



# September Newsletter

Volume 09, Issue 9

September 1, 2009



## WOSV

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

### Dates to Remember:

#### September:

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...

As I write this entry for the newsletter, I am just back from a 1700 mile trip out to Kalamazoo, Michigan for 9 Days to visit my Youngest son Adam KCOIRX. He moved from an apartment to a Cabin on a lake while he is continuing his work on his PHD.

I am amazed at our beautiful country. We used 2 Mtrs to stay in touch on the road with the move of his belongings. I also know I am getting too old to keep up with the young pup when it comes to moving beds and furniture and books.

I had my 706 Mk 2G in the truck and I checked into the Midcars net on 40 MTRS 7258 KHZ and I also monitored QST Bulletins and listened to a lot of

CW on the way out and back. I was pleasantly surprised how my enforced listening to QSO's and QST increased my code speed and I was forced to copy it in my head. (This skill will help me to enjoy CW more with my qrp projects) Also it made time go by quickly on the road.

Now back to the "Ham Stuff" Last general meeting I proposed that members get involved in small project or kit building and that we might have enough variety of projects for everyone to hone their skill or learn new ones to actually build or make something related to the hobby or of related interest to the club and to maybe also make it into a show and tell kind of competition. Results of this event could be the

core of club building projects where we could mass produce and pool skills and resources to build items useful to everyone in more than just everyone build the same thing but to try a variety of choices. Please bring ideas to the next meeting to share.

While I was gone for the trip the new controllers arrived for the Superlink upgrades. I also noticed that the voice ID has been changed to a pleasant female voice.

This is your club, you the members have the power to make it grow and to meet your desires to keep this fellowship something we can all partake and enjoy.

Your Pres,  
WaOnjr.

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## July General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order on August 20th at 7:02 p.m. by President Art Carlson, WAONJR.

The Treasurer's report was as follows:

Checking	4,790.23
Savings	1,984.45
Rest. Savings	197.68
CD	<u>1,024.85</u>
Total Balance of	\$7,897.21

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

The July meeting minutes were accepted.

Old Business began with a report that the picnic was a lot of fun at the clubhouse on August 8th, there were some sales at the garage sale type setup where members were encouraged to bring ham and non-ham related items to sell. It was a great location for a garage sale type event.

Dave Leigh, WODZW shared that he had distributed a list of club members phone numbers and email address to all members who have shared their email address to him for the creation of this list. Contact Dave if you would like to share your email address and receive the list of the other members contact information.

Some on-going things to work on at the clubhouse includes repairing the lights in the back room, installing a couple of antennas and

repairing the bad feedline for the station. We also have the tower to install as well.

There will be a technician class held at the clubhouse from 8 to 12 on August 29th. This class will be followed by a testing session at 12:00 noon. Please share this with anyone you know who be interested in getting their license.

Discussion took place about the tower base getting installed sooner rather than later. This resulted in a motion being passed to investigate having the hole for the tower commercially dug and have the concrete poured commercially as well. This would just result in members helping to get the tower base true and plumb in

**The club may move forward with having the tower base commercially installed.**

the hole while the forms are being set and the concrete is poured, then the remaining tower construction would be more manageable for members to complete.

Scott Hall, NOUV requested to use the clubhouse to operate from towards the end of November for a CW contest. Others are encouraged to participate if they would like.

Discussion took place as well to

have more members active in building kits or homebrew projects and sharing them at club meetings. President Art Carlson, WAONJR suggested that we sort of hold a building contest. Projects can be anything anyone would like to build,

**As if you need a reason to build Electronics Stuff?**

anywhere from QRP equipment, Keyer, paddle, Bug, mic, mic amp, etc. It always fun to see what other members are building and to learn from others. These kits or projects should be things that you been wanting to have or put together anyhow, things you will use, things that you will learn from working with.

Carl Compton, N5FE won the \$5 door prize.

At 8:04 the meeting adjourned.

Following the meeting, Bryant Julstrom, KCOZNG shared the Variable DC power supply that he constructed for very minimal cost from his parts collection.

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!

### Tower Construction at the Clubhouse

Were looking for some club members who are interested in working to determine exact location for the tower and to begin coordinating the installation of the tower base. We would like to move forward with this project very soon!

## Special Thanks This Month!

You hear about classes being held to help future hams prepare for the license exam and you hear about testing sessions being held, but do you know which club members do all this hard work?

This month we give Extra Special Thanks for these volunteers that do so much work throughout the year, sort of behind the scenes to improve our club and our local ham community:

#### Class Instructors:

**Jack Maus, W0MBD, Bryant Julstrom, KCoZNG &  
Ed Steinblock, K0VU**

#### VE Team:

**Charlie Chirhart, K0JV (Leader)  
Phil Jorgensen, N1ARM                      Jack Maus, W0MBD  
Tom Weyhrauch, KDeDOs                Fr. Jim Cashman, KCoEQE**

## Current Board Members

### President

Art Carlson—WA0NJR—Elected

### Vice President

Dave Leigh - W0DZW - Elected

### Treasurer

Jerry Dahlager - KC0WCF - Elected

### Secretary

Mike Parker - KCoUEA - Elected

### Trustees

Larry Snodgrass - KC0SMM (2009 - 11)

Leonard Hopkins - KCONZF (2008 - 10)

Harold Hoffman - KCoFAX (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



## Weblinks of Interest

Since we have been talking about kit/project building recently, I pulled a few web links from the web that I thought may be some good starting points if your looking for kit ideas or plans:

<http://www.ac6v.com/kits.htm#HAM>

<http://www.dmoz.org/Recreation/Radio/Amateur/Homebrew/>

<http://www.af4k.com/hamlynx/hamhomeb.htm>

You surely have probably been to this site before, butt if your looking for some antenna building plans, there are some here:

<http://www.hamuniverse.com/antennas.html>

## Get Ready for the Upcoming ARRL September VHF QSO Party

September is here, and according to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, that means the VHF bands are getting a workout. "If you've never experienced the fun of VHF+ operating, the ARRL September VHF QSO Party (<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/sepvhf.html>) is a great place to start."

With many HF radios now offering at least 6 meter SSB/CW capabilities -- and some offering 2 meters and 70 cm as well -- any amateur with a Technician class license or higher can experience long-haul communication on the VHF bands," he said. "Getting on the VHF bands is simple, he said. You need a radio that can transmit on both CW and SSB." When operating on VHF, Kutzko explained that your Maidenhead grid square (<http://www.arrl.org/locate/gridinfo.html>) is the common geographical information exchanged.



Steve Clifford, K4GUN, of Spotsylvania, Virginia, gets on the air as a rover from grid square FM18 in the 2008 ARRL September VHF QSO Party. [Photo courtesy of Steve Clifford, K4GUN]

While there will be some contest activity on FM simplex (especially near large population centers), Kutzko said that most long-distance VHF+ QSOs are conducted on CW or SSB; that means horizontally polarized antennas: "A dipole for 6 meters is only 9 feet, 4 inches long and is an easy construction project," he explained. "Try to get the dipole in the air as high as possible, but even 15 feet off the ground will make some QSOs. If you have an antenna tuner that can handle 6 meters, you can try loading up another of your antennas on 6 meters with reasonable success. For 2 meters and 70 cm, a horizontal loop will work nicely for SSB and CW contacts." You can find plans for simple VHF antennas at the Technical Information Service area of the ARRL Web site, in the Antennas chapter of *The ARRL Handbook*, or in the VHF and UHF Antenna Systems chapter of *The ARRL Antenna Book*.

Kutzko advises that there are a few things to know about operating on 6 meters: In the US and Canada, there is a "calling frequency" on 50.125 MHz USB. Many stations monitor this frequency to listen for band openings. Stations can call CQ on the calling frequency; if somebody answers, the stations will find a new frequency on which to conduct their QSO. It is considered poor etiquette to monop-

olize the calling frequency for QSOs.

Most SSB activity will take place between 50.125 MHz and 50.250 MHz. If conditions are exceptional, Kutzko said you may hear signals above 50.250: "CW signals can be found from 50.100 MHz to 50.080 or so. The frequencies between 50.100 and 50.125 MHz are a 'DX Window,' meaning it is reserved for QSOs between W/VE and DX stations. Please do not make stateside-to-stateside QSOs in the DX Window."

Because VHF+ antennas are relatively small, Kutzko said that many amateurs operate from portable locations, such as a hilltop or a campground. Others operate the contest as a "rover," operating from their car or truck while transmitting from multiple grid squares over the contest period. "Tracking rovers during the contest is almost as much fun as the contest itself," he said.

The ARRL September VHF QSO Party runs from 1800 UTC Saturday, September 12 through 0300 UTC Monday, September 14. Be sure to use those extra bands on your transceiver and get in on the fun you've been missing on 6 meters and up!

Article from: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/09/01/11048/?nc=1>

## 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**

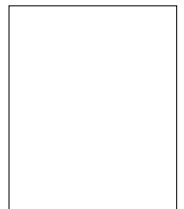
Repeater	Offset	Tone	Location
147.015	+	PL 100.0	Collegeville, MN
146.940	-	Autopatch	St. Cloud, MN
146.835	-	PL 85.4	St. Cloud, MN
147.105	+	PL 85.4	Avon, MN
224.800	-	No Tone	St. Joseph, MN
444.350	+	No Tone	St. Cloud, MN
442.225	+	No Tone	St. Cloud, MN
443.650	+	PL 85.4	Avon, MN
145.270	-	No Tone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

