



ARES COMMUNICATOR

Information for Scott County Amateurs



August, 2008

Accurate, Reliable Emergency Communications

Volume 8, Number 8

Dakota Division Convention & Hamfest

August 8 & 9, Rochester, MN

The site of the 2008 ARRL Dakota Division Convention will be the Rochester University Center located at 855 30th Ave SE Rochester, Mn. The Dakota Division Convention kickoff is the Dakota Division Banquet on Friday evening at 6 PM. The Saturday morning activities include updates from the Minnesota and North and South Dakota Section Managers and an ARES Forum. The keynote presenter at the ARES forum will be Dennis Dura, ARRL Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications Specialist who will address the topic of Professionalism in Ham Radio.



DXers will find numerous activities part of Contest Central presented by the Minnesota Wireless Assn. and W0 DXCC presented by the Twin Cities DX Assn. Seminars and demonstratons are scheduled throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday morning. There will be a DXCC Banquet Saturday evening. There will be an opportunity to upgrade your license at the Volunteer Examiner (VE) testing sessions being held on Saturday morning.

You can find additional information at the Rochester Amateur Radio club website, <http://www.rarexp.org/>. Talk-in will be available on both the 146.820/.220 and 146.625/.025, (PL 100 Hz) repeaters.

BREAK - OVER



The ARES COMMUNICATOR is published for the benefit of Amateur Radio Operators in Scott County and other interested individuals.

EDITOR: Bob Reid, Scott County Emergency Coordinator
Snail Mail: 13600 Princeton Circle
Savage, MN. 55378
E-Mail: N0BHC@aol.com
Phone: Home 952-894-5178 Portable 612-280-9328

HF Digital Voice Programs Available

Three Freeware Options

Citing codec (coding/decoding) licensing issues, three free Windows programs for sound card-based HF digital voice were yanked from their download site for a short time recently, surprising hams who are interested in HF digital voice operation; several online groups that supported the software were also closed for a short time.

WinDRM, DRMDV and FDMDV, all written by Cesco Lanza, HB9TLK, used a codec that was developed for the US Department of Defense and NATO. Rights to various forms of the codec are held by several companies. According to Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, the companies have "winked" at ham radio use for several years, but a recent complaint caused the programs to be pulled from the download site. "Lanza did a quick rewrite to use an open-source codec, and now WinDRM and FDMDV are back," Pearce said. "DRMDV, an intermediate program between the other two, has been abandoned. WinDRM could always use the open-source Speex codec, but FDMDV users will need to download the new version."

Pearce said these three programs all allow hams to transmit and receive digital voice by connecting their PC sound card to an ordinary SSB transceiver: "The result has

HF Digital cont'd on page 2

ARES Activities

Weekly Net Monday 7 PM 146.535 mhz (s)
Breakfast Saturday, August 9th

SELECTED TRAFFIC NETS

Designator	Freq.	Local Times	
MN Phone	3.860Mhz	Noon, 5:30pm	Daily
MN CW	3.605Mhz	6:30pm, 9:50pm	Daily
ARES			
Scott ARES	146.535 S	7:00pm	Monday
Carver ARES	147.165+	8:30pm	Sunday
Bloomington	147.090+	9:00pm	Sunday
Neighboring Nets			
North Dakota	3.937Mhz	6:30pm	Daily
South Dakota	3.870Mhz	6:00pm	Daily
Wisconsin	3.985Mhz	5:30pm	Daily

HF Digital *cont'd from pg. 1*

been surprisingly high quality audio, with virtually no noise — sort of like listening to FM, but in the narrow bandwidth of a sideband signal. WinDRM, the best sounding program, uses 2.5 kHz of spectrum. FDMDV sounds a little rougher, but uses only 1.1 kHz of spectrum. They both use OFDM modulation, a set of close-spaced carriers that are each modulated with a little bit of data to add up to the final digital signal. The main problem with HF digital voice is that it needs fairly strong signals. FDMDV works better with weaker signals than WinDRM.”

Pearce said that none of the available open-source codecs work as well as the old one: “MELP, Mixed Excitation Linear Prediction, was designed specifically for high-quality, low data-rate voice communication. So the on-air audio might suffer some with the new version. Digital voice users have been waiting and hoping for someone to concentrate on developing a codec optimized for ham radio use, but none has been forthcoming.” FDMDV and WinDRM can both be downloaded from Jason Buchanan’s, N1SU, web site, www.n1su.com/.

The AOR digital voice modems and D-STAR radios both use the AMBE 2020 vocoder, and are not affected by the coding changes; the AMBE 2020 vocoder is a proprietary chip that is embedded in each unit.

BREAK - OVER

An Era Comes To A Close

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, Retires

On Thursday, July 3, Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC’s Enforcement Bureau Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH — the man who has come to embody Amateur Radio Enforcement — said goodbye to the FCC as he retired and began his life as a private citizen. In May, Hollingsworth announced he would definitely retire; he had contemplated retiring in January 2008, but cited “several issues on the table that I want[ed] to continue to work through with the amateur community.” While his successor has not yet been named, he was quick to point out that the FCC’s Amateur Radio enforcement program will continue.

Hollingsworth said that he has “loved” working for the FCC and has “always had great jobs, but this one involving the Amateur Radio Service has been the most fun and I have enjoyed every day of it. I’ve worked with the best group of licensees on earth, enjoyed your support and tremendous FCC support and looked forward every day to coming to work. The Amateur Radio Enforcement program will continue without missing a beat, and after retirement I look forward to being involved with Amateur Radio every way I can. I thank all of you for being so

Hollingsworth *cont'd on page 3*

Scott County ARES Contacts

Emergency Coordinator
Bob Reid N0BHC
13600 Princeton Circle
Savage, MN 55378
952-894-5178
N0BHC@arrl.net



Asst. Emergency Coordinator
Bob Minor W0NFE
5210 West 141st Street
Savage, MN 55378
952-894-2657
W0NFE@arrl.net

Asst Emergency Coordinator
Daniel Vande Vusse N0PI
5722 West 141st Street
Savage, MN 55378
952-440-1878
N0PI@arrl.net

August Events 2008

- All Month August PSK31 Expedition
- PODXS Ø7Ø Club
- 2 North American QSO Party-CW
- 4 U.S. Coast Guard Birthday
- 10 Herbert Hoover B'day
- 14 Japan Surrenders 1945
- 16/17 N American QSO Party-SSB
- 20 Benjamin Harrison B'day
- 27 L.B. Johnson B'day

Hollingsworth - cont'd from page 1

dedicated and conscientious, and for the encouragement you give us every day.”

Hollingsworth told the ARRL he was “so very impressed” with the young people who are involved with Amateur Radio: “To the very young Amateur Radio operators I have met who have dreams of being scientists and astronauts and communications engineers, we will be pulling for you; I have a strong feeling we won’t be disappointed.”

Calling the Amateur Radio Service a part of the American heritage, Hollingsworth explained that he is “going to stay as actively involved in it as I possibly can. Thank you all for working tirelessly to provide the only fail safe communications system on Earth and for helping this country keep its lead in science and technology. What an incredible gift it has been to work with you every day, and how fortunate we are to love the magic of radio! Every gift of lasting value comes with responsibility. We must never forget what we owe for our spectrum privileges. I will continue working with you in every way I can to ensure that Amateur Radio lasts a thousand years. “

BREAK - OVER

How much per gallon?

Think a gallon of gas is expensive? This makes one think and also put things in perspective.

Diet Snapple, 160z \$1.29, \$952 per gallon.

Gatorade, 200z \$1.59, \$10. 17 per gallon.

Lipton Ice Tea, 160z \$1.19, \$10. 17 per gallon.

Ocean Spray, 16 oz \$1.25, \$10. 00 per gallon.

Brake Fluid, 12 oz \$3. 15, \$33. 60 per gallon.

V.icks Nyquil, 6 oz \$8.35, \$178. 13 per gallon.

Pepto Bismol, 4 oz \$3.85, \$123.20 per gallon.

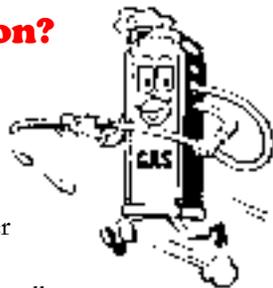
Whiteout, 7oz \$1.39, \$25.42 per gallon.

Scope, 1.5 oz 99¢, \$84.48 per gallon.

AND this is the Real Kicker.. Evian Water, 9 oz. \$1.49, \$21.19 per gallon for WATER and the buyers don’t even know the source. (Evian spelled backwards is Naive.)

Ever wonder why computer printers are so cheap? So they have you hooked for the ink. Someone calculated the cost of ink at... .. (You won’t believe this but it’s true .. .) \$5200 a gallon. (Five thousand two hundred dollars!!)

So, the next time you’re at the pump, be glad your car doesn’t run on water, Scope, or Whiteout, Pepto Bismol, Nyquil, or God forbid, Printer Ink! Just a little humor to help ease the pain of your next trip to the pump!



SOS

The Signal That Has Saved Thousands Turns 100

“Send SOS,” one of the *Titanic’s* radio operators supposedly said to another after the famous ship struck that infamous iceberg. “It’s the new call and besides this may be your last chance to send it.”

That “new call” is 100 years old, and people around the world who owe their lives to that piece of Morse code may reflect on its importance.

In the past century, “SOS” has become a firm part of popular culture used in everything from DIY programme titles to Abba hits. But it began life in a far more serious setting after being adopted by the international community on July 1, 1908, as the globally recognised distress signal for ships at sea.

At that time voices could not yet be carried across the airwaves and sailors needed a standard means of saying, in Morse code, that they were in trouble.

Until then, the most commonly used distress call was the “CQD” signal, which was open to misinterpretation. After much deliberation, SOS was chosen to replace it because the signal – three dots, three dashes and three more dots – is such a clear message to send in Morse code.

There was some early success for the new system a year later when the Cunard liner the *SS Slavonia* was stricken off the Azores. She sent out an SOS and not a single life was lost.

Even so, not everybody was convinced instantly, and it took the tragedy of the *Titanic* to reveal just how vital a universal system was. After the collision in April 1912, the ship’s radio operators sent out both the old CQD and the new SOS signals, but some ships in the area ignored both, thinking that they were having a party. They soon learnt otherwise, as international headlines told how Jack Phillips, the *Titanic’s* first radio operator, and 1,500 others had been lost along with the “unsinkable” ship. The new SOS distress signal was rarely ignored after that.

Of course, technology has moved on dramatically since 1908 and only very occasionally are the telltale dots and dashes that have saved countless lives employed today.

BREAK - OVER

“People rarely succeed unless they have fun in what they are doing.”

Dale Carnegie

Patriots Crossword Solution

Across

2. JOHNPAULJONES—American Revolutionary War naval hero, often called the “Father of the American Navy,” was born in Kirkbean, Kirkcudbright county, Scotland, on July 6, 1747.
4. SAMUELADAMS—Born in Boston on Sept. 17th, 1722, and died on Oct. 2nd, 1803. He was a major leader in the American Revolution. The son of a wealthy brewer, he inherited one-third of the family property but lost most of it through poor management
6. ETHANALLEN—He was leader of the Green Mountain Boys, and champion of statehood for Vermont.
8. GEORGEWASHINGTON—Leader of the continental army and regarded as “Father of our country”.
9. THOMASPAINE—Anglo-American revolutionary writer called for American independence in his 1776 pamphlet “Common Sense”, which was widely distributed and had a profound influence on public opinion in America.
10. JAMESLAFAYETTEARMISTEAD—A slave, began his service with General Lafayette during 1781. He enlisted and served so effectively that after the war the general was to state that his spying activities were “industriously collected and more faithfully delivered.” He had carried out important commissions so effectively that the general recommended him as worthy of “every reward his situation could admit of.”

Down

1. MOLLYPITCHER—Revolutionary War heroine whose husband, fought at the Battle of Monmouth on June 28, 1778. She had accompanied him onto the battlefield, carried water in a pitcher to her husband and others, earning her famous nickname. With the temperature close to 100 degrees, she brought water to her husband’s battery. When her husband collapsed, wounded or overcome by the heat, she took his place in the gun crew, and continued firing his cannon.
3. PATRICKHENRY—A member of the Congress, He was an outspoken advocate of strong measures of resistance. At a meeting of the Virginia assembly in Richmond on Mar. 23, 1775, he called on the colonists to arm themselves, with the words: “. . . as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!”
5. PAULREVERE—American patriot and silversmith, became a legendary hero at the start of the American Revolution, when he rode from Charlestown to Lexington, Mass., on the night of Apr. 18, 1775, to warn the countryside of approaching British troops.
7. ABIGAILADAMS—She was the wife of the second president of the United States, and the mother of the sixth president. She was considered her husband’s equal in intelligence, drive, and diplomacy, she was active in his career, advocated equal education for women, and spoke out frequently against slavery.

BREAK - OVER



ICE – 01 husband

Emergency workers searching for next-of-kin contact information for an injured person now have a globally recognized way of doing so, thanks to a new standard from ITU.

By simply prefixing the Arabic numerals 01, 02, 03, and so on to a nominated contact, such as “01father”, “02wife” or “03husband” written in any script in the mobile telephone directory, will help emergency workers in any part of the world identify contacts in order of priority and notify them.

ITU will work with non-profit organization ICE4SAFETY to promote this new way of identifying an emergency contact in a mobile handset’s directory.

“In Case of Emergency” - or ICE - has emerged in some English-speaking countries encouraging people to list emergency contact numbers in their mobile phone’s directory in the form of “ICE father”, for example, or “ICE doctor”. However, this precludes people who do not use or recognize the Roman script from readily identifying what the term “ICE” represents. ITU members expressed the need to identify emergency contacts independent of language or script.

The new standard, which is a clause to ITU-T Recommendation E.123, internationalizes the ICE concept and recommends the use of Arabic numerals (0 to 9) to denote emergency contact numbers in a handset’s directory. It exploits the fact that even though written scripts differ around the world these digits are universally recognized, making it usable by anyone regardless of language or script.

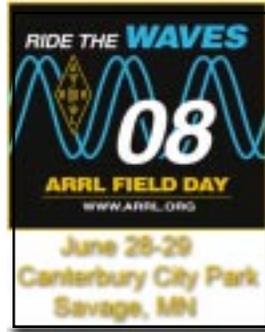
Malcolm Johnson, Director of ITU’s Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, said, “Emergency telecommunications is a top priority for ITU. This simple addition to a person’s next-of-kin or nominated contact details has the potential to greatly reduce stress for overworked emergency workers around the world. Anything that can be done to reduce the workload of these remarkably brave people and assist in getting injured people the right care and attention is commendable. We will work tirelessly with ICE4SAFETY and other agencies to promote this concept.”

“We have seen the tremendous benefit of the ICE concept to the emergency services community,” said Mark Balduzzi, Developer of ICE4SAFETY. “ITU’s initiative to internationalize ICE takes the concept one step further, and we wholeheartedly support this.”

BREAK - OVER



The Canterbury City Park in Savage was the site of the '08 Field Day operations. The shelter provided a dry spot from the rain and welcome shade from the sun.



FIELD DAY REVIEW



Dan, N0PI and Joe, KC8SON, erect a portable mast and multiband dipole in the hockey rink. The hockey rink sideboards helped limit public contact with the antenna and guy wires.



Phil (left), a visitor from Prior Lake stopped by to see what Field Day was all about. Answering his questions are Jeff, AC0DH (center), and Joe, KC8SON (right).



Dan, N0PI, works one after another on 40 meters sideband on Saturday.



Let the operation begin! Bob, W0NFE (left) and Tony, KC0YHH, search for contacts to add to the log.



Officer Schiltz, Savage Police Dept. stopped by to check out the operation in the City Park. Jeff, AC0DH, answered Officer Schiltz's questions about Ham Radio and the Field Day exercise.

The information table (below) provided visitors with current information about many aspects of Ham Radio.



Mom, Zach, Matt, and Brandon (l to r) stopped by the park shelter after baseball practice to check out the activity. Matt takes the mic and chats with an ARES member on 2 meters.



Larry, K0LEJ (left), tunes the band for a new station while Tony, KC0YHH logs the contacts.



KILROY stopped by to make a few contacts!





The Saturday Potluck is a popular activity of the weekend! Pictured from left to right are Jeff, AC0DH, Dan, N0PI, Jeff's spouse, Dan's spouse, Chris, KC0TZN, Larry's spouse, a guest of Dan, and Larry, K0LEJ.

**“It was fun to try out a new mode.
This soundcard stuff is easy”**



Larry, K0LEJ (left), gave a presentation to the group explaining operation of a digital mode, PSK31. Pictured here Bob, W0NFE (right) sat down for some one-on-one tutoring with the new mode.



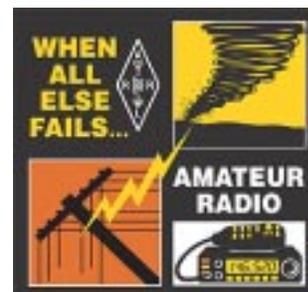
Jeff, AC0DH, served as Safety Officer for the Field Day activity. Jeff gave an initial orientation before set-up activity began. The event used a sing-in/out procedure to track on-site personnel similar to emergency operations.



“Hey guys. Do you think we could load up this net on 20M?”



Bob, W0NFE, and Bob, KB0FH, (left to right) log another station during the operation.





The terrific trio of (left to right) Dan, N0PI, on sideband, Jeff, AC0DH, on digital, and Bob, KB0FH, logging, search and pounce on unsuspecting stations to add to the contest log.

**“We gotta do this again.
What a blast!”**



Storm clouds and rains brought activity to a halt for a short time on Saturday morning. Once the storm moved to the east set-up continued full speed ahead



A number of antennas were tested by ARES members during the Field Day event. Pictured here are a Buddi Pole dipole (foreground) and a multiband dipole (background right). Other antennas tested included a ‘slinky’ dipole and several VHF antennas.



**Ahh!
The Dog Days
of Sumer!**



Larry, K0LEJ, monitors the ARRL Field Day Broadcast using PSK31. The soundcard mode station was available for all operators to gain experience in operating these newer communications modes.



ARES Breakfast

Saturday August 9th
7:30AM
Perkins Restaurant
Savage, MN

NECOS Schedule - August 2008

- | | |
|--------|-------------|
| 4 Aug | KC0YHH Tony |
| 11 Aug | N0PI Dan |
| 18 Aug | W0NFE Bob |
| 25 Aug | KB0FH Bob |
| 1 Sep | KC0YHH Tony |
| 8 Sep | N0PI Dan |