repeaters are in the works in Foreston and Ogilvie.

Jack, W0MBD provided an update about the Hospital net which meets the first Wednesday of each month at 1pm on the 147.015 repeater. Lately there has been 20-25 check-ins, with participation from 11 hospitals in 14 counties currently covered. At some locations work is being done to give crossband access inside the hospitals to the base station.

There is a new email reflector for the club, Brad KB0HNN has setup a Yahoo Group. This email reflector is publicly hosted and so therefore we will not be affected by responsibility changing hands as individual commitments to maintaining the reflector change.

Members may sign up for this group by going to Yahoo groups page and searching for the St Cloud Amateur Radio Club group or by going directly to it at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scarcnm/>. A demonstration of how to sign up to the group is being planned for a future club meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm

A meal and auction followed.

Respectfully submitted by Mike, KC0UEA





ARRL NEWS:

It Seems to Us: Absolute Zero

ARRL In Action: What Have We Been Up To Lately?

The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzler

A "Letter" From Home is Still Priceless -- Even if it Travels by Radio

Surfin': Widget to Read This

Surfin': Gobble, Gobble, Google

Right Place -- Right Time

Surfin': More Space on the Radio

A Little Trip to the Mother Ship

Running Barefoot on the Beach

For more information about these headlines please visit: <http://www.arrl.org>

Ham Greetings Ushers in Christmas Cards and Ornaments for Amateur Radio Operators



Dunnellon, FL ([PRWEB](http://www.prweb.com)) November 12, 2007 -- It's no secret that Amateur radio operators have many friends worldwide, and finding a ham radio inspired Christmas card to send during the holidays has always been a struggle. Ham Greetings (www.hamgreetings.com) has solved that problem by offering a new line of Christmas cards and Christmas ornaments geared specifically towards amateur radio operators.

The exclusive greeting card line, by Ham Greetings for amateur radio enthusiasts, focuses primarily on nostalgic greeting cards of days gone by. Ham Greetings also offers holiday cards and ornaments with a more modern theme for those too young to reminisce about glowing radio tubes and Christmas' past with their new Collins radio set under the tree.

Anne Dorsey, creator of Ham Greetings, suggests that "Our boxed cards and ornaments for ham radio operators will make super fundraising products for amateur radio scholarships and repeater expenses. We are also able to personalize any of our greeting cards and Christmas tree ornaments with ham call signs, amateur radio club logos, dates, etc. We look forward to serving the ham radio community with our new line of cards and ornaments."

Ham Greetings, a division of TechNote Time (www.technotetime.com), is an internet business focusing strictly on gift products for amateur radio operators. Their product line will soon expand to include mugs and t-shirts and other unique gift items for hams. Please visit www.hamgreetings.com for more information and to see their line of products.

Article from: <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2007/11/prweb568535.htm>

List of Current Board Members

President

Scott Hall - N0UV

Vice President

Art Carlson – WA0NJR - Elected

Treasurer

Jerome Dahlager – KC0WCF – Elected

Secretary

David Nick – KD7III – Elected

Mike Parker – KC0UEA – Acting Secretary

Trustees

Harold Hoffman KC0FAX – Re-elected

Larry Snodgrass – KC0SMM – Elected

Leonard Hopkins – KC0NZF – Elected

Past President

Jack Maus – W0MBD

Web Master

Phil Jorgensen - N1ARM



Pictured from left to right:

- **Art Carlson** – WA0NJR (Vice President)
- **Scott Hall** – N0UV (President)
- **Jerome Dahlager** – KC0WCF (Treasurer)

A "Letter" From Home is Still Priceless -- Even if it Travels by Radio

By US Army Major Scott Hedberg, AD7MI November 30, 2007

From Vietnam to the first Gulf War, tens of thousands of free telegrams and radiotelephone connections were provided to America's warfighters by Amateur Radio operators in the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS). Then e-mail and cell phones seemed to take over this so-called "morale and welfare" traffic. In the following dispatch from Iraq, Major Scott Hedberg, AD7MI (military call AEN5AC), a Californian who is on his second deployment helping train Iraqi Army soldiers, describes how he and amateur colleagues back home restored the MARSgram link for Thanksgiving 2007.

In five days, it delivered just under 500 messages.



Major Scott Hedberg, all set for the Christmas rush, is shown at the rig in Iraq where he sends and receives MARSgrams for fellow service members. [US ARMY PHOTO]

Somewhere in Iraq -- Seeing the look on a soldier's face when he receives a MARSgram from a loved one: priceless. I know because I've just been delivering them by the dozen.

Yes, it's true that most of the troops have access to an AT&T phone trailer or a so-called Internet café. With e-mail, who needs MARSgrams? I've heard it so many times.

Well, one truth throughout armies past and present is that mail (real "mail" that you can touch) is critical to morale. Here in Iraq it is no different. In this day and age the MARSgram may travel most of the way by radio, but when it's delivered it is a piece of paper you can read and re-read and cherish it.

One Thanksgiving MARSgram I delivered to a soldier here I will never forget. The text is confidential, of course, but maybe I can be forgiven for paraphrasing the thought that put a big lump in my throat: "My son, it is an honor to be your father. I am so very proud of the man you now are."

A lot of effort goes into getting these messages delivered once HF radio lands them in Iraq. Units that regularly push mail out to smaller forward operating bases (FOBs), run the risk of a roadside bomb or small arms fire just to ensure soldiers get their letters. Large logistic convoys are regularly hit while they bring mail out of Baghdad to the surrounding camps.

While receiving a large "Care Package" or other box of treats from home is wonderful, a letter from home is the most prized mail of all. Just to read a short note from a loved one while you are far away improves morale beyond comprehension.

The MARSgram accomplishes this in a unique way. It hops oceans in an instant, and the "last mile" via the military postal system is quick enough. However, it does require a complete postal address, including the APO ZIP.

On the way to Iraq most MARSgrams travel via Germany, where Ron Bell, KN6YS (AEM1AD), sorts and relays messages. Next way station is Qatar, on the Persian Gulf south of Iraq, where the AEN3QT Winlink PMBO operated by Curtis Knott, KB2ZVX (AEM3AB), handles the last hop to (and from) here. Ron and Curtis are major players in this operation.

Back in the States, Chris Carson's PMBO in Georgia logged just under 500 MARSgrams during six days over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Before Thanksgiving I had received a message via the Army MARS Winlink e-mail-over-radio system from Captain Jeff Hammer, Indiana Army National Guard, N9NIC (AAR5WL). A couple of years ago his was the first MARS station to operate from Afghanistan. After a time at home Jeff and his unit will be coming to Iraq soon and he asked me what the current state of MARS was like in Iraq.

I replied that there were not many operators with actual stations set up, and MARSgram traffic was miniscule. Jeff explained that he had a similar problem in Afghanistan. He recommended that in order to increase MARSgram traffic you had to remind soldiers and soldiers' families about it; to show them it is a unique and historical form of communication between soldiers at war and their loved ones.

Before I tried to drum up MARSgram traffic this Thanksgiving, I wanted to make sure I had solid contacts in each state that has a large number of soldiers deployed I didn't want a soldier to send a MARSgram to a loved one and have it not delivered.

Then I received a message from Chris Carson, KG4AYT (AAA9IC), the Army MARS Internet Coordinator back stateside, that he had put together a Web site for anyone to use and that the resulting MARSgram traffic would be routed into the e-mail-over-radio system. I sent a test message to my team chief and it was routed to my station within minutes. Fantastic!

To get the message out to soldier's families, to explain the unique and historical aspects of the MARSgram, I sent messages out to the Family Readiness Group and rear-detachment leaders back in the states at the major Army installations. Every company, battalion, brigade, division, etc. has a Family Readiness Group (FRG). The FRG is an officially command-sponsored organization of family members, volunteers, and soldiers belonging to a unit, that together provide an avenue of mutual support and assistance, and a network of communication among the family members, the chain of command, and community resources.

Word of the MARSgrams started spreading through the FRGs like wildfire and the traffic started rolling in!

Through steady and patient guidance from Daniel Wolf, KA7AGN (AEM1WF), the Army MARS region director based in Germany, I quickly learned how to assemble a MARSgram for delivery. Each MARSgram is printed out onto a MARSgram template and placed into an envelope. Additionally in the envelope, I include a blank MARSgram form for a reply as well as a one-page sheet that talks about what MARS is and what a MARSgram is. For those MARSgrams that I was mailing through the military postal system, I included a return envelope, but after the deluge began I started running out of envelopes quickly.

When I go to units here at my camp to hand deliver MARSgrams I take a stack of blank MARSgrams as well as the info sheet explaining about MARS.

The key to success in this whole operation is on the shoulders of the MARS members back in the states. Very soon (if not already) replies to these MARSgrams will be coming to family members throughout the country. I urge that these MARSgrams not be delivered via email or phone. If they can be delivered by hand or the US mail it will make a significant impact.

Now I have to head over to the PX to pick up more envelopes and take another bag of MARSgrams to the camp post office. Looks like I also have a handful of MARSgrams to deliver directly to units here at my camp.

Major Scott Hedberg, AD7MI, literally grew up with ham radio -- his father was KD6EUG. A military intelligence specialist, Scott has been in the Army since 1991. He got his amateur license in 2001 and joined Army MARS just before deploying to Iraq for his second tour this year. His wife (KI4ODI) and two-year-old daughter live in Virginia while he's overseas.

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*Have something to add to
the newsletter?*

Email the editor:
KC0UEA@GMAIL.COM

Repeater Information

<u>Repeater</u>	<u>Offset</u>	<u>Tone</u>	<u>Repeater Location</u>
147.015	+	PL 100.0	Collegeville, MN
146.940	-	Autopatch	St. Cloud, MN
146.835	-	PL 85.4	St. Cloud, MN
147.105	+	PL 85.4	Avon, MN
224.800	-	No Tone	St. Joseph, MN
444.350	+	No Tone	St. Cloud, MN
443.650	+	PL 85.4	Avon, MN
145.270	-	No Tone	Paynesville, MN
146.520		Simplex	Nationwide Simplex
146.640		Simplex	Nationwide Simplex
442.225	+	No Tone	St. Cloud, MN
147.225	+	No Tone	Sauk Centre, MN

Do you have a list of any
others? Please email the
editor and we will get them
added to this list.

About St. Cloud Amateur Radio Club

The St. Cloud Amateur
Radio Club is 85 years
strong!

It all started back in 1921
with Robert "Bob" Witchen,
WØSV, licensed as 9SV.

The St. Cloud Radio Club
call is registered as WØSV in
honor of Bob Witchen, first
licensed ham in the area.

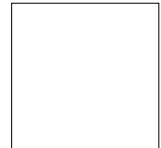
Since then, the club has
grown by leaps and
bounds serving in many

useful ways among the
surrounding tri-county area.

For a more detailed history
visit our website at:
<http://www.w0sv.org>

73

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
<http://www.w0sv.org>