
KDØCI's Radio Newsletter

Volume 4 Number 11 - [Supporting Amateur Radio in Eastern Minnesota & Northwest Wisconsin](#) - November 25, 2009

TECHNICIAN EXAM QUESTION POOL UPDATED FOR RELEASE IN 2010

STORY EDITED WITH INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

Just as ARRL Instructors and Volunteer Examiners had expected, the Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) is expected to release the new Technician class (Element 2) question pool to the 14 VECs on December 1, 2009, then release it to the public in January 2010. Each question pool for the three Amateur Radio license classes -- Technician, General and Amateur Extra -- is reviewed on a four-year rotation. This new Technician class pool will become effective on July 1, 2010.

According to ARRL Assistant VEC Manager Perry Green, WY1O, the QPC reviews the three question pools every four years to ensure that the questions are kept current with the latest amateur practice and technology, as well as addresses information relevant to that particular license class. "In the case of the Technician pool, the question set should provide for the new Technician licensee to be able to establish his station and operate it legally, courteously and safely. The Technician question pool and exam are intended to be the beginning of the journey into the Amateur Radio Service. It prepares the person for the enjoyment of operating, and that of preparing to learn electronics, the cornerstone of the education needed to obtain the further enjoyment that can come with the higher license classes."

Green is a member of the NCVEC's Question Pool Committee. Other members of the QPC include Chairman Roland Anders, K3RA (Laurel VEC), Larry Pollock, NB5X (W5YI VEC), Jim Wiley, KL7CC (Anchorage VEC) and Tom Fuszard, KF9PU (Milwaukee VEC).

Green said that earlier this year, the QPC solicited input from Amateur Radio operators concerning the new question pool, accepting input for new question topics and new questions, as well as suggestions for changes or deletions. "The QPC must rely on members of the Amateur Radio community to suggest questions and answers in a responsible manner to preserve a high level of legitimacy for our radio service, so the NCVEC QPC seeks input from the amateur community concerning a revision."

The new question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2010, and it will remain valid until June 30, 2014. The current Technician question pool that became effective July 1, 2006 will expire June 30, 2010. The new Technician pool contains approximately 400 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 2 examination. This question pool will contain graphics and diagrams, something new for this element.

The current General class question pool was effective July 1, 2007 and is valid through June 30, 2011. The current Amateur Extra class pool was effective July 1, 2008 and is valid until June 30, 2012.

Ramifications of this change will most likely include a revision of the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual for Technician Class. This is something aspiring students who have the current revision of the manual will want to take into account. For example, the next Amateur Radio License Class for Technician in Ogilvie is being planned for this coming spring, and will likely be the last class offered in Ogilvie using the current revision of the manual. Other classes in the region will likely continue using the current revision until the new question pool is released on July 1st.

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HO HUMM.....AN INTERESTING HUMMINGBIRD SIGHTING – The picture on Page 5.

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

NEWS FROM OUR REGION & ELSEWHERE

Newest Ham Radio Licenses Issued

The newest Amateur Radio Technician Licenses reported are as follows: Harlan Hanson KDØJGZ, James Hruska KDØJHA, Paul Kastenbauer KDØJHB, all from the Mora area, and Lucas Carlson KDØJHI of Ogilvie.

Congratulations to these new Hams!

Field Day Planning By MORA Underway

The November meeting of the Mora Open Repeater Association included a discussion about Field Day in 2010, and the club decided to begin planning right away for the June event. The discussion included proposals as to where best to stage the event based on ideal proximity and ease of access to the general public for promotional purposes. The Kanabec County Fairgrounds in Mora was selected as the preferred site pending any necessary arrangements with fairground officials.

The club hopes that Amateurs from around the region will be willing to travel to Mora to set up stations at the site and operate. Amateurs that are interested are encouraged to contact the club via the Tuesday Evening EMESNET, or by email at morahamradio@gmail.com

Field Day is an annual Amateur Radio event that takes place on the last weekend in June. Often characterized as a contest, it also serves as an emergency exercise testing the ability of Radio Amateurs to literally take their equipment into the field for portable operations.

Skywarn Recognition Day Scheduled For December 4th & 5th – By John Wetter, KØWDJ

On December 4th & 5th, the National Weather Service in Chanhassen will again participate in Skywarn Recognition Day, a nation-wide event to thank amateur radio operators for their participation in Skywarn operations throughout the severe weather season.

Amateur Radio operators are encouraged to monitor local repeaters, HF, and digital modes to contact NWS stations and other amateur radio operators. KØMPX will be on the air the entire 24 hours of the event starting at 6 PM December 4th and continuing until 6 PM on December 5th.

At this time we are asking if there are any individuals from any Skywarn Operations wishing to operate during Skywarn Recognition Day. We ask that you sign up for an hour or two hour timeframe if you'd like to come. We will have an HF station, a digital HF station, the VHF radios used for Skywarn Operations, and an Echolink station. While operations are in progress we do ask that if you are planning on coming out to the office that you do plan on operating, this is not a general open house in the office.

If you would like to operate during the event, please reply back to this e-mail with your name, call, time frame you'd like to operate and which station you'd prefer. We will try to meet as many requests as possible! A special thanks to the folks at MNYARC <http://www.mnyarc.org/> who have helped provide HF communications at all of our Recognition Day events!

I would like to send our thanks from the staff at MPX and operators at KØMPX to all of the spotters and amateur radio operators who were ready and on-air this summer when we needed you for severe weather! Your reports are critical to the warning process!

**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**

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 December 5th 2009

Sponsor: St Paul Radio Club

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

Contact: David M Buending [952] 486-0836

Email: ad2b@arrl.net

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)

Location: Roseville Fire Station 1
2701 Lexington Avenue North
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

Saturday December 12th 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

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

St Cloud Minnesota - Saturday February 13th 2010

St Cloud Amateur Radio Club “Cabin Fever Reliever” Hamfest

Location: St Cloud National Guard Armory

Time: 9 AM - 1 PM

VE Testing

Huge Flea Market of used radios, equipment and supplies.

Talk-In: St Cloud/Collegeville 147.015 PL 100.0

More info at www.w0sv.org

COMING EVENTS

Second Annual “Scatterbrain Net”

Dave Winn, KCØYBX, has announced that he will convene his Second Annual Holiday Scatterbrain Net at 7 PM on Tuesday December 29th on the Milaca repeater [145.350 MHz, No PL Tone]. This net serves as a substitute for the Eastern Minnesota Emergency Simplex Net during the Christmas/New Year holiday.

Straight Key Night

Straight Key Night is an annual event held on New Years Day beginning at 0000Z [6 PM Central Time December 31st] during which Hams dust off those Straight Keys and operate CW in the old fashioned way!

This Month In Regional Radio History

Two Years Ago – The Ogilvie Repeater Project moves a huge step towards completion with the installation of the antenna and coax cable at the repeater site.

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**

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**

Computer case - **\$5**

XM satellite radio - \$10

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

Radio Works Super Loop 80, 80-10 meters - **\$75**

Radio Works 4:1 remote current balun - **\$20**

Cushcraft 124WB Boomer 4 element 2 meter yagi - **\$35**

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

MISCELLANEOUS *****

I have five computer printers and two flat bed scanners that I have retired over the last couple of years, had the dumpster here till last week and for some reason could not throw them in!! They all worked when retired but I am sure some have plugged nozzles by now. I would like someone to take them all at one time. Let me know by phone or email giving me a couple of days to gather all the discs and reading materials.

Arnie Ryba, KØHWG - Email: afryba@frontiernet.net

HOW WELL ARE WE GETTING OUT?

The KDØCI Radio Newsletter would like to hear from you, especially if you read the newsletter through means other than by direct email.

Tell us how you found out about the Newsletter. Send your comments to kd0ci@arrl.net



A hummingbird was spotted resting on KDØCI's Ringo Ranger Antenna during the past summer, and was captured in this photo. To his relief, there were no reports of any "hum" on his signal! [Photo by KAØAJF]

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.n9xh.org [Note correction from previous info]

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

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

Thinking About Those Less Fortunate

With the holiday season upon us, it's a time to think about those less fortunate. This economy is not helping matters. Many people are out of work, so it's up to those of us with means to chip in and help. Nothing could be easier than this.

KARE-TV & Land O'Lakes are donating \$1 for every person who clicks on their web site. Go to the website listed below and on the right side of the screen there is the green area where it says: You Click, we donate. It's that easy. Please pass to all of your friends.

<http://www.landolakesinc.com/company/corporateresponsibility/foundation/default.aspx>

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 and elsewhere informed. The extent 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 any or all 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