



# July Newsletter

Volume 09, Issue 7

July 1, 2009



## WOSV

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

### Dates to Remember:

#### July:

July Board Mtg	9th
Tour of Saints	12th
July Gen meeting	16th

Aug Club Picnic	8th
Aug Gen Meeting	20th

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...

Field Day was a success. The turnout was low but those who participated enjoyed the experience.

It was an opportunity to learn how to use new equipment, make some repairs and confirmed the adage that practice makes perfect.

I learned that there were functions on my IC-706

that you must remember to set up properly if you want to use a mode you have not used in a while. Make notes to yourself and in the manual to avoid frustration.

Repairs were made to some other equipment as well and doing contests such as this force you to improve your skills and improvise at times.

I had not been in on field day for some time but I really enjoyed it.

Thanks to all those who helped clean the clubhouse in preparation and those who participated.

73,  
Art Carlson,  
WAONJR

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## June General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order on June 18th at 7:03 p.m. by President Art Carlson, WAONJR.

The Treasurer's report was as follows:

Checking	5,316.87
Savings	1,977.68
Rest. Savings	197.68
CD	<u>1,024.85</u>
Total Balance of	\$8,517.03

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

The May meeting minutes were accepted.

A number of things have happened at the clubhouse recently: new cupboards were installed above the sink, The small side entry roof was re-shingled, some trees were cut down, the shed has been stained, shelves have been installed in the shed and the shed re-organized, the water cooler was removed from the back room, metal shelves were installed in the back room, things have been organized throughout the clubhouse and the computer at the operating station has been changed out with a more up to date computer.

Dave Leigh, WODZW passed around the email address/phone list that he is compiling of the club members, those present were able to fill in the information that they were willing to share. This list will only be distributed to those who are sharing their information on the list—this information will not be shared publicly.

A work day at the clubhouse was

scheduled for Saturday June 20th beginning at about 9 am. The plan is to complete more work around the clubhouse and to prepare for Field Day which will be held at the clubhouse.

In regards to Field Day, June 27-28th; We will be operating Class E, Permanent antennas with Emergency power. Not sure how many stations will be operating—potentially 3 at a time. Rich Josephson, WOELT questioned the plan for logging of contacts, referring to a program he recently read about that allows for logging to occur over a small computer network to avoid duplicate contacts. On field day, please come and join the fun, numerous are 4-H groups, Boys and Girls clubs, boy and girl scout troops, city officials and law enforcement has been invited to stop in and see what Amateur Radio is all about. The club will provide some pop and water, while members are asked to bring meat to grill and a food item to share.

It was shared that on July 1st is Canada Day, this is a good contest to participate in.

**Club Picnic  
August 8th at  
the Clubhouse  
10:00 a.m.**

The Club Picnic will be August 8th this year and we will hold it at the clubhouse beginning at 10 a.m. Bring food to share and a grilling item. Bring family and friends too!

A sign-up sheet was passed around for those who wish to volunteer for helping with radio communications for the Tour of Saints bike ride event, which takes place on July 12th. This will be the third year of provide communications for safety and bike break

downs along the route, we use the clubhouse as the headquarters and cyclists needing assistance call the clubhouse phone and then help is dispatched via radio to operators in various locations along the route.

**Tour of Saints  
Radio  
Communications  
July 12th**

Ed, KOVU, Art, WAONJR Tom, KD0DOS and Norm Bokken added a filter to re-

move the cell phone interference that has caused some problems at the .015 site. Also someone has been crossbanding UHF-VHF with the .015, it is not known who is doing this, but it is also causing interference. There is also an APRS burst being heard on the .015.

It was suggested that a learning session be held at the operating station at the clubhouse so that more people are familiar with operation of the equipment and new computer recently installed there.

Contact Jack Maus, WOMBD if there is interest in a class for a technician license class, Jack has a few people who are interested.

Phil Jorgensen, NIARM with some assistance from other club members educated a Girl Scout troop at Phil's house about Amateur radio in preparation for the Girl Scout troop to come to the clubhouse and operate on the upcoming Field Day.

Scott Colombe, KD0FMK won the \$5 door prize.

At 8:00 the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Parker, KCOUEA.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Clubhouse Clean-up

Many volunteers have spent numerous hours at the clubhouse so far this Summer, things are really looking nice inside and outside at the clubhouse. We would like to continue efforts to get more of the little up-keep projects done and some of the equipment and supplies organized a little more!

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### Tower Construction at the Clubhouse

We're looking for some club members who are interested in working to determine exact location for the tower and to dig the hole for the base mount and concrete. We would like to move forward with this project very soon!

## Special Thanks This Month!

Thank You to all who have helped on various days to work at the clubhouse. In the past month, trees have been cut down and things picked up around the yard, a little maintenance has been done on the shed and a lot of sorting organizing and updating has been done indoors at the clubhouse. Some New shelving was installed, some new cupboards were put up above the sink, the Echolink Repeater was neatened up and the front entry area was re-arranged a little. Things are really looking Great! —Thanks to all of you that were able to help!

## Current Board Members

### President

Art Carlson—WA0NJR—Elected

### Vice President

Dave Leigh - W0DZW - Elected

### Treasurer

Jerry Dahlager - KC0WCF - Elected

### Secretary

Mike Parker - KC0UEA - Elected

### Trustees

Larry Snodgrass - KC0SMM (2009 - 11)

Leonard Hopkins - KC0NZF (2008 - 10)

Harold Hoffman - KC0FAX (2007 - 09)

### Past President

Scott Hall - N0UV

### 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](mailto:kc0uea@gmail.com)



## Weblinks of Interest

<http://www.rigpix.com/index.shtml>

A large database of pictures and basic specs for current and older radios, antennas, amplifiers, rotators, repeaters and power supplies.

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<http://www.ham-radio-deluxe.com/>

Do you recall hearing about this software program at the June meeting? Here is where you can learn more about this free software suite of programs for Amateur Radio use on the newer Windows based computer operating systems.

## Please Answer the Following Question

Like many other ARES groups, St Louis County ARES has a weekly 2 meter voice net. It's a directed net, so there isn't much chit-chat. It's very business-like. And no doubt very dull, you're thinking.

Well, that thought did occur to us way back when we were first getting started. We didn't want participants to walk in out of curiosity and walk right back out again out of boredom. I can't remember who suggested it, but the idea was put forth that each week we ask a new question related to emergency preparedness.

Great idea. Only none of us could think of more than one or two questions. So it fell to the Net Manager (guess who?) to come up with a pool of questions from which the Net Controllers could draw each week. But if the Net Controller was feeling particularly creative, he or she could introduce a question of his or her own.

I found it hard to come up with questions about preparedness alone, so I expanded the field to include anything related to Amateur Radio. I kept track of the questions asked and the answers given and put them on the group's Web site archives (I'm also the Webmaster: <http://www.stlares.org/arch-surveys.html> ).

### Quiz Show

Sometimes the answers we received surprised me, so I thought I'd share some of them with you. Here's what we heard when we asked, "Please answer the following question."

*If you have a handheld transceiver, do you have an antenna other than the original "rubber duckie" to use on it?*

All but one person said *yes*. For some reason, I had the notion that few people would bother buying a better antenna.

*Do you have more than one battery for your handheld transceiver?*

Again almost everyone answered *yes*, and again I was surprised. I suppose I thought that there were a lot of hams who made little effort to improve or enhance their portable units. It appears that I was mistaken.

*Have you ever drawn up a 'power budget' for an emergency situation? That is, have you ever calculated how much emergency power you have available and how long it would last?*

I can usually count on Chuck, NOEIS, to improvise his own questions. They almost inevitably embarrass us because they're about something we all should have done but haven't. Two out of three participants replied *no* to this question.

*Do you have digital packet capabilities?*

I liked this one because one person said *not sure*. Everyone else was sure, with two out of three participants responding *no*.

*Do you have an emergency light source -- other than a handheld flashlight or an open flame device -- that will give you illumination for at least 4 hours?*

This was another one of Chuck's questions and again, he caught two-thirds of us unprepared.

*Have you ever experimented with solar, wind, or water power?*

All but one person said *yes*, which really stunned me. I was the guy who said *no*.

*How long have you held your Amateur Radio license?*

I liked this question because it asked for a reply other than *yes* or *no*. I also liked the spread of the answers: 2 weeks, 5 months, 10 months, 3 years, 5 years, 5 years, 10 years, 12 years, 13 years, 28 years, 45 years, 46 years and 50 years.

*Do you take Amateur Radio equipment with you when you go on vacation?*

Practically everyone answered *yes*. I wanted to also ask, "And what does your spouse think about that?" but I chickened out.

*Have you ever been the Net Controller for a directed net?*

Out of the 16 participants, 13 said *yes*. That blew me away, as I can't seem to recruit net controllers for *my* net.

*Can you hear me (the Net Control Operator) on this repeater's input frequency?*

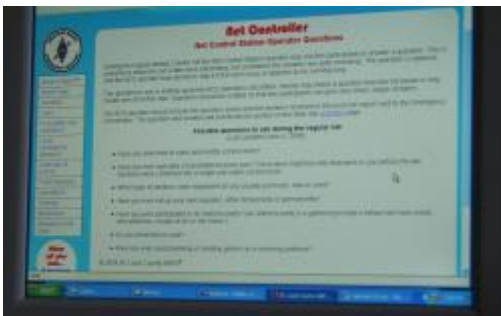
This question was of particular interest to us as we needed to determine how difficult it would be to perform 2 meter simplex operations in St Louis County. Each of our five net controllers asked the same question over a five week period. The responses were about what we expected. The county has a lot of lumps, bumps and low spots, making simplex an iffy proposition at best. The question blindsided some participants who were unable to switch to the repeater's input frequency.

*Do you hold any kind of ARRL volunteer position, such as Volunteer Examiner, Official Observer, Certified Instructor, Official Emergency Station, and so forth? If so, what position do you hold?* This was another one in which the answers surprised me, primarily because more than half of the participants -- 10 -- replied *yes*, with 7 responding *no*. Here is the breakdown; several participants hold multiple positions:

Assistant Emergency Coordinator -- 1, Certified Examiner -- 2, Certified Instructor -- 5, Certified Mentor -- 1, Emergency Coordinator -- 1, Technical Specialist -- 1, Official Relay Station -- 1, Volunteer Examiner -- 7



I'm one of five Net Controllers, but as Net Manager, I need to come up with a question for every week.



The Net Controller can grab a question from the pool on our Web site.

(Continued on the next page....)

## Please Answer the Following Question Continued

*Do you still have your first amateur radio transceiver?*

16 of 19 participants answered *yes*. Hams never get rid of anything.

*Have you ever had someone you did not know recognize you as an Amateur Radio operator or ask if you were an Amateur Radio operator because of some item you were wearing or carrying? This should have been in a public place other than an Amateur Radio event.*

Four out of five participants said *yes*. I wonder if it was the deep, sagging spot on their belts where they usually hang their portables?

*Do you have one of the St. Louis County ARES® "When All Else Fails ... Amateur Radio" buttons?*

Almost everyone responded *yes*. I felt good about that, since I made the buttons.

*Are there local laws or covenants restricting you from putting up an antenna?*

Someone always finds a way to give an answer other than a simple *yes* or *no*. Five people said *yes*, five people said *no*. One person said *no*, but that the proximity of the airport to his house restricts the height. Someone else said *no*, but the community restricts the height.

*Have you taken any of the ARECC (Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Courses)?*

Again, not quite *yes* or *no*: Seven said *yes*, nine said *no* and one said they were currently taking a course.

*Do you work any digital modes?*

And yet again, not a simple *yes* or *no*. Eight said *yes*, six said *no*. One said they are "CW only."

*Are any other members of your immediate family licensed Amateur Radio operators?*

Only one out of 11 participants answered *yes*. I guess I'm luckier than I thought.

*Do you know who the following people are (YES or NO for each)?*

*Hiram Percy Maxim, Gordon West, Riley Hollingsworth*

Alright, I'll admit that this was an off-the-wall question. But I was curious to see what sort of response I got. Sixteen people replied. Only two did not know who Hiram Percy Maxim was. Gordon West was slightly more well known. And everyone knew who Riley Hollingsworth was.

*Do you regularly check WWV or any other NIST time station?*

Out of 15 replies, 13 responded *yes*. We're compulsively accurate hobbyists.

*Do you have 220 MHz equipment?*

This question was asked in one fashion or another three times over a period of years. The replies varied from 25 to 50 percent of the participants answering *yes*. Where are they getting the radios?

*Have you constructed or performed maintenance on an outdoor antenna within the last month?*

Most participants answered *yes*. That's a lot of hams on the roof.

*Have you ever operated on an amateur band above the 70 centimeter (440 MHz) band?*

We asked this twice and both times virtually everyone replied *no*. But now there is a new 23 cm repeater in town, so I'm sure we'd get a different response if we asked the question again.

*Do you belong to a local ham organization other than ARES?*

21 of 24 participants responded *yes*. Almost everyone is in a club.

*Have you ever heard a distress call on the Amateur Radio bands? If so, were you able to handle it?*

I put this question in the pool because I once caught just a piece of a distress call and was not able to do anything about it. This is how the net participants responded:

Seven said "Yes, and I was able to handle it."

Four said, "Yes, but I was not able to handle it."

Nine said *no*.

*If you have a ham antenna on your vehicle, has it ever collided with anything?*

This was a very popular question. Two out of three participants said *yes*. Like many of our questions, it only required a *yes* or *no* answer, but most folks responding *yes* couldn't resist making a few comments as well. The term "tree magnet" was used a lot. Garage doors were also a popular theme.

That's a sampling of the questions we've asked. I'd like to think that they helped to keep the Net interesting. I certainly found the answers enlightening. And, just occasionally, entertaining.

*Editor's note: ARRL member Gary Hoffman, KBOH, lives in Florissant, Missouri. He's been a ham since 1995. Hoffman says his column's name -- "The Amateur Amateur" -- suggests the explorations of a rank amateur, not those of an experienced or knowledgeable ham. His wife, Nancy, is NONJ.*

Article from: <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2009/07/05/10940/>



The promotional buttons for our ARES group. It seems that everyone has one.

## Local Repeater Info

Clubhouse Phone: 320-255-1410

E-mail: [webinfo@w0sv.org](mailto: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](mailto:scarcmn@yahogroups.com)

**On the Web @  
WWW.W0SV.ORG**

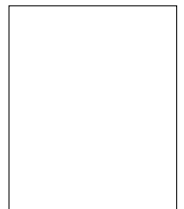
Repeater	Offset	Tone	Location
147.015	+	PL 100.0	Collegeville, MN
146.940	-	Autopatch	St. Cloud, MN
146.835	-	PL 85.4	St. Cloud, MN
147.105	+	PL 85.4	Avon, MN
224.800	-	No Tone	St. Joseph, MN
444.350	+	No Tone	St. Cloud, MN
442.225	+	No Tone	St. Cloud, MN
443.650	+	PL 85.4	Avon, MN
145.270	-	No Tone	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](mailto: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](http://www.w0sv.org)

