

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!

Volume 3 Number 8 – August 2018



July 12th 2018 will be a day long remembered in Mora as the day of the 500 year flood.

Starting at around 4 AM, a torrent of rain fell causing flash flooding throughout the city, shutting down streets and highways, and causing considerable damage to many houses, especially on the north side of the city in the vicinity of Lake Mora. Reports of 7 to 8 inches of rain had fallen across the area by 8 AM.

Highway 65 was detoured for several days because of water from Lake Mora that covered the highway.

KJ9W examines water damage in the Radio Room at First Light Hospital in Mora. Story continues on Page 2. Photo by KAØAJF.

FLOOD DAMAGE IN MORA!

[*Story continued from Page 1*] – The threat of flash flooding was becoming apparent by July 10th and Flash Flood Watches were issued by the Duluth office of the National Weather Service across its forecast area immediately to the north and east of Kanabec County. Kanabec County Skywarn had posted a “heads up” alert to possible flooding on its forecast page on July 11th. As strong thunderstorms began to develop and move to the southeast out of Crow Wing and Aitkin Counties on the evening of the 11th, it soon became clear that there was a potential for flash flooding in Kanabec County. NWS Minneapolis issued warnings for Kanabec County during the early morning of the 12th.

The city of Mora took the brunt of the heavy rainfall, while areas to the west saw less accumulation. North of Ogilvie, KJ9W reported having measured 3.94 inches, while in Foreston 0.85 inches was reported by aspiring meteorologist Alex Ziegler.

Among the damage reports was one which affected Amateur Radio communications, as water broke through ceiling tiles above the radio equipment located on a small desk in a corner of a storage room that was being used as a Radio Room on the second floor of First Light Hospital in Mora.

Damage assessment in the Radio Room was conducted by MORA Chairman Kenny Broshofske, KJ9W. The antenna system sustained no damage, however the radio – a Kenwood TM D700 VHF/UHF transceiver - did not fare as well as audio from the radio was barely copyable during several on-air tests conducted.

Water was found in close proximity to the radio and power supply, however it was not clear if that was the direct cause of the audio malfunction. The room itself sustained considerable ceiling damage, and power had to be shut down to several outlets.

KJ9W met with First Light Facilities Manager Mark Vizenor on July 27th to discuss the assessment, and possible options. This was followed by a regular meeting of MORA’s Board of Directors on July 28th during which assessment of the radio equipment was discussed, and the conclusion was that replacement rather than repair was the best option.

With a new dedicated Radio Room being part of the new construction taking place at First Light Hospital, efforts to replace damaged radio equipment are being taken to correspond with completion of the new room, estimated to be ready sometime in early 2019. The new Radio Room will be located in the new Emergency area next to a Conference Room and will house not only VHF/UHF radio equipment, but it will also be HF capable.

MORA EVENT CALENDAR

THERE ARE NO EVENTS SCHEDULED DURING AUGUST.

Keep up to date on MORA events at our website:

<https://www.morahamradio.com>

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS – By Kenny Broshofske, KJ9W

JOTA – Another Opportunity to Engage Our Youth

An “on-air” radio event scheduled in October has presented MORA with another opportunity to engage our youth to the joys of Amateur Radio.

JOTA – Jamboree On The Air – is an annual Cub and Boy Scout event held across the country. It's the biggest scouting event of the year during which troops contact other troops via Ham Radio.

MORA has never participated in JOTA because they seemed to be no interest on the part of local scouting troops. That has apparently changed!

In late July, I received an inquiry from the Cub Scout Troop in Mora about whether or not we would be interested in this event. Without even consulting with my fellow Board members, I quickly responded. Our July Board Meeting was scheduled for the coming weekend, and I said that the matter would be added to our agenda.

At the Board Meeting, the question was not whether we were interested, but rather if the Scouts themselves were really interested. How many Scouts would want to participate? I took the action item to pursue the matter with the Scouts further.

In doing so, the answer came quickly. First, there were five, now there are at least ten with the possibility of more as the word has been sent out to surrounding troops by the Mora area Scouts.

I have offered to meet with the local troop leader to discuss this event further, and to move ahead with plans to participate. We will meet at some point.

Once again, MORA has a chance to engage with our youth. I can't tell you how very important this opportunity is. After all, our future is dependent on the influx of young people.

Is there REALLY interest out there among our youth?

If an email I received the other day is any indication, the answer is YES! It was from a woman with a young daughter named Samantha who has become so enthused about our hobby, she joined the Ham Radio Club at her school. Meanwhile, Samantha also stumbled upon our website where she apparently busied herself sifting through all the information – including the links. The woman gave their names and actually thanked MORA for our help! I have no idea how we helped or where they are. Apparently our website must be a pretty good one, and I have taken the time to answer them.

It's now up to us as an active amateur radio organization to make the most of these opportunities. Therefore, I'm asking every member of our club to help us plan for, and to reserve Saturday October 20th to help out with JOTA. How well we do in this endeavor may very well determine the future of the Mora Open Repeater Association.

AMATEUR RADIO – When All Else Fails!
Learn more at www.arrl.org

LOCAL AMATEUR RADIO ACTIVITY – UPDATED 8/1/2018

VHF REPEATERS

<u>County</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Frequency [MHz]</u>	<u>PL Tone</u>
Kanabec	Ogilvie	KDØCI	147.240	146.2
Pine	Askov	NØJOL	146.955	146.2
Pine	Duxbury	KEØACL	146.910	146.2
Mille Lacs	Foreston	NØGOI	146.745	107.2
Mille Lacs	Isle	WØREA	146.610	141.3
Mille Lacs	Milaca	KDØJOU	145.350	141.3
Mille Lacs	Princeton	KØSCA	146.775	146.2

Emergency & Skywarn Repeaters are identified in **BOLD** type.

VHF NETS

Eastern Minnesota Emergency Services Net [AKA: EMESNET]

Tuesday Evening @ 7 PM – KDØCI Repeater – 147.240 MHz

Link to KEØACL Repeater pending.

EMESNET Simplex Session

4th Tuesday of each month immediately following Repeater Net session – 146.565 MHz

Kanabec County Skywarn Net

Whenever Severe Weather threatens – KDØCI Repeater – 147.240 MHz

Link to KEØACL Repeater pending.

Central Minnesota Regional Hospital Net

First Wednesday of every month @ 1 PM – WØSV Repeater – 147.015 MHz, PL 100.0

Link to St Cloud Repeater via KDØCI Repeater pending.

VHF ROUNDTABLES

Sideband on Two

1st & 2nd Tuesday Evenings [September thru June] Immediately following EMESNET.

144.240 MHz [Upper Sideband]

JOHN SMOLENSKI, NØYR/SK

The Mora Open Repeater Association is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of John Smolenski, NØYR, of Big Lake. He became a Silent Key on August 1st.

John had been fighting a long and courageous battle against cancer. He will be missed by those of us in the Amateur Radio community.

As many of you know, John played a vital role in the resurrection of the Mora Open Repeater Association as his Sherburne County Volunteer Exam Team participated in several exam sessions in our area prior to MORA establishing its own VE Team.

A "Celebration of Life" is scheduled for Saturday August 25th at Evans-Nordby Funeral Home, located at 34 Second Avenue Northeast, in Osseo Minnesota. Visitation will be at Noon, with a Service scheduled for 1 PM.

Any additional information will be posted on our website, and announced on EMESNET.

2018 CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL NOT INCLUDE SHOW

The MORA Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday December 8th in the Banquet Room at Freddie's Restaurant in Mora, but it will not include Elvis entertainment this year.

Even though there is still plenty of time for planning, members are encouraged to start thinking about this year's party. Besides the usual Social Time, Buffet Meal, Awards Ceremony, and [hopefully] music by Bill Campbell, we should consider other options to liven things up.

The Awards Committee also needs input regarding this year's awards. Please send any ideas for awards to info@morahamradio.com

GREAT KADOSEE POT LUCK COOKOUT IS SEPTEMBER 13

The annual MORA Picnic – otherwise known as the Great Kadosee [KDØCI] Pot Luck Cookout - is on for Thursday September 13th at the KJ9W/KAØAJF QTH near Ogilvie.

MORA members and their families are encouraged to attend this social event. Be sure to bring a favorite cut of meat for grilling and a favorite dish, salad, or dessert to share.

The cookout starts at 5 PM. Hopefully we will have a beautiful September day on which to enjoy the event.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT!

Would you believe, Yaesu is resurrecting its 101 nameplate with a tribute model to its great line of HF rigs of the 1970's and 80's.

The new radio is the FTdx101D, a 100 watt rig covering 160 thru 6 meters, and with all the bells and whistles of their current models.

I don't know about you, but I think I'll just keep my vintage FT101E.

73 de KJ9W

PARTING SHOT



If you look closely at the recently repaired Ringo Ranger at the KJ9W/KAØAJF QTH, you'll see a Hummingbird resting quietly on the loop. He must like it there, as he's been spotted there several times in the past. In spite of his favoring this spot, there have been no reports of "hum" on two meter signals originating from this location! Photo by KJ9W

ABOUT MORANNOUNCER

The MORAnnouncer is the official periodic newsletter of the Mora Open Repeater Association, Incorporated, a 501.c.3 tax exempt Amateur Radio organization based in Mora Minnesota. The newsletter is digitally produced and distributed to our members, and to other interested parties exclusively by email. It is also posted on the Home Page of our website.

Material published in this newsletter may be republished as long as the MORAnnouncer is acknowledged as the source, or that any sources referenced within the newsletter are acknowledged. Contributing articles, for sale items, or other information that is relevant to Amateur Radio may be send to us at info@morahamradio.com - all of which may be subject to any necessary editing.