

OSCAR Newsletter December 2012

OSCAR Meeting

The next OSCAR meeting is the 12th January @ 9:00 AM, the second Saturday of the month. The meetings for January and February are being held in the first floor class room at the Owatonna Fire hall (107 W Main St.) across from central park in downtown Owatonna. Breakfast won't be served, however, rolls and coffee should be available.

SKYWARN Meeting

The next SKYWARN meeting is – December 18th @ 7:00 PM, the third Tuesday of the month. Meetings are held in the 3rd floor meeting room at the Owatonna Fire hall.

CERT Class

CERT announced the 2013 class schedule. It will begin 05-Jan and continue through 07-Feb. Classes are held on alternating Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. Contact the Owatonna Fire Department for additional information or sign up. The skills learned during the CERT training could be useful after a severe weather event. SKYWARN spotters may be the first individuals that arrive at a scene where immediate aid needs to be administered.

CERT Annual Meeting

CERT announced their annual meeting will be held at 6:00pm on January 3rd at the Owatonna Community Center Building on the Steele Co. Fair Grounds. All OSCAR and SKYWARN volunteers are invited to attend. Come for the meeting, stay for the cake...

OSCAR Tech Class

(NO CODE - Technician Class) operating license. Eight class sessions, about two hours each. Ham Radio License Manual (2nd Edition) Study guide (\$30)

When: 19-Feb through 14-Mar (Tuesday & Thursday nights 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM)

License exam will be given on 14-Mar (License exam fee \$15)

Where: Owatonna Fire Station, 1st floor class room
107 W. Main Street (across from central park)

Contact: Tom NØUW 507-444-9133

Viking Amateur Radio Society – Extra Class Study Group

Location: Waseca County EOC, 122 3rd Avenue N.W. Waseca, MN 56093

Start/End Dates: 01/07/2013 - 04/15/2013

Times: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. # of Sessions: 15

Pre register required: No **Morse code offered:** No

Fee: \$29.95 for Manual

Contact: Merlin Williams KD0V **Phone:** (507) 835-2344

Email: merlin@mewai.com

Volunteer Exam Session

Austin Area ARC is sponsoring a VE session for all ham radio license levels
Date: January 16th, 2013 **Time:** 7:00 PM (Walk-ins are welcomed)
Contact: John E. Nystrom (507) 433-9654 **Email:** nytro@smig.net
Location: American Red Cross Building, 305 4th Ave NW, Austin MN 55912-3037

Minnesota ARES Section Activation Status Board
No Section-level activations at this time.

The After Action Review for the 2012 Sectionwide Simulated Emergency Test is now available for review at the link below...

<http://www.minnesotaares.org/files/MNARES%202012%20SET%20AAR.pdf>

Official ARES Section activations are state-level activations authorized by the Section Emergency Coordinator, as requested by the Minnesota State Duty Officer, Minnesota Volunteer Agencies Active in Disaster (MNVOAD) or by local agencies.

Ham Radio Items of interest:

Bob Prudhomme
Statewide Maintenance and Operations Manager
Office of Electronic Communications
651/234-7971 robert.prudhomme@state.mn.us

You may want to pass this on to club members, we have a job opening at our Mn/DOT Owatonna office. The web address to make an application is as follows,

<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/>

RADIO TECHNICIAN 2

\$ 17.13-\$ 24.06 hourly, \$ 35,767-\$ 50,237 annually

Date Posted:	12/11/2012
Closing Date:	12/31/2012
Hiring Agency:	Transportation Dept
Division/Bureau:	State Aid/Elect. Commun.Office
Location:	Owatonna
Who May Apply:	Open to all qualified job seekers

Posting Number: 12DOT000601
Employment Conditions: Permanent, Full-time
Work Shift: Day Shift
Days of Work: Monday-Friday , 07:30 AM-04:00 PM
Travel Required: yes
Job Grouping: Const Facil Maint Mfg & Trans
Classified Status: Classified

Job Description: This position will service the South East portion of MN out of the Owatonna radio shop.

This position exists to install, repair and perform preventative maintenance on mobile radios, base station radios, phone systems, PA systems, personal computers, paging radios, portable radios and chargers, traffic radar and traffic control signs, microwave equipment, console controllers, scanners and digital scramblers, frequency synthesis, sirens and other electronic equipment.

Minimum Qualifications:

* FCC Radio-Telephone license or be an APCO (Association of Public Safety Communications Officers) or NABER (National Association of Business and Educational Radio) certified technician or equivalent within six (6) months of hire date;

AND

* Certificate in Electronics from a technical school or military electronic communications school or one (1) year experience as a radio, TV or electronics equipment repairman, and/or radio station engineer;

AND

* Class D driver's license;

PLUS

One year of experience is required that demonstrates the following:

1. Skill in troubleshooting techniques, soldering and handling sensitive electronic equipment and parts;
2. Knowledge of radio communication procedures and ability to operate communication equipment; and
3. Knowledge of microprocessor, digital, analog and electromechanical technology.

Requires a Class D Driver's License: a single unit vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of less than 26,000 pounds. This is a basic driver's license. Operators may also tow vehicles/trailers as long as the a gross combination weight does not exceed 26,000 pounds.

Selection Process:

The selection process is a resume-based, skill-matching process. Your resume will be entered into a database. The software program matches your skills with the skills needed to perform the duties of the position. If your skills match the required skills for this position, the department may contact you. You may wish to take a few moments to carefully review your resume against the required minimum qualifications shown above.

* MnDOT does not discriminate against qualified disabled applicants. Anyone who believes they may need an accommodation, please contact MnDOT's Affirmative Action Office in advance, so any necessary arrangements can be made. To request an accommodation, e-mail ADArequest@state.mn.us; or call 651/366-4718 (MN Relay 711).

How to Apply:

Most State selection processes utilize a resume-based screening process. You will be contacted by agency staff if your background best matches the selection criteria on this job posting. To apply for this position, click the APPLY box found at the

bottom of this job announcement. For additional information about the State's selection process, go to <<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/job-tip>>.

Contact for More Information:

Stephanie Glaser,
stephanie.glaser@dot.state.mn.us.

FOR SALE:

Austin Radios:

The Austin ARC has 8 more Johnson Challenger radios for sale. Price is the same --- \$35.00. Al NØRZO checked them out and retuned them for 2 meters. Average output of 40 watts and they are 8 channel. They are programmed with local repeaters and 52 simplex, but can be programmed to anything the purchaser wants. Contact John KBØSPM at 507-433-9654.

HAM Radio News:

N0D: A Special Event Station celebrating The End of the world!

That's right! The end is finally near. According to one of the three Mayan Calendars, the End of the world will occur on December 21, 2012. To celebrate this—literally—once in a lifetime event, Special Event Station N0D (Now Zero Days) will be activated for three days during and possibly after the end of the world. December 20; is a celebration of the end of the world. December 21, the day of destruction, they will be on the air as long as possible. December 22...that is a little iffy right now.

Amateur radio stations around the crumbling globe are invited to contact N0D, who will be operating from a secret undisclosed location. QSL with SASE to the address in QRZ. If Doomsday actually does happen, they regret that a QSL will not be possible so hold on to your SASE until the 22nd at least.

You can celebrate Doomsday by contacting N0D directly on the air. Amateurs can also become an official Doomsday station by registering on their website. You will be given a registration number and the authority to identify yourself as an Official Doomsday Station. followed by your Doomsday number. <http://www.nowzerodays.com/>

INTRUDER WATCH:

MYSTERY CHINESE SIGNALS BEING HEARD ON HF BANDS (IARU-R1)

Wolfgang Hadel, DK2OM, who is the IARU Region 1 Monitoring System coordinator reports that there are some strange signals coming from China and making their homes on various parts of the Amateur Service spectrum. DK2OM says that since October 25th hams have been hearing from mysterious signals on 7, 14, 21 and 21.010 MHz. He notes that they are also audible in the shortwave spectrum at 15, 18, 19 and 20 MHz as well.

DK2OM says that initially the A3E signals sounded like grunt or cow mooing. Now reports are that they have become very strong multi-tone signals with a carrier and both sidebands and heard

every morning. He speculates that this might become kind of special kind of encrypted broadcast or a new generation of Over the Horizon radar but at the moment its actual purpose is unknown.

For further details visit www.iarums-r1.org/ and look under "Latest Intruder News". There you can also find a link to a recording of this new intruder to the High Frequency bands.

RUSSIAN TAXIS ON 15 METERS (IARU-R1)

And here's another strange one. A taxi dispatch system seems to have set up shop on 15 Meters in Russia. This as DK2OM confirms a report of a taxi company in the Russian Federation is transmitting FM around the clock on 21.404.2 MHz. He says you can often hear a female voice organizing the business.

US AND MEXICO JOIN FORCES TO COUNTER CROSS BORDER TRAFFICKING OF STOLEN MOBILE DEVICES (Amateur Radio Newslines)

Its going to get a lot harder to activate a stolen smart phone or other broadband device in both the United States or Mexico.

FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski has announced the signing of a new bilateral agreement with Mexican Communications Under-Secretary Hector Olavarria Tapia. This to combat the theft and cross-border trafficking of mobile devices between the United States and Mexico.

The agreement builds further on the FCC's 'PROTECTS Initiative', and the recent participation of U.S. and Mexican mobile providers in an international stolen device database. This database will prevent mobile devices stolen in U.S. cities from being re-activated in Mexico, and stolen Mexican devices being re-activated in the U.S. market. U.S. carriers were able to join the database from October 31st.

But it does not end there. The agreement also commits the FCC and Mexico's Secretariat of Communications and Transport to extend their inter-agency cooperation to crack down on the international trafficking of stolen mobile devices through a series of new action steps using technology and transparency. Among other measures, Chairman Genachowski and Under-Secretary Olavarria agreed that the respective agencies will closely track, analyze, and report progress in preventing mobile device theft.

TECHNOLOGY CHANGING: SPACE WEATHER TO INTRODUCE TWO NEW PRODUCTS (OPDX,W8KVK)

This note from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Tentatively on December 11th the Space Weather Prediction Center will introduce two new forecast products titled the 3-Day Forecast and the Forecast Discussion. These new products will be available twice a day at 00:30 and 12:30 UTC to provide space weather information in abbreviated and detailed formats.

Both will use NOAA Space Weather Scale information. Examples of these new products are available at www.tinyurl.com/caqy4ox and for the concise, 1-page summary and

www.tinyurl.com/bm9flp6 for the in-depth space weather analysis. These two products will supplement the existing product suite and no current forecasts will be discontinued.

HAM HAPPENINGS: HANDIHAM 2013 RADIO CAMP ANNOUNCED (Handihams)

The Handihams have made known that their 2013 Radio Camp is tentatively scheduled for the Woodland campus of Camp Courage in late July and early August. The tentative dates are July 28th through August 2nd making travel days for the campout Sunday and Friday. No pricing has been announced.

The Handihams have also announced that Courage Center Camps and Friendship Ventures have entered a joint partnership. This to create a new camp organization to serve people with disabilities.

The new organization founded on November 19th will be called Camps of Courage and Friendship. At least that will be its title until a formal name study is completed in 2013.

Campers, volunteers and staff will see traditional programs continue in 2013. However, behind the scenes, new methods and approaches will be developed to incorporate the strengths of both organizations. More about this new joint venture is on-line at www.campscouragefriendship.org.

RADIO LAW:

FCC PLANS HEARINGS ON EFFECTS OF HURRICANE SANDY (RW)

The FCC plans to hold several field hearings on the challenges faced by communications networks in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.

Though the agency focused on wired and wireless phones in the announcement, the commission also included broadcasting, noting its experts will want to know how the power held up in studios and at transmitter sites.

Specifically, the agency is asking things like: When commercial power is unavailable, how long should back-up power sources be expected to last?

Beginning in the New Year, the hearings will focus on the challenges faced by communications service providers, state and local officials, emergency personnel and consumers before, during and after Sandy as well as other natural disasters. Business representatives, public safety officials, engineering and academic experts, consumers and other stakeholders will take part.

New York Senator Chuck Schumer had called for the commission to develop a roadmap to better protect critical communications functions during major disasters.

THE SOCIAL SCENE:

PROTECTED BEETLE SPECIES CAUSES CANCELLATION OF 2013 PALM SPRINGS HAMFEST? (Desert RATS ARC)

The Palm Springs Hamfest slated for Saturday, January 26th 2013 has been cancelled due to an endangered species of bug that lives in and around the shows venue. This after the city of Riverside County, California, acts to protect the Dinocoma Brunnescens beetle habitat.

Nope we are not kidding. According the Desert RATS Amateur Radio Club that sponsors the event part of the area in which previous Palm Springs Hamfest had been held has been deemed a protective habitat for this creature of nature. As such, it is therefore no longer available as an event site. And to make matters worse, the radio club was not notified of the situation in time to locate another venue for the 2013 event.

Current plans are to hold the next Palm Springs Hamfest the third weekend in March of 2014 at a venue that is ham radio friendly rather than beetle protected. In the meantime the Desert Rats says that it regrets any inconvenience to those who already made travel and accommodation plans.