

# 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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## **FINAL FD PLANNING MEETING JUNE 9**

The planning for MORA's Field Day Event has reached a critical point. With the final planning meeting set for 9 AM this Saturday at Freddie's Restaurant in Mora, plans need to be finalized, and issues need to be addressed.

The biggest issue was the sudden resignation of Dan Campbell, ADØQT, as Field Day Safety Officer, which has created a huge 100 point gap that needs to be immediately filled.

Plans that need firming up are those involving media and promotion before and during the event. A major media issue that remains open is MORA's Facebook Page which will need to be active during the event.

"It seems we always struggle with last minute planning," commented MORA Chairman Kenny Broshofske, KJ9W. "That makes it hard to arrange everything that needs to get done, and normally it's those easy points that usually fall by the wayside. This year is different as we find ourselves trying to patch up critical 100 point gaps. We have also struggled to attract official visitors. Some of those gaps are not always easy to fill. "

The Mora Open Repeater Association hopes to top last year's record 2176 point total, but it will depend on the efforts of every member - from the set up to the tear down - and everything between.

## **MORA EVENT CALENDAR**

**SATURDAY JUNE 9 2018: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST – 9 AM, FREDDIE'S RESTAURANT, HIGHWAYS 23 & 65, IN MORA.**

**SATURDAY JUNE 23 & SUNDAY JUNE 24 2018: ARRL FIELD DAY – KANABEC COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS IN MORA**

## REPEATER NEWS



***Jerry Whitaker, WBØOFB, reviews documentation during maintenance of the KDØCI Repeater on Thursday May 10<sup>th</sup>.***

Maintenance on the KDØCI Kanabec County Repeater near Ogilvie on Thursday May 10<sup>th</sup> resulted in the removal of a defective Pre-Amp Module that was creating additional noise on marginal signals. The noise has been a problem since it was noticed late in the winter as weak and distant signals were suddenly not being received clearly.

With the removal of the Pre-Amp Module, marginal and weak signals are much clearer, however it remains to be seen if receive distances have been affected. Testing will take place prior to the June 6<sup>th</sup> session of the Central Minnesota Regional Hospital Net which will help determine if the repeater remains accessible without a Pre-Amp Module to Pine and Chisago County stations as they were before. If so, the Module will not be replaced.

Meanwhile, it has been learned during the past week that the NØGOI Mille Lacs County Repeater at Foreston is down, and apparently has been for some time. There has been no word on the cause, or on when repairs might take place. The Foreston repeater is the hub for the Mille Lacs County Skywarn Net, but recent Skywarn activations have forced Mille Lacs County Spotters to operate thru the KDØCI Repeater at Ogilvie.

The KEØACL Pine County Repeater at Duxbury remains on the air in lieu of antenna and coax replacement, as well as a planned relocation of its antenna to a new spot on the tower that would improve coverage across much of the county. There has been no official word on when this project will take place, or when. Plans to link the repeater to the KDØCI Repeater for Skywarn coverage and the Tuesday EMESNET will remain on hold until the upgrades take place.

Finally, a new Fusion Repeater is on the air at Askov, operating at 146.955 MHz with a PL Tone of 146.2 Hz. Details are posted on the home page of the MORA Website.

## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: By Kenny Broshofske, KJ9W

The Mora Open Repeater Association is at a crossroads. We need to grow, but that is easier said than done.

Many organizations in our area are saying the same thing. Members are aging, and as that happens there are no young people replacing them.

At the same time, we must retain the members we have. When that does not happen, or members drop out, we have to ask ourselves if we are doing something wrong. If we counted those who have dropped out, we'd have over 30 active members right now.

As far as I'm concerned, there is no one in our group that is exempt from criticism, as long as it is **CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM**. Perhaps we need to look at ourselves once in a while and ask,

"What can I do to make things better?"

"Did I rub somebody the wrong way by something I did, or said?"

"Should I have done more to help?"

All too often, a few enthusiastic members who end up doing too much in an organization eventually "burn out" from lack of support. I'd prefer to think that in our group, we have enough diversified talent to "spread the wealth" by doing things that support others. For example, take Field Day. Many of us like to get involved in operating. Others just want to help get us on the air by assisting with set up. That's fine, so let's accept that.

We have job openings in our organization for volunteers. Those jobs are posted in this edition, so look them over and see if you fit into any of them. Right now, guess who is doing most of them? Why? They are being done for the benefit of all.

So, what else can we do to attract and retain local amateurs among our ranks? We need to come up with fresh ideas, ways to keep the interest in Ham Radio alive in our group. Sure, maybe those ideas may not interest everybody, but who cares. We need everyone we can get to join and feel welcomed as a member.

I was reading something recently that really drew my attention. It was an idea by Frank Karnauskas, N1UW, the Affiliated Club Coordinator in the ARRL Minnesota Section, who suggested that we have a greeter waiting at the door when members and guests arrive for meetings, and making them feel welcome at the door, just like at Church. He explained that it makes a difference when people feel welcome. Often times, officers get caught up in business topics with each other and fail to notice when people come in the door. Those people come in, sit down, and wait to be noticed. Having a greeter at the door would go a long way toward eliminating that problem.

Any volunteers?

So what else can be done? Do you have some ideas that can help our organization attract and retain members? If you do, please let me know. As Chairman, I have to accept the overall responsibility for the success or failure of this organization. I don't want to see it fail, so let's work together to make sure it won't.

## KANABEC COUNTY SKYWARN NET ACTIVATION

The severe weather season began in earnest during the Memorial Day Holiday with two activations of Kanabec County Skywarn. Spotter response was good on both occasions.

A Spotter reported quarter size hail in Mille Lacs County near Pease during a storm on Memorial Day afternoon, otherwise there were no severe conditions reported within the three county Skywarn coverage area.

Marc Johnson, KDØTCR, took charge of Skywarn Net operations for the first time as Coordinator.

## AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE FOR MORA?

An aging but possibly useful step van being made available by the Duxbury Minnesota Fire Department might be in MORA's future.

The vehicle, according to MORA's Vice-Chairman Jerry Whitaker, WBØOFB, is a 1974 Chevrolet One Ton Step Van that could be used for emergency mobile purposes. The van is currently housed in Duxbury, but it has not seen any use or servicing in quite some time.

The van will require some serious work to make it road worthy, and MORA member Pat Story, WØMCQ, is looking into the possibilities. The first step is to see if the engine will run, followed by a further evaluation of additional repairs that will be needed.

The body is reported to be generally in good condition, needing only minor repairs to a couple of rust spots. The mechanical aspects are of much greater concern. Brake work and tire replacement are virtually certain, and more problems may underlie all of that.

The other problem will be where to house it if MORA gets it. There are also licensing and insurance issues to deal with. The registration issue could also be a nightmare, given Minnesota's current problems with their woefully inadequate and problematic Vehicle Registration System.

"Depending on how much repairs will cost, and how much volunteer work can be done on it to save money, it may or may not be worth it," according to MORA's Chairman Kenny Broshofske, KJ9W, who has not seen the van yet. "In any case, it will be a big job."

## VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED

The Mora Open Repeater Association is looking for volunteers to help with the following job openings [Contact [info@morahamradio](mailto:info@morahamradio) for details]:

1. **EMESNET NET CONTROL:** Run a session of the Tuesday Evening Net on one Tuesday a month maximum. Volunteer must be a Technician Class or higher licensed amateur.
2. **NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Responsible to generate and distribute email editions of the MORAnnouncer Newsletter. Volunteer must be a MORA member.
3. **KANABEC COUNTY SKYWARN WEBMASTER:** Responsible to help maintain the Skywarn webpage on the MORA Website, and to keep weather information for our area current. Volunteer must be a member of Kanabec County Skywarn.