WELIA HOSPITAL RADIO ROOM PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION!

The new Radio Room Project at Welia Hospital in Mora is nearing completion with only a few equipment and furnishing items remaining to be installed.

The project was part of a recent and major upgrade to the hospital. When completed, Welia will house the best Amateur Radio communications capabilities of any medical facility in the region. As MORA Chairman Kenny Broshofske, KJ9W, stated in a letter presented to Welia Quality Manager Ellen Ryan during the MORA Christmas Party & Awards Banquet, it will "set the standard for other hospitals to follow."

Broshofske's letter was accompanied by MORA's 2019 Public Service Award to Welia Hospital in recognition for its many years of supporting Amateur Radio and emergency communications.

The old Radio Room had been located on the second floor in a storage room, far from proximity to emergency conferencing. The new Radio Room has been relocated to the first floor of the hospital's new Emergency Wing adjacent to a Conference Room - making it convenient to exchange messages during an emergency.

The Radio Room itself is very secure, and access to the room will be tightly controlled. The VHF/UHF Station is already operational, and on January 28th the Tuesday Evening MORANET originated from the hospital for the first time in several years.

MORA EVENT CALENDAR

THURSDAY MARCH 12, 2020: SKYWARN NET TRAINING & POTLUCK - KANABEC COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING, MORA.

SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2020: MORA BOARD MEETING – MORA HEADQUARTERS, 719 FAIR OAKS DRIVE, MORA

THURSDAY APRIL 28, 2020: HIPAA TRAINING & POTLUCK – WELIA HOSPITAL, MORA.

MORA SCHEDULES TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS

The Mora Open Repeater Association will host a Technician Licensing Class and VE Exam Session in early March.

The classes and exam session will be at the Kanabec County Family Services Building, located at 905 East Forest Avenue [Highway 23 East] in Mora.

Class will be Tuesday March 3rd and Wednesday March 4th from 6 to 10 PM.

The Exam Session will be Thursday March 5th starting at 7 PM, and will be open to anyone wanting to take an Amateur Radio exam.

To learn more, you may contact the Mora Open Repeater Association by email at info@morahamradio.com

MORA UPDATES ARRL AFFILIATION STATUS

The Mora Open Repeater Association recently updated its affiliation status with the American Radio Relay League.

According to the latest membership report released on January 24th, MORA lists 29 Active Members, three of whom have not yet paid membership dues for 2020. MORA Membership Dues must be paid by no later than April 1st in order to be retained as Active Members.

21 of MORA's 29 active members belong to the ARRL, 4 of whom are Life Members.

2 of MORA's 29 active members have been awarded Honorary Life Memberships in the club.

Among currently active members, 10 are Amateur Extra Class, 2 hold Advance Class licenses, 8 are General Class, and 9 are Technicians. There are no Novice Class license holders in the club.

Also listed on the MORA register but not included in the update with ARRL are 6 inactive licensed members that have let their memberships lapse.

In Memorium, MORA lists 2 unto whom Honorary Silent Key status has been given: Father James Cashman, KCØEQE/SK, and Joan Fluegge, KCØBUT/SK.

The VHF/UHF Station in the Welia Hospital Radio Room is complete, and ready for use. [Photo by KAØAJF]

The VHF/UHF Station was finished with the installation of computer equipment on February 4th. Scheduled uses for the VHF/UHF Station include the MORA Tuesday Evening Net on the fourth Tuesday of each month, as well as the Central Minnesota Regional Hospital Net on the first Wednesday of every month.

An HF Station with new coax feedline to a 75, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter inverted vee antenna will be the final major equipment installation. Antenna installation will likely await warmer weather.

The HF Station will also be operated on a yet to be arranged schedule. Ideally, a schedule with other hospitals having HF capability should be arranged to assure the station is working as it should. Long range HF communications capability could potentially be important if a regional or national disaster were to occur.

"I'd like to see us scheduled to work W6VAH, for example" according to KJ9W. "A regular schedule with a VA Hospital on the West Coast would be a great test."

Members of MORA will have an opportunity to see the new Radio Room during the HIPAA Training Meeting on Thursday April 23rd, with operator training beginning as soon as possible.

As the Welia Radio Room Project nears completion, MORA's Chairman is hoping for completion of two other major and emergency related projects. The most important one is the long-awaited Hospital Net Link at Milaca. Another is the planned refurbishing of the Mobile Camper purchased last summer, which will give MORA a portable "on site" emergency capability.

"There's a lot going on right now to be excited about," Broshofske says.

2019 MORA CHRISTMAS PARTY & AWARDS BANQUET

Members of MORA relax and chat during the Christmas Party "Social Hour" [Photo by KJ9W]

The MORA Christmas Party and Awards Banquet was held on Saturday December 14th at Freddie's Restaurant in Mora. Highlights included music provided during the Social Hour by Bill Campbell, a great Buffet meal, and the Awards Ceremony, which was MC'd by MORA's own resident Santa, KJ9W. Among the Awards presented was an Honorary Life Membership in MORA to Vern Kaufert, WØFFX, in recognition of his nearly 60 years in Amateur Radio, and his many efforts in the hobby. Another was the Public Service Award to Welia Hospital in Mora, in recognition of their continued support of Amateur Radio Emergency Communications.

MORANET REPORT FOR 2019

The Mora Open Repeater Association Tuesday Evening Net enjoyed its most active year since 2009, but falling just short of 600 check-ins for 2019. The final tally of 594 check-ins was the most in the past ten years, 36 check-ins short of the Tuesday Evening Net record of 630 set back in 2009.

MORANET had 51 sessions during 2019, with an average of 11.65 check-ins per session. The highest number of check-ins was 17 on June 4th.

After bottoming out in 2014 with 451 check-ins, activity on the net has grown steadily. Since the Tuesday Evening Net began in 2006, there has been a total of 6655 check-ins, with an average of 10.43 check-ins per session.

For more information, including the history about the Tuesday Evening Net, go to
https://www.morahamradio.com/home/news-information/tuesday-evening-net/
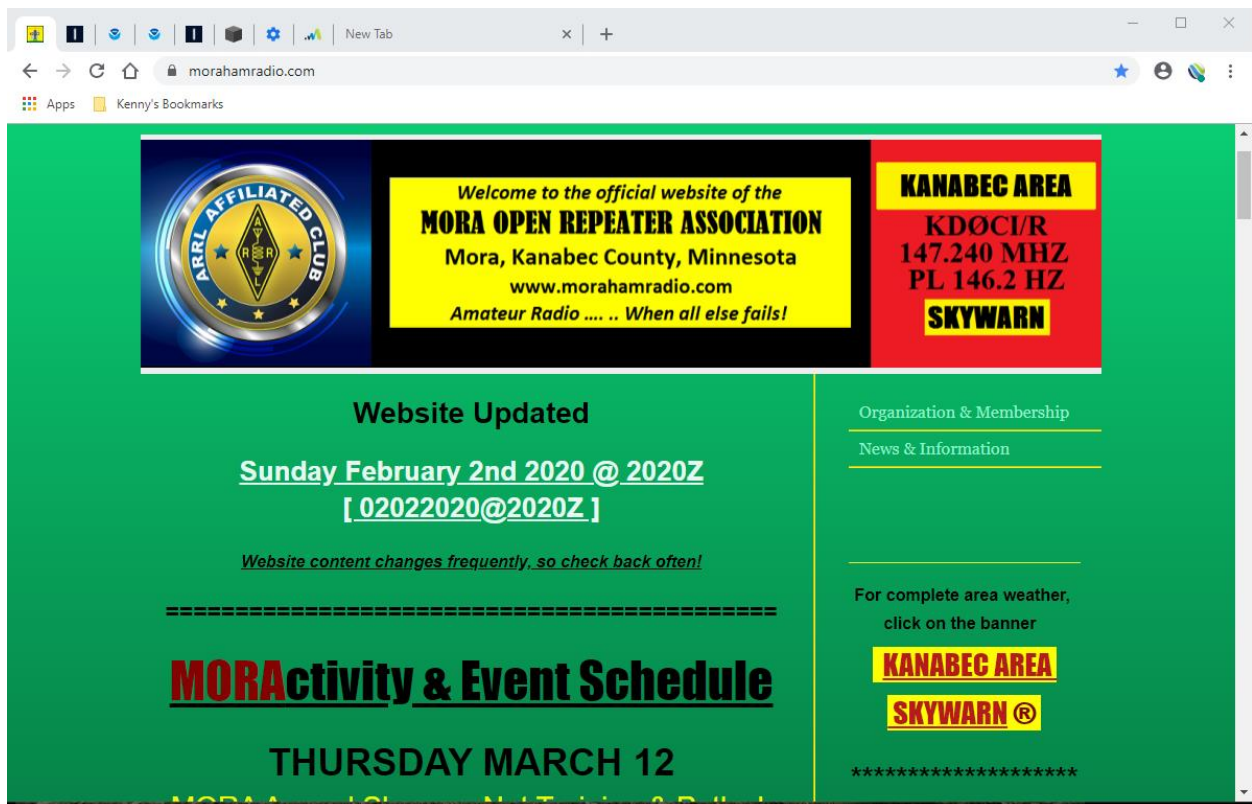
MORA SKYWARN NET TRAINING MARCH 12TH

The Mora Open Repeater Association will hold its annual Skywarn Net Training & Potluck Meeting on Thursday Evening March 12th at the Kanabec County Family Services Building in Mora.

The meeting will feature Kanabec Area Skywarn Coordinator Marc Johnson, KCØTCR, who will provide updates and/or changes to our local Skywarn Net procedures.

Johnson was recently named to Minnesota Governor Tim Walz's Task Force on Broadband, which is responsible for developing policies to promote the expansion of broadband access throughout Minnesota.

Net training is not to be confused with National Weather Service Skywarn Seminars.

PARTING SHOT

Capturing a unique moment in time, MORA's devout webmaster exploits it to the max during a website update - right down to the minute! Another similar opportunity lies just days from now on February 20th. Will the webmaster be on the ball for that one? [Screenshot by KJ9W]

ABOUT MORANNOUNCER

MORAnnouncer is the official newsletter of the Mora Open Repeater Association, a tax exempt 501.c.3 Amateur Radio organization based in Mora Minnesota. The newsletter is a quarterly publication that is posted on our website for public download. Published in pdf format, it requires Adobe Reader software to download. Adobe software is free, and is available at https://get.adobe.com/reader/.