

## OSCAR Newsletter October 2012

### **OSCAR Meeting**

The next OSCAR meeting is 13-October @ 9:00 AM, the second Saturday of the month. Meetings are held in the meeting room at the Owatonna HyVee, 18th Street @ Oak Avenue.

**Please Note:** Last meeting a motion was made and accepted to review and likely increase the club dues. The amount was not settled upon, but will be discussed at this month's meeting (10/13). As mandated in our club charter, the discussion and vote must be announced in the monthly newsletter to allow all those concerned a chance to be heard at the meeting prior to final acceptance.

### **SKYWARN Meeting**

The next SKYWARN meeting is 15-October @ 7:00 PM, the third Tuesday of the month. Meetings are held at the Owatonna Fire Station.

### **Viking Amateur Radio Society – SET (Simulated Emergency Test)**

The Viking Amateur Radio Society (VARs): [www.vikingradio.org](http://www.vikingradio.org) in partnership with the the Mankato Area Radio Club (MARC): [www.marcmvra.net](http://www.marcmvra.net) and Rochester Amateur Radio Club (RARC): [www.rarchams.org](http://www.rarchams.org) will be having a simultaneous Simulated Emergency Test. The Viking portion of the operation will be run out of the Waseca EOC from 9:00am until 12:00 noon.

The SET prepares Amateur Radio Operators (Hams) in communications skills under simulated emergency conditions. Ham radio operators will be working side-by-side with disaster relief agency officials from the Red Cross, Salvation Army, government emergency management, local hospitals, and other entities, supplementing their communications of potentially life and property saving messages.

Amateur radio operators work with The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) (click on public service). They receive training and credentialing requirements for disaster responders and offer their skills for community service, to help save victims when a disaster strikes. You can learn more from the websites listed above.

### **Nationwide SET Oct. 6**

Minnesota's ARES groups are still encouraged to participate in the nationwide SET if the timing works better for you. The Oct. 20 Section SET is not mandatory... we'll simply be around if you want to try to contact us.

### **Minnesota Section SET scheduled for Oct. 20 -- UPDATE**

Minnesota Section ARES leadership will be conducting their yearly Simulated Emergency Test Saturday morning Oct. 20 from 10 a.m. until noon. The scenario will involve non-metro county ECs contacting the SEC via HF at the State Emergency Operations Center. Metro county and city ECs will contact the SEC via VHF simplex frequencies. All frequencies will be picked by Section leadership from the Minnesota Section ARES Simplex Frequency Pool, which can be found on the "Section Plans & Forms" page of this website.

<http://www.minnesotaares.org/files/MN%20Section%20SET%202012.pdf>

The intent of this section SET is to test the ability of ARES personnel to communicate through the Minnesota Section "chain of command". Though official Section SET activities will take place between 10 and noon, it is encouraged that all participating ARES groups participate in their own SET activities during those times or prior to the Section SET.

---

### **Volunteer Exam Session**

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

**Date:** October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 **Time:** 7:00 PM (Walk-ins are welcomed)

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

**Location:** American Red Cross

305 4th Ave NW

Austin MN 55912-3037

### **Upcoming ARES Dates for Volunteer Services**

**OCTOBER 7th** – Sunday – **Twin City MARATHON** – 07:00 – 12-Noon

Minneapolis Locations – Downtown around Lake Calhoun, Nokomis to East River Pkwy.

Contact Person – Mike Siegelman – K0BUD – TCFM Club President – 763-542-8542 or

N00EL@aol.com

**October 13th** - Saturday – **Belle Plaine Scenic Half Marathon & 5K Race** – 07:00 – 12-Noon

Belle Plaine and Scott/Sibley County Roadways down to Blakely Corner and back up Scott County blacktop to Belle Plaine, MN. Need close to 20 radio operators and 3 shadows and 1 good Net Control.

We will be supporting: Sibley/Scott County Sheriff's Officers, Belle Plaine PD, & FD/EMS.

Contact Person – Don Burgess – KC0QNA – Sibley ARES - 507-326-5833H or 612-578-7561M or

E-mail: kc0qna@yahoo.com

**October 21** – Sunday – **Mankato Marathon** 07:00 – 1:00 PM

The course goes thru downtown Mankato and MSU Campus and out on Blue Earth County Road 90 and back in to town. This is a 2 day event with the MARATHON running on Sunday 10/21.

Contact Person – Paul Spevacek – KD0KRX – Nicollet County E-C ARES/Mankato Radio Club

Phone: Home 507-387-5837 or E-mail: prospivy@yahoo.com

### **November Dates – Planning**

Fl- Digi Classes in Henderson or an alternate location – TBD

## **HAM Radio News:**

### **Radio Business:**

#### **MFJ CELEBRATING 40th ANNIVERSARY OCT 5 AND 6** (MFJ)

Turning to the ham radio social scene, all eyes will be on the city of Starkville, Mississippi, the weekend of October 5th and 6th. That's when hams from around the country and around the world are invited to join in on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of MFJ Enterprises by the company's founder Martin Jue, K5FLU:

K5FLU: "Its going to be a fun event. We're opening all the factories up for tours. We will have people working there with the machines up so that you can see everything.

"We are going to have a free lunch. You can come over and we will feed you some good fried chieken. "We are going to have free tailgating. You bring your stuff (to sell). "We will have a VE session for taking license tests. And we will have a special event station with our club K5MFJ. "And we are going to have door prizes from each of our companies. From MFJ, Ameritron, Hy-Gain, Cushcraft, Mirage and Vectronics.

"And everybody is invited and we hope that everyone comes."

### **Pacificon** (Pacificon)

Two weeks later on October 12th, 13th and 14th the joint Pacificon and ARRL 2012 National Convention will take place at the Mariott Hotel in Santa Clara, California. Hosted by the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club, Pacificon is considered the premiere West coast ham radio gathering and this year with the addition of the ARRL Expo, planners are going all out to make it the best ever. And by going all out we mean some 80 forums, a huge exhibit hall featuring all of the well known ham radio manufacturers, distributors and retailers; a huge flea market and several special gatherings.

Among those who will be appearing at these years Pacificon is Amateur Radio's best known educator and the co-host of the T-V webcast Ham Nation, Gordon West, WB6NOA. Gordo will be the keynote speaker presenting the Saturday Opening Address and word is that this is already a complete sellout.

Also attending is NASA Astronaut Lee Morin, KF5DDB. He has been announced as the evening banquet featured speaker. Morin served as a Mission Specialist on the space shuttle Atlantis for STS-110 mission that launched in April of 2002.

And flying in all the way from Lincoln, Nebraska is ham radios favorite kit building enthusiast, Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB. Eisenberg will be giving his acclaimed talk and demonstration titled Kit Building 101 and 102 at Pacificon.

Add to that the ARRL Expo, an all day Friday antenna seminar, special event station W1AW/6 and so much more that there's no time to mention it all and you have the makings of a great West coast ham radio gathering. And you can find out more by simply going to [www.pacificon.org](http://www.pacificon.org) on the World Wide Web. (Pacificon)

## **Radio through space:**

### **Three Hams return to earth...**(ARRL, Southgate, others)

Three astronaut hams have returned safely to Earth after completing a four month mission aboard the International Space Station. The Expedition 32 crew made up of American Flight Engineer Joe Acaba, KE5DAR with Russian Commander Gennady Padalka, RN3DT, and Flight Engineer Sergei Revin, RN3BS, undocked their Soyuz TMA-04M spacecraft from the orbiting space lab at 7:09 p.m. EDT. They landed in northern Kazakhstan at 10:53 p.m. EDT Sunday night.

The homeward bound Soyuz fired its orbital engines one last time at 9:56 p.m. The descent module then separated from the spacecraft and fell through the atmosphere. It then deployed its parachutes and fired landing engines shortly before touchdown to soften the impact.

The successful landing wraps up a mission that began on May 17 with the Expedition 32 crew spending 125 days in space.

## **Contesting:**

### **CA and PA QSO Parties coming up...**

Two of the nations most popular radiosporting events are looming on the near horizon.

The first weekend of October, it's the granddaddy of all state QSO parties - the California QSO Party. It's sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club. The action starts on Saturday, Oct. 6 and wraps up Sunday, Oct. 7.

The following weekend, Saturday, Oct. 13 and Sunday, Oct. 14, it's the Pennsylvania QSO sponsored by the Nittany Amateur Radio Club in State College, PA. It's promoted as the "Friendly QSO Party."

Let's start right up front here.

You don't have to be a contester to take part in either of these events.

In fact, most of the operators competing in either of the parties like to hear from the many casual operators who might turn on their radios during the weekend, hear some activity, and tune up and down the HF bands offering a simple contact and, perhaps, a much needed multiplier.

So, you're just as valuable, sometimes even more valuable, than you might think.

Don't be afraid. Squeeze the mic or touch the CW paddles or the key and give a fellow ham a hand.

California's party features activity from all 58 counties in the Golden State and has special competitions for Y-Ls, youth operators, first-time testers and even school clubs.

Club competitions are highly encouraged, so if you decide to jump in, put the name of your radio club into the entry form.

The California Party gives away a host of plaques for various operating categories, offers unique T-shirts to those who are interested, and even awards special prizes for the top 20 California and top 20 non-California single operator stations. See their website for more on that.

The following weekend, the bands get active again as operators fan out across Pennsylvania's 67 counties for a great operating event.

It's one of the few competitions where lots of non-contesters get together with friends to set up Field Day-style stations to activate some of the rare Pennsylvania counties.

There's lots of buzz in the months before the party on a reflector operated by the party organizers. And, there are plaques and certificates awarded to contestants both within Pennsylvania and across the country. Even DX stations are recognized.

First-timers also are welcome in the PA Party. And, there are T-shirts for those who to get one. So, is your station ready? If you're a contester, maybe you consider each of the parties a warm-up for the fall contest competition.

If you're not a contester, get on anyway. Pick up a few counties in Pennsylvania or California, maybe a few unique call signs if you're a prefix hunter.

The bottom line: Have some fun.  
We'll see you on the air!