

# The **MORA**nnouncer



## The Official Newsletter of the **Mora Open Repeater Association**

719 Fair Oaks Drive - Mora Minnesota 55051

<https://www.morahamradio.com>

*Amateur Radio .... when all else fails!*

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## **KDØTCR NAMED NEW KANABEC COUNTY SKYWARN COORDINATOR**

After a year of serving as Assistant Coordinator, Marc Johnson, KDØTCR, has moved up to Coordinator of the Kanabec County Amateur Radio Skywarn Group.

Johnson succeeds Kenny Broshofske, KJ9W, who has served in that post since the organization was founded in 2008.

The promotion of Johnson was a forgone conclusion, and yet another indication that Broshofske is willing to pass responsibilities he has been shouldering on to others.

Johnson assumes his new role with some challenges facing him. The Skywarn Link to Duluth via Duxbury is still not finished, and Spotter coverage is still lacking in some areas - two issues that Broshofske is quick to admit have been “disappointing” and “unfinished business” from his tenure as Coordinator.

Broshofske intends to assist Johnson with the completion of the Skywarn Link Project, and filling of the main coverage gaps that exist in Northeastern Kanabec County, and in neighboring Pine County.

## **MORA EVENT CALENDAR**

**THERE ARE NO EVENTS SCHEDULED DURING FEBRUARY.**

Check in on our Tuesday Evening EMESNET, or check our website at <https://www.morahamradio.com> for event changes or additions.

All scheduled MORA events are posted on the “Meeting & Event” page of our website.

## **MORA MEMBERS ACTIVE DURING MINNESOTA QSO PARTY**

Four members of the Mora Open Repeater Association reported as being “on the air” participants during the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Minnesota QSO Party from 1400 UTC to 2400 UTC Saturday February 3<sup>rd</sup>. By being on the air from three counties where HF Band activity appears to be rather limited, Amateur Radio operators participating in the QSO Party not only logged them as contest contacts, “County Hunters” had a chance to add Mille Lacs, Pine, and Kanabec Counties to their lists of needed counties. In addition, two of these four stations operated with Special 1 X 1 Call Signs.

In Pine County, KØYR operated on 160, 75, 40 and 20 meters as KØY, and by the end of the day he had logged 470 QSO's, most of them on 20 meters. In Mille Lacs County, NØOK was also active on 20 and 75 meters as NØK. [You can read their individual summaries on Pages 3 and 4]

NØRTY was one of two MORA members on the air in Kanabec County, operating for 4 and one half hours on 20 and 75 meters and tallying 25 QSO's. Most of his contacts were while tuning between 3800 and 3900 kHz, and finding several stations including mobile station NØU whom he worked three times as it moved across Pine, Mille Lacs, and Kanabec Counties. He reported 1 out of state QSO in West Virginia, and 2 QSO's in British Columbia Canada. He added that British Columbia was having their own QSO Party, and could have worked more BC stations while on 20 meters had he wanted to.

Meanwhile, KJ9W decided to fire up his Yaesu FT-101E on 75 meter sideband at 1940 hours, and spent the next hour and a half tallying a total of 42 QSOs in 35 Minnesota counties, 8 QSO's in Wisconsin and 1 each in North Dakota and Illinois, for a total of 52 QSO's. All but 3 of those contacts were made while parked on 3863 kHz.

“I didn't pre-register,” he said. “I just wanted to sit on one frequency, call CQ, put out my call sign and location, and wait for stations to call me. Kanabec County is apparently a rare county and I actually experienced being on the receiving end of a couple of small “pileups” – which was fun. I wasn't in it for the awards, I was just on for the fun of it.”

From all reports that were heard about the bands, 75 meters was by far the best for statewide contacts, and conditions on the band were near perfect.

MORA Chairman Kenny Broshofske, KJ9W, says that this event is one that MORA should be actively involved in – either individually or as a group, and added that it should be added to the MORA Event Schedule for next year.

The Minnesota QSO Party is presented annually on the first Saturday in February by the Minnesota Wireless Association. Participants can earn plaques and certificates in several categories. Next year's QSO Party will be February 2nd, so be sure to mark your calendars. *[QSO Party story continues on Page 3]*

# **SKYWARN TRAINING SEMINARS ARE BEING SCHEDULED FOR AREA**

Listen for updates on EMESNET and posted on [www.morahamradio.com](http://www.morahamradio.com)

## MINNESOTA QSO PARTY EXPERIENCES

*Tom Rieff, KØYR, and Curt Hewitt, NØOK, are two MORA members who wrote summaries of their participation in the 2018 Minnesota QSO Party, and are sharing them with our readers.*

### By Tom Rieff, KØYR

The Minnesota QSO Party is one of my special operating events every year. This year was no different with the addition of the 1 x 1 calls. My selection for MNQP was "KØY". This provided for an interesting tactic in operating this year. Overall interest in MNQP was definitely peaked.

Part of my strategy in this event is to pick your battles. It is hard to operate it all, that is, working the mobiles, working in-state fixed base operators, and then the out-state participants all at the same time. Couple that with the 2 main operating modes and you are one busy person. :-)

My usual approach is to operate phone only, which precludes a lot of the mobiles who operate CW only and this year the 1 x 1 calls that are also mainly CW. The Minnesota Wireless Association added FT8 as an option this year. This did not seem to be a bright spot for me in both rate and then as a conflict with being phone only.

Thinking that the activity on 20 would be light in the beginning...I looked to 80 at the start, which overall, was better than past years...this may have not been the right move as 20 was rocking also. Overall, I made about 24 band changes through the day. Consistently alternating from 80 to 40 to 20. Took a couple of looks at 15, but no dice.

20 went flat about mid-day until about 3:00 and then seemed to open back up. Had a nice run there for over an hour...it was fun to see the rate meter pushed to over 200 a couple of times.

40 seemed to be non-existent most of the day. 80 was busy most of the day, always producing a few new mults.

It was just me and Rascal at the cabin this year, so I took a break every couple of hours to let him out. At 10:00 AM I was surprised to see it snowing...maybe this is why things seemed flat for a while???

Looks like I worked 34 of the 75 1 x 1 calls. Don't know what this means yet, but it will be interesting to see what words I can spell :-)

### KØY QSO PARTY LOGSHEET SUMMARY

Band	QSOs	Pts	Mul	Pt/Q
1.8	8	16	0	2.0
3.5	122	244	52	2.0
7	67	134	11	2.0
14	273	546	34	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>2.0</b>

**Score : 91,180**

## **MINNESOTA QSO PARTY EXPERIENCES - continued**

**By Curt Hewitt, NØOK**

I sent the following report to the Minnesota Wireless Assn Reflector:

I've been recuperating from a nasty GI bug at the beginning of the week so I entered the MNQP quite run down and not too spunky.

I started the party a little late and started sampling the waters. I listened to all the bands and found nothing was happening on 10 or 15 but 80, 40 and 20 seemed to be busy. They resulted in a couple of runs on 80 to snag quite a few counties and nice runs on 20 for many mults. But, 40 surprised me. The band was so long from the start I only heard extremely weak mobile stations on CW, many SSB nets and several foreign broadcast stations occupying lots of bandwidth. I made an attempt to get something going on SSB around 7.290 but didn't get a response. I couldn't believe where in past years this was the band that gave good results all day, this year I couldn't get a contact so I didn't spend much time there warming the clouds. The propagation was the pits. I began questioning my antennas and rig and everything in between.

It was time to try some FT8. That got some action and I was able to rack up 19 QSOs in a short while on 40.

The final 2 hours were spent calling and calling on 80 and 160 with meager results. But, all in all it turned out to be a very fun day and I felt rejuvenated by the radio activity. Nice to meet up with old friends and meet many MWAers.

Thanks for the Q's and CU in the next one.

### **NØK QSO PARTY LOGSHEET SUMMARY**

<b>Band</b>	<b>Mode</b>	<b>QSOs</b>	<b>Pts</b>	<b>Mult</b>
1.8	LSB	10	20	1
3.5	LSB	71	142	39
14	USB	200	400	36
<b>Total</b>		<b>281</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>76</b>

**Score : 42,712 + 500 bonus points = 43,212**

### **SKYWARN SEMINAR SCHEDULED APRIL 16 IN MORA**

Kanabec County Emergency Manager Jeff Anderson, KDØBUP, announced that the National Weather Service in Minneapolis/Chanhassen has scheduled a Skywarn Seminar in Mora.

The two hour seminar will be in the Training Room at the Kanabec County Jail in Mora on Monday April 16<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6 PM.

Previously trained Skywarn Spotters are especially encouraged to attend for "refresher" training.

The seminar is free.

## MILACA HOSPITAL NET LINK UPDATE

Over the past month, the outlook for the installation of the Hospital Net UHF Link at Milaca - using the originally planned equipment - has greatly improved. Not only that, barring any unexpected delays, the equipment could be installed and fully operational by the end of February.

So what happened?

After word got out that a backup equipment plan might have to be implemented at the Milaca link site, reprogramming of the Motorola UHF equipment quickly got back on track. Thanks to the efforts of Pine County ARES Coordinator Pat Story, WØMCQ, Kanabec County Repeater Engineer Jerry Whitaker, WBØOFB, and Ben Crosson, Senior Programming Engineer at Duluth Superior Communications, the Motorola repeater was made ready for use at the link site – as was originally planned.

Since that time, the RLC-1 Controller that was to be used at the link site was found to be incompatible for use with the Motorola repeater. As a result, a similar but compatible RLC Controller will be used, and is being made ready.

Connecting cables and miscellaneous connections are being made ready.

The latest estimated project completion timeline?

Whitaker figures that everything should be ready to install at the site sometime in mid to late February. Once installed, considerable testing will likely be needed between the Ogilvie and Collegeville repeaters to make necessary timing and audio adjustments.

Plans for controlling the Milaca Link are being made by Whitaker and Ogilvie Repeater Custodian Kenny Broshofske, KJ9W. The link will be controlled exclusively from the Ogilvie end of the system and activated only during Hospital Nets or emergencies.

## LOCAL “SIDEBANDING ON TWO” RAGCHEW EXPERIMENT BEGINS

Following up on the article in the January MORAnnouncer, and on recent discussions about launching an evening ragchewing roundtable session in the Sideband portion of Two Meters, an initial test session has finally happened.

Following the Tuesday Evening EMESNET on January 30<sup>th</sup>, KJ9W, KBØRFY, NØRTY, NØRJW, and KAØEVQ met at 144.250 MHz for a session that lasted about a half hour.

Antenna and polarity issues arose almost immediately, as was expected. However, the stations involved were close enough to each other that – with a few exceptions – everybody could hear each other.

The February 6<sup>th</sup> ragchewing session moved to **144.240** – exactly three MHz below the Ogilvie repeater frequency, and where they will be from now on.

Although no set schedule is in place yet, future two meter sideband roundtables are likely, and for now, Tuesday evenings appear to be the most convenient time for them. From this activity could come an expansion to additional evenings, and may include Morse Code practice.

## **KJ9W EMERGES AS DEFAULT MORA CHILI COOKOFF CHAMP**

KJ9W was the "Winner by Default" in the 2018 MORA Chili Cookoff held at the Kanabec County Health & Human Services Building in Mora on January 18th.

Attendance was good for the Pot Luck Training Meeting, but the fact that there was no competition in this year's cookoff led the champ to jokingly comment,

"Apparently, nobody dared to compete, because my chili is so darn good!"

That comment alone should raise a few good natured eyebrows and hopefully set the proper tone for an increase in competition next year!

## **MORA TO MAIL OUT AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE RENEWAL ALERTS Info as posted on the MORA Website**

Amateur Radio Licenses are good for ten years from the date of issue. Has yours expired, or is it about to expire?

As a service to expired Amateur Radio license holders in our area, MORA will soon mail post card reminder notices to those of you who can still renew your licenses within the "Grace Period" window.

The "Grace Period" is a two year period following the expiration date shown on your license during which you can still renew your license. You cannot legally operate while in the "Grace Period" window until the renewal becomes official in the FCC database. Once your renewal becomes official, you can resume operating. To wait beyond the end of the "Grace Period" means your license and call sign would be deleted from the FCC database, and you would have to start over by taking another license exam and getting a new call sign.

**CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE ON YOUR LICENSE.** If your license has expired, and two years have not passed since that date, you are encouraged to renew your license as soon as possible before your "Grace Period" window closes. You have studied and passed an exam to earn your license. Don't let your efforts go to waste!

Remember, there is no fee when renewing your license directly with the FCC unless you are applying for a Vanity Call sign. If you need help renewing your license, contact us.

To learn how to renew your Amateur Radio License, click [here](#).

**JOIN US FOR EMESNET**

**The Eastern Minnesota Emergency Services Net**

**Sponsored by the Mora Open Repeater Association**

**Tuesday Evening at 7 PM – 147.240 MHz, PL 146.2 Hz**

## **MORA JACKETS PROJECT UPDATE**

The Mora Open Repeater Association is still waiting for estimates from two suppliers regarding possible embroidered or screen printed three season jackets for our club.

Meanwhile, size information from members who might be interested in purchasing jackets should be provided in the event that an order to produce the jackets can be made.

The price for embroidered jackets is estimated to range from \$40 to \$60 each, with discounts to be offered depending on the quantity ordered.

## **MORA MEMBERSHIP REMINDER**

MORA wants to remind everyone that if you have not yet renewed your membership, you should do so before April 1<sup>st</sup>. That is the date on which MORA's ARRL Affiliated Club info will be updated.

Currently, for whatever reasons there are, our membership count is down considerably from 2017.

Your membership helps to ensure the continued maintenance of our repeater system, as well as other services that our organization provides.

MORA is a 501.c.3 tax exempt organization, and donations are deductible as allowed by law.

## **DMR EXHIBIT SCHEDULED FOR MARCH POT LUCK MEETING**

A demonstration of DMR technology will be presented by Bret Erickson, KØBOC, during the next scheduled Pot Luck Training Meeting in March.

Erickson, who lives in the Milaca area, is actively involved in DMR technology. Recently, he expressed an interest in presenting a demonstration of the technology to MORA.

MORA Board Chairman Kenny Broshofske, KJ9W, brought Erickson's proposal to the Board of Directors January meeting, and following some discussion the proposal was approved.

The next Pot Luck & Training meeting is Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Kanabec County Health & Human Services Building, located at 905 Forest Avenue East [Highway 23 East] in Mora, starting at 6:00 PM.

All amateurs in our group who are interested in DMR technology and capabilities are encouraged to attend the March training meeting. The meeting will also include our annual Local Skywarn Net refresher - and don't forget to bring a favorite pot luck dish, dessert, or salad to share.