

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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COPING WITH COVID19

The Mora Open Repeater Association has slowly but cautiously resumed its Activities and Events Schedule, holding two meetings during July and planning ahead into the fall.

On July 18th, MORA had its first meeting of any kind since the Skywarn Net Potluck Meeting in March, with its first Back Room Breakfast at Freddie's Restaurant since November of last year. Attendance at the breakfast was better than expected.

Then on July 25th, the Board of Directors held a meeting at the KJ9W QTH, with four of five members present. Major topics included the plans to implement operator training at Welia Hospital, and to move forward on the Emergency Mobile Operations Project.

Prior to the July meetings, MORA members participated on their own in the ARRL Field Day event under a set of new and modified rules.

The Daily Emergency Health and Welfare Nets that were held on the Ogilvie/Duxbury Repeater System since March 18th were suspended on June 25th. 100 consecutive evening sessions yielded over 1400 check-ins during that time. The net could resume if the pandemic situation worsens, but for now at least the situation seems to be relatively stable in our area.

Among the cancelled activities was the HIPAA Training Meeting scheduled for April 18th at Welia Hospital. There had been no training during the past two years due to the construction project at the hospital

Moving forward, MORA will have to address each event as conditions allow, however it was decided that the Great Kadosee Picnic should go on in September as scheduled – at least for now. There are no events or activities scheduled during August, which MORA Chairman Kenny Broshofske, KJ9W, hopes will allow some time for the pandemic to wear itself down as we move into fall.

MORA EVENT CALENDAR

Please check the Activity & Event Calendar posted on the Home Page of the MORA Website. Due to the COVID19 Pandemic, all events are subject to possible changes or postponement. All changes to events will be posted on the website and announced on the MORA Tuesday Evening Net.

MORA FIELD DAY 2020 SUMMARY

Despite the ongoing COVID19 Pandemic, Radio Amateurs across North America participated in the ARRL Field Day event. In fact, it would appear – at least from MORA's perspective – that with some rule changes the 2020 event brought forth unexpected success!

One major change was individual operators being able to operate from home or other off-site location, and report their contacts into a group total. With that change, MORA managed to set a new club record number of Field Day points! The preliminary tally compiled by Field Day Captain Curt Hewitt, NØOK, shows that the old club record of 2176 points set in 2017 was eclipsed this year by over 200 points.

“As far as thoughts about FD this year, I liked it!” Hewitt commented later. “It was nice not to be burdened with setup and tear down, but I missed the BBQ and operating with others. All in all, it was enjoyable to operate at leisure being home just like any other contest. I hope this option becomes a regular option for the future.”

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KJ9W [left] and NØOK were not to be prevented from carrying out their Field Day tradition of enjoying a premium cigar to celebrate their victory over Prostate Cancer.

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Broshofske agreed, noting that the ARRL would be wise to consider making these rule changes permanent. The only downside to this year's event was the absence of being in a public venue. Where past MORA Field Days had been at the Kanabec County Fairgrounds, this year there was no such public exposure due to the pandemic.

Hewitt went on to say that he can see that for MORA it would be perfect to operate at home and get together in the afternoon for a BBQ (and cigar).

And YES, the annual CONQUERED CANCER FIELD DAY CIGAR SMOKE went ahead as planned. Despite COVID19 Social Distancing, some traditions are meant to go on as usual!



Tim Hagquist, KEØQ, spent his 75th Birthday operating Field Day. His tally of contacts added to the total number for MORA's new record point total.

WELIA HOSPITAL RADIO ROOM TRAINING BEGINS

As the COVID Pandemic has stabilized, MORA resumed its partnership with Welia Hospital in Mora with the initiation of its Operator Training Program for the hospital Radio Room.

Operators must be trained and certified before being allowed to operate from Welia's Radio Room. All trainees must qualify for certification by demonstrating basic radio and computer proficiency.

Dave Lane, KBØRFY, was recently appointed by MORA Chairman Kenny Broshofske, KJ9W, to oversee the training of operators for the Radio Room. Lane lives in Mora, and being in close proximity to the hospital he can provide convenient training opportunities.

As operators qualify, they will be granted controlled access to the Radio Room, with opportunities to operate the station during net activities or during other necessary on-air operations.

Currently, the Radio Room is limited to VHF/UHF operations. Funding for the HF station dried up during the COVID19 crisis, putting that project on hold for the time being. If an emergency requiring the use of HF gear were to happen however, MORA could provide temporary HF equipment and a dipole antenna.

EMERGENCY MOBILE OPERATIONS PROJECT

MORA's efforts to refurbish a used camper purchased last summer into a Mobile Operations Unit received attention during the July Board Meeting, and plans are to move ahead with the project.

Two floor plans have been submitted for consideration. Once a plan has been decided on, efforts will get underway to refurbish the camper and develop it into a working mobile communications unit.

Several MORA members have volunteered to help with the work, and/or to finance the project.

Meanwhile MORA's existing Mobile Operations Unit – affectionately known as the “Paddywagon” because of its relatively small size and similarity to the real thing – was moved from KJ9W's QTH to KBØRFY's QTH to be stripped of any and all useful items that can be used on the refurbished camper. The trailer itself will likely be converted to haul emergency accessory equipment such as a generator.

MORA MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW

MORA welcomes its newest member, Andy Stevens, KFØACS. Andy is retired and spends his summers at his home in Onamia, and his winters in Florida.

Andy is also a trained Skywarn Spotter.

PARTING SHOT



The final journey for the MORA Emergency Communications Trailer took place on Monday August 3rd. This picture of the Paddywagon was taken as KJ9W was preparing to tow it to KBØRFY's QTH.

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/>

The MORA Tuesday Evening Net

7:00 PM on the KDØCI Repeater – Ogilvie

147.240 MHz, PL 146.2 Hz

And NOW on the KEØACL Repeater - Duxbury

146.910 MHz, PL 146.2 Hz