

OSCAR Newsletter January 2013

OSCAR Meeting

The next OSCAR meeting is the 9th February @ 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.

Please note that Dan Fish from Radio City will be on hand after the February meeting to review some of the new Ham radios they now have available. He will be bringing examples of a few radios to handle first hand. Come for the meeting and stay for the presentation.

Items of interest from last meeting...

- 1) Photo's of local ham's added to OSCAR web site.
 - a. Tom N0UW took some photos at the last meeting and posted them to the OSCAR web site <http://www.oscarmn.org/Hams.html> If your "mug" is missing, let Tom N0UW know and he will get his camera out!
- 2) New OSCAR club officers... Well only one! Randy KD0NUV has taken the reins as President, from Dennis N0RPI who needed more time for the family. Mike N0MDC remains as Treasurer, and Brian K0BDD stayed on as Secretary.
- 3) New Kenwood repeater put into place as the Club "145.490" Repeater. Check it out...
- 4) Mike N0MDC nominated as Field Day Coordinator for this year... June 22-23, 2013

SKYWARN Meeting

The next SKYWARN meeting is – February 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

Steele Co. CERT has announced the 2013 class is canceled due to lack of participants. They may schedule a class later in 2013 if interest grows sufficient.

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 N0UW 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

ALARC (Albert Lea Amateur Radio Club) - VE Test Session

Wednesday, March 20th at 7pm at the Glenville Fire Hall in Glenville, MN

Walk ins welcome...

John Beargrease Sled Dog Race Postponed... until March 10th due to poor trail conditions

The BARC (Beargrease Amateur Radio Coalition) is still looking for area ham's to help out with relaying information on crossing and check point times. If you have questions please contact Brian K0BDD or check out these web sites... <http://www.beargrease.com/> OR

<http://www.bgarc.org/>

Minnesota ARES Section Activation Status Board

No Section-level activations at this time.

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.

Minnesota QSO Party Feb. 2

Minnesota Section ARES is once again this year working with the Minnesota Wireless Association and their Minnesota QSO Party event Feb. 2. The MWA will award a certificate to the Minnesota ARES station with the highest score.

For operating rules and conditions, please visit the Minnesota ARES page on their website at <http://www.w0aa.org/index.php/mn-ares>

Minnesota Section ARES will continue to find more and innovative ways to work more closely with our friends at the MWA, as part of our overall effort to better utilize HF frequencies for emergency communications. We highly encourage ARES personnel with HF capabilities to participate in this event.

Minnesota ARES Digital NET

Thursdays at 20:00hrs on 3.583.5Khz

The first Minnesota ARES Digital Net on 3.583.5khz using FLDigi software.

Join us every Thursday night at 20:00hrs central time on 3583.5 kHz USB, center audio frequency 1000 Hz +/- QRM using Olivia 8/500.

AERO –

Association of Emergency Radio Organizations and the Maple Grove Radio Club wish to announce it is holding its *Basic Emergency Operator Communication* (AERO 1) class on February 9th and 16th, 2013. On February 9th we will be having our class room session from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. The doors of Maple Grove fire station #2 will open at 8:30 AM. We will be holding our practical exercise and class evaluation on February 16th from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Prerequisite for the course is ISC-100b that is free at <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is100b.asp>. The cost of this course is \$0.00. You will need a notebook, an HT, and writing instrument. Please register with Dan Peitso, NØPIY at NØPIY@arrl.net or phone 763-755-3262. Internet registration is preferred. Please register by Thursday February 7th, 2013.

AERO 1 focuses on proper radio procedures, presentation in person and on the radio, and how to prepare for deployment in time of need.

AERO 2 focuses on Nets with emphasis on Net Controllers, Net Creation, and establishment of Net protocols.

Net Control (AERO 2) will be held on Saturday February 16th, 2013. The class session will be from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. The doors of Maple Grove fire station #2 will open at 8:30 AM. We will then have a practical net exercise from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Prerequisite for this course will be AERO 1. You **CANNOT** register for both classes. **AERO 1 MUST be completed before taking AERO 2.** The cost of this course is \$0.00. You will need a notebook, an HT, and writing instrument. Please register with Dan Peitso, NØPIY at NØPIY@arrl.net or phone 763-755-3262. Internet registration is preferred. Please register by Thursday February 14, 2013.

Ham Radio Items of interest:

FYI... from “Jr.” Baseman NXØP

The (146.685 - 100Hz) repeater is back and on the air. Echolink node number is **513917**

If the repeater is linked into the Handihams and you want to use the repeater without being linked in to it, all you need to do is key up the repeater, press # # It will drop the link and the repeater will just be local again.

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:

RESTRUCTURING: FCC PROPOSES 3.5 GHZ CITIZENS BROADBAND SERVICE

First there was the old Class A and Class B Citizens radio of the 1940's. Then came 11 Meter Class D Citizens Radio Service in 1958. Next was the Family Radio Service authorized in the United States since 1996. That was followed in 2000 by MURS or the Multi Use Radio Service. Now in 2013, the FCC is proposing to create a new Citizens Broadband Service and it's like nothing else the regulatory agency has ever attempted before.

Just before years end on Wednesday December 26th the FCC announced a proposal to make available 100 MHz of shared spectrum in the 3.5 GHz band using small cell and database technologies. The FCC calls the new service in the 3550 to 3650 MHz band the "Citizens Broadband Service" or C-B-S and proposes three tiers of service. These will be known as Incumbent Access; Priority Access and General Authorized Access.

Incumbent Access would consist solely of authorized federal and grandfathered licensed Fixed Satellite Service 3.5 GHz band users. They would be protected from the other tiers by regulation and technical means. This would include the use of exclusion zones where other C-B-S uses would not be permitted.

Priority Access level would be given to small cell use by certain critical quality-of-service dependent users at specific target locations. This might include hospitals, utilities, state and local governments. It might also include users with a distinct need for reliable, prioritized access to broadband spectrum at specific, localized facilities.

Lastly, the General Authorized Access or G-A-A level would allow opportunistic use of the spectrum for a variety of residential, business and enterprise purposes. These users would have to protect Level 1 Incumbent Access and Level 2 Priority Access users through technologies including geolocation. Also as the lowest level users they would not have any expectation of protection from harmful interference to this user base.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is known as FCC 12-148. It also seeks comment on including spectrum at 3650 to 3700 MHz, immediately adjacent to C-band downlink spectrum. If the FCC does include the 3650 to 3700 MHz band in the proposed new service, wireless Internet service providers using this band for links would have to be licensed under the tier 3 General Authorized Access rules.

ARRL FILES FOR 472 - 479 KHZ US BAND(ARRL, CQ, eHam)

The ARRL has filed a Petition for Rule Making requesting the establishment of a domestic amateur radio allocation at 472 to 479 kHz. The League's request calls for a power limit of 5 watts effective isotropic radiated power, with only 1 watt to be permitted in certain specific locations.

The ARRL took this action for the FCC to follow up on the actions of the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference now rather than waiting several years as was the case with WRC- 07. As regular listeners know, telecommunications administrations around the world have been fairly quick to make this spectrum available to their nations ham radio communities.

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY:

ANOTHER NEW SOURCE OF LIGHT ANNOUNCED (Amateur Radio Newslines)

A new and more efficient way to light your way is on the horizon. Scientists at the Wake Forest University have created a new type of light bulb that promises to be just as efficient as LED equivalents, but without any of the drawbacks.

The new field-induced polymer electroluminescent bulbs or FIPEL for short, produce light when an electric current is passed through its nano-engineered plastic layers. The team says that the new type of bulbs are malleable, allowing them to take any shape like compact fluorescent lamps. They also won't shatter like traditional bulbs, nor will they generate the same hum or flicker.

The inventor of FIPEL is Dr. David Carroll. He believes that his new solution is superior to LED bulbs because there is a limit to how much brightness you can get out of them. If you run too much current through an LED they can short out and melt. Not only that, the light generated by FIPEL bulbs is closer to natural sunlight, unlike the bluish tint generated by LEDs.

Any worries about longevity are also put to rest by Dr. Carroll. He claims to have had a field-induced polymer electroluminescent prototype lamp working in his laboratory for almost a decade.

NEW POWER SOURCE: (Fuel Cell Energy Report)

FUEL CELL TO POWER MICROSOFT EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH FACILITY

The Fuel Cell Energy Corporation has announced a project using a stationary fuel-cell power plant to support Microsoft's latest data-center research project. The power plant will use renewable biogas generated by a wastewater- treatment facility as the fuel source to generate ultra-clean and carbon-neutral electricity to power Microsoft's Data-Plant project in Cheyenne, Wyoming. This sub-megawatt power-plant project will enable Microsoft to evaluate the effectiveness of using FuelCell Energy power plants to efficiently power future sustainable data centers.

The sub-megawatt Direct Fuel Cell power plant will be installed at the Dry Creek Water Reclamation Facility in Cheyenne, Wyoming by the spring 2013. The fuel cell plant will provide 200 kilowatts of power for Microsoft's Data Plant which will be housed in a modular pre-assembled building that will be the home of a server farm to recreate a data center environment.

The Direct Fuel Cell power plant will also provide excess power not used by the data center to the water reclamation facility to offset their electric costs. In the event of a grid outage, the Data Plant project and fuel cell plant will be configured to operate independently to provide continuous power.

WORLDBEAT:

NEW CANADIAN IRLP/ECHOLINK WEATHER NET (VE1JBL)

The Weather Radio Listeners Newsletter Net hosted by Gordon Maybee, VA3WXA out of Toronto, Canada, takes place every Saturday evening at 8 PM Atlantic, 7 PM Eastern time on IRLP Reflector 9034 and Echolink node 223557. The net carries information about Weather Radio and the CANWARN service. It also includes weather warnings and notices of any power outages across Canada.

The sponsors say that they are trying to make this a Cross Canada Net to include all provinces and territories. They are also looking for station from Quebec to participate.

For more information about the net, go to The Maritime Amateur website www.maritimeamateur.ca and click on CANWARN. Once there, click on CANWARN news where you will find articles on this net.

DX NEWS:

DJ9KH will be on the air as A31WH from Vava'u Island between February 20th and March 3rd. All activity will be on the High Frequency bands. QSL via his home callsign, either direct or by the bureau.

W6HGF will be on the air stroke J8 from St. Vincent between January 9th and the 24th. His operation will be focused on RTTY using dipoles and a traveling beam. QSL direct to his home callsign or electronically via Logbook of the World or ClubLog.

DJ9KH will be active from Tongatapu Island as A31WH and from Vavau Island as A31WH/P February 20th through March 3rd. Operations will be on the High Frequency bands only. QSL via his home call.

Lastly DF3ZS and DL1QW will be active stroke 5Z4 from Diani Beach, Kenya, between January 7th and the 20th. Their operation will be holiday style on 80 through 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via their home callsign, direct or via the DARC Bureau.