

# 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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## ARRL REQUESTS FCC TO EXPAND TECH PRIVILEGES ON HF BANDS

In a move designed to provide incentive to entry level amateur licensees, the American Radio Relay League has requested a change in operating privileges for Technicians by granting them voice and digital allocations on some Ham Radio High Frequency Bands.

The ARRL announced the request in a bulletin sent to its estimated 160,000 members on March 1st. If the request is approved by the Federal Communications Commission, Technician Class licensees would gain limited voice privileges on the 75, 40, and 15 meter bands, as well as RTTY and Digital privileges on the 80, 40, 15 and 10 meter bands.

Technicians currently have HF voice privileges on the 10 meter band, but at this stage in the sunspot cycle, any openings on the band have been few and far between and thus on-air activity on that band has been limited to local ground wave propagation.

The ARRL points out in its request that the Technician Class license group comprises of over half of the total amateur licensee's in the US, and to expand Tech privileges is not only necessary to attract new people, but it could help retain those Technician's already licensed. RTTY and Digital mode expansion in particular would help draw young people to the hobby – an issue of growing concern among the amateur rank and file in general.

## MORA EVENT CALENDAR

**THURSDAY MARCH 15 2018:** POTLUCK WITH TRAINING MEETING - Kanabec County Health & Human Services Building in Mora. See Page 3 for details.

**SATURDAY MARCH 24, 2018:** MORA BOARD MEETING – MORA Headquarters, 719 Fair Oaks Drive in Mora. Open Meeting for all paid members.

# Hospital Net Has New Net Control Operator

The Central Minnesota Regional Hospital Net is starting 2018 with a new Net Control operator.

Tom Kilian, KDØMOM, succeeds Jack Maus, WØMBD, who announced his retirement as Net Control effective at the end of last year.

In an email sent out to net participants on March 1<sup>st</sup>, Kilian thanked Maus for his many years of service as Net Control, and invited everyone to continue participating. He also pointed out that previous participation has been around 25%, and his email message is an attempt to improve on that rate.

The Central Minnesota Regional Hospital Net operates at 1 PM on the first Wednesday of every month. It is an exercise in which various emergency facilities such as hospitals and public health centers equipped with VHF radio and accessory gear funded mainly by Homeland Security, participate to test their equipment to help ensure that the region can be supported by amateur radio in the event all other means of communication fail.

The net originates from the WØSV Repeater, operating on a frequency of 147.015 with a repeater access tone of 100.0 Hz in Collegeville.

At this time, the only stations not able to participate directly in the monthly exercise are those beyond the range of the Collegeville repeater, or those located closer but do not have adequate antenna height to reach Collegeville. Meanwhile, efforts are being made to close those gaps.

A link to areas in Eastern Minnesota beyond the range of Collegeville is being actively constructed, and is expected to be on the air soon. The programming issues that were experienced with the Motorola UHF equipment to be used at the Milaca link site have been resolved. The only programming that remains is with the Controller unit.

The Hospital Link Project is being supported with funding by Pine County, one of the areas to benefit directly from the new link.

An additional layer of communications capability will be the addition of an HF station in a new Radio Room currently being made ready as part of ongoing construction at First Light Hospital in Mora. Once construction is completed and the radio room equipment installed, operator staff will be retrained and recertified.

Both the linking project and the Mora Hospital HF station are being supported by the Mora Open Repeater Association, and operator staffing at local facilities for the Net have long been supported by members of MORA.

**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**

## March Pot Luck Training Meeting Agenda

MORA's Pot Luck Training Meeting scheduled for Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Kanabec County Health and Human Services Center should prove to be a very interesting one! Besides all the wonderful food, three training items are planned.

First – our annual Skywarn Net Training will feature the formal introduction of our new Skywarn Coordinator, Marc Johnson, KDØTCR. We will review our local Skywarn operating plans for 2018, and answer any questions you have.

Second – Bret Erickson, KØBOC, will introduce us to some digital repeater technology that he has been involved with. Bret is from Milaca and he has indicated an interest in helping to support our repeater with digital technology.

Third – Curt Hewitt, NØOK, will be bringing a surprise “show and tell” exhibit – a small kit he put together, and works surprisingly well!

Don't forget to bring a favorite dish, salad, or dessert to share for the Pot Luck meal.

The Kanabec County Health and Human Services Center is located at 905 Forest Avenue East [Highway 23 East] in Mora.

## NWS Skywarn Seminar April 16<sup>th</sup>

Kanabec County Emergency Manager Jeff Anderson, KDØBUP, has announced the scheduling of a National Weather Service Skywarn Seminar, to be held in the Training Room at the Kanabec County Jail, located at 100 South Vine Street in Mora.

The seminar will be on **Monday April 16<sup>th</sup>**, starting at **6 PM**, and is expected to last no more than 2 ½ hours. Trained Skywarn Spotters are especially encouraged to attend the seminar for “refresher” training. Pre-registration is not required.

## Daylight “Savings” Time Starts March 11<sup>th</sup>

This is just a friendly reminder that the annual spring ritual of setting our clocks ahead one hour arrives precisely at 2 AM Central Standard Time on Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup>.

The theory behind this annual adjustment in time is that it “saves” daylight. The reality is that it really saves nothing. It costs millions of dollars to implement every year, and you lose a precious hour of sleep overnight to boot!

Nothing would please your benevolent editor more than to see this farce done away with completely. In fact, I see a day coming when the business world will be operating strictly on World Time. Ham Radio operators have been using that system for years, and it has worked well for us! I'm surprised that it hasn't happened in other areas of endeavor already, however when it does, I'm absolutely certain that this Daylight Savings routine will be a thing of the past.

As you all know, everybody dutifully wakes up early Sunday morning just before 2 AM and adjust all their clocks ahead one full hour. However, in case you are among those very few who cheat by setting their clocks ahead before going to bed, let this cheerful little message bring you hope that with this ritual, spring can't be too far away.

## MORA Jacket Project Update

After several weeks of research, it appears that we are no closer to obtaining jackets for paid members of MORA than we were when the project was first proposed last summer.

MORA Chairman Kenny Broshofske, KJ9W, says we must consider overall costs, and the results, or lack thereof, are not that encouraging.

The purchasing approach has been to order a specified quantity of jackets and get them either screen printed and/or embroidered by the same supplier. The current - and only - quote that has been obtained so far for 27 bright yellow three season lined jackets with two outside and one inside pockets, and printing and/or embroidering of official MORA Banner and individual names and call signs in black, will exceed \$60 per jacket.

The quantity given was based on 2017 membership - which has decreased since then. Pending the lagging renewals, Broshofske is not sure how many members are willing to sign on to that expense, but he thinks a survey might help find out.

Broshofske says the MORA Jacket Project is not off the table yet, but more research is necessary, adding that there are more vendors that we can check with in the local area. He was hoping to have jackets in time for Field Day, but that's not likely now.

An alternative purchasing method that could be looked into would be to buy the jackets in bulk from one supplier, and have them either screen printed and/or embroidered by another. However, that method has not always proven to be cost effective.

For those of you who have not yet renewed your membership with MORA, you must do so if you want to get in on our Jacket Project order.

Please fill out and return the Jacket Survey that will be attached to the Meeting Reminder Email Notice and sent only to **paid up members** on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Members can return the survey either by email to [info@morahamradio.com](mailto:info@morahamradio.com) or by bringing it to the March 15<sup>th</sup> Pot Luck & Training Meeting.

## The **MORAnnouncer** Wants To Know .... ..

***What has been, or is, your very favorite operating activity on Ham Radio?***

Only one answer is allowed, please. If you must choose between two, then flip a coin.

Let us know, and we'll publish the results in the next issue.

Send your feedback to [info@morahamradio.com](mailto:info@morahamradio.com)

## MORA "On The Air" - Scheduled Operating Activities

**EMESNET** - 147.240 MHz, PL 146.2 Hz - Tuesday Evenings @ 7 PM

**EMESNET [Simplex Test]** - 146.565 MHz - Fourth Tuesday following EMESNET

**Sideband On Two** - 144.240 MHz, USB - First & Third Tuesdays following EMESNET

For updates or additions, check our website: <https://www.morahamradio.com>