



A Brief Club History ...

Sometime in 1917 a group of electronic experimenters formed the Saint Cloud Mic and Key Club, starting one of the first amateur radio clubs in the nation. On May 26th, 1922 the Saint Cloud Radio Club, as it was then named, received a "Charter of Affiliation" from the American Radio Relay League, which continues to this day.

The Saint Cloud Amateur Radio Club call sign is registered as W0SV in honor of Bob Witcher. Perhaps the first licensed radio ham in the Saint Cloud area Bob was first licensed around 1921 as 9SV. He was the chief engineer of radio station WFAM, later changed to KFAM, the first commercial radio station in Saint Cloud.



We are one of the few amateur radio clubs in the nation that owns and maintains a clubhouse. The club leased the property for many years from the Burlington Northern Railroad. Then on October 19th, 2001 thanks to the work of Charles "Charlie" Grafft, W0SDL and Robert "Bob" Baker, W0ROB Burlington Northern donated the 1,152 square foot building to the Saint Cloud Amateur Radio Club.

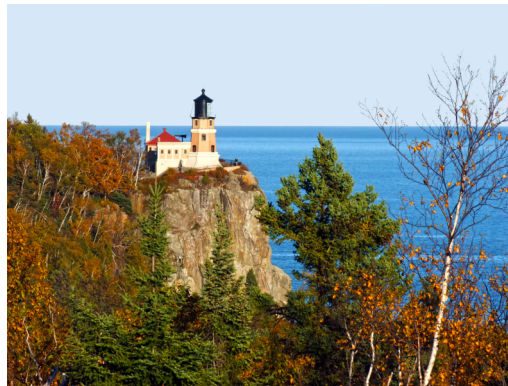
Club Activities ...

Members enjoy participating in radio nets, rag chewing, and chasing DX contacts with amateurs from around the world. They operate from their home stations and the station at our clubhouse.



Our club members also have a great time operating many Radio Sport events. Events include the ARRL Field Day, Minnesota and other State QSO Party's, CQ magazine contests, and many other Special Events.

Our members have operated events from our clubhouse, remote locations around Minnesota such as Split Rock Lighthouse, and even as mobile rovers.



Members also provide radio support to local events such as the Tour of Saints bike ride, Heart of the Lakes Triathlon, Gaylord Extravaganza, and the ARLIDAZZLE Parade & 5K.



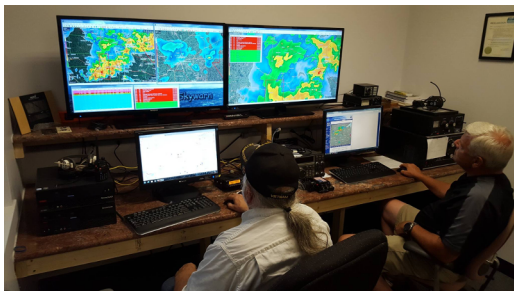
Our club introduces young people and others to amateur radio with demos and hands on experience. We also help amateurs gain the knowledge needed to upgrade their licenses. Our club offers amateur radio classes and has several Elmer's to insure everyone meets their goals.



We hold ARRL VE testing sessions at our hamfest, the "Cabin Fever Reliever", and at other times as required. Our VEC has also held spur-of-the-moment sessions for small groups on request.

Public Service ...

The Saint Cloud Amateur Radio Club is the host of the Central Minnesota Skywarn® program under the Emergency Communications Committee supervised by the Board of Directors. Central Minnesota Skywarn® will not have the previous boundary restrictions of Stearns County, but now will be limited by the range of the W0SV repeater. We are also in the process of expanding into neighboring counties.



Skywarn® is a program established by the National Weather Service in the 1970's with a goal of obtaining critical weather information during times of severe weather. Skywarn® works with local organizations and private citizens who have a desire to serve their communities. Skywarn® volunteers receive training in severe storm identification and evolution, and when severe weather threatens, they become "storm spotters", reporting information in real-time to the local NWS office.



Storm spotters are the nation's first line of defense against severe weather, and they know that their efforts may ultimately help to save lives. Their information, when combined with sophisticated technology such as Doppler radar, satellite and lightning displays, helps NWS meteorologists in their primary mission... the issuance of warnings and advisories for the protection of life and property. NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service and access to communication, such as HAM radio, to join the Skywarn® program. Volunteers include police and fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, public utility

workers and other concerned private citizens. Individuals affiliated with hospitals, schools, churches, nursing homes or who have a responsibility for protecting others are also encouraged to become a spotter.

Our club offers multiple Skywarn® training classes each year. Please visit w0sv.org and click on Skywarn -> Skywarn Training to see what classes are being offered and to register on-line for a class.

Along with hosting Central Minnesota Skywarn® our club is also a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador™.



The Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador™ initiative is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) effort to formally recognize NOAA partners who are improving the nation's readiness, responsiveness, and overall resilience against extreme weather, water, and climate events. As a WRN Ambassador, partners commit to working with NOAA and other Ambassadors to strengthen national resilience against extreme weather. In effect, the WRN Ambassador initiative helps unify the efforts across government, non-profits, academia, and

private industry toward making the nation more ready, responsive, and resilient against extreme environmental hazards. Weather-Ready Nation (WRN) is a strategic outcome where society's response should be equal to the risk from all extreme weather, water, and climate hazards.



A Final Word ...

The Saint Cloud Amateur Radio Club has something to offer operators of all classes! From the prospective new ham studying to get their first technician class license to the experienced extra class DX chaser with a wall full of certificates!

We hold our monthly open meetings on the third Thursday of the month starting at 7:00 pm. On most Mondays starting at 5:00 pm and running to at least 6:00 pm we have activities night. Anyone can stop by the clubhouse to work on projects, ask questions, or just talk about anything on their mind.

To get more information on our club, and see a calendar of upcoming events, please visit our website at W0SV.ORG.

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Publications**