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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 SEPTEMBER 2015 — Volume 75, Issue 9

#### Monthly Meeting

September 11, 2015

UST OWS LL54

7:00 pm Socializing

Membership Meeting 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

#### Unique Antenna Tuner

John Hines, NØKCJ

John will tell us about the antenna tuner he has developed to use with his "small transmitting loop." Seeking an inexpensive and effective solution, he has been experimenting with a tunable water-dielectric capacitor, resulting in the excitement of high voltage, high current, mechanical failures and sparking. All the stuff hams live for. He'll be demonstrating the loop and antenna tuner on the lawn outside Owens Science Hall around 6:45 p.m..

John explains that, having spent most of his life and career in mechanical/electronic endeavors, it was almost inevitable that he would acquire an amateur radio license. KBØDOR came into being, but not for long as he upgraded to Technician, General, and Advanced class. As a Tech, he was granted the call sign NØKCJ and has kept it through all the upgrades because he just liked it!

#### Presidential Ponderings

I'm taking a break from my Not-So-Great Philosophical Ranting from the soapbox this time, but am offering a few points to ponder.

With all of the political in-fighting going on in Washington (which I try to ignore), I often forget that some legislation can affect amateur radio directly, and that we can help our hobby with a little effort. Specifically, both the House and Senate have versions of the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 under consideration. Both versions need supporters, and I would ask you to write to your Representatives and Senators to ask their support for the passage of the Act. For more information, you can go to [www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act](http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act) and read all about it.

If you hear a call for help from the Mining Radio Club, as they work through their relocation this Fall, please step up to help. We've had a great working relationship with them, primarily through our combined Field Day activities, and I hope we can keep it going.

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#### Dale's Details

Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

What a summer! Weather has been fantastic and my family has really enjoyed it.

Let's start with a short recap of Field Day and the SPRC Picnic, both very successful operations this year. The stations were covered the full 24 hours, a nice 6 Meter opening Sunday morning, and lots of band activity for our non-contest scoring. I saw a report of 6,600 points from Ed WBØVHF.

Since this was to be the Last Event at Tartan Park, due to 3M closing it all by December, we spent some extra money and had a rib eye steak fry-- along with burgers, dogs, and brats. We did some chicken breasts, too. The 12 years of practice we had out there made the operation smooth with no problems.

Mining Club had their last picnic on August 18<sup>th</sup> and we got the latest status report-- which is we still have nothing for sure to report. If we have to move out, which is likely, we have to be out by November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hopefully, some of our members will lend a hand to our cooperative club partner-

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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](http://www.stthomas.edu/campusmaps).

OWS: Owens Science Hall

Contact Kim Schumann in Disability Services at 651-962-6315 or [kjschumann@stthomas.edu](mailto:kjschumann@stthomas.edu) for any accessibility requests.

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Public Service Events coming up:

**Biking:** Cystic Fibrosis Cycle for Life (Sept 19), contact NØBHC@ScottARES.org for details.

**Walking:** American Diabetes Assoc. Step Out for Life, Stillwater (Oct 3).

**Running:** Twin Cities Marathon (Oct 4).

**On-the-air:** Boy Scouts JOTA (tentatively Oct 16-18).

Swapfests:

Lake Elmo Tailgate Swapfest, Sept 19, see <http://www.magicrepeater.net/marty.htm> for details.

Serendipity happens! While at Field Day this June, we found John Hines (NØKJ) in a corner of the lot (away from the CW and SSB rigs) working with a home-built tuning device for his loop antenna. He uses distilled water rather than the usual metal circuits as his variable capacitor, to tweak his signals. With a little gentle arm-twisting, John has agreed to demonstrate his rig at our September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Weather permitting, he will be set up on the lawn outside OWS around 6:45 PM. You might like to get to the meeting a bit earlier in September, to see his demo.

George, KØGCP

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ship.

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 days after FD, I left with my family on vacation to the Black Hills and Devils Tower, the same trip we did seven years ago on our first RV trip. Two days out to Custer, rented a car, spent three days and toured the sites we had picked. Crazy Horse, Rushmore, Bear Country, Cosmos, Needles Drive, Mammoth Digs, Wind Cave, Custer Park, Hill City and a cowboy supper nearby. Between the four cameras and phones, we have lots of pictures to process.

Then off to Devils Tower via Sturgis and Spearfish. Parked at the KOA, right under the Tower. What a view. So I celebrated my 66<sup>th</sup> birthday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, watching “Close Encounters of a Third Kind” at the site itself. Someday I’ll tell you about the annual RV problem we had this year. We have something happen every year, but this was not to bad and only cost \$350 to repair.

September is the beginning of the new dues year and a copy of the App is attached. I only need information that has changed since your last App. Your name, callsign, correct email and phone number are the top of the list.

The annual Auction will be January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Save the date and sell or donate gear to the event.

Dale, NØPEY

## Board Meeting August 21, 2015

George called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Power (KØGCP) President  
Dale Maroushek (NØPEY) Past Pres.  
Don Kelly (WA6ZMT) Secretary (by telephone)  
Jay Maher (NJØM) Member at Large  
Mike Thompson (AEØMT) Member at Large

### BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Allan Klein (WØNLY) Treasurer (excused)  
John Faughn (KDØCAC) Vice Pres.  
Orcy Lyle (WØQT) Member at Large

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND OTHER INTERESTED MEMBERS PRESENT: None

Treasurer’s Report—Alan sent word that we’re in good condition.

\$922 Education Fund  
\$1,197.24 Repeater Fund  
\$3,995.13 Club General Fund

Upcoming Programs—The September 11<sup>th</sup> program will be John Hines, Water-dielectric antenna tuner. He’ll demo it on the lawn at 6:45, weather permitting.

October, Art Thell, Off-center-fed antennas.

November, Working on trying to get Clarence Netwall for a longer presentation on Bletchley Park.

Future Programs—Mike offered to come up with something.

UST Reservations—Haven’t received room confirmations.

Licensing Classes—Mike offered to teach weekend classes, but prefers not to be responsible for coordinating/recruiting students. We have not yet identified the on-line videos to recommend for training.

Mentors—George is starting to contact members to be available to

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## General License Class

The Stillwater Amateur Radio Association will again be hosting a General Licensing Class this fall. Classes will be held from 6 to 8 pm beginning Thursday September 17 and will meet each Thursday evening for eight weeks at the Stillwater Public Library.

A VE session will be held on November 12.

The class will use the ARRL General Class License Manual 8th Edition as the basis of the training.

For questions and more information please contact Bob Jensen

[W0GAF@me.com](mailto:W0GAF@me.com)  
612-802-2269

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mentor students.

Auction Software—Have copy of programs we have been using. Requires Microsoft Access. No one volunteered to look at it. Some open source options are available. The potential users should review them—George, Allan and Don. Jay will forward the links.

Mugs—Mugs have been ordered, will be here in 1 1/2 weeks.

Remote Operation at UST—Remote Shack.com and other similar sites were discussed briefly. Little interest has been shown for UST remote operations. Don said Fr. Paul (KØCGA) has expressed interest—George will follow up with him. A member is setting up his personal station for remote operation. Rotator capability should come soon, working on antenna switch for future. Could be available to UST members for occasional use. George will check at last meeting to see how many members are interested in remote access. Don said he would be happy to coordinate usage of remote operation.

Remove Tower—Son of SK has asked for help to remove tower. John Faughn is following up.

VE Session Location—Changed to Ramsey County Library.

Ground Wave Filler—George provided information about W4DXCC convention in Pigeon Forge TN.

International Membership—George advises them that we do not have membership certificates.

2016 Auction—Last weekend in January. Dale will make arrangements for church.

Lake Elmo Hamfest—Last hamfest of the year. Dale will send flyer with the Ground Wave.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

## Lake Elmo Tailgate Swap Fest

**September 19, 2015 8am-12 noon**

**8247-27th St N Lake Elmo MN 55042**

**Talk in 146.850 or 146.520**

**There is ample parking for spaces for sellers**

**Inside tables, if needed, are supplied.**

**Special needs parking available.**

**Refreshments are available.**

**A great opportunity to renew friendships and greet new hams.**

**94 East to County RD. 13 (Inwood / Radio Drive)**

**Or**

**694 to east to 10th ST then east to County 13 (Inwood)**

**then**

**North to 27th St N. Then west to 8247**

**Oh, by the way, it's free!**

## Countdown to W4DXCC

September 25-26 2015<sup>th</sup> - MainStay Suites and Conference Center, Pigeon Forge, TN



**W4DXCC is a DX and Contest Convention held in Pigeon Forge, TN and it's our 11th year. If you're a DXer, Contester or just an active ham you should attend this year.**

The attendees enjoy the fellowship of other hams and share their experiences. They meet old friends and make new ones. Once you attend you will be back every year. Representatives from top equipment manufacturers will be on hand to demo new equipment and answer your questions One on One.

This will be the most informative and relaxed DX and Contest convention you have ever attended, not to mention the many great prize drawings.

### **Ham Radio Bootcamp**

This year convention attendees can attend a day long **Ham Radio Bootcamp** training session on Friday. Experienced hams teach new and old hams about building shacks and antennas, learn how to operate better while DXing and Contesting. There is something for every ham.

### **It's Time to make your reservations**

- 1) Call the Mainstay convention hotel at [865-428-8350](tel:865-428-8350) to book your room and be sure to ASK for SEDCC special rates
- 2) Call Rosie KA4S at [865-898-2279](tel:865-898-2279) for Convention and Banquet tickets.

For More Details Visit us at - [www.W4DXCC.com](http://www.W4DXCC.com)



St. Paul Radio Club, Inc.  
PO Box 9375  
North St. Paul, MN 55109

## ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Sat Sep 5	10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Fri Sep 11	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See Page 1.
Sat Sep 12	(No Circuit Builders)
Fri Sep 18	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415)
Sat Sep 19	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Sep 19	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Sep 19	8 – NOON. Lake Elmo Swapfest. 8247-27th ST. N. Lake Elmo, MN 55042
Sat Sep 26	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Oct 2	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54.
Sat Oct 3	10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Oct 3	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Oct 10	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Oct 17	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Oct 17	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Oct 24	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Oct 31	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.