



Anoka County Radio Club and Emergency Services

Volume 4, Issue 6

Newsletter

November/December 2008

President's Corner

Howdy and Happy Holidays!

Now that Halloween is over and past and I hope you all got lots of good treats so we can start looking ahead to the wonderful world of the holidays.

In that frame of thought I would like for all to remember the people less fortunate than ourselves and help out those that might need a little assistance, whether it be giving them a lift or a hand to complete a project or even a call to check on someone - just a smile or pleasant greeting in passing will make a big difference!

Don't forget about Hams against Hunger. We are accepting donations to be taken to the local food shelves at all of our meetings. You can also give any board member a call - including myself - and we will make arrangements to pick up the items to be donated. My phone number is 651-784-7090. If you get the answering machine, please leave a message and I will get back to you.

Also remember that instead of our December General Meeting we are having our annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 6th, 2008 at the Blaine Baseball Complex. On your RSVP's please let us know how many younger ones will be attending - A good friend of mine with a red coat and a white beard is planning on dropping by while he is scouting out new addresses in the area!

That friend also wanted me to remind you of the SantaNet that will be held on Christmas Eve afternoon. For those of you who do not know what that is I will explain. On Christmas Eve afternoon we set up a link from the local hospitals through our 146.67 repeater to the North Pole so that the children that are not able to be home for Santa can talk to him to let him know where they will be. Then, after we have let all the kids in the hospitals have a chance to talk with Santa, we will open up the net to anyone who would like to check in with Santa until he has to prepare for his big trip or until there are no more check-ins. If you have any questions or would like to help please feel free to give me a call.

Elections are coming up shortly so start thinking of whom you may want to nominate.

With all that being said, me and my family - Wanda, Rose and Mary, would like to wish everyone a safe and grand holiday season! As the old saying goes: Merry Christmas, Happy New Years and God bless everyone!

Have a safe one. Your Prez, KB0GIP Bob Cordell

ACRC Annual Christmas Party

The Anoka County Radio Club will host our annual Christmas Party on **Saturday, December 6th, 2008**. It will be held at the Blaine Baseball Complex. The doors will open 5:30 p.m. for social hour and dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. All members and family are invited to join us for a night of fun and food as we review the past year and look forward to 2009.

There will be tiered-pricing this year. The price will be: \$25.00 for individuals, \$45 for couples and \$60 per family. We will also be collecting food donations for Hams Against Hunger at the event, as well as the White Elephant gift exchange! There will be door prizes and desserts too!

Please RSVP with the extra sheet enclosed in this newsletter to Shawn Rung K0SMR by November 19th at k0smr@arrl.net or by calling 612-789-7748 so we have time to get everything ready! Payments will be accepted by any board member or at the door.

If you have any questions or would like to help out with the event, please contact Shawn Rung K0SMR at k0smr@arrl.net. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

SantaNet - We Need Volunteers!

We will be re-starting this annual event this year. The goal of the SantaNet is to allow children that are in Unity and Mercy hospitals on Christmas Eve to talk with Santa via a net with a link directly to the North Pole. After all of the children in the hospitals have had a chance to talk to Santa, the net will be opened up to anyone on the repeater to talk with Santa, until he needs to prepare for his Christmas flight. The SantaNet will be held on Wednesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve Day), starting at 3:30 p.m.

We need to have at least 12 volunteers for this event - 4 hams at two area hospitals (Unity and Mercy) with portables and 4 hams at the Blaine Baseball Complex running net control to a communications link at the North Pole to be provided by one of Santa's helpers on that day. Please contact Bob Cordell KBØGIP ASAP if you can help out with this event.

VE Testing

Are you ready to take your first amateur radio (ham) license test or upgrade to another level? Then let us help! The Anoka County Radio Club holds V.E. amateur radio testing sessions on every second Saturday of the month at the Blaine City Hall Mark Stack Room. Test sessions start at 9:00 a.m. We will continue to take walk-ins until 10:00 a.m. Check the club's calendar page for any updates or changes to the schedule.

Hams Against Hunger

At the October General Meeting, the members indicated that they would like our club to start taking food donations at various events and donate them to a local food shelf. Hams Against Hunger donations will be accepted at any of the General and Board meetings, as well as any of the club sponsored events. If you know of a family that is in need of food donations, please contact Bob Cordell KBØGIP.

A Ham's 'Night Before Christmas'

©1996 Gary Pearce, KN4AQ

'Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through 2 meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,
Took their H-Ts to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
By a signal with power.
It smoked a small diode,
And, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX PacketCluster,

While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam.
A flying sleigh, with an
Eight-element beam,

And a little old driver
Who looked slightly mean.
So I thought for a moment,
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa,
The Santa of Hams.
On a mission, this Christmas,
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
Behind stacks of CQ,
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late QSLs
For a start.

He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth, till
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
Resoldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp.
(Never worked right before;
Now it works like a champ).

A new, lowpass filter
Cleaned up the TV.
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer
That would not compute,
And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box.
A new rig? I thought!

A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?!
(If he thought I'd been bad,
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those hours
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,
It was my call he sent.
But the cards and the postage
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.
73."

Then he grabbed his H-T,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone with no good-bye.

I ran back to the station,
And the pileup was big,
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final
came over the air.
It was copied all over.
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed
What a ham might expect,
"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX!"

ACRC Board Members

President
Bob Cordell – KBØGIP
kb0gip@juno.com

Vice President
Parry Brown – KCØTWB
kc0twb@msn.com

Secretary
Shawn Rung – KØSMR
k0smr@arrl.net

Treasurer
Tim Neu – KCØLQL
tim.neu@gmail.com

Board Member at Large
Pete Alcock – KBØKHZ
kbokhz@juno.com

Board Member at Large
Jeff Kline – KCØNIB
jskline@visi.com

Our Repeaters

Anoka County Radio Club sponsored repeaters:

146.670 / 146.070 with a 114.8 PL Tone
224.940 / 223.340 with a 100.0 PL Tone

D-Star Repeater :

Dig Data (1.2 GHz): 1295.500
Dig Voice (1.2 GHz) - A: 1287.000 / 1275.000
Dig Voice (440 MHz) - B: 443.775 / 448.775
Dig Voice (2-Meter) - C: 145.130 / 144.530

For more details on our club's repeaters, visit our website at: <http://www.anokaradio.org/repeaters>.

Our Homepage

You can check out our homepage on the web at:
<http://www.anokaradio.org>.

Becoming A Member

Ready to join the Anoka County Radio Club? Becoming a member is easy! Just download a membership form from our website at: <http://www.anokaradio.org/membership>, fill it out and either mail it to us or bring it to any of the club meetings. Forms are also available at those meetings. Some of the common membership options are:

Membership	Annual Cost
Individual	\$25
Senior	\$15
Family	\$35
New Ham	Free for one year *

* See more membership details on our website.

Send the form and payment to:

Anoka County Radio Club and Emergency Services
PO Box 982
Anoka MN 55303

Calendar Of Events

November 2008

ACRC Net
Every Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. on the 146.670 Repeater (114.8 PL Tone).

Anoka County ARES Net
The second and fourth Wednesday of each month after the ACRC Net (about 7:30 p.m.) on the 146.670 Repeater (114.8 PL Tone). See the Anoka-ARES website for more details.

General Meeting
Friday, November 7th at 7:00 p.m. at the Blaine Baseball Complex.

VE Testing
Saturday, November 8th at 9:00 a.m. at the Blaine City Hall, Mark Stack Room.

Anoka County ARES Meeting
Monday, November 17th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. More info is on the website – www.anoka-ares.org.

ACRC Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the Blaine Baseball Complex. All members are welcome to attend.

December 2008

ACRC Christmas Party
Saturday, December 6th starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Blaine Baseball Complex. **Please RSVP to Shawn Rung by November 19th to k0smr@arrl.net or at 612-789-7748.**

VE Testing
Saturday, December 13th at 9:00 a.m. at the Blaine City Hall, Mark Stack Room.

Anoka County ARES Meeting
Monday, December 15th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Location and more info is on the website – www.anoka-ares.org.

ACRC Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the Blaine Baseball Complex. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

SantaNet
December 24th (Christmas Eve) starting at 3:30 p.m. at the Blaine Baseball Complex and local hospitals. **We need at least 12 volunteers to make this event a success.** Please contact Bob Cordell KBØGIP for more information or to sign up.



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Kit fun.

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