



May Newsletter

Volume 09, Issue 5

May 1, 2009



WOSV

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

Dates to Remember:

May:

Gen. Mtg w/Auction 21st

June Gen Meeting 18th

June Field Day 27-28

July Board Mtg 9th

July Gen meeting 16th

Aug Club Picnic 8th

Aug Gen Meeting 20th

Sept Gen Meeting 17th

Oct Board Meeting 8th

Oct Gen Meeting 15th

Nov Annual Meeting 20th

Dec Gen Meeting 17th

Message from the President - The Prez Sez...

The Dayton crew returned to Saint Cloud in time for the famous or is it infamous May club Auction. We had a great time in Dayton. Art, Lenny, Dave and Andy. We have a few good stories to tell. Dave's wife is going to love his new tower for smaller city lots. We have pictures.

It wouldn't be Dayton without at least one day with some rain. I stayed dry with my raincoat but got my feet all wet trying to move a pile of great deals to higher ground at the booth of a friendly Motorola Dealership from Dayton who has always been gracious to us and allowed us to park free at their tower site just blocks from the Arena. I would end up with near Pneumonia as a

result but would not trade the Dayton experience under any circumstances. The group will attest that I live up to my motto "parts is Parts" (especially the deals and ever so much when it is free for the asking). Right now my cough is getting better but I still honk like a kid with a new clarinet. I'm on an antibiotic so I'm not contagious.

Lenny called me as I write this note, informing me that one of our local Hams is published in the June 2009 CQ magazine with an article on power supplies. Bryant A. Julstrom, KCOZNG. Way to Go Bryant!

Field Day is coming soon, I feel a QRP rig coming on line for this event. I love the

smell of fresh solder in the morning (actually anytime).

Everyone had a great time at the club auction. Mike sorry that my comments were late for this issue of the Newsletter.

Everyone stay safe this summer. Welcome back from the Far West winter DX zone of Arizona to Bob Baker WORO and bob was able to find the Friday Lunch Bunch. His Wife Ruth said she is happy that we didn't follow thru with the suggestion to meet at Hooters.

Until next time. Pick up that Microphone and talk to somebody or fire up that CW mode.

73,
Art Carlson, WAONJR

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April General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order on April 16th at 7:02 p.m. by president Art Carlson, WA0NJR.

The Treasurer's report was as follows:

Checking	5,297.35
Savings	1,977.63
Rest. Savings	197.68
CD	<u>1,022.73</u>
Total Balance of	\$8,495.39

We received \$300.00 from Stearns County Emergency Management for repeater maintenance. Other bills were paid and \$400.00 was paid to City of Waite Park

for our Conditional Use Permit fee for approval for the tower installation at the club house.

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

Tuesday, April 17th was the Planning Commission meeting, Art attended the meeting and our requested conditional use permit for tower construction was well received, they are recommending their approval to the City Council, who will meet on May 4th at 7 pm for final approval.

Discussion about the June 27-28th Field day resulted in motions and approval to hold field day at the clubhouse this year. This will allow us to operate from the clubhouse, possibly do some work at the clubhouse and also advertise for people to stop by and learn about Amateur radio and get on the air.

With upcoming activities at the clubhouse it was decided to schedule a clean-up day on May 23rd, beginning

at 9 a.m. (NOTE: This was later cancelled—didn't realize it was Memorial Day Weekend when scheduled) It will be picnic style so please bring something to share and your own meat to grill. If we have approval for the tower it might be possible to begin preparing a location for the base to be installed. The club has already paid for and it is built for the metal that will go in the concrete for the tower. Also we need to look at possibly installing some other antennas before field day.

Members were receptive to trying to do more projects, kit projects or antenna building at meetings to add in some fun and make things more educational for members who don't have a lot of electronics or radio technical knowledge or experience. One suggestion that has been made in the past is to have someone present and/or demonstrate packet and APRS at a future meeting. We could even possibly get some projects paid for from various community organizations.

Some heavy duty metal shelving may get donated to the club for the back room. This would give us a more portable option, should we decide to move the shelves to a different wall in the future, as compared to a more fixed mounting that wooden shelves would create.

The Tour of Saints bike ride event is Sunday July 12th this year. We will be looking for volunteers for radio communications for the event, proba-

bly 4 trucks like in the past and if we have enough volunteers it would allow us to have radio operators at each of the 4 rest stops as well, which would make things a lot smoother.

It has been asked that the packet station that had been removed from service at the Collegeville site be re-installed. That will be looked into.

For the July meeting we are looking for volunteers to provide a demonstration on packet and/or APRS to help other members learn what it is all about and what they need to get operating that sort of equipment themselves.

A reminder that at the May meeting, we will be having a fundraising auction, please bring stuff to donate to the club to be auctioned off. These items do not need to be Ham related.

Technician License class will take place at the Stearns County EOC on Saturday April 18th. People who have signed up to participate in the class should have read the entire study guide and this way after the class, at 4 PM they will take the technician exam.

Lee Shipman, N0FTH won the \$5 door prize.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Parker, KCOUEA.

Looking for volunteers to share information about packet and/or APRS at the July meeting!

Auction at the May Meeting!

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 getting city approval to construct the tower during the month of April. We hope to be able to begin tower construction this Spring/early Summer.

Special Thanks This Month!

Thank You to Art, WAONJR for completing and submitting the appropriate documents to request a conditional user permit for the clubhouse in order to install the tip-up tower at the clubhouse. Thanks also to him for attending the Planning Commission and the City Council meetings to present our request!

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.repairfaq.org/REPAIR/F_Repair.html

Wow! Talk about a huge array of information from fixing small appliances, to power supply repair, radio scanner repair, links galore for sources of manuals and schematics, numerous connector pin-out information, etc, etc.

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<http://www.electronicsteacher.com/>

Want to learn more about Electronics? How about all kinds of schematics for electronics projects to build? There are so many schematics for different projects that I can't begin to list some that might interest you—take a look at this site and there is sure to be at least one circuit you would like to build!

April Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order on April 9th at 7:05 p.m. by president Art Carlson, WA0NJR.

Art reminded those present that he would be going to the Planning Commission meeting on April 14th and explain our request for Conditional Use Permit and to assemble the tower at the clubhouse. It is expected that based on our location, our neighbors being ok with a tower, our emergency involvement, training use for Skywarn, etc that our request should pass. The planning commission provides their recommendation to the City Council, the City Council has the final approval later in the month.

Art suggestion having popcorn at general club meetings. The pop machine for the club is being repaired, it was suggested that we re-arrange some things in the entry room to make room for the pop machine, small fridge and microwave.

An update on adding shelving in the back room, there maybe someone who may donate some good heavy duty shelving to the club. Measurements were necessary and then we may find out soon about the donation. This would be preferred for the ability to move as opposed to the plan to build wooden shelves, which would probably be more fixed mounted on the wall.

There was discussion about the Club picnic, which is Saturday, August 9th this year. It was decided to

make use of our great clubhouse facility and to have the picnic right at the clubhouse instead of at a local park like we have in the past. We will grill some food

and socialize, with the possibility that some members may tinker with radios?

At the May club meeting we will have an auction. Members have enjoyed the auctions in the past and it is a good fundraiser for the club. Members are encouraged to donate Ham related and non-Ham related items for auction at the meeting.

With Field Day coming up on June 27th -28th, we need to determine a location. Some locations were being looked into, club member Lee Shipman, NOFTH offered to have it at his home/property. Some locations were discussed, with the idea that a public viewable location would help us promote

Amateur radio. Also we would like to operate class A (temporary antennas and emergency/generator power) or class E (emergency/generator power).

To get more member involvement and fun learning involvement, it would be nice to have some fun projects at meetings or on other days at the clubhouse that members could participate in to get together, have fun and educate each other. Things like electronics/radio projects and antenna building.

Art reported on the meeting that he and some other club members had with some Brainerd area Hams. They would like to get a direct link into the

Collegetown .015 repeater for emergency purposes, not necessarily for access into the superlink. With the current repeaters in the Brainerd area they are having some

traffic issues and were also inquiring as to suggestions to improve this, Art indicates that since the meeting with them he has realized that perhaps using packet for some of the traffic may help, he will be sharing that suggestion with them.

The Treasurer's report was as follows:

Checking	5,297.35
Savings	1,327.63
Rest. Savings	847.68
CD	<u>1,022.73</u>
Total Balance of	\$8,495.39

Stearns County Emergency Management donated \$300.00 to the club for repeater maintenance, this money belongs in the Restricted savings, which is dedicated to repeater maintenance. With the recent .015 repeater control-

ler purchase, the checking account covered the purchase since there was not enough in the restricted, \$650.00 will now be transferred from the restricted into the regular savings.

Some upcoming maintenance and potentially expenses that the club needs to keep in mind were discussed. The furnace needs some work done before Fall, the motor bearings are going bad and probably need to be replaced. Otherwise some rain gutters should be installed and check the roof as well as some tree trimming, clear some bushes and small trees from along the fence and a light installed in the new storage shed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Parker, KCOUEA.

Were trying to make the club meetings even more fun—Do you have suggestions? Use our new suggestion box at the club house to let us know what sounds like fun to you!

Special Thanks to the Stearns County Emergency Management for their generous contribution to the club for repeater maintenance!

**Lots of Fun Activities coming up soon:
May 21st Auction @ the Meeting!
June 27-28th Field Day!
August 9th Club Picnic!**

It Seems to Us: Change

By David Sumner, K1ZZ ARRL Chief Executive Officer

This time last year, the price of crude oil on the world market had risen above \$100/barrel and was heading toward \$150. Last summer the cost of energy appeared to be the greatest threat to the global economy, driving up other costs and creating 'stagflation.'

How quickly things can change! By the end of the summer, the meltdown of the financial sector had made our earlier worries seem trivial by comparison. You may have picked up this copy of QST seeking a temporary escape from such concerns, so we won't dwell on this unpleasant subject. The point is simply this: change is inevitable. Predicting change will never be perfect and will often be wildly inaccurate, but adapting to change is necessary for survival.

Clouds can have silver linings. Last year, oil prices seemed destined to make a wide variety of alternative energy sources much more attractive -- good news for technologists, investors, and environmentalists alike. Projects that had languished were dusted off; business plans that previously didn't add up were given another look. Then the financial crisis took center stage, credit dried up, oil plunged back below \$50/barrel, and the sense of urgency surrounding alternative energy dissipated as if it were just another bubble.

Yet we know that the global demand for energy is growing. It seems a safe bet, if there is such a thing, that it will continue to grow even faster than the world's population. There may be a question as to timing, but future generations will regard our near-universal reliance on petroleum with as much wonder as we regard our ancestors' reliance on whale oil to light their lamps.

What does this have to do with radio, Amateur Radio in particular? Part of the answer is obvious: we use electrical energy to power our equipment. Sometimes we use alternative energy because, well, there is no alternative. Early radio amateurs did not necessarily enjoy access to commercial power, particularly in rural areas; they had to find other ways to light their filaments. Even today there are large areas of the country that are "off the grid" and always will be.

At home we normally can count on electricity to be available as long as we pay the bill, but we yearn to be more self-reliant. We brag that Amateur Radio works when all else fails, but how many of us can operate indefinitely without some external source of electrical power? Low-power equipment can be operated for many hours from a car battery, but batteries eventually must be recharged or replaced. When a falling tree limb can plunge us back into the 18th century -- when it may take weeks for hurricane, tornado, or ice damage to be repaired -- we ought to have some way of staying on the air and in touch with the outside world.

So, let's keep thinking about alternative energy. Our immediate priorities may have changed since last summer, but someday we'll need it.

Change occurs whenever a new administration takes charge in Washington. While it's too early to gauge results, this administration is committed to science, to stimulating the economy, and to dramatically increasing the production of alternative energy. Turning these commitments into reality takes people, and as this issue was going to press an interesting personnel change was announced: FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein will be moving over to the Department of Agriculture to serve as Administrator for the Rural Utilities Service. Among his responsibilities will be the distribution of \$2.5 billion in stimulus grants to increase the availability of broadband in rural areas.

While we are sorry to lose Commissioner Adelstein at the FCC, it is reassuring that someone with knowledge of telecommunications will be in charge of this important and expensive program. Some proponents of broadband over power line (BPL) technology seem to regard the broadband stimulus grants as an opportunity to breathe new life into BPL as a way to deliver broadband service to consumers, at a time when most of the BPL industry has shifted its focus from broadband delivery to power grid management applications. His years at the FCC have taught Commissioner Adelstein that BPL was excessively hyped and that it is clearly uneconomic in sparsely populated areas. We know he is familiar with BPL's interference potential and that he will not forget this as he moves up the street to the USDA. Even so, we will be watching closely as this and other government broadband initiatives take shape.

Other changes are taking place at the FCC. Acting Chairman Michael Copps moved swiftly to improve internal communications and morale at the agency. After a period of years when the most minor decisions had to be cleared through the Chairman's office -- which meant that most of them never were -- the FCC staff once again is empowered to do their jobs. We are already seeing positive results from this clearing of a regrettable bottleneck.

It is not clear how soon President Obama's nominee for FCC Chairman, Julius Genachowski, will be confirmed by the Senate and sworn into office. Commissioner Adelstein's impending departure means there are two other vacancies to be filled, one by a Democrat and one by a Republican. The new Commissioners will have broad responsibilities and many constituencies, but we will make sure they quickly become familiar with how much the Amateur Radio Service benefits our country -- and how little support we require from the FCC in return.

We want them to understand that the value of Amateur Radio is one small constant in a turbulent, changing world.

Article from: <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2009/05/01/10723/>

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

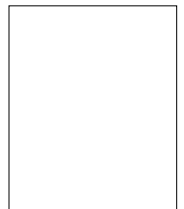
Repeater	Offset	Tone	Location
147.015	+	PL 100.0	Collegeville, MN
146.940	-	Autopatch	St. Cloud, MN
146.835	-	PL 85.4	St. Cloud, MN
147.105	+	PL 85.4	Avon, MN
224.800	-	No Tone	St. Joseph, MN
444.350	+	No Tone	St. Cloud, MN
442.225	+	No Tone	St. Cloud, MN
443.650	+	PL 85.4	Avon, MN
145.270	-	No Tone	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

