



The St. Cloud Amateur Radio Club

www.w0sv.org



Message from the President - The Prez Sez...

As I write this I have just returned from Club Night at the Club. There was an excellent turnout. I know that the e-mail post says 7PM but we often get started early because an hour just seems too short. We had a good session on antenna tuners. We have had increasing turnout on club activity night, many thanks to all who make it a worthy event. Examples of manual and auto tuners were discussed as well as those with frills and the basic grp tuners. Pros and cons of tuners close to the feed point and remote tuners were discussed. Con-

struction details as well as home brew tuners were covered. Next week we will look more at antennas and antenna choices.

On Wednesday Dave Leigh, W0DZW and myself removed the broken driven element on the beam at the clubhouse. The new fiberglass separator was prepped. While waiting for class to start tonight I repaired the trap caps that were split or missing and sealed them. Some cooler weather next week and maybe we can get the beam back to operation.

Bryant Julstrom, K0ZNG showed off his handy-work on two small home made regulated power supplies and said that next week several members may assemble some regulated supplies. Nice job as always and great finish work on the projects.

We continue to have a good turnout for Friday lunch activity. I'm sure that chili will be on the menu again soon.

See you on meeting night and or club night.

73,
Your Pres,
Art Carlson, WA0NJR

Dates to Remember:

September:

Sept Gen Meeting	15th
Oct Board Meeting	13th
Oct Gen Meeting	20th
Nov Annual Meeting	18th
Dec Gen Meeting	15th

Inside this Issue:

- General Mtg Minutes
Page 2
- General Club info
Page 3
- Have Some Fun in the
ARRL September VHF
QSO Party
Page 4

HeathKit's available once again!!!

News from the front page of www.heathkit.com and from http://www.heathkit.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=120&Itemid=233

Thank you for your overwhelming response to our announcement that Heathkit is back into the Do-it-Yourself kits business.

Based on your input, we are looking at developing amateur radio kits. Our goal is to have kits available by the end of year.

August General Meeting Minutes

The August 18th meeting was called to order by President Art Carlson, WAONJR at 7:05 p.m.

The Treasurer's report was as follows:

Checking	4,125.15
Savings	1,210.53
Rest. Savings	238.98
CD	<u>1,033.84</u>
Total Balance of	\$6,608.85

The Treasurer's report was approved.

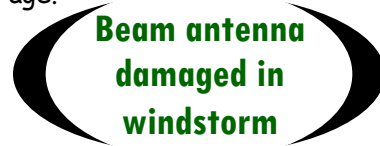
The July meeting minutes were accepted as printed in the August Newsletter.

The website is up to date, report any problems with bad links or wrong information to our webmaster Phil Jorgensen, N1ARM. He recently added a couple of articles that former club President Scott Hall, NOUV had written and were published in magazines. Other people are Welcome to share their articles for the website as well, we just have to be careful about copyright issues.

There was a good turn out for the club picnic and sale/silent auction. As always it would have been nice to see more people attend, but still those that did attend had a good time!

The beam antenna on the tower was damaged by a recent windstorm, appears that it may just be

the fiberglass insulator, at the picnic some members cranked the tower down to evaluate the damage.

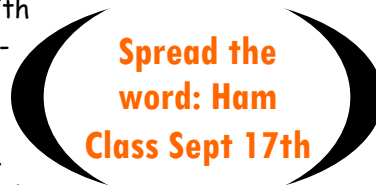


The club is still in need of a lawnmower, Thank You to Scott Hall, NOUV for bringing his own mower over and taking care of the grass.

Previously it was discussed enlarging the opening from the front entry and the main room at the club building. It was decided to table the issue as it is only a couple of times a year that there is a enough traffic in the building to need it more open, but there are also times when it is nice to close the door when multiple stations are operating in the club building.

Jack Maus, WOMBD indicated he will be holding a class on September 17th to prepare new people for their ham license, it will be class and then the test at the end of the day. We did have a couple of guests at the meeting who would like to become hams.

Thursday night Activity and Project nights have been moderately attended. Art has begun going over some of the equipment and circuits that make up the Collegeville 015 repeater. Art is encour-



aging more participation in club events and the Thursday nights. It was suggested that a list of technical topics is compiled by club members and that Art or other club members could volunteer to prepare some training for Thursday nights on the topic and that the topics to be covered be announced prior to the Thursday night via the club email reflector to get more members in attendance.

A few things that might help our club involvement is more information on how to use the club email reflector and also a contact list of club members. The difficult piece to the contact list is not having it available to the public on our website, but have it accessible to members.

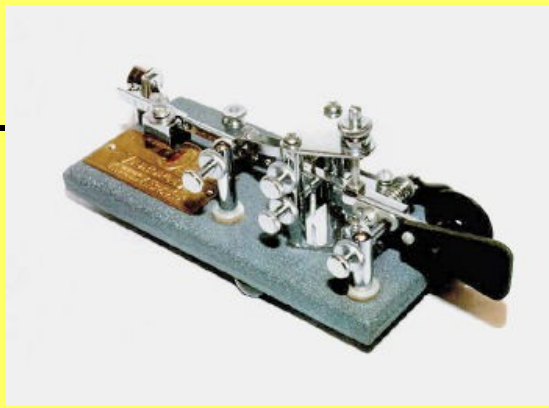
The November Annual Meeting is on Friday November 18th. The plan at this point is to have food catered to the club building and have an auction like we have done in past years.

Vice President Dave Leigh, WODZW will be checking into reserving the Armory for our 2012 Hamfest.

Art Carlson, WAONJR won the \$5 door prize and donated it back to the club.

At 8:03 the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Parker, KCOUEA.



Vibroplex® Zephyr (Small Champion)
1939-1958
From Vibroplex.com

“Key” members of the Month!

Thank You to President Art Carlson, WAONJR for providing technical information sharing at recent Thursday Activity and Project work nights!

Thank You to Bryant Julstrom, KCOZNG for continuing to share the projects he builds and educating us about them and getting others interested in project building!

Thank You to Scott Hall, NOUV Art Carlson, WAONJR and Dave Leigh, WODZW for their efforts in repairing the beam antenna at the club building!

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



Volunteer Opportunities

Tasks at our Club Building

- Install Loop Antenna
- Outdoor Maintenance
- Widen opening from front entry to main room

Understanding the Repeaters

Art would like to educate more people about the repeater equipment and the troubleshooting and repair of repeater equipment so that others in the club have more technical knowledge and abilities.

Weblinks of Interest

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/zoa/mwmap3.php?map=usa>

Current Weather Data posted on NOAA website from airports, can also get weather history as well, this was shared on the club reflector by Meridith Lindrud, WOTDN

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<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/community/skyblog/newsblog/123844859.html>

Bad Sunspot news according to this article shared on the club reflector by Dick Fredrickson, WAODIM

Current Board Members

President

Art Carlson—WAONJR

Vice President

Dave Leigh - WODZW

Treasurer

Jerry Dahlager - KCOWCF

Secretary

Mike Parker - KCOUEA

Trustees

Tom Weyhrauch - KD0DOS (2011 - 13)

Harold Hoffman - KCOFAX (2010 - 12)

Larry Snodgrass - KCO5MM (2009 - 11)

Past President

Scott Hall - NOUV

Webmaster

Phil Jorgensen - N1ARM



Mike, Dave, Art, Jerry

Have Some Fun in the ARRL September VHF QSO Party

08/31/2011

September is here, and that means the VHF bands have been getting a workout. "If you've never experienced the fun of VHF+ operating, the [ARRL September VHF QSO Party](#), the weekend of September 10 is a great place to start," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "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."

Kutzko explained that September is known for having good tropospheric propagation, as opposed to June, which is known for sporadic-E, or E-skip. "As the summer winds down, the sporadic-E season comes to an end and good tropo conditions flourish," he said. "A modest station -- say a 50 to 100 W SSB/CW transceiver and a small Yagi on 2 meters -- can, with favorable conditions, make QSOs several hundred miles away. If conditions are excellent, QSOs of more than 1000 miles are possible." When operating on VHF, hams usually state their [Maidenhead grid squares](#) as part of the exchange.



Ed Parsons, K1TR, of Windham, New Hampshire, operates the 2010 September VHF QSO Party as a rover. Here he is in his "shack", located in the back of his minivan.

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 via CW or SSB; this means you need to use 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." But remember: SSB and CW QSOs use horizontally-polarized antennas, while FM uses vertical polarization. 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 hams need to be aware of a few things when 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, but when somebody answers, the stations will need to find a new frequency on which to conduct their QSO. It is considered poor etiquette to monopolize the calling frequency for QSOs.

Activity will be centered on the calling frequencies of 50.125, 144.200, 222.100 and 432.100 MHz. But Kutzko said that most SSB activity will take place between 50.125-50.250 MHz, and CW between 50.100-50.080 MHz. If conditions are exceptional, Kutzko said that you may hear signals above 50.250. But he advised that the frequencies between 50.100-50.125 MHz are a *DX Window*, meaning it is reserved for QSOs between W/VE and DX stations, so please do not make stateside-to-stateside QSOs in that range.

Because VHF+ antennas are relatively small, Kutzko said that many amateurs like to operate from portable locations, such as a hilltop or a campground. "Find some high ground and put up an antenna; you'll be amazed at the difference operating from a high-terrain locale will make." 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 10 through 0300 UTC Monday, September 12. 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 shared from ARRL Wbeepage: <http://www.arrl.org/news/have-some-fun-in-the-arrl-september-vhf-qso-party>

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 www.echolink.org
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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320-255-1410

E-mail:
webinfo@w0sv.org



E-mail Reflector:
[http://groups.yahoo.com/
group/scarcmn/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scarcmn/)

To send to the reflector and all those signed up for the reflector, send your email to:
scarcmn@yahoogroups.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

