



## The St. Cloud Amateur Radio Club

[www.w0sv.org](http://www.w0sv.org)



### Message from the President - The Prez Sez...

Wild weather hits Saint Cloud. While I was away and returning from Oklahoma City. Saint Cloud was visited by hail and strong winds. I received a text from Lenny stating that a tree was laying against my house and a tree had struck the back of my Van. At first I thought that Lenny was playing a joke on me. After a minute or so I realized he was telling me the truth. No one was hurt so we can deal with the rest.

I had had a hard week because I drove a U-haul truck to Oklahoma City with my #2 Son. It was 116 degrees there. For a Minnesotan something seems a miss when people spend more money in

the summer for utilities than we spend in the winter for heating. I digress.

It is great to be back in Minnesota. Recent antenna project at W0ROB is complete, a new R-8 is up and tunes very nicely. Bob, now you need to get that 40 mtr DX. Also his uhf antenna was repaired. Thanks to Dave Johnson, Jerome Dahlager, Chris (student in Computer Technology at the tech college) last name escapes me, Phil Jorgensen and myself, Friday July 8th after lunch the job was completed. Sorry if I left anyone out.

To celebrate Bob, Jerome, Lenny and myself

went to the hamfest at Brainerd Saturday July 9. Bob was heard telling people on two meters that Arts is parts necessitated him pulling a trailer back. Not So Capacitor Breath, however I was responsible for filling the back end of the van with treasures. Should be a few good stories at lunch anyway. See you all at lunch, Thursday nightclub night or the next meeting.

My favorite tree is gone from in front of my house so maybe now I can put up a flag pole antenna.

Good DX to everyone  
73,  
Your Pres,  
Art Carlson, WAONJR

### Dates to Remember:

#### July:

Board Meeting	14th
Tour of Saints	17th
Heart of Lakes	17th
General Meeting	21st
Bike MS TRAM	24-29

Aug Club Picnic	TBD
Aug Gen Meeting	18th

Sept Gen Meeting	15th
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Oct Board Meeting	13th
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Oct Gen Meeting	20th
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Nov Annual Meeting	18th
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Dec Gen Meeting	15th
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### The Amateur Amateur: Cablegrim

6/21/2011 By Gary Hoffman, KBOH Contributing Editor

*The cables are out to get me, there's no doubt about it. I should have known as soon as my first DB9 serial to USB cable went sour on me. I attributed the problem to a nearby lightning strike, which did indeed scramble a number of my electronic devices. But a serial to USB cable? I should have suspected right then.*

If that episode didn't clue me in, the next one should have. It was a data cable from my wife's notebook computer to an external disk (hey, you gotta have backup, you know). Sometimes the disk was available, sometimes it wasn't. Oh, I spent a loooooong time trying to figure out what was wrong with that disk. Or the computer. Or the software. Who would suspect an innocent data cable? I did, eventually, after eliminating everything else. I swapped in an identical cable and the disk started working just fine.

Having ignored the signs and portents up to that point, something came along and proved to me beyond a shadow of a doubt that the cables were definitely conspiring against me.

#### Walk This Way

It was supposed to be a simple project. No, actually it was supposed to be a simple task. It was so simple that it didn't rate the status of being considered a full-fledged project. Just open a box, pull something out, close the box, and bada-bing bada-boom, it's all done.

(Article continued on Page 4)....

### Inside this Issue:

- General Mtg Minutes  
Page 2
- General Club info  
Page 3
- The Amateur Amateur: Cablegrim  
Page 1 and 4

## June General Meeting Minutes

The June 16th meeting was called to order by President Art Carlson, WAONJR at 7:10 p.m.

The Treasurer's report was as follows:

Checking	3,932.04
Savings	1,210.53
Rest. Savings	238.98
CD	<u>1,032.15</u>
Total Balance of	\$6,413.70

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

The May meeting minutes were accepted as printed in the June Newsletter.



The Dues Policies that were discussed and agreed on at the April meeting had been documented, these were passed around and members voted to approve the

wording of the dues policies. See the dues policies below the meeting minutes.

Field Day will take place at the clubhouse June 15th to 26th. Will be operating from 1:00 pm on Saturday to 1:00 pm on Sunday. Bring a food item to share.



Members who participated in the Dayton Hamvention reporting that they had a very good time and they highly recommended that you attend if you haven't made the trip before.



Jerry Dahlager, KCOWCF reported that he received a notice

that the broker for our ARRL liability insurance has changed.

Lenny Hopkins, KCONZF shared that he has access to more 2 meter amplifiers, a few members have purchased them, if you put in like 5 watts from an HT, about 40 watts is on the output.

Jesse Abfalter, KCOTAB won the \$5 door prize.

At 7:27 the meeting adjourned.



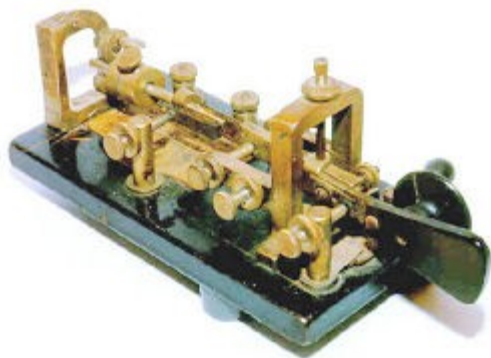
After the meeting Auction numbers were passed out and numerous valuable items were auctioned off during this club fundraiser!

Respectfully submitted by Mike Parker, KCOUEA.

### Membership Dues Policies Approved

Discussed at General Meeting on April 21, 2011 and Approved at General Meeting on June 16, 2011

1. Newly licensed hams - New licensees will receive a free membership period with WOSV. The period will be the remainder of the current calendar year from the time they are licensed. The next January after they are licensed is when they will begin paying their annual WOSV dues.
2. Lifetime Membership - Members may become lifetime WOSV members by:
  - A. Paying 10 years of club dues, which equates to \$200.00 paid to the club towards membership dues within one calendar year.
  - B. Be granted lifetime membership by the club.
  - C. You have been a participating member of WOSV and reach the age of 90.



**Martin Junior (Small Original)  
1921 - 1939**

From [Vibroplex.com](http://Vibroplex.com)

## “Key” members of the Month!

Thank You to Jerry Dahlager, KCONCF for his recordkeeping and accounting during the auction fundraiser and to Rich Josephson, WOELT for his auctioneering services!

Thank You to those who helped prepare for and clean up after operating during Field Day at the Clubhouse!

If you have suggestions or additions to the monthly newsletter or to join the club's email reflector, please email Mike, KCOUEA, the newsletter editor at [kc0uea@gmail.com](mailto:kc0uea@gmail.com)



## Volunteer Opportunities

### Tower Work at the Clubhouse

We still have some antenna work to do, as well as install anti-climb panels on the tower.

### Radio Use Activities

**BikeMS Fundraising Events**—Chris Schultz, KCOYFX  
July 24th to 29th—MS TRAM, a week long tour in the Rochester area of SE Minnesota.

**Tour of Saints**—Scott Hall, N0UV  
July 17th - starts and ends in St Joseph  
<http://www.tourofsaints.com>

**Heart of the Lakes Triathlon**—Lee Lorentz, WBOTRA  
July 17th—Annandale area <http://holtri.org/>

## Weblinks of Interest

<http://kb6nu.com/new-movie-features-amateur-radio/>

So far there are 2 Movies released during 2011 featuring Amateur Radio.

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<http://www.qsl.net/ad7db/movies.html>

Top Ham Radio Movies, Many of the movies I hadn't known about, do you recognize them? Some of them go back a few years.

## Current Board Members

### President

Art Carlson—WA0NJR

### Vice President

Dave Leigh - W0DZW

### Treasurer

Jerry Dahlager - KC0WCF

### Secretary

Mike Parker - KCOUEA

### Trustees

Tom Weyhrauch - KD0DOS (2011 - 13)

Harold Hoffman - KC0FAX (2010 - 12)

Larry Snodgrass - KC0SMM (2009 - 11)

### Past President

Scott Hall - N0UV

### Webmaster

Phil Jorgensen - N1ARM



**Mike, Dave, Art, Jerry**

## Continued: The Amateur Amateur: Cablegrim

.....(Continued from Page 1)

That was the theory, anyway. And then that simple task turned into... well, not exactly a major project. More like a curse.

I do a fair amount of communicating via VHF packet. For many of us, getting computers and transceivers to work together is something of a challenge. It's like a bad marriage. There are constant arguments between the two "partners." I measure my progress in the field of digital communications by how many broken components are lying around my shack, how many pages I've scribbled into my notebook and how much hair I've lost. I'll just say that there has been a lot of each of those.

But what I wanted to do was so simple...

I have an Alinco mono-band transceiver that came with a built-in TNC (Terminal Node Controller). I used it for a while and didn't like the way that the built-in TNC worked. I replaced it with a third party internal TNC, which worked even worse. Eventually, I just connected the Alinco to an external TNC (a Kantronics KPC3+) and got very gratifying results. The only thing that bothered me was that I had to connect the KPC3+ to the Alinco through the transceiver's microphone and speaker ports. Oh, it worked fine, no question about it, but it prevented me from operating the Alinco in voice mode.

So here was the simple task: Open up the Alinco, remove the internal TNC card and then jump the DB9 data port on the back of the unit across the missing card and right into the transceiver's electronics. That way I would be able to plug my external TNC right into the data port, and hence free up the microphone and speaker ports. The Alinco was even designed so that it could operate this way. What could go wrong?

Well, pretty much everything.

### [Do You Have a License for That?](#)

It started, of course, with the data cable from the KPC3+ to the Alinco. I had several of them, simple DB9 to DB9 (9-pin connector) cables of varying lengths. I had even used some of them to connect my computer to the data port on the Alinco when its internal TNC was still in place.

But I had never tried to connect a KPC3+ to the data port on the Alinco. Both devices had female DB9 connectors on them, and all of my cables had male connectors on one end and female connectors on the other end.

Okay, you're sneering and saying to yourself that I'm whining about a trivial problem. And you're right. But that was just the start. I bought an appropriate male-male cable and it still didn't work.

Now I had to fall back to that old standby: Read the manual. And according to the manuals, the Alinco and KPC3+ used completely different DB9 pins to communicate. More than that, the Alinco used one set of pins for 1200 baud and a different set for 9600 baud.

I had to make yet another purchase, this time for a pin adaptor kit.

You can see how this simple five-minute task was beginning to take on a life of its own.

I received the pin adaptor kit, performed a shaky-handed soldering job and managed to construct an adaptor to put it in-line between the Alinco and the KPC3+. Now, do you suppose everything worked at this point? Of course not.

Back to the manuals. And this time it took a *lot* of reading. I eventually found the answer to why my TNC and transceiver weren't communicating, but not from what was in the manual, but rather what was *not* in the manual.

The Alinco has a "data mode." Press a button and a little square wave icon appears on its screen. The manual says to set this when you use the internal TNC. It also says to set this when using an external TNC running at 9600 baud. But it does not specifically say to set the data mode when using an external TNC and running at 1200 baud. To me, it was sort of implied, since the data mode is set for every other digital operation. But apparently I was wrong.

I turned off the data mode and suddenly everything worked. Finally!

Oh, but the story isn't over yet.

### [I Wish to Register a Complaint](#)

You see, I have two computers, a desktop and a laptop. I also have two identical Alincos, and two identical KPC3+ TNCs. One set is for my base station, which remains in my shack, and the other is for ARES® field operations. In fact, there was only one component lacking before I could use both digital stations simultaneously.

Right. A data cable. This time I needed a DB25 to DB9 cable to go from the KPC3+ to my laptop computer. I already had one, which was attached to my base station computer. It worked fine. I bought a second cable from the same manufacturer.

It didn't work.

Okay, maybe it was my fault this time. I bought a nine foot cable instead of a six foot cable. Maybe that was just too far to get signals back and forth between the TNC and the computer. A subsequently purchased six-foot cable worked fine. But I will tell you one thing...

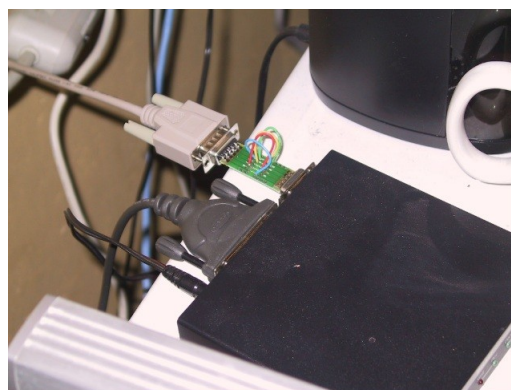
Those cables really hate me.

*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. Hoffman has a [ham-related Web page](#). Readers are invited to contact the author via [e-mail](#).*

Article shared from ARRL Webpage: <http://www.arrl.org/news/the-amateur-amateur-cablegrim>



I have two Kantronics TNCs, but can I use them both?



Switching around the DB9 pins.

## Local Area Repeater Details

<u>Repeater</u>	<u>Offset</u>	<u>Tone</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Information</u>
147.015	+	PL 100.0	Collegeville, (St Johns)	WOSV—Superlink Access w/Remote Rx at Cold Spring
146.940	—	No Tone (Soon 100 Hz)	Sauk Rapids	WOSV—Autopatch
147.420	Simplex	No Tone	Echolink	KCOEQF—See DTMF commands at <a href="http://www.echolink.org">www.echolink.org</a>
146.835	—	PL 85.4	St. Cloud	
147.105	+	PL 85.4	Avon	
224.800	-	No Tone	St. Joseph	
444.350	+	No Tone	St. Cloud	
442.225	+	No Tone	St. Cloud Hospital	
443.650	+	PL 85.4	Avon	
145.270	-	No Tone	Paynesville,	
147.255	+	No Tone	Sauk Centre	
146.520	Simplex	No Tone	Nationwide Simplex	
146.640	Simplex	No Tone	Nationwide Simplex	

Temporarily Offline



### St. Cloud Amateur Radio Club

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Waite Park, MN 56387

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320-255-1410

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[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@yahoo.com](mailto:scarcmn@yahoo.com)

## About the St. Cloud Amateur Radio Club

The St. Cloud Amateur Radio Club is 89 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)

