

# The Repeater



The Official Publication of the Twin Cities Repeater Club, Inc.

## Mission Statement of the Twin Cities Repeater Club, as Adopted on September 20, 1993

The purpose of the TCRC is to facilitate the local communication needs of its members by owning and operating a state of the art wide area coverage two meter repeater system. The club will further involve itself in secondary activities intended to (1) promote the exchange of ideas and information related to amateur radio, (2) strengthen the fellowship and camaraderie among the members, (3) serve the local amateur radio community, and (4) increase local public safety.

# The End of Amateur Radio!

**FCC Set to Abolish the Amateur Radio Service  
Effective December 31**

**Major Changes Are Imminent!**

**What Will it Mean to You?**

**How Will You Cope?**

**What's Next**

**on the**

**Chopping Block?**

**Read All the Gruesome Details  
Inside on Page 3!**

**Fall, 2008  
Volume 31, Number 2**

Inside this issue

Mission Statement .....	1
The End of Amateur Radio Announced .....	1
A Message from your Editor .....	2
Welcome, New Members .....	2
The End of Amateur Radio .....	3
Membership Application .....	4

*Please Join Us  
for the  
Quarterly  
Membership  
Meeting*

*09/30/08 7:30 PM  
Burnsville City Hall  
Meeting Room*

*Talk-In on the  
147.21 Repeater*

*Abbreviated Net  
Starts at 7:00 PM*

The Repeater is published quarterly by the Twin Cities Repeater Club, Inc. (the TCRC). The TCRC is organized as a nonprofit corporation in the State of Minnesota, with Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The club elects officers annually. These officers are simultaneously elected for a two-year term on the Board of Directors. The Repeater Trustee is a permanent member of the Board of Directors. Unlike the other Officers and Board Members, the Trustee may select a proxy to serve in his place at meetings of the Board. Membership in the TCRC is \$25 per year. The TCRC is an official ARRL affiliated society.

**TCRC Officers:**

**President:** Artie Johnson, WBØJMG  
**Vice President:** Phil Lefever, KBØNES  
**Secretary:** Tanna Morse, KCØURO  
**Treasurer:** Craig Larsen, KCØDMF

**Board Members:**

All of the above Officers, plus...  
 Ivan Frantz, WØBU, **Repeater Trustee**  
*Ivan has currently appointed Mogens Dantoft, OZ9MD, as his proxy for Board Meetings.*

**Past Vice-President:** Mark Neumann, KCØITP  
**Appointed:** Doug Ayers, NAØVY  
**Appointed:** Jeff Goodnuff, WØKF  
**Appointed:** Kevin Uhler, NØBEL

**Technical Committee (a/k/a Tech Team):**

Kevin Uhler, NØBEL, **Chair**  
 Phil Lefever, KBØNES, **Vice Chair**  
 Doug LaBore, NØBIS  
 Rich Kenney, WØRFK  
 John Toscano, WØJT

**Field Day Committee:**

Tanna Morse, KCØURO, **Chair**  
*Open, Vice-Chair*  
 Kevin Uhler, NØBEL, **Site Setup Manager**  
*Open, FOOD Station Manager*

**Information Services Committee:**

Kevin Uhler, NØBEL, **Chair** and **Head Webmaster**  
 Phil Lefever, KBØNES, **Assistant Webmaster**  
 John Toscano, WØJT, **Assistant Webmaster**  
 Jeff Goodnuff, WØKF, **Web Calendar Maintainer**

**Membership Committee:**

Doug Ayers, NAØVY, **Chair**  
 Craig Larsen, KCØDMF  
 Tanna Morse, KCØURO

**Newsletter Committee:**

John Toscano, WØJT, **Editor**

**Net Control Operators:**

**Chair:** *Open*  
 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday: Jeff Goodnuff, WØKF  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday: Doug Ayers, NAØVY  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday: *Open*  
 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday: Phil Lefever, KBØNES  
 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday: John Toscano, WØJT  
 Alternate: Mark Newman, KCØITP

**Metro Skywarn Liaison:**

Jeff Goodnuff, WØKF

**Minnesota Repeater Council Liaison:**

Jeff Goodnuff, WØKF

**Emergency Services Coordinator:**

Janet Skovran, KBØZFB

## A Message from your Newsletter Editor

The job of an editor is to edit. (Surprise, right?) That means that writers submit articles, and the editor pores over them, picks out the best, reviews them carefully, and polishes up those gems so that they really sparkle. Those edited words then find their way into the finished publication. For this issue of The Repeater, a technical glitch in email delivery left your editor with a record lack of submissions in his inbox to edit, exactly zero. Well, faced with nothing to edit, here at “the eleventh hour” (or beyond!), the editor had to become the writer as well. Okay, that’s not the end of the world, since I love to write, when I have time to do so. But, passing through my mind was the question, “What should I write about?” The zero received submissions of articles were equally matched by zero received submissions of even ideas for articles. (Who says technology isn’t fair when it breaks?) Well, if I have to make it all up myself, why not *really* make something up? I don’t claim to be as skillful with the word processor as H. G. Wells was with the pen, nor is this issue of The Repeater scheduled for publication on Halloween eve (nor on April First). Nevertheless, the inspiration for this issue is the famous (some would say infamous) radio program based on Well’s novel entitled “War of the Worlds” which aired over the WABC Radio Network on October 30, 1938. Yes, the whole story in this issue about the end of Amateur Radio is fiction, not fact. But it’s food for thought. What does Amateur Radio really mean to you? Would you miss it if it was gone? How would it affect you personally?

Thankfully, it’s all fiction, right? Or is it? Look at the masthead to the left. See all those vacant positions? Those represent just a few opportunities for you to contribute to the health and vigor of the Twin Cities Repeater Club, and by logical extension, to the health and welfare of the Amateur Radio Service itself. Think about it for awhile, and then come to the quarterly membership meeting, and let’s talk about it.

What have you done lately to insure the future of Amateur Radio? How might you become more involved or more active? Remember the evolutionary maxim, “use it or lose it”. If you hope to *not* lose it, make the most of it while you can!

73 de WØJT, your troubled newsletter editor.



### Welcome, New Members!

The following folks have recently joined the ranks of the Twin Cities Repeater Club, or have re-joined after a period of elapsed membership. Please welcome them the next time you hear them on one of our repeaters! The club thanks them for their willingness to participate in the club. Unfortunately, with Amateur Radio destined for elimination soon, it’s a shame that the club won’t exist for the full one-year term of their paid membership. Oh well, you win some, and you lose some...

Callsign	Name
ACØLV	Bill Gaines
WBØYUL	Samuel Shaffer
KCØVBW	Andrew Palmquist

# The End of Amateur Radio

a short story by

John P. Toscano, WØJT

**News Flash:** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced today that in response to the president's pleas for all government agencies to trim their operating costs and find new, non-tax-based sources of revenues to help manage the current fiscal crisis, the Amateur Radio Service would cease to exist as of the first of the year. FCC Chairman Martin was quoted as saying, "Those Ham Radio Operators are currently holding hostage an enormous public resource, namely portions of the RF spectrum. Those frequencies that are allocated to them for *free use* represent many millions of potential dollars of revenue, if auctioned off to businesses that live or die in the arena of radio frequency communication. The Amateur Radio Service has outlived its usefulness. It's a dinosaur, and our government can no longer afford to subsidize a bunch of old geezers who want to monopolize the airways with inane conversations about their aching joints. We need to take back the RF spectrum that these Hams are holding, and turn them into gold to re-fill the government coffers that have been badly depleted by the failures of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and other major financial institutions that need to be bailed out by Uncle Sam. So, effective on the first of the year, the Amateur Radio Service will cease to exist, and as soon as the New Year's Day holiday is beyond us, we in the FCC will start the process of re-farming the Amateur Radio Service frequencies for commercial use."

Sources inside the FCC say that the plans for elimination of the Amateur Radio Service are ruthlessly comprehensive. These insiders have told us that, promptly after the commencement of the New Year's Eve federal holiday, a cadre of FCC computer experts will run a program on the so-called CORES computer system, which will erase all traces of Amateur Radio Service records. The commission rejected the pleas of knowledgeable Ham Radio operators to simply tag all the existing Ham records as inactive, saying that this would "leave the door open for someone to have a change of heart and rescind the elimination of the Amateur Radio Service by simply re-activating all the records that had previously been active at the time of the purge". Instead, once this purge has finished running, at the open of business after the first of the year, the CORES database will have *no record* of any Amateur Radio licenses past or present, *no record* of any Amateur Radio enforcement actions, *no record* of any transactions to the database that involved Amateurs; *no trace of anything* that pertained to the Amateur Radio Service will be left behind. So, even if someone has a "change of heart" after the fact, there will be no records to restore, no way to re-enable the licenses that have been eliminated. This plan has real teeth to it. They mean business, in more ways than one.

So what will this mean to the Radio Amateur? For starters, all Ham Radio licenses will not only be void, they will cease to exist, as will all record of what Ham licenses have ever existed. With no licenses, no transmitting privileges will exist on any of the Ham bands for the (formerly) licensed Ham Radio operators. Those frequencies will need to be vacated by all Hams immediately, after which the only allowable uses will be by other licensed radio services that had been sharing the bands with the Amateurs. Companion legislation has been passed that will make it not only illegal to operate a Ham Radio transmitter, but also illegal to modify it for operation in any other (existing or future) radio service, even if it is on the same frequencies as those previously allowed for use by the Hams. This will purposely make all Ham Radio transceivers instantly obsolete and essentially worthless. The regulators feel that the overnight junking of millions of dollars worth of Ham Radios will stimulate the electronics waste recycling industry, as well as stimulating the radio manufacturers into producing new radio gear for the new radio services that will take

over the vacant Ham bands. All Ham Radio repeaters will need to be taken off the air as of January first. Even those repeaters in current use which were built out of modified commercial gear are outlawed by the new legislation from being converted back to commercial service. It does not matter if the repeater was FCC Type Accepted for use in a commercial service before being pressed into Amateur service; no matter what the lineage of those Amateur Radio repeaters, they will all become e-waste at the stroke of midnight on the first day of January. Even Amateur Radio Satellites will (quite literally) come under fire with these new regulations. Ham satellites in current operation are designed to transmit a beacon continuously, to help earthbound Hams find them up in the sky, and to allow ground-based control stations to monitor telemetry about various aspects of the satellite's health, such as battery voltage, temperature, solar panel efficiency, etc. Since such transmissions will become illegal on January first, any satellites that cannot be turned off by then will incur the full wrath of the new regulations. As another "cost-friendly" justification for the abolition of the Amateur Radio Service, the FCC informed the military that Ham Satellites that are found to be guilty of transmitting after their licenses cease to exist can be freely used for "Star Wars" satellite target practice. Military officials welcome this opportunity to try out their newest "satellite killer" technology on existing targets that will be "free for the taking". They are drooling at the prospect of saving millions of scarce government dollars, by not having to design, build, and launch target satellites to shoot at with their newest toys. "It's a win-win situation all around" quipped one of the designers of the U.S. Government's "satellite killer technology". Another proposed benefit of the scrapping of the Amateur Radio Service is the boon to the aluminum recycling industry when all those Ham antennas come down. The legislative edict demanding the scrapping of Ham radio transmitters does not also apply to Amateur antennas, but the FCC assumes that most Hams will simply take down their antenna towers and make a few bucks by selling the aluminum antennas as scrap rather than try to hang onto them, and sell them to the commercial users that buy up the vacated Ham bands.

Once these new rules go into effect, there will be no more chatter on Amateur Radio repeaters, no more local simplex nets, no more Amateur Radio contesting, no more long-distance "rag-chewing" on the HF bands. Hams will no longer be welcomed as emergency communications personnel, since they will offer no advantage over the average man or woman on the street holding a Family Radio Service handy-talkie. Sources inside the FCC stated that, "The emergency communications aspect of Ham Radio is all a lot of hype. These Hams are just a bunch of amateurs and don't know how to pass messages efficiently. Have you ever listened to a Skywarn net with all the reports of conditions that aren't supposed to be reported? Their shoddy operating processes, the Internet, and the cell phone, all make those Hams obsolete."

Organizations like the ARRL, and even our own Twin Cities Repeater Club will have little reason to continue their existence. Look at the Statement of Purpose on Page One of this and every issue of The Repeater. How can those functions continue if the Amateur Radio Service ceases to exist? Officers of the TCRC are already discussing how to gracefully disband the club once its reasons to exist vanish at the stroke of midnight on January first. There are currently no plans to issue any refunds to members who had paid dues that would have kept them active on the club roster after January first, however. One club officer was overheard suggesting, "Maybe we should write a check to the FCC to show them how loyal our members are to helping the government help out big business in these troubled financial times."

Get ready for the end, the New Year is almost here.

73 de WØJT (until January 1, anyway)



**Twin Cities Repeater Club, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 11534**  
**St. Paul, MN 55111-0534**

**Place  
Stamp  
Here**

Your Membership Dues Have Expired.  
 Please Renew your Membership Today!

## Join the Twin Cities Repeater Club!

P.O. Box 11534, St. Paul, MN 55111-0534

<http://www.tcrc.org>

Fill out this Membership Application Form, and mail it with your check for \$25.00 payable to the Twin Cities Repeater Club, to the mailing address listed above. You can also fill out this form electronically at the web address listed above, and either send us a check, or pay online using the PayPal system.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Computer Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- Ok to list your address in club publications?      \_\_\_No \_\_\_Yes
- Ok to list your phone in club publications?      \_\_\_No \_\_\_Yes
- Are you available for Emergency Service?      \_\_\_No \_\_\_Yes
- Are you a member of the ARRL?      \_\_\_No \_\_\_Yes
- Are you a member of Metro Skywarn?      \_\_\_No \_\_\_Yes, spotter ID: \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you a member of ARES?      \_\_\_No \_\_\_Yes
- Would you like an autodial speed dial number?      \_\_\_No \_\_\_Yes, to phone # \_\_\_\_\_
- Would you like a club ID badge?      \_\_\_No \_\_\_Yes (free to new members, otherwise \$5.00)
- What is your internet e-mail address, if any?      \_\_\_None
- Would you like an e-mail alias set up, so that mail sent to **yourcallsign@tcrc.org** gets redirected to the e-mail address you listed above? This can be handy on the air!      \_\_\_No \_\_\_Yes
- Do you want a copy of the TCRC Handbook?      \_\_\_No \_\_\_Yes (add \$9.50, which includes postage)
- Do you want a TCRC binder to hold it?      \_\_\_No \_\_\_Yes (Add \$5.50 to the above)
- This is \_\_\_New Application \_\_\_Renewal \_\_\_Other Change \_\_\_Callsign update, old call was \_\_\_\_\_