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St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

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KØAGF

www.stpaulradioclub.org
Club Repeater: 145.310 MHz
PO Box 9375
North St. Paul, MN 55109

NEWS AND NOTES FOR DECEMBER 2014 — Volume 74, Issue 12

Monthly Meeting

and

Holiday Party

December 5, 2014

UST OWS LL54

PROGRAM

An Introduction to Mobile HF Contesting

Jon Platt, WØZQ

Jon's presentation will discuss installation of mobile radios and antennas, operating methods, and how you can maximize your mobile radio fun.

First licensed in 1970, Jon has a wide range of interests and experiences in amateur radio. His early ham radio work introduced him to HF contesting and DXing, interests that he still pursues. Jon is also an active VHF operator and maintains a home station that is equipped for 1.8 through 3456 MHz. More recently Jon has experienced the fun of operating HF mobile and combining that with his interests in HF contesting. Over the last few years Jon has operated HF mobile in the South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas and Illinois QSO Parties.

Presidential Ponderings

THINGS PAST

Our November presentation on Digital Voice mode in the HF range provides yet another excellent (and in this case, FREE) method of improving upon our hearing problems with voice, both USB and LSB. Unlike D-Star (Icom) and Fusion (Yaesu), the FreeDV software is open to everyone to try. It is also open source, so it can be modified and improved by users in the user community. All of the above modes require a computer hookup. Of course, you could go with the original digital, CW . . . <grin>.

THINGS PRESENT

Remember that the upcoming December meeting includes our Christmas party. Please feel free to bring a small food contribution to add to the celebration, so we can be sure of eating enough to enjoy (and to regret it, if we're not careful). The club will provide a meat and cheese tray as well as the usual beverages.

The program for December will be Mobile DX'ing by Jon Platt. If you've ever thought about being a rover, this should really interest you.

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Dale's Details

Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

To follow up on last month's column, Paid membership continues to grow. We are over 110 now and others have made promises to catch up by the Auction. Thank you all once again.

My projections about members volunteering came out about right, but the reality check of actual members at the meeting added a new point to consider. It seems that the 20/80 split is correct, but it also works the other way too. I asked how many of the members also held leadership or committee seats in Other Clubs they belonged to, we found the reverse 20/80 split.

To be clear, the active and attending members of SPRC are also major participants in many other organizations of their interests. Thank you all again for assisting where you think your help is needed.

That still leaves our Club with many positions to fill. Let's try to fill the most needed first. The interim Secretary position tops the list. Fill in for Don Kelly this winter and practice up to for the job in 2016. We could furnish a digital recorder for use if you

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The OWS building is located on the University of St. Thomas (UST) South Campus.

From I-94, take Cretin Ave south about a mile to Grand Ave. Turn right, then park in the ramp on your left or the surface lot on the right. In general, on-campus parking re-

strictions are not enforced after 6:00 p.m. on Fridays, but do not park in spots with parking meters unless paying or displaying a handicapped placard.

Enter the building just north of the parking ramp and take the elevator (in the hallway to the right) or stairs to the lower level. LL54 is not far

from the stairs.

For detailed maps, see www.stthomas.edu/campusmaps.

OWS: Owens Science Hall

Contact Kim Schumann in Disability Services at 651-962-6315 or kjschumann@stthomas.edu for any accessibility requests.

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Our newsletter, the Ground Wave, is looking for some good articles on topics that you find interesting. If you would like to share your interests, please write a short article about it, to share with our members.

THINGS FUTURE

We are always looking for interesting programs for our members. If you have a source for a program that you think might interest the club, please contact Jay Maher <jay@umn.edu> with the contact information.

If you would like to present a program (or co-present a program) of your own interests, please contact Jay about it.

Upcoming meetings:

- January 9, 2015 (and our Auction on January 30)
- February 6, 2015
- March 6, 2015
- April 10, 2015
- May 1, 2015

See you at the next meeting, December 5th.

George, KØGCP

FACEBOOK USER?

Look for our group:

“St. Paul Radio Club”

UST Tobacco-Free

UST’s St. Paul and Minneapolis campuses are tobacco free.

In the St. Thomas policy, “tobacco” is defined as any lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, clove cigarette, hookah smoked products, electronic cigarettes and any other smoking product, as well as smokeless or spit tobacco, also known as kip, chew or snus. Promotion, sale and distribution of tobacco products and merchandise, including any items carrying tobacco logos, also are prohibited on the campuses or at any university-sponsored events.

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would like one.

Let’s try to get helper/backup people for John on door prizes and Jay on refreshments. Then go through the total list in the included minutes to see if there may be something that you would be able to help with.

The Auction crew will need some extra helpers this year too. With Don missing, a good keyboard and control guy would be great. I have auctioneers lined up, Jay KØQB, Ralph NØAWN, Mike KØBUD, with me and possibly Rolf from Eau Clair as backups. And note that Dallas wants to step aside as controller of the data next year. Join in this year to learn the ropes and be ready for 2016.

WØMR/KØAGF Field Day event was the top scoring club in the 2A MN section back in June! Yes, Section Manager Skip Jackson WØSJ, says he will deliver the Cup at a meeting soon. Thank you to all who participated, and we had fun doing it.

Please bring what you want to for the Holiday Party on December 5th. Cookies and sweets are always nice, crackers or chips with dips work well. The Club provides the meat and cheese tray, so some veggies with dip would be great. Orcy is bringing Herring, George is bringing nuts, and I’ll be bringing extra turkey parts from Thanksgiving! I’m thinking if I process all the leftovers into a spread and smear them on a flour tortilla and roll it up, slice it, what could go wrong?

Time to go back to Thanksgiving food planning and preparation, 40 pounds of turkey this year!

See you at the Meeting,

Dale NØPEY

This space is NOT intentionally left blank. It’s available for your input to the Ground Wave—and you haven’t submitted anything to fill it!

Minnesota Cup Skip Jackson, KSØJ, ARRL MN SM

We established the “Minnesota Cup” a few years ago for the highest field day scores in categories 2A and 3A in the Minnesota Section. Field day, like any event with a score, well may be viewed as a competitive event. My view is that field day is mostly for practice and fun but then, if there is a score associated with the event, it becomes a competition with some folks. That’s just a fact of life. You can still have fun.

This year’s winners for highest field day scores are: in category 3A, the winner is WØBM, The Rochester Radio Club (RARC) with 10,020 total points. In category 2A the winner is KØAGF, the combined operation of the Mining Amateur Radio Club (MARC) and the St. Paul Radio Club (SPRC) with 6,698 total points.

Each will receive a nice certificate for permanent display and a traveling trophy gold cup to be held for one year. Congratulations to both clubs for good work and their contributions to amateur radio. The St. Paul club is a Special Service Club as well.

Membership Meeting November 7, 2014

7:30 UST Radio Club: Tom Sturm (UST) called UST meeting to order, checked to see if any UST members are present. There being none present to conduct any business, Tom adjourned the meeting.

7:35 President George called the SPRC general meeting to order, and asked members to identify themselves. (first name, call sign, city, interest areas). We have 36 members and 6 guests present (including

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latecomers).

Secretary's Report: Posted in Ground Wave. There were no changes noted, so the minutes stand as posted.

Treasurer's Report: (Allan Klein sent in his report) Education \$877, Repeater \$1122, General \$4206 +new memberships.

Committee Reports:

Education: Advertising for classes or alternatives are continuing as a topic for the board to discuss.

Circuit Builders (Orcy Lyle): CB will meet Saturday, November 15 after the club breakfast.

Public Service/Emergency Communications (Ralph Bierbaum): Activities have declined (along with the temperatures), but most of the usual large activities have already posted their 2015 dates on their websites.

VE Exams (Leon Dill): session was last Saturday (11/1) with 7 applicants (all passed).

Old Business:

Remote operations: The board is still investigating setting up a UST radio station with remote access.

Volunteers needed: Dale spoke about the ongoing problems with getting volunteers to help run this club. We do a lot of activities (listed in the Ground Wave), and without a cadre of volunteers, some things do not get done. Tonight's example: due to some personal issues, our door prize / raffle chair could not attend the meeting, and we had no raffle. If members want an activity like the raffle, we need members to step up and help out.

New Business:

Special Service Club: Dale presented a certificate from the ARRL recognizing the SPRC status as a Special

Service Club.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:50.

Program:

Joe Heitzinger (KCØOIO), Keith Miller (AGØH), and Bob Jensen (WØGAF) provided an overview on the new software, FreeDV, which produces a digitized signal on any of the UHF/VHF/HF bands (it can even be used with FM) of your voice transmission. They showed the advantages: low bandwidth, clean audio, open source code (non-proprietary) etc. with the usual disadvantage of needing a computer to process the signal. They also talked about D-Star radios, and its advantages / disadvantages. A lively round of questions followed the presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00.

SPRC Auction 2015

Save the Date

Clean out the Basement

The 2015 St Paul Radio Club Auction will be on Saturday, January 31st at Our Lady of Guadalupe church.

Board Meeting

November 14, 2013

A meeting of the St. Paul Radio Club Board of Directors was called to order on November 14, 2014, at 7:30 PM by President George Power.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Power (KØGCP) President
John Faughn (KDØCAC) Vice Pres.
Jay Maher (NJØM) Board Member
Orcy Lyle (WØQT) Board Member
Dale Maroushek (NØPEY) Past Pres.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND OTHER INTERESTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

Treasurer's Report (Allan Klein, by email): General Fund \$5440, Repeater Fund \$1197, Education Fund \$922.

Membership: (Dale) Today's count 110 members.

Upcoming Programs (Jay):

December: John Platt on Mobile DXng (and the Christmas party)

January is open

February is open

March: Greg Widin—presentation on "Why I am an ARRL Member"

April is open

May: Lyle Koehler—program on Cheap and Easy SDR with the cheap USB dongles (including using one as a panadapter).

November Program: Feedback from the FreeDV presentation is that several people will probably try the program. The members liked the presentation.

April Meeting: Jay will confirm with UST room reservations that we want April 10th rather than the 3rd.

Christmas party: Jay will order the deli meat / cheese / buns tray (at \$1.75/person x 40 people) and extra coffee from UST catering services. We'll put a notice in the GW asking members to bring something to share (George will bring nuts). George will also bring a folding table for the food.

MN Cup: Note from Skip Jackson: Mining/SPRC clubs won the MN Cup for having the highest field day score in 2A in the section for field day 2014. He will attend a meeting and present it soon.

Remote Operation: Tom contacted the Astronomy department to see how they run remote telescope operations from off-campus. They are willing to share their expertise. The real issues before the club are not gear related, but rather how much demand is there for a remote HF station. Who will set it up and monitor it? This gets back to being a volunteer-run club.

Auction: Dallas has mentioned that he would like to be replaced as auction database keeper. If we want to speed up the data input process, and speed up checkouts, we need more nodes and

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data entry on the network, and some expertise on getting the network optimized. Several names were mentioned and board members will be contacting them for help. Dale is confirming the sound system and the food, and several people have been tapped as auctioneers.

Mesh Net: There is no news about the SEMARC Hamnet proposal from Jeff Walker. Jay has not hear from Jeff or Terry about it. From what board members have seen, this would be participation by individual members rather than a club function.

Repeater Battery: We will get a battery for backup on the repeater (on a low priority basis).

Volunteers: Floating in and around all of our discussion topics is the need for more volunteers (and how do we recruit them). We listed the usual functions (again), and will keep trying to find helpers for many of them, or maybe dropping some..

Functions and People:

Secretary and Board member, OPEN
Board member, Jay Maher
Program, Jay Maher

Meeting social events/refreshment chair, Jay Maher
Banquet chair, Jay Maher
Vice-President & Board member, John Faughn
Door prizes & raffle, John Faughn
Past President and Board member, Dale Maroushek
Membership registration, Dale Maroushek
GW mailer/database keeper, Dale Maroushek
Auction chair, Dale Maroushek
Treasurer & Board member, Allan Klein
Education chair, Allan Klein
Advertising (for classes, meetings) & public information, Allan Klein, George Power
Board member, Orcy Lyle
Circuit builders chair, Orcy Lyle
Board Member, Don Kelly
GW editor, Don Kelly (via email) (does not seek help)
Auction database, Dallas Fogg
Field Day coordinator, Ed Jacobson
Field Day food & refreshments, Dale Maroushek, George Power, Allan Klein, Jay Maher

VE team, Leon Dill
Public Service/EmComm, Ralph Bierbaum
Webmaster, Tom Bredemus (does not seek help)

Google Hangout: We are exploring using Google Hangout as a way of holding board meetings without having to drive to UST.

GW deadline: November 21st.

Mugs: We are running out of mugs (to give as tokens to our presenters). We agreed to look around at other promotional items, to replace the mugs.

An Awesome Project Your Name Goes Here

This space is available for your input to the Ground Wave—and you haven't submitted anything to fill it!

Writing isn't your thing? Send in your thoughts and your contact info for follow-up questions and the editor will put an article together.

Please send something to WA6ZMT at ARRL.net by November 21st for the December Ground Wave.

Fri Dec 5	7PM Socializing, 7:30 PM Membership Meeting and Holiday Party. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See Page 1.
Sat Dec 6	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Dec 12	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415)
Sat Dec 13	9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Dec 13	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Dec 20	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Dec 20	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Dec 27	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Jan 3	9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Fri Jan 9	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54.
Sat Jan 10	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Jan 16	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415)
Sat Jan 17	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Jan 17	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Jan 24	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Jan 31	8:30AM – 1:00PM SPRC Auction. Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 401 Concord St., St. Paul 55107

*Circuit Builders is each Saturday morning if someone is available to open the lab and there is no conflicting activity. Check the SPRCCB Google Group to confirm that the lab will be open.