

OSCAR Newsletter July 2012

OSCAR Meeting

The next OSCAR meeting is 14-July @ 9:00 AM, the second Saturday of the month. Meetings are held in the meeting room at the Owatonna HyVee, 18th Street @ Oak Avenue.

SKYWARN Meeting

The next SKYWARN meeting is 17-July @ 6:30 PM, the third Tuesday of the month. Meetings are held at the Owatonna Fire Station. Please note the earlier time for this meeting! 6:30 PM

800MHz Radio Training

Kevin Sedivy of the Owatonna Fire Department will provide a 800 Mhz radio training class for our volunteers on Tuesday, 17-Jul @ 7PM. This is the regularly scheduled meeting time for SKYWARN. All volunteers including those from CERT, SKYWARN, and Amateur Radio are encouraged to attend the event so that we can train as many volunteers as possible.

Volunteers are required to complete online training prior to the 17-Jul training session. The four courses should take a total of a couple of hours to complete. The material covers the ARMER radio system and interoperability. Print out a copy of your completion certificate after completing each module. Bring the certificates to the training session as proof of the completed training. Instructions to access the online training can be downloaded here: <http://www.oscarmn.org/MiscFile/ARMER%20Training.pdf>.

Waseca Triathlon Volunteers needed...

The Waseca Triathlon [<http://www.finalstretch.com/triathlon-events/waseca-tri/info>] is scheduled for Sunday, 29-Jul. The event includes two courses:

- Ironman: 1 mile swim, 34 mile bike ride, and 8.8 mile run.
- Sprint: 1/4 mile swim, 14 mile bike, and 4.4 mile run.

Event organizers are looking for several ham radio operators to volunteer to cover the race. If you can help out please contact Jon Mynnemer, WA0ZFH at vars.activites@gmail.com Several OSCAR members supported over 300 participants last year.

Volunteer Exam Session

Austin Area ARC is sponsoring a VE session for all ham radio license levels

Date: Jul 18 2012 **Time:** 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: John E. Nystrom (507) 433-9654 **Email:** nytro@smig.net

Location: American Red Cross

305 4th Ave NW

Austin MN 55912-3037

Radio/Antenna Selection for New HAM's (class offered by DRC in Bloomington MN)

For several months, students have asked us to give them advice on what to look for when buying their first radio. So we decided to create a forum for discussion of what makes a radio good for a new HAM Radio operator and how to select a good antenna to go with that radio. Icom, Kenwood and Yaesu are supplying materials and Dan from Radio City is invited to attend.

We want input from several people on what makes a radio good, easy to use, and easy to program. You are free to bring your personal biases and opinions.

Course: Selecting a Ham Radio & Antenna*

Dates: Saturday 7/21 Time: 10 AM-Noon

Cost: FREE

This class is for new ham radio operators who would like help selecting a ham radio and antennas.

Please call the DRC office, 952-224-2040 to register.

Dale R. Morgan | KCØTAP

Director of Radio and Technology

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ARRL Field Day 2012 is in the books...

The OSCAR club was able to finish the event with a total score of 5868 points... The chart below shows the contacts made by band and mode. We started the event with the 3A rating, but had a number of other radios come on line late to boost our numbers.

	CW		Digital		Phone	
Band	QSO	Power	QSO	Power	QSO	Power
160	0	150	0	150	0	150
80	141	150	0	150	91	150
40	598	150	21	150	127	150
20	258	150	5	150	121	150
15	4	150	0	150	29	150
10	0	150	0	150	0	150
6	0	150	0	150	7	150
2	0	150	0	150	0	150
1.25	0	150	0	150	0	150
70	0	150	0	150	0	150
33	0	150	0	150	0	150
23	0	150	0	150	0	150
GOTA	0	150	0	150	10	150
Totals	1001		26		385	
	CW		Digital		Phone	

Dennis N0RPI also put together a great little Youtube video which summarizes the field day event pretty well. He shot the video on his iPhone and edited together a video on his computer. Great job Dennis!

You can see the video at... <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TemIbIATDKc&feature=plcp>

Mike KD0DKC was truly the master of ceremonies, keeping everything humming along and ensuring we covered all our bonus point activities. Great job Mike!

Brian K0BDD once again kept the group from starving to death. Two pots of Brian's signature chili were consumed for lunch. He even tested a successful Milk Can Dinner recipe on the group for Saturday night's supper. Dennis captured the "big dump" of the milk can in his video. Everyone loved the beer steamed potatoes, onions, corn on the cob, cabbage, carrots, chicken, kielbasa and shrimp.

Overall the 2012 Field Day was a huge success, with many thanks to all those who participated.

HAM Radio News:

Coiling Cable...

A quick tip as you clean up from Field Day... use the "over/under" method to coil your coax. It makes it easier to coil the coax in the beginning, and it avoids all the twists and loops when you unwind it for use at the next Field Day site. See this video link to learn how...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQCBixFhK1A&feature=em-uploademail>

MN Scanner Law

A recent local incident serves as a reminder for all about the "MN Scanner Law" [<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=299C.37>]. Basically, it is illegal to have any radio equipment in your motor vehicle capable of receiving "any police emergency frequency". Amateur Radio operators have an exemption, but "shall present the license to a peace officer on request". One interpretation of the law is that if someone without an Amateur Radio license might be issued a ticket while operating your vehicle with a radio installed. Keep a copy of your Amateur Radio license readily available while operating your motor vehicle.

QRZ.COM goes off line due to amazon cloud failure... (QRZ.com, Wikipedia)

The same storm that wrought havoc across the mid-West and Mid-Atlantic States also took its toll on the Internet including one very popular ham radio website. According to Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ, who owns QRZ.com, the severe weather lead to an outage of what is known as Amazon's Elastic Compute Cloud center in North Virginia. The result was that services such as Netflix, Pinterest, Instagram, and other popular sites including QRZ became unavailable just after midnight Eastern time on Saturday June 30th.

According to a posting on QRZ by AA7BQ after service was restored, Amazon's service health dashboard indicated that there were power issues in its North Virginia data center. He said that the outage did not affect his servers but did cause a complete database failure. After waiting all night for Amazon to restore the QRZ.com data, he restored information from an automated backup.

According to Lloyd, the outage underscores the vulnerabilities of depending on the public cloud versus having your own data center. For those who have never heard the term Cloud computing, it is the delivery of computation and storage capacity as a service to a community of end recipients. As such, Cloud computing entrusts services with a user's data, software and computation over a network. The name comes from the use of a cloud-shaped symbol to signify the service. (QRZ.com, Wikipedia)