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St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

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KØAGF

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NEWS AND NOTES FOR MARCH 2015 — Volume 75, Issue 3

Monthly Meeting

March 6, 2015
UST OWS LL54
7:00 pm Socializing
Membership Meeting 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

Why I am an ARRL Member

Greg Widin, KØGW

Are you a long-time ARRL member or someone just vaguely considering joining? In either case, you can probably only name a handful of benefits of membership. After Greg's presentation, you'll be an ARRL pro.

Greg, the ARRL Dakota Division Director, has been a ham (and ARRL member) for over 45 years. As well as serving in various ARRL positions since 2007, Greg is active in the Stillwater Amateur Radio Association, Twin Cities DX Association, and Minnesota Wireless Association.

Greg retired recently after 31 years at 3M.

His official bio is available at:
www.arlldakota.org/director.html

Presidential Ponderings

This column is my philosophical soap-box—sometimes good and sometimes not good, but always a place to ask questions and think about amateur radio. The March 6th meeting gives us all a chance to answer some questions about our club and the ARRL.

Greg Widin (KØGW) will talk about the ARRL and how we can and do interact with it, both individually and as a club.

The St Paul Radio Club is a ARRL affiliated Special Services Club. What does that designation mean to you? Does it fit the image that you have for the SPRC? Has being a club member helped you in any way, with your enjoyment of amateur radio?

At our April 10th meeting, you get to tell us how you got started in amateur radio, who helped you (Elmers) and where you want to go with the hobby. More details will be announced at the March meeting.

We are always looking for interesting programs for our members. We are also looking for special projects that might interest you.

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Dale's Details

Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

I just looked at the calendar--Daylight Savings Time starts March 8th! If I save 5 minutes a day until then, will I be right on time? Then St. Patty rolls through St. Paul looking for Leprechauns. Just follow the big green line down the street. Spring passes through on the 20th; wonder what it will bring this year?

Coming up March 14th we have two events--the Eau Claire Auction and the resurgence of the Magic Repeater Breakfast. Midwinter Madness is March 28th--we will have a booth and it will need members to tend it. I will attach the flyers accordingly.

I hear the St. Cloud Hamfest was ok, but a smaller turnout of both sellers and buyers. I wasn't there though.

You will see in the minutes that I brought up the possibility of changing the two meters net. The "usual attendees" gave their thoughts on the air and the board is aware of the talks. So here's the deal:

Currently, on Wednesdays at 1900, we normally gather in 5 to 9 people. Net length varies from 12 to 25 minutes. In the warmer months, people are still

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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 restrictions are not en-

forced 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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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.

If you have a special project that you are interested in doing as a club, please let me know.

See you at the next meeting, March 6th.

George, KØGC

SK

Howard Mark, K3HM formerly WØOZC

Past ARRL Dakota Division Director Howard Mark of Burnsville died on January 24. He was 81. An ARRL member, Mark was licensed in 1957. He was appointed as ARRL Dakota Vice Director in 1982 and Director from 1986 until 1993 when he moved out of the Division to Las Vegas, Nevada.

"Howard had been failing the last week or two, and his passing still comes with great sorrow to everyone," said Mike Sigelman (KØBUD), a good friend. "Howard Mark was a highly intelligent person who set a fine example of a great husband and family man and one very devoted to his friends and to our hobby! I know he will be missed by all of us."

During his 17 years in Las Vegas, Mark was an active member of the Las Vegas Radio Amateur Club (LVRAC) and held various club leadership roles.

Survivors include his wife, Margi. The family will hold a private memorial observance.

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outside and attendance drops to the 3 to 5 area. Net length drops to 5 to 10 minutes.

As a comparison, on Tuesday nights at 2030, the 2 Meter Mining Net will have over 10 attendees and can run for over an hour, all year long. The two nets are run similarly; have cross over net controls and go through the check-ins lists twice.

The Friendly Net on 10 meters, run by Marty (KAØNAN) starts pre-check-ins at 1945, regulars join in at 2000 and he says they are usually done by 2030. By the way, Marty would love to have more Net Controls for this net, too. We preferred to keep the nets on the same night so we didn't tie the members up on multiple nights. That might get more net controls too.

So, the discussion questions are:

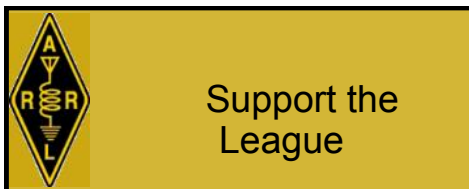
If you are a usual or occasional attendee, what do you think about moving the 2 Meter net to 2030?

If you are NOT a user at 1900, would you be likely to be one at 2030?

Do you have any other questions or comments? Please email your answers to me n0pey@arrl.net

The ARRL Field Day packet is available on the League web site, only four months away. That presentation you saw about Mesh Networks may be put into practice for our logging net. Hopefully the weather will be friendly this year at supper time so we don't have to swim upstream to get the meal. Once again, FD is the time to get your feet wet and join the volunteers who try to lead the troops into whatever forte they feel semi-confident in. Use it as a learning node, an information exchange or an experimental challenge.

Dale, NØPEY



Request for Historical Assistance

The Board has talked about this before and now we want to proceed with the possibility of getting an article printed in QST about our Auction and how it serves the ARRL. If you can help with information from your recollection, or take the time to dig through the January and February GWs for the last 30(?) years, here is what I'd like to know. Oh, and we need some good pictures including members, guests, equipment, auctioneers, food service, and control table shots.

When did the "original" auction start? I joined in 1991 and it was the small and fun event then.

When and who made the "motion" to pledge the profits of the sale to the Spectrum Defense Fund? This happened during our time in Room 304, so over six years ago.

About how much have we contributed over the years?

Locations, Methodist Church, St. Paul Vo-Tech, Red Cross, UST, North St. Paul Community Center, OLG Church...?

Any other anecdotes, recollections or comments about the festive day.

Please send the info to me at n0pey@arrl.net

Thank you,

Dale, NØPEY

FACEBOOK USER?

Look for our group:

"St. Paul Radio Club"

Opportunity to Meet Other Hams

SPRC is looking for a member who would be interested in going to Mankato on April 11th to represent us at the Minnesota Repeater Council meeting.

You don't need to be a repeater expert. This will be an opportunity to learn about how frequencies are assigned, upcoming issues that may be important to us, and to meet hams from across the state.

If this sounds interesting, contact President George (KØGC).

Time to Reminisce

At the April 10th meeting some of us will share how we got started in amateur radio, and the Elmers who helped us—or other interesting memories.

Think about how you met your Elmer, how he or she inspired you to get your license, how you felt when you were allowed to hold their microphone and talk to a far-away station for the first time. When was the last time you talked to your Elmer? Do you still have their QSL card? Is he or she still among us? These can be heart-warming tales that are sure to bring back smiles and memories to everyone present!

Membership Meeting February 6, 2015

George called the SPRC general meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and asked for Introductions. We had 28 members and 2 guests, plus our presenter (Total of 31).

Secretary's Report: There was one clarification to the General meeting minutes posted in the Ground Wave. Henry (KC9IMC) is working with Tom Sturm and others on the UST station with the intent of making it remotely accessible.

Treasurer's Report: Allan has renewed our club's liability insurance policy, and our corporate registration as a non-profit with the State of Minnesota. He has also sent our supporting check to Al (KØAD) for the 2015 Minnesota QSO Party (as we have done in the past). Fund balances: Education, \$922; Repeater, \$1197 (after expenses); and General, \$6431 (includes auction income).

Committee Reports:

Membership – Dale reports our current paid membership is 126.

Education - Allan reported that the board is considering not having a Spring 2015 class.

Circuit Builders - Orcy will have Circuit Builders tomorrow at 9:00AM.

Public Service/Emergency Communications - Ralph said that Richfield is looking for a Ham/CERT person to join their team.

VE Exams - Leon says that a testing session is scheduled for tomorrow, with details on the web page.

Old Business:

Auction results – Gross income \$1375, Expenses for food \$47 and rent \$225, Net income \$1103.

New Business:

1) MN QSO party tomorrow, 2) Skywarn classes start Feb 28 and run through May (listed at <http://metroskywarn.org>), 3) listed several upcoming Hamfests, and 4) the net manager of the Monday night 80m phone net is looking for additional net control volunteers (contact Norman Bierschbach, WOØA@arrl.org).

Business meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM, followed by a break.

Program was Mike Thompson AEØMT, "Arduino for Hams."

Meeting ended around 9:05 PM.

Board Meeting February 13, 2015

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
Allan Klein (WØNLY) Treasurer
Jay Maher (NJØM) Board Member
Orcy Lyle (WØQT) Board Member
Dale Maroushek (NØPEY) Past Pres.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND OTHER INTERESTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

1. License class

We decided not to offer the General license class this Spring. We are having problems (as are other clubs) with recruiting students who can take eight weeks of evening classes. Allan, our class coordinator has asked to be replaced.

An alternative discussed was to put links on our web page to YouTube videos (example: David Casler KEØOG has complete Technicians, General and Extra courses on-line, as do several other hams) and offering our club's "Elmers" if they have questions about the course materials. If students want hands-on learning environments, there are week-end courses for Techs (such as one in Roberts, WI on March 20-22, 2015).

If we go this route, we need to contact our list of Elmers to see if they are still available.

2. Upcoming Programs

Our March and May programs are set (3/6 is Greg Widin—presentation on "Why I am an ARRL Member," and 5/1 is Lyle Koehler—program on Cheap and Easy SDR (including using one as a panadapter with the cheap USB dongles).

But, the 4/10 meeting program is open.

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Our plan is to offer club members a chance to tell their favorite radio story. We'll give members 5 minutes to talk about anything they want that is radio related, such as their first or favorite Elmer, or how they got interested in ham radio, or when did they get their first QSO, etc. The "sky is the limit". We will need to recruit some speakers to get the talks going.

3. Banquet

The date has not been set yet, but we are favoring Saturday, April 11 or 18. Orcy will check with Ralph Fodor for availability, and then Jay will reserve the facility.

4. MN Repeater Council

We are looking for a club representative to attend the April 11, 2015 meeting of the Council, in Mankato. None of the board members can attend on that date. We'll recruit in the March Ground Wave, and we could also ask Terry (NGOIC) if he would like to represent us (besides his own repeater network).

5. Advertising for meetings

George will continue to use the radio reflectors to advertise our meetings.

6. Board meeting by video

We've discussed holding the board meetings by video conferencing rather than in person. George will work with Allan to test Google Hangouts.

7. Special Projects

Our last two special projects were the Foxhunt and the Special Event operating from the Transportation Museum, both of which were in 2011. We will put a note in the Ground Wave soliciting ideas. "Are there any activities that you've heard about in other clubs, that you would like to have the SPRC try?"

8. Remote radio station

Our position on the UST remote radio station is that "SPRC's involvement now is to encourage UST's progress with setting up the remote operation of their rigs. . . Primarily by providing financial support and some physical labor and assistance, as UST lets us know how we can help."

Allan brought up the schedule, which will aim at getting a station operational over this summer.

9. Dale's goodies

We are considering changing the time or day/night of the SPRC 2-meter net. The present Wednesday night net at 7:00 PM draws a core of 4-6 people, but seldom has more attendees. It seems like a lot of work on the part of the Net Control Operators for a very limited response. Options tossed around include moving it to follow Marty's "Friendly Net" at 8:00, or to try another night. This change is still in the early stages of consideration.

We will send a check for \$1,000.00 to the ARRL for the Spectrum Defense Fund. We are looking for alternate database options for the auction, as Dallas is retiring from his years of auction database manager. Both free and commercial options are being considered.

As a recruiting incentive for a Secretary volunteer, we will purchase a digital recorder to help the volunteer with taking notes of the minutes of both the General and the Board meetings.

The meeting ended around 8:10PM.

Classified Ads

Have something of interest to your fellow hams? Highlight it in the Ground Wave for free.

Fri Mar 6	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See Page 1
Sat Mar 7	9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arll.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Mar 7	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Mar 13	7PM SPRC Board meeting. OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) **
Sat Mar 14	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Mar 14	8AM – 2PM 28 th Annual Eau Claire ARC Auction, Saving Grace Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI
Sat Mar 21	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling
Sat Mar 21	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Mar 28	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Mar 28	8 AM – 1 PM Midwinter Madness Hamfest, Buffalo Civic Center, Buffalo, MN
Sat Apr 4	9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arll.net or 651-688-9964
Fri Apr 10	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54
Sat Apr 11	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Apr 17	7PM SPRC Board meeting. OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) **
Sat Apr 18	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling
Sat Apr 18	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Apr 18	9AM – 1PM Brainerd Area ARC Hamfest. National Guard Armory, 1115 Wright St., Brainerd, MN 56401
Sat Apr 25	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*

*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.

** Depending on business to be considered, Board Meetings are sometimes held electronically. Check with an officer or board member to confirm that the meeting will be at UST.