



April Newsletter

Volume 09, Issue 4

April 1, 2009



WOSV

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

Dates to Remember:

April:

April Board Mtg	9th
April General Mtg	16th

May Gen Meeting	21st
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June Gen Meeting	18th
June Field Day	27-28

July Board Mtg	9th
July Gen meeting	16th

Aug Gen Meeting	20th
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Sept Gen Meeting	17th
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Oct Board Meeting	8th
Oct Gen Meeting	15th

Nov Annual Meeting	20th
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Dec Gen Meeting	17th
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Message from the President - The Prez Sez...

Tuesday, April 14th, 2009 Will be another big step, I hope, toward improving the Facilities at WOSV. At 7:00 PM there will be a Waite Park Planning Commission meeting. At this meeting I will present our request for a conditional use permit for our property at the clubhouse in Waite Park. What is at stake is our plan to install a new antenna support structure just to the west of our present building.

I have been in consultation with the Mayor and the director of inspections in Waite Park over the last few months. The current antenna ordinance does

not permit new antennas in the city with the height and property size that we currently have. I believe that I have made a good case for our need and the benefit to Emergency communications and our Mission and have received good support from local officials. In addition we are in a light industrial area not residential. I believe that we will be successful here and then next before the City Council. It is not by any means a sure thing or a slam dunk. If you are available to attend this hearing, I would encourage you to attend.

On another note a lot of local hams were seen at

the Buffalo Sports Arena for another fine hamfest. I alone filled the back end of WOMBD's Mini SUV with numerous goodies and my motto "Parts is Parts" was thrown about with some wild abandon and by some people present I think in envy.

Until next month, good DX and remember there is a fun auction Scheduled for the May Club Meeting. Please bring something to auction off. Remember it doesn't need to be Ham related and it all helps to keep this place going. I expect to have some good stories from Dayton.

73,
Art Carlson, WAONJR

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March General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order on March 19th at 7:03 p.m. by president Art Carlson, WA0NJR.

The February meeting minutes were accepted as printed in the March newsletter. An address list was passed around for members to make corrections to maintain an accurate membership list.

The Treasurer's report was as follows:

Checking	6,120.97
Savings	1,323.71
Rest. Savings	547.68
CD	<u>1,022.73</u>
Total Balance of	\$9,015.09

A reminder that some money was received from the St Cloud Hospital (\$2,500.00) which will be used to purchase equipment to improve amateur radio repeater connections for use in hospital emergency communications, so that is why our account balance is higher than normal.

If you haven't already, please pay your yearly dues (\$20) to the club treasurer Jerry Dahlager, KCOWCF or mail them to the clubhouse.

Art had spoke to the Waite Park mayor about approval for putting up the tower. When the bulding was donated to the club from BNSF railroad, there was no conditional user permit and this would be something that would result in being required if our request to put up the tower was brought to the city council. So we will be applying for a conditional use permit, which will include our request for permission to put up the tower and this should be approved. The plan is to submit the required paperwork by March 27th, letters will be sent to our neighbors and it will be published in the newspaper. The planning commission will look at our request on April 14th and then provide their recommendation to the City Council, who will see it for

final approval. If paperwork isn't submitted by March 27th, then it will be late May before we have an answer. With the paperwork a \$400.00 fee is required, which we will ask the City Council to forgive part or all of this fee due to being a non-profit organization.

Phil Jorgensen, NIARM mentioned that there are Hamfest pictures on the club's website and thanked those who took pictures and sent them to him. The Dayton hamfest will take place May 15th through the 17th, some members are going, contact them if you would like to join them. Note that this is a correction to the dates Art published in his Prez Sayz article in the March newsletter.

Art has made a suggestion box to have at the clubhouse for members anonymous suggestions to be submitted.

There will be a Ham license class mainly for Skywarn members who do not have their ham license, but others who would like to study and test for their license are welcome. The class will take place on April 18th at the Stearns County EOC, it will be from 9 am to 4 pm and the VE testing for the license will take place at 4 pm. Contact Jack Maus, WOMBD soon as you will be required to read the entire study manual prior to the class.

Jack also shared about a Hospital drill on April 8th from 4:30 to 6:30. If you are available to go to an area hospital and operate for this drill please contact Marv Klug.

On March 26th there will be a meeting at Brainerd to discuss/design a link to improve radio connectivity to hospitals North and West of St Cloud.

We are looking for a location for Field Day to be held, Field Day is June 27th to 28th this year. Every other year we hold field day at the clubhouse, last year it was at the clubhouse so this year we would like to operate from someplace else and be Class A Remote Operation running on generator power and portable antennas. Be thinking of a location.

Reminder that all are welcome to join in the Friday lunch location at Brigitte's Café in St Cloud around 11:30—bring your hamfest location idea with you to discuss.

Elvin Schmidt, N00YQ won the \$5 door prize.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

After the meeting several club members help move large tables and other items into the storage shed, most of the snow had melted and we could now get to the shed. The newly built larger storage shed looks like it will serve us well.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Parker, KC0UEA.

**World Radio is now only
available online, go to
[http://mailman.sunserver.com/
mailman/listinfo/WorldRadio-L](http://mailman.sunserver.com/mailman/listinfo/WorldRadio-L)
to be notified by email when new
editions are published online.**

Volunteer Opportunities

Improvements at the Clubhouse

Additional shelving will be installed at the clubhouse and improve the arrangement of test equipment and other items at the clubhouse. Coordinate with Art Carlson, WAONJR to learn how you may be able to assist this work.

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Tower Construction at the Clubhouse

We are moving forward in April to get city approval to construct the tower. We hope to be able to begin tower construction this Spring/early Summer.

Special Thanks This Month!

Thank You to club members who helped after the March club meeting to move items from inside the clubhouse to our new shed that was built in the Fall!

Thanks to Phil Jorgensen, N1ARM and Jerry Dahlager, KCOWCF for tracking down the sale and going to purchase 6 more plastic folding tables for the club, this purchase was suggested and approved at the February meeting to replace heavy wooden doors that have been made into tables!

Current Board Members

President

Art Carlson—WAONJR—Elected

Vice President

Dave Leigh - WODZW - Elected

Treasurer

Jerry Dahlager - KCOWCF - Elected

Secretary

Mike Parker - KCOUEA - Elected

Trustees

Larry Snodgrass - KCOSMM (2009 - 11)

Leonard Hopkins - KCONZF (2008 - 10)

Harold Hoffman - KCOFAX (2007 - 09)

Past President

Scott Hall - NOUV

Webmaster

Phil Jorgensen - N1ARM



To join the club's email reflector and/or to include your e-mail address on the private list shared between club members only, please email Mike, the newsletter editor at kc0uea@gmail.com



Weblinks of Interest

<http://www.n2yo.com/satellites/?c=18>

Real time tracking of Amateur Radio Satellites. You can also see GPS satellites, as well as view satellites by category, such as weather, military, satellite radio, etc.

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[http://www.physics.berkeley.edu/research/zettl/](http://www.physics.berkeley.edu/research/zettl/projects/nanoradio/radio.html)

[projects/nanoradio/radio.html](http://www.physics.berkeley.edu/research/zettl/projects/nanoradio/radio.html)

Single carbon nanotube radio—some interesting reading and some videos showing the nanotube radio in action.

Hams Still Active as Red River Flood Threat Lessens

As reported [last week](#), hams have been providing communications during the Red River flood emergency that continues to threaten Fargo, North Dakota and Moorhead, Minnesota and surrounding areas. Mark Johnson, KCOSHM, President of the Red River Radio Amateurs (RRRA), along with a number of other area hams, has been in the thick of things since March 22, when government officials first requested assistance from ham radio operators. On April 2, Johnson reported that although operations were winding down, the threat remains, as dikes could still be breached, threatening populated areas.

On-Scene Reports from KCOSHM

March 28, 2009

We have roughly 10 VHF/UHF positions being manned 24/7 at this point -- there are zero intentions for an HF net at this time as there is substantial area outside of the immediate hot zone that will not be affected. It is unlikely that we will lose phones -- even if we did, we can reach other communities that will not lose phones via VHF/UHF.

As far as numbers of hams necessary...our needs are being met at the moment. We may run thinner next week. However, we have a long list of names of volunteers on call that can be in the area on short notice. The volunteer support has been enormous from the ham community and I am doubtful we will need to have assistance from hams outside of ND, MN and SD.

March 29

Forgive me if my typing or spelling gets sloppy, but I am pulling a grave yard shift tonight now in my 19th hour of radio work today.

Tonight's task is at the ER of one of the local hospitals...basically here to alert the ER staff of any inbound Coast Guard helicopters should they have need to make a drop here.

Rough idea -- 25-30 local hams...30 more from out of the Fargo-Moorhead area...obviously we have been rotating people through as schedules allow and to maintain a 24 hour watch of a number of locations and allowing for our local people to deal with their homes and families when needed.

Our involvement has mostly been keeping 7-10 static stations up -- most 24/7 including two county EOCs, two hospitals (until one was evacuated as a precautionary measure).

Additionally have been manning stations at the Red Cross operations room, as well as the one shelter 20 miles out of town (our new linked repeater to that area has been great!). The West Fargo PD has been staffed along with the Coast Guard in order to provide the link necessary to relay chopper info to the hospital where I am at now.

We have been a substantial help with the Salvation Army helping coordinate food requests for those that wouldn't have otherwise been able to get food.

The bulk of our traffic has been requests pertaining to food relief efforts and all that supports it during such an event. Helping the agencies like the Salvation Army find routes that aren't flooded or passing information between agencies like the SA and Red Cross. We have also coordinated some sand bag and sand deliveries to a number volunteer filling locations on the Moorhead side of the river. We had 6 hams involved with the evacuation of Merit Care Hospital the other night.

There are over 1800 guardsman in town helping fight the flood. Short term...we are manning a handful of stations, currently with low traffic counts.

This weekend we are pretty well staffed. I understand that we have a lengthy list of volunteers that are on standby for next week and this is being coordinated by our three ECs in town.

The area (non ham but emergency management arena) is well prepared for about every scenario including mass evacuations. I am impressed with how things are going...

The good thing is that the bulk of the locations that are highest risk of a dike breach are already mostly evacuated. The call list we have will probably suffice unless this turns ugly and we need another two weeks of manning radios. Then we might need to advertise a little for more hams -- but the need will be minimal -- probably under 20 people.

March 30

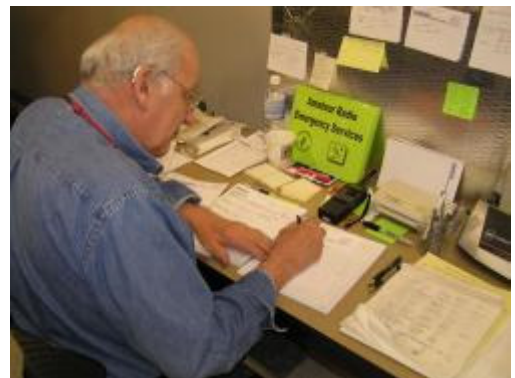
At this time we have been relieved of duty at the Coast Guard (West Fargo PD) and the Innovis Hospital. It appears they now have a direct link and we are not necessary. I believe that this now leaves us only needing to staff 4 locations -- Cass and Clay County EOCs, the Red Cross and the Salvation Army. We are being told that the Salvation Army is moving to



The Red River, the natural boundary separating North Dakota and Minnesota, rose to almost 41 feet at the height of the flooding. [Seth Swenson, KCOODE,



Jason Beck, KDOEEG, of Fargo, serves as Net Control Operator during the floods in North Dakota and Minnesota in late March and early April. [Val Tareski, KOQYW, Photo]



Donald Galitz, KCODCF, Co-Emergency Coordinator for the Fargo area, works at the EOC during the floods. [Val Tareski, KOQYW, Photo]

Hams Still Active as Red River Flood Threat Lessens Continued

12 hour days soon. Radio traffic is continues to be light...probably less than 8 pieces of real traffic since I got up this morning. This is excellent news for our weary hams, as it will allow us considerable wiggle room when trying to staff the locations.

It should be noted, however, that any levy breach that involves flooding in the larger areas of town will change the situation instantly and dramatically -- so we need to be on guard for that should it occur.

The feeling in town is good -- the river continues to recede -- but the community cannot let its guard down until the river gets to a manageable 34-36 foot level, which is forecasted to be sometime this weekend.

I just heard over the repeater that a fresh batch of out of town hams arrived in town...just in time before the 8-16 inches of additional snow expected tonight, tomorrow and Wednesday. The new snow will not immediately affect the river levels -- but it will slow down the response times of people protecting the dikes.

March 31

More snow today...we have received another 7 or so inches with another 5-12 inches forecasted through tonight...Early predictions for the river are suggesting a second 41 foot crest in two weeks.

To this point all dikes will remain in place, with the exception of a few openings that may be made to allow some traffic in and out of neighborhoods currently cut off -- but that will be minimal and they can plug them back up quickly when necessary.

This break will allow the engineers to spend additional time reinforcing current dikes if they can get decent enough access to them in the snow.

Radio traffic on the net continues to be slow; we are still running 24 hours in places. Some of our out of town volunteers this week did make it in before the inclement weather. So far so good...I think we are in good shape for now and I don't expect things to change much.

The river is currently at 38.22 feet; I heard on the city commission meeting this morning that this figure is allowing the city to relax just a little bit, but they are still on extreme guard.

We received a request from the Coast Guard auxiliary for several mobile stations. (This just came over the repeater from the Clay County EOC as I was typing). Depending on what they need, it may put a little strain on us.

I am greatly impressed with everyone's cooperation, dedication and volunteerism this last week. Numerous random acts of kindness between fellow hams at every level are occurring daily like offering shelter to our impressive amateur guests, to food for a hungry ham, and even a gentle "How are you holding up?" to those that are tired.

Our selfless giving of substantial time and talent to the greater cause of the community; at the same time as dealing with our own homes and families defines our character and ethics.

April 1

Well, it's starting to look really good for the area.

The cooler temperatures have had a major impact on the river levels by reducing the inflow from runoff and lowering the river levels -- this has all but eliminated the imminent risk to the cities of Fargo and Moorhead. There are other cities to the north of us that will still have some struggles though.

Since this event started...we have received almost 26 inches of snow -- this snow combined with the remaining runoff that hasn't made it to Fargo yet still poses a problem -- but every day we move forward the river drops, adding additional capacity to the river to accommodate it.

There is discussion of a second crest once this warms up, so unfortunately we are going to go through this one more time in a couple weeks or so. Initial forecasts for the second crest was in the neighborhood of 40-41 feet which is about where we crested last Saturday -- but the NWS has since downgraded that forecast to something commensurate to what we are experiencing today at 37 feet.

Yesterday afternoon late we moved the net to roughly 12 hour days, and dropped to only five locations. This is a huge help for staffing and we have begun turning volunteers away -- but asking that they consider being available in a couple weeks when the river starts its climb again should we start back up (which I doubt will happen).

I would like to specifically acknowledge the Minnesota area hams as well as the ND hams. The Red River is a border between ND and MN -- 50% of the area having problems was also in Minnesota, and we had a substantial number of volunteers and club members on the Minnesota side that worked just as hard.

When the flooding situation began we temporarily dissolved any separation of Fargo/Moorhead and ND/MN...operating as unified command for the community not for state or town. This allowed the flexibility to tap into radio resources from both states. During much of the event, Fargo people manned stations in Moorhead and Minnesota people manned stations in Fargo -- we really just operated as if we were one town -- going where and when we were needed.

April 2

We are officially stopping operations tonight. The word is that a second crest, potentially commensurate to what we just had, may force us to start up the net again. Initial forecasts alluded to 40-43 feet which of course can be devastating...other forecasts suggest 37 feet, which is manageable.

The city is leaving the sandbag dikes in place, the EOC is being left "as is," including our area until there is a better grasp of the river forecast.

Article from: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/06/10752/?nc=1>



For part of the RRRA's communications support, Beck was stationed at Innovis Hospital in Fargo. Here, he talks with hospital personnel about the flooding. [Val Tareski, KOQYW, Photo]

Local Repeater Info

Clubhouse Phone: 320-255-1410

E-mail: webinfo@w0sv.org

E-mail Reflector:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scarcmn/>

To send to the reflector and all those signed up for the reflector, send your email to:

scarcmn@yahogroups.com

On the Web @
WWW.WOSV.ORG

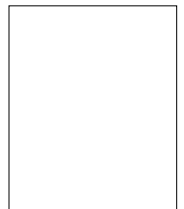
Repeater	Offset	Tone	Location
147.015	+	PL 100.0	Collegeville, MN
146.940	-	Autopatch	St. Cloud, MN
146.835	-	PL 85.4	St. Cloud, MN
147.105	+	PL 85.4	Avon, MN
224.800	-	No Tone	St. Joseph, MN
444.350	+	No Tone	St. Cloud, MN
442.225	+	No Tone	St. Cloud, MN
443.650	+	PL 85.4	Avon, MN
145.270	-	No Tone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



If you have any additions, corrections or suggestions for this newsletter, please email the editor, Mike Parker, KCOUEA at KCOUEA@yahoo.com

St. Cloud Amateur Radio Club

401 4th Street North
Waite Park, MN 56387



About the St. Cloud Amateur Radio Club

The St. Cloud Amateur Radio Club is 88 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: www.w0sv.org

