



The Gazette

STILLWATER • BAYPORT • OAK PARK HEIGHTS • LAKE ELMO

StillwaterGazette.com

VC

Birthday bash

Ham radio operators honor Minnesota's 163 years

BY MATT DEBOW
THE GAZETTE

With a view of the valley and the St. Croix River on a warm sunny Tuesday, amateur radio ham operators celebrated the state's 163rd birthday at Stillwater's Pioneer Park on May 11 by doing what they do best: talking to people across the country using ham radios.

South East Metro Amateur Radio Club Member Joe Hibberd said the event is a good way to expose the public to the hobby.

"It is Minnesota's birthday, and we as a club decided we wanted to celebrate that," Hibberd said. "We're always looking for opportunities to do special events out in the open. It's a way to test our emergency radio capabilities."

The amateur radio club selected the event Stillwater site because of its proximity to the place where Minnesota leaders met in 1848 to write a petition requesting Congress



SEMARC club member Joe Hibberd, left, launches a slingshot into a tree at Pioneer Park with the help of Roger Holger on May 11. The members were using the slingshot to reestablish a wire antenna above the park.