
KDØCI's Radio Newsletter

Volume 4 Number 9 - [Supporting Amateur Radio in Eastern Minnesota & Northwest Wisconsin](#) - September 25, 2009

KDØCI: “FOURTH TUESDAY EMESNET IS NOT GETTING DESIRED RESULTS”

The “Fourth Tuesday” sessions of the Eastern Minnesota Emergency Simplex Net have fallen short of the results that were hoped for so far, according to Kenny Broshofske, KDØCI, who conceived the idea of controlling one net session a month from a centrally located emergency facility in the region. The question now is what to do about it?

The purpose of the “Fourth Tuesday” sessions was to provide an evening emergency training opportunity for amateur operators in Eastern Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin, especially those newer Hams who have no equipment of their own. These special sessions of EMESNET are on the fourth Tuesday of every month except in December.

The idea behind “Fourth Tuesday” was to determine the effectiveness of simplex coverage by originating one session of the net per month from an emergency facility that is capable of wide area coverage across Eastern Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin.

The objective of the “Fourth Tuesday” sessions was to encourage the regions emergency facilities such as hospitals, public health facilities, mobile command vehicles, law enforcement agencies, and fire departments having amateur radio capabilities to participate, and to make these facilities available to licensed operators for training purposes.

While the Kanabec Hospital in Mora has proven itself very capable of covering the region, the objectives of the “Fourth Tuesday” sessions have not realized their potential up to now. For example, of all the hospitals located within 75 miles of Mora, only three have participated so far. The Mille Lacs Hospital in Onamia has been by far the most active, while hospitals in Princeton and Cambridge have also been involved. Of the Public Health facilities, Milaca and Mora have been the only participants, with Milaca being the most active. Of the fire departments in the region only Princeton has a history of participating in the net so far, but not since the “Fourth Tuesday” format began. While no law enforcement agencies per se have participated, law enforcement personnel have occasionally done so on their own.

The good news is that individual participation in “Fourth Tuesday” sessions – as well as the other sessions – continues to be acceptable. Amateur operators from as far away as 70 miles distance from Mora check in on a regular basis.

Recently there has been an effort to increase participation in the net at the Princeton Hospital. This past year also saw a renewed commitment by Milaca Public Health to open up their facility so operators could be at the station for the net. However, the net continues to struggle with encouraging participation by emergency facilities elsewhere in the region.

Ideas are being solicited as to how participation in the “Fourth Tuesday” sessions of EMESNET could be encouraged further. Spreading the word between agencies might be the most effective. Increased awareness via the Newsletter or other nets might also help. Individual Hams should also take the initiative wherever possible and encourage their local emergency facilities to participate.

The goal is for as many radio amateurs as possible to be prepared and trained in simplex operational skills. After all, a major emergency is only one incident away from happening. If the repeater systems go down, then what?

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UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF REGIONAL VE TESTING SESSIONS & HAMFESTS – Detailed information on Page 4.

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All this and more in this issue of the KDØCI Radio Newsletter

NEWS FROM OUR REGION & ELSEWHERE

Minnesota Skywarn Workshop Scheduled – By John Wetter KØWDJ

The fifth annual Minnesota Skywarn Workshop is set for April 10, 2010 at the University of St. Thomas, in St. Paul, Minnesota. John Wetter, coordinator of Skywarn operations at the NWS Chanhassen office is again putting together a program where storm spotters can come together to train, equip, and connect with other area Skywarn organizations.

The keynote speaker this year will be Dr. Chuck Doswell. Dr. Doswell has been an author of over 90 peer-reviewed meteorological papers, has authored chapters or sections of 15 books, and is widely known as one of the top severe weather researchers in the world. He is also an avid semi-professional photographer and videographer, having helped to develop some of the original spotter training materials and continues to contribute to the community in helping to understand both the visual representation of storms as well as the meteorological background that produces them. Dr. Doswell authored what is known as the defining paper regarding storm spotting and Skywarn.

Dr. Doswell received his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and his Masters and doctoral studies at the University of Oklahoma following active duty with the US Army. He spent six years with the Techniques Development Unit at the National Severe Storms Forecast Center, in Kansas City, Missouri. Then, he moved to Boulder, Colorado, where he spent four years with the Weather Research Program. Following that, he moved to the National Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman, Oklahoma, in the fall of 1986 and retired from Federal service there in January 2001. Since then, he has been working part-time as a Senior Research Scientist with the Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies (CIMMS), which is affiliated with the University of Oklahoma.

More information regarding the workshop will become available in early January, so until then be sure to mark April 10, 2010 on your calendar! You will not want to miss the 5th annual Minnesota Skywarn Workshop!

Did you miss the workshop last year? Want to keep up to date with any announcements for 2010? Bookmark <http://www.mnskywarnworkshop.org> and stay up to date with all of the latest!

Ham Radio Classes and VE Testing Scheduled For Elk River and Ogilvie

An all day Amateur Radio class and testing session has being scheduled for late October in Elk River. This is a one-day class for the Technician Class Amateur Radio (“ham radio”) license. The class will concentrate on identifying the correct answers to the questions on the exam. It will be conducted primarily as a self-study session with additional materials on proper radio operation, including repeater operation, also presented. Instructors will be available to review questions and answers during the study period.

This all day session is being sponsored by Sherburne County ARES and will be held Saturday, October 24, 2009, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, followed by exam session at 4:15 PM. It will be held in the Mississippi River Room at the Great River Energy Center, located at the junction of US Highways 10 and 169, in Elk River. There is no cost for the class. The FCC exam and license application fee is \$15. If you have any questions, contact Mike Steckelberg (home 763-262-5036, cell 612-219-5763). Also visit the Amateur Radio Relay League at <http://www.arri.net>. This class has been very successful in getting people into the basic level of ham radio operation. In past few sessions that we’ve held, the success rate is about 95%.

Meanwhile in Ogilvie, an Amateur Radio Class and Test Session has already been scheduled. While the Registration deadline for the class ends today, details for the VE Test Session are not yet finalized. It has been tentatively planned for 7 PM on Thursday October 22nd at Ogilvie Public School. The FCC exam and license application fee is \$15. This session is being sponsored by the Mora Open Repeater Association, and held in cooperation with the Community Education Department at Ogilvie Public School. More info regarding these test sessions will be announced on the Tuesday evening Eastern Minnesota Emergency Simplex Net and on other regional nets.

Minnesota ARRL SEC to Host Meeting In Arden Hills – From Paul Oby, KCØESE

On Saturday October 17, Dan Anderson, Minnesota’s new Section Emergency Coordinator, will host a meeting for all Hams in the Ramsey County Public Works Facility on Hwy 96 and Hamline Ave in Arden Hills (just north of Roseville). Starting time is 3:30 PM and all attendees must park in the west parking lot.

Highway 23 Corridor Project Update

There hasn't been much news on the Highway 23 Corridor Project of late. With little if anything to report, many are wondering if the remaining plans of the project have been abandoned. The short answer is, "no, but..."

The first goal of establishing a two meter repeater was achieved over a year ago when the KDØCI repeater at Ogilvie became operational. The next stage of the project - namely UHF linking - has been a bit more complicated. Originally one link was planned, followed by the need for a second link - but neither as yet are operational.

First was the "Hospital Link" into St Cloud. It was planned to enable hospitals and public health facilities in areas of far Eastern Minnesota the ability to access the Colleagueville repeater which, operating on 147.015 MHz, acts as the hub for amateur radio emergency communications for Central Minnesota in the event a disaster would befall the region. The link site was originally identified to be established in Foreston, about halfway between Ogilvie and St Cloud. However, plans bogged down on the drawing board when Foreston city officials failed to follow up on proposed plans to build a communications equipment shelter adjacent to the desired site - an impressive 90 foot high water tower.

Afterwards, a secondary site in Princeton generated interest. An existing repeater site at a water tower on the north end of the city, supposedly being abandoned by the repeater custodian to be left open for a new occupant, seemed very promising. Efforts to secure the site by Brian Vork, KBØPYI, have been frustrated, and now any funding from Homeland Security that might have been available at that time has since vanished. While plans to secure either of these sites have not been completely abandoned, efforts are underway to find yet another link site.

The second link is a "Skywarn Link" into Duluth, a link lobbied for by the Duluth office of the National Weather Service, and one that currently appears the closest to actually becoming a reality. An update on details regarding progress towards the Skywarn link may be forthcoming on Sunday September 27th at the Carlton Hamfest when an "exchange of information" between Ogilvie repeater engineer Jerry Whitaker, WBØOFB, and Doug Nelson, AAØAW, appears likely.

Meanwhile, except for a couple of minor maintenance issues to be addressed, the Ogilvie repeater has operated flawlessly since two battery backups were installed at the repeater site earlier this spring.

FCC Chairman Announces Enforcement Bureau Chief - From ARRL Headquarters

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski announced on September 9 that he has appointed P. Michele Ellison as Chief of the Enforcement Bureau. Ellison will take the helm of the Enforcement Bureau starting on September 28, 2009. "Protecting and empowering consumers through effective and timely enforcement of the Commission's rules and policies is a top priority for the FCC," said Chairman Genachowski. "Michele is a talented leader with vast communications experience and sound legal judgment, and I look forward to working with her in her new capacity."

Ellison is currently Deputy General Counsel, a position she has held for the last 12 years, and most recently served as Acting General Counsel of the FCC through July 2009. In addition to her other duties, she also was named Transition Counsel to Commissioner Mignon Clyburn. Ellison joined the Office of the General Counsel in 1995. "She has had a rich and varied practice at the agency, from her initial years of handling complex FCC litigation before the federal courts to her current focus on competition policy in the context of mergers and acquisitions and on spectrum and fraud matters involving billions in auctions and universal service funds," according to an FCC press release.

Ellison also has provided leadership in other policy areas, including co-chairing the Commission's Localism Task Force, leading a Task Force on expanding communications opportunities to small businesses and developing countries, as well as serving as senior advisor to former Chairman William Kennard; Kennard served as Chairman from October 1997 to January 2001. Before joining the Commission, Ellison was a partner with the law firm of Williams and Connolly, with a litigation practice. She began her career as a law clerk for the Honorable Damon J. Keith in the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Detroit, Michigan and for the Honorable Paul R. Webber III in the Superior Court for the District of Columbia.

Foreston Repeater Back On The Air

Terry Londroche, NØGOI, of the Magic Repeater Group reports that the NØGOI two meter Repeater at Foreston has returned to the air, however there is no PL Tone on the repeater at this time. The repeater operates at 146.745 MHz.

VE TESTING & HAMFESTS – Courtesy of ARRL & Other Sources

EVENTS SHOWN ARE THOSE IN OR NEAR EASTERN MINNESOTA AND NORTHWESTERN WISCONSIN

UPCOMING VE TESTING SESSIONS

Saturday October 10th 2009

Sponsor: Anoka County Radio Club

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

Contact: Paul K Shepardson [651] 340-0567

Email: N0NMZ@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: WWW.CI.BLAINE.MN.US/_DOCS/DIRECTIONS.PDF

Blaine City Hall

10801 Town Square Drive

Blaine, Minnesota 55014

Thursday October 22nd 2009 [Note: Technician only at this time]

Sponsor: Mora Open Repeater Association

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Teri Belsheim [320] 272-5050

Email: terib@ogilvie.k12.mn.us

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Ogilvie Public School

333 School Drive

Ogilvie, Minnesota 56358

Saturday October 24th 2009

Sponsor: Sherburne County ARES

Time: 4:15 PM (approximate)

Contact: Mike Steckelberg [612] 219-5763

Email: steckelberg@sherbtl.net

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Great River Energy Center – Mississippi River Room

Junction US Highway 10 & 169

Elk River, Minnesota

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

Take a nice, pleasant, Sunday morning fall drive to Carlton Minnesota for the Carlton County RACES Fallfest – Sunday September 27th 2009

Location: Lost Isle, [Follow Minnesota Highway 210 east six blocks from I-35 into Carlton]

9 AM – 1 PM - Admission \$2.00 [12 and under free]

New and used radios, equipment and supplies.

Computer related items including hardware and software.

Radio City will also be on hand.

Talk-In: Duluth 146.940 PL 103.5, Mahtowa 147.000 PL 103.5, Two Harbors 146.940 PL 114.8.

More info at www.thearac.org

Email: Teresa Dall, KAØCDO wd0gvw@wildblue.net

**CALLING ALL TECHS! GET INTO THE HF BANDS!
CHECK IN THE UPPER MIDWEST 10 METER NET!
Thursday @ 8 PM on 28.480 MHz USB – with Net Control KBØHDA**

THE KDØCI NEWSLETTER MARKETPLACE

NOTE: This newsletter is ALWAYS looking for your input regarding items available for sale, especially those items that may be of special interest to our newest Hams. If you have an item or items for sale, or if you are looking for a particular piece of gear or accessory, by all means send me the information so it can be published in this newsletter. **The Newsletter will not be responsible for operating defects or failures of the items being sold, relying strictly on the integrity of Amateurs themselves to conduct their business honorably.**

FOR SALE ITEMS *****

24 Amp Power Supply Kit & Miscellaneous Parts.

Also:

On eBay: Compact Presario Computer, Desktop Tower, 1.9 GHz, 40 gb hard drive, 256 mb memory

Contact: Terry NØGOI n0goi@amsat.org or visit <http://stores.ebay.com/cmradios-Magic-Electronic-Parts>

HP Deskjet 632C color printer - **\$5**

Envision 17" color monitor - **\$10**

Best Data 56K V.92 PCI modem - **\$5**

Digicom DI3635 56K V.92 PCI modem - **\$5**

Boxer muffin fan 4 3/4" X 4 3/4" 115 volts - **\$5**

QRP antenna tuner kit, 10 watt max, 3.5-30 MHz - **\$5**

Power supply board from Dentron Clipperton-L amplifier, contains 8 - 1000uf, 500 VDC electrolytic capacitors - **\$10**

Memorex external USB CD rewritable drive, 40X read/write speed - **\$10**

Heathkit HW-30 2 meter AM transceiver, "Twoer" - **\$25**

200 pin DDR SODIMM notebook memory 256 MB X 2 - **\$10**

XM satellite radio - \$10

Spi-Ro VS-64 trapped sloper antenna, 160-10 meters, no antenna tuner needed - **\$50**

Contact: Curt Hewitt - NØOK - 612-382-8991. Located 5 miles S.E. of Milaca.

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR USE *****

1/2 Wave Ringo Ranger Vertical, fully assembled. Contact Dave KAØEVQ on the Tuesday Night Net.

WANTED *****

Rohn 25G 10' section, Rohn BPL 25G - flat bearing shelf, Rohn TB3 - 2" thrust bearing, and a Rohn AG4 - 8' flat top section. Contact: Curt Hewitt, NØOK - 612-382-8991

Cushcraft A3S Triband Beam Antenna – SOLD!

Eimac 3-500Z Tube – SOLD!

Cushcraft 13B2 Beam Antenna – SOLD!

HOW?

By advertising in the KDØCI Radio Newsletter!

Place your ad in the Upper Midwest's free trading post – the KDØCI Radio Newsletter

This Month In Regional Radio History

Two Years Ago – September 20th, violent severe storms race across Eastern Minnesota causing extensive damage. In Kanabec County, straight line winds of over 70 miles per hour during an afternoon storm uprooted trees and knocked out power in the Ogilvie area and caused widespread damage elsewhere. The Ogilvie repeater was not yet on the air, and Skywarn spotting in the area at that time was in its infancy and very limited in coverage.

REGIONAL AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

NOTE: If you are in our regional coverage area {listed below} and your organization is not listed here, let me know.

EASTERN MINNESOTA -

ANOKA COUNTY RADIO CLUB – www.anokaradio.org

ARROWHEAD RADIO AMATEURS CLUB – www.thearac.org

BEARGREASE AMATEUR RADIO COALITION – www.beargreasearc.com

BRAINERD AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – www.brainerdham.org

EAST CENTRAL MINNESOTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – info@ecmarc.us [Note correction from previous info]

MAGIC REPEATER GROUP – www.magicrepeater.net

MORA OPEN REPEATER ASSOCIATION – morahamradio@gmail.com

SHERBURNE COUNTY ARES – www.shercoares.org [Note correction from previous info]

ST CLOUD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – www.w0sv.org

STILLWATER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – www.radioham.org

ST PAUL RADIO CLUB – www.stpaulradioclub.org

NORTHWESTERN WISCONSIN -

POLK COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION – www.qsl.net/kc9dmy

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN/SUPERIOR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – www.uwsuper.edu

KDØCI RADIO NEWSLETTER REGIONAL COVERAGE AREA

The following counties in Eastern Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin are considered to be within the regional coverage area of the KDØCI Radio Newsletter.

In Minnesota: Coverage area includes all or portions of the following eighteen counties:

Aitkin [Southern Half], Anoka, Benton, Carlton, Chisago, Crow Wing [Southeast Quarter including the city of Brainerd], Hennepin [North and Northwest Suburban], Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison [Eastern Half including the city of Little Falls], Pine, Ramsey [North Suburban], Sherburne, St Louis [City of Duluth and Suburbs], Stearns [City of St Cloud and Suburbs], Washington, and Wright.

In Wisconsin: Coverage area includes all or portions of the following four counties:

Burnette, Douglas [Southwestern Half including the city of Superior], Polk, and St Croix [Northwestern Quarter].

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The **KDØCI Radio Newsletter** is a free, independent Amateur Radio information publication for Eastern Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin, and is distributed monthly [or more frequently if required] by email to amateur radio operators and clubs, public service officials, and other interested parties. The intent is to provide balanced coverage as much as possible in order to keep interested parties throughout the region informed. Much of that coverage depends on input from individuals and clubs throughout the region. Since it began in 2006, the newsletter has grown to where it currently enjoys a wide distribution to individuals and other interested groups. Permission is granted to subscribers to reprint this newsletter for distribution to others. Material herein may be used as long as this newsletter is referenced as the source, or sources within the newsletter are credited.

Your comments, questions, etc for this newsletter are always welcome. Send your comments, as well as any “newsworthy” or “for sale” items for inclusion to either of my email addresses. **Deadline for submitting material for the Newsletter - including ads, is the 20th of the month** [submittals subject to editing]. Primary Email Address: kd0ci@arrl.net [proxy server for kdzeroci@q.com] Alternate: kd0ci@yahoo.com

73, Kenny Broshofske KDØCI