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St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

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KØAGF

www.stpaulradioclub.org
Club Repeater: 145.310 MHz
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NEWS AND NOTES FOR FEBRUARY 2016 — Volume 76, Issue 2

Monthly Meeting

February 5, 2016

UST OWS LL54

7:00 pm Socializing

Membership Meeting 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

Low Voltage Wiring Skip Jackson, KSØJ

Skip will talk about low voltage wiring and circuit protection methods for amateur radio, including power poles and rig runners along with associated parts and tooling—covering best practices and workmanship techniques. Skip will bring along sample tooling and parts.

Skip Jackson is a retired engineer and technician. He is currently serving his fifth term as the ARRL Minnesota Section Manager

FACEBOOK USER?

Look for our group:

“St. Paul Radio Club”

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-

2016 SPRC Auction Another Success



Not only was the auction a good time to be had by all, preliminary numbers indicate that the St. Paul Radio Club will be able to donate about \$800.00 to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund.

Photo by Dawn Holmberg



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Complete details will be in the March Ground Wave. Additional photos soon at www.stpaulradioclub.org

A little something for everyone at the auction—an opportunity to buy and sell stuff, chat, drink coffee, eat treats, and take a quick nap.

Photo by Jeffrey A. Iverson

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.

Presidential Ponderings

After a week of entertaining our son, daughter-in-law, and two young grandsons (ages 5 and 3), we are recuperating with mixed feelings. We're happy that they have returned safely to their home near Washington DC just before the winter storm, but we already miss the high energy level that youngsters can bring to our quiet home. Watching the grandkids interact with each other, sometimes with consideration but more likely competition, reminds me of some radio operators (a very few) squabbling over a point of interest on a local repeater.

As part of their visit, they were interested in my radios and wanted to talk to each other (they have observed cell phones but do not have personal phones—yet). I hauled out two FRS radios, gave them some simple instructions, and let them have at it. Once they learned that the Push-To-Talk button needed to be pushed to say something, and then released to listen, the "fun" began. One would deliberately hold down the PTT to block the other, and then they would yell at each other between rooms. Or you could hear parts of conversations (sort of like the old "telephone" game in grade school) where the message never really got through. Finally, one or the other would give up in frustration and give up his radio, only to retrieve it later to try again.

Their behavior pattern(s) remind me of some ongoing conversations I have heard in the last three months on a local Minneapolis repeater, usually around noontime or sometime in the evening drive time. The conversation between two or three would be interrupted by another person, often highly opinionated on the topic, and occasionally the conversation would end with the "open mike" problem. At least no sign of swearing. Also, if memory serves me right, one of the

marathons last year had substantial interference on one of the race nets, from some person who apparently did not like what was going on.

I certainly don't know how to stop the behavior issues between hams. How do we get adults to "grow up?" With the grandsons, time will probably solve the issues and we may have two new licensed hams in a few years. I hope they will be interested.

George, KØGCP



Dale's Details

Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

This is a test drive for the article we intend to send to the ARRL for a QST article. If you see errors or have additional information that I may be able to fit in, please send it to me. This is far from finished and everyone is invited to help.

St. Paul Radio Club Auction History

A long long time ago, in a meeting room somewhere in St. Paul, Minnesota (the exact location forgotten for now), a Ham Radio Auction was held to raise money for the Club treasury. Our oldest active members remember this event in the 1950s and 1960s. As with any Club home, the venues changed over the years from one free place to another. The Auction became an annual January event. Members and others brought in gear to sell and bidders battled it out for the best deals or just collected junk box stuff to filter through later.

My first auction was in 1992, just months after the Ham Radio hook had been set and the license obtained. Now, I have been to auctions of many kinds over the years, and this one was,

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.

in today's terms, "Outside the Box." Although the auctioneers were very knowledgeable and could describe the gear they were selling, they also added the beginnings of an improvisational comedy show with it. Not to be outdone or belittled, the bidders quipped back with equally barbed comments. In the Ham Club world, we now call that Friendship.

The auction years flew by, with the auctioneers, attendees and rules changing. The Club membership is dropping from its prime 250 mark slowly down to our current 120 mark. Why? Because other clubs with better offers or locations started up and our members were facing transfers to other areas, or just getting too old to attend. We still have fun and make some money for the Club, but as our membership decreases so does our leadership base.

In my years with the Club, we've held our meetings on the first Friday of the month, moving to the second Friday if there was a Holiday conflict. The meetings went from the Hamline Methodist Church to the St. Paul Vocational School to the Red Cross Building

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to the current location, the University of St. Thomas. Each location had stairs to contend with and difficult unloading space for the auction. A proposal to the Board to make some rules changes, improve our logging software, move the date to the last Saturday of January and find a user-friendly location with no stairs was approved. This also gave the bidders a month to pay off Christmas bills, so they had dollars to spend at the Auction!

In January 2011 and 2012, we moved into the North St. Paul Community Center. That closed and became a school. Since 2013 our new home is the Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Hopefully we will be able to stay there for awhile.

The main reason to have the auction originally was to make money for the Club. During the late 1990s and into 2000, the treasury was close to rock bottom. By making some operational changes and the generosity of the membership, a few years later the Club had a happy bank account again. But that is another story for another time.

Somewhere in those years, a motion from the membership was made, discussed, and passed that the profits from the auction be donated to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund. (I'm getting some real facts from Allan on this.) So now every February the ARRL gets a check from the Club to help protect our air waves.

Best Christmas Ever 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 for the next Ground Wave.

National Parks on the Air

An ARRL year-long event for 2016
Art Thell, NØIWQ

As noted in the January QST, ARRL and the National Park Service have entered into a joint year-long event that can enhance both entities. Details, including registration (activation), awards, access information, maps, etc. are available on the ARRL website under "National Parks on the Air."

This is a great opportunity for local hams because we have six qualified areas in Minnesota, one of which is right here in the Twin Cities. The MNRRA stretches along the Mississippi from MM (mile marker) 805 below Red Wing to MM 880 in Ramsey and includes substantial land areas.

Arrangements should be made with local park management prior to activation of any site. Maps and contact information are available on links to the sites. The six areas are:

MN 42 Grand Portage National Monument

RV 04 Mississippi National River and Recreational Area

TR 04 North Country National Scenic Trail

MN 61 Pipestone National Monument

WR 09 St. Croix National Scenic Waterway

NP 54 Voyageurs National Park

This need not be a club event—it can easily be a short-term effort for an individual or small group with each operator using his/her own activated call sign. The ARRL setup is based on 'Activators' and 'Chasers'. Activators activate a site for a specific length of time (via the website). That, or another site, can be reactivated again during the year by the same activa-

tors (or others) for another span of time. Chasers (responders) participate in exchanges much as in any other contest. Exchange information is site code (e.g. MN 42). All logging is done via LOTW, so daily upload is suggested if using other logging software.

My understanding is that the (/#) is no longer required for off-base operating and several operators suggested that this detail not be used for simplicity in logging and attaining confirmations. I worked one on January 2 and it was flawless. My exchange (which was uploaded to LOTW) appeared on the leader board the next day. Have fun!

ARRL Update

At the 2016 ARRL Annual Meeting, Greg Widen (KØGW) was elected First Vice President.

Kent Olson (KAØLDG) of Horace ND was named to replace Widen as Dakota Division Director.

Jay Bellows (KØQB) continues as International Affairs Vice President.

In a recent email, Olson said "My goals for the Division is the same as the ARRL's Mission Statement - To advance the art, science, and enjoyment of Amateur Radio. Each of us enjoys this great hobby and we each have the ability to advance it through different means. Whether you're a DXer, contester, VE, instructor, Field Day aficionado, moonbouncer, or just plain rag chewer, there's always something to do and to give back to our hobby. So get on the air, promote amateur radio, get someone licensed and continue what Hiram Percy Maxim envisioned."

The Dakota Division website is www.arlldakota.org

The Minnesota Section website is www.mn-section.org

If you're not an ARRL member, consider joining to support the organization that supports our hobby.

Membership Meeting January 8, 2016

No one from the UST Radio Club was present at 7:30 p.m.

George Power (KØGCP) called the SPRC Membership Meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Everyone was invited to introduce themselves. 31 members and one guest were present.

Secretary's Report: There were no corrections to the December minutes as printed in the Ground Wave.

Treasurer's Report: Allan Klein (WØNLY) Reported that the General Fund is \$5,402; the Education Fund \$962 and the Repeater Fund \$1,262 (\$762 after the \$500 repeater purchase).

Committee Reports:

Membership—Dale Maroushek

(NØPEY) reported that we have 112 paid members.

Circuit Builders—Orcy Lyle (WØQT) will hold the CB session tomorrow (1/9) in OSS415.

Public Service—Ralph Bierbaum (NØAWN) recently spent time with the Pet Disaster Unit at RiverCentre. The next scheduled activity is the John Beargrease Marathon at the end of January.

VE Sessions: Leon Dill (WØCOE)—there will be a VE session tomorrow, 1/9. The next one is 2/6.

Old Business:

Mining Club—Everything has been moved to storage in anticipation of finding a new shack location soon.

New Business:

The new repeater trustee is Mike Thompson (AEØMT).

The club has purchased a Yaesu DR-

1X System Fusion repeater; no date has been set for implementation.

The auction is 1/30 at 8:30 a.m., set-up at 6:00 p.m. Friday evening.

CQ160 CW and SSB contests and MN QSO Party events will be at Dale's home with the Mining club. Contact Ed WBOVHF@arrl.net.

The Business meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Program—Jim Mohn (NØRQR) Presented his experience in grounding public service radio facilities throughout Minnesota, and we discussed implications for our own shacks.

Board Meeting January 15, 2016

As there was no pressing business, the board did not hold a meeting in January.

Fri Feb 5 7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See Page 1.
Sat Feb 6 10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Feb 6 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Feb 12 7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) **
Sat Feb 13 9AM – 1PM Cabin Fever Reliever Hamfest, St Cloud Armory, St. Cloud, MN
Sat Feb 13 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Feb 20 9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Feb 20 After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Feb 27 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Mar 4 7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54.
Sat Mar 5 10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Mar 5 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Mar 5 8AM – 2PM 29th Annual Eau Claire ARC Auction, Saving Grace Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI
Fri Mar 11 7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) **
Sat Mar 12 8 AM – 1 PM Midwinter Madness Hamfest, Buffalo Civic Center, Buffalo, MN.
Sat Mar 19 9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Mar 19 After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Mar 26 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.