

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.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

CQ field Day CQ field day....

Yes Amateur Radio Field Day is upon us once again. (June 23-24) Since its start back in 1933 ARRL Field Day has been a unique Amateur Radio activity. Part contest, part picnic, part campout, part emergency preparedness exercise, part whatever you want it to be. Field Days in the past bring fond memories and exciting stories. Our NEW location can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator> just type in W0BU at the top. MORE DETAILS LATER IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

The TCRC, Twin Cities Repeater Club, is your club and mine. Perhaps it is not as big as in its glory days, but we make up for it in enthusiasm. We have our display and representatives at the local hamfests. We have several social activities during the year. We have more repeaters than *any* other club in the area. We have plans for the future, and reverence for the past. We are people who enjoy radio and doing activities with it. Since we are people we are good, and bad, active and lazy, enthusiasts and dabblers, smart and not-so-smart ;-)) I would like all our members to reflect the fun of the club while on the air and avoid criticism. This will show us as we are, a group with a lot going for it, and a group that one wants to belong to. Remember, there are a lot of people listening to the repeater. There is the person you are talking with, other hams "reading the mail", new hams with "mic fright," and he people with scanners, and because of our Sky Warn affiliation, the 147.21 output is on the INTERNET too!

So, as I go through the Field Day check list... transceiver, power supply, antennas, coax, tent, OFF, pencils, Oreo "double stuff" Cookies, pens, paper, table, display, field day banner, dry socks, SPF lotion, wide-brimmed hat, antenna masts, rope, aspirin, coax cable, extension cords, water, generator, cookies, gasoline, camp chairs, signs, laptop computer, microphone, camping trailer, bug lights, caffeinated soda, raincoat... I am bidding you all a hearty 73, and join us for the fun of it.

Artie, WBØJMG, President TCRC.



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**Please Join Us
For Field Day
Saturday June 23
& Sunday June 24.**

**This year we will be
located at Neill Park
in Burnsville.**

**Lat 44° 45' 28.3"
Long 93° 18' 45.3"**

**The parking lot is
the second right
North of Burnsville
Pkwy off Upton Ave.**

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: Dave Ventura, KEØNA
Secretary: Tanna Morse, KCØURO
Treasurer: Craig Larsen, KCØDMF

Board Members:

All of the above Officers, plus...
Chris Buck, WØHO, **Club Trustee**
Past VicePresident: Phil Lefever, KBØNES
Appointed: Ken Lewis, K3FMK
Appointed: Jeff Goodnuff, WØKF
Appointed: Rod Freeborg, KC9HT

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

Kevin Uhlir, NØBEL, **Chair**
Phil Lefever, KBØNES, **Vice Chair**
Doug LaBore, NØBIS
Rich Kenney, WØRFK
John Toscano, WØJT
Jeff Goodnuff, WØKF
Art Johnson, WBØJMG

Field Day Committee:

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

Information Services Committee:

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

Membership Committee:

Craig Larsen, KCØDMF, **Chair**
Tanna Morse, KCØURO, **member**
Dave Ventura, KEØNA, **member**

Newsletter Committee:

John Toscano, WØJT, **Editor**

Net Control Operators:

Chair: Larry Jenkins, KØLEJ
1st Tuesday: Jeff Goodnuff, WØKF
2nd Tuesday: Mark Newman, KCØITP
3rd Tuesday: Artie Johnson, WBØJMG
4th Tuesday: Phil Lefever, KBØNES
5th Tuesday: John Toscano, WØJT

Metro Skywarn Liaison:

Jeff Goodnuff, WØKF

Minnesota Repeater Council Liaison:

Chris Buck, WØHO

Emergency Services Coordinator:

Janet Skovran, KBØZFB

TCRC Club Trustee:

Chris Buck, WØHO

Skywarn Spotter Training Classes

As we have done in the past, the TCRC sponsored two Skywarn Spotter Training Classes this year. They were held at the Open Circle Church, 2400 Highland Drive, Burnsville, Minnesota. This year we had 49 students at the first class and 43 at the last class. We would like to express our appreciation for the use of these facilities to the members of the Open Circle Church and to Pastor Jay Steele.



Blaine EF0 Tornado, June 21, 2011

This story starts at the 2011 Skywarn Workshop at St. Thomas University where I won a copy of Gibson Ridge GRLevel3 weather radar software as the door prize. I setup my car with all the equipment needed to monitor the radar and attached a GPS to my laptop so that my mobile location would be displayed in relation to the radar return.

I knew that there was a possibility of severe weather that day from the storm prediction center day one convective outlook (<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/outlook/day1otlk.html>). So I had all the equipment in my car as I drove to the Lino Lakes YMCA that morning for my daily work out. Afterwards, I went to my favourite coffee shop to monitor the storm development using the GRLevel3 software as I enjoyed coffee and a slice of banana bread. I remember the motion of the cells that day was unusual, they were moving from southeast to northwest. Planning an intercept would be challenging, because the quadrant of the storm cell that was normally produces wall clouds, funnels or tornados would not be south west, but would be southeast. Promising storm cells were observed moving north towards my location, so I left the coffee shop and setup my laptop on the passenger seat of the car.

I headed south on 35 W and watched as the cell approached and increased in intensity on the GRlevel3 radar. A decision was made to exit at 95th Avenue and spot from the Park 'n Ride lot. I realized that it was not the best location since there was a berm on the southern end of the lot that blocked my view of the sky. So as the storm approached, I decided to exit the lot and head west on 95th Avenue (which became Radisson Road. As I exited I noticed a rotating wall cloud so I pulled over on the right shoulder to

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observe for the required time. Almost immediately, a funnel cloud developed! I grabbed the mike on my 2-meter radio, which was tuned to the Skywarn primary repeater and was about to report, when the sirens sounded and Skywarn net control announced that the authorities in Blaine had reported a tornado on the ground. Well I debated relaying to net control that it was not a tornado (yet), but decided to follow the funnel cloud as best as I could.

I followed it on Radisson Road and noticed that it did appear to reach all the way to the ground and was moving further west. As I stopped at Radisson Road and 109th Ave to turn west, I opened my car window and snapped the following photo with my cell phone.



I continued to follow the tornado by turning north on 65 but it kept moving further away as it appeared to be tracking northwest. I gave up my attempt a few miles north of town.

The official NWS report on this tornado can be found at this link:

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/images/mpx/StormReports/21June2011.pdf>

All-in-all, quite an exciting experience and my first tornado spotting!

Happy and safe storm spotting!

73 - Dave, KE0NA

Field Day 2012

Field Day is an ARRL sponsored event (*not a contest*) involving all amateur radio operators operating stations under simulated emergency conditions. It is held the fourth weekend in June (sometimes referred to as the fourth rainy weekend in June) and involves operation of stations using generator, solar, battery or other non-main sources of power.

The public is invited and it gives ham radio operators the opportunity to demonstrate their operating skills. Also it provides for the public a chance to see what all the amateur radio stuff is about.

This year the Twin Cities Repeater Club is holding Field Day in Burnsville at Neill Park. It is a great facility and we expect to be operating four amateur radio stations.



TCRC 2012 Field Day Site

As can be seen in the above photo, there is a very large shelter available together with a lot of adjacent grassland providing room for many radio stations.

Everyone is invited to attend Field Day 2012 Saturday June 23 through Sunday June 24. Yes, we will be there all night!



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>

There are two ways to register:

- 1) Return this completed application form (to the mailing address indicated above) along with your \$25 check payable to: **Twin Cities Repeater Club**

OR

- 2) You can fill out this form electronically (at the web address indicated above) and pay online using PayPal.

(Please check one) This is New Application Renewal Change Date _____

Name _____ Callsign _____

Address _____ License Class _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Please note: For your privacy, an e-mail alias will be set up using **yourcallsign@tcrc.org**. E-mails sent to this alias will be redirected to the e-mail address you indicated above.

May we list your address in club publications? Yes No

May we list your phone in club publications? Yes No

Are you available for Emergency Service? Yes No

Are you a member of the ARRL? Yes No

Are you a member of Metro Skywarn? Yes No; (if Yes) spotter ID: _____

Are you a member of ARES? Yes No

Would you like a club ID badge? Yes No (free to new members, otherwise \$5.00)