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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 OCTOBER 2012 — Volume 72, Issue 7

OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 5, 2012

New Location

UST OSS LL18

7:00 PM

The OSS 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 into the UST South Campus. Park in the ramp on your left or the surface lot ahead to the right. In general, on-campus parking restrictions are not enforced after 6:00 PM on Fridays, but do not park in spots with parking meters unless paying or displaying a handicapped placard.

Enter either of the buildings north of the parking ramp and take the elevator or stairs to the lower level. LL18 is at the north end of the main hallway.

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

OSS: O' Shaughnessy Science Hall

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

October Program

DIGITAL MODES: GETTING STARTED

Joe Heitzinger, KCØOIO

Digital modes and amateur radio have gone together back to the very beginning with CW and have been evolving ever since. RTTY became popular in the 50's and 60's as surplus Teletype machines became widely available. Personal computers opened a whole new world of possibilities for operating in digital modes, and amateur radio operators have developed and embraced a multitude of sound-card digital modes such as PSK, MT63, Olivia and many more.

Joe Heitzinger, KCØOIO, will present digital modes today, and how you can begin to enjoy and explore the possibilities they present. The presentation touches upon the variety of hardware and software options, and introduces the various digital modes commonly used today. Rigs, sound card interfaces, multi-mode software and modes (PSK, Contestia, Thor, Hellschrieber...).

Joe earned his Technician ticket in 2002, General in 2003 and Extra in 2005. He is Vice President of the Stillwater Amateur Radio Association, has served as EC for Washington County ARES, and continues to serve as an AEC. He was the Amateur Radio Coordinator for ADA Tour-De-Cure for a number of years until

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Presidential Ponderings

THINGS PAST

Our search for our monthly meeting space is a success. The University of St. Thomas Radio Club, working with Joe Kreitzer, has arranged for a space in the O'Shaughnessy Science Hall (OSS) on the SW corner of Cretin and Summit, Room LL-18 (usually there is free parking in the lot west of the building). It has enough room for all of us, and space in the hallway for refreshments, etc. If you are not familiar with the building, it is on the southwest corner of Cretin and Summit Avenues. The elevators are on the east end of OSS, and we are down in LL-18.

More public service events completed by SPRC members: Ojibwe Forest Rally on 8/25, Harvest Duathlon on 9/1, Cystic Fibrosis Ride for Life on 9/22.

THINGS PRESENT

Dale Maroushek is working with Robert Oswald's (WØRCO) estate and may have a list out shortly, for the November period.

Allan Klein has gotten off to a good start with the Washington Magnet School Radio Club (he is helping teach radio theory and practice). The classes meet on Tuesday afternoons from 1:45PM to 3:00PM and currently there are 17 students working on building a radio. If you might be interested in teaching some aspect of our amateur hobby to in-

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handing over the lead of the event to Hennepin County Sheriff's MARC this year. He is active in Scouting, serving as an Assistant Scoutmaster and as a Radio Merit Badge Counselor for Boy Scouts in St. Paul. He is also a Life Member of the St Paul Police Band, and yes, still finds time for ham radio! He is married, with a son, Jake KDØJTG, off to college this year. He lives in St Paul near I-35E and Randolph.

Today's digital modes open a whole new world of operating opportunities--be sure to see and hear about them this month at the SPRC October meeting!

Interested in an official St. Paul Radio Club name badge? They are available from Tag-Me Engraving (<http://www.tagme-engraving.com/>). The cost is \$9.00 plus shipping and tax. They accept PayPal on their web-

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terested kids, please contact Allan (WØNLY@arrl.org).

Jay Maher is working on programs for the rest of Fall quarter. It looks like November will have Randy Gawtry of Timewave Technology, Inc., presenting Ham Radio Deluxe, and December will have Dan Fish from Radio City presenting his views on the latest in Chinese radios.

THINGS FUTURE

Upcoming public service events: October 6, American Diabetes Walk in Stillwater, October 7 Twin Cities Marathon, October 20 & 21 Boy Scouts JOTA (from your home station).

For you CW devotees, the Stillwater Area Radio Association is running a slow-speed CW net (for rusty oldsters and new CW folks), called the

River Valley Slow Speed Net. See www.radioham.org and click on the CW link for details.

As you might expect, each of us has a special interest in some aspect of amateur radio. Some folks are into DX'ing, some are into CW, some are into building and experimenting (a.k.a. Circuit Builders), and some are into FM and repeaters. My bias is for public/community service radio in the 2m/70cm FM area, so many of my comments are slanted into that arena.

If you would like to provide more information on other areas of amateur radio, especially upcoming events that might interest your club members, please write a short article or list of events for the Groundwave. Don Kelly, our newsletter editor, would appreciate more articles.

Several events to look forward to planning: Christmas party, January auction, club banquet, etc. If you want your favorite activity listed, let me know about it. If you have suggestions, please feel free to contact me at georgecpower@gmail.com, or through the club address in the newsletter.

Upcoming hamfests include:

Red River Radio Amateurs Hamfest 2012, September 29th, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Carlton County R.A.C.E.S. FALLFEST, Saturday Sept 29th, 9 a.m. to noon.

For details, see the MAGIC repeater website: <http://www.magicrepeater.net/marty.htm>.

George, KØGCP

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!

Board Meeting

September 14, 2012

A meeting of the St. Paul Radio Club Board of Directors was called to order on September 14, 2012, at 7:06 PM by President George Power.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Power, KØGCP, President
Dale Maroushek, NØPEY, Past President

Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN, Secretary
Jay Maher, NJØM, At-large Board Member

John Faughn, KDØCAC, At-large Board Member

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND OTHER INTERESTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

Orcy Lyle, WØQT

Thanks to September GW contributors: Tom Bredemus for article on John Hunt; Dale Maroushek for Estate Planning; Allan Klein for the Community Education article; Leon Dill for the VE Exams report.

Rooms to meet in for Fall Quarter: Scoped out OSS 313 and OSS LL18. Either will work. OSS 313 is first choice, OSS LL18 is second choice. Dale will check with Joe about availability.

Ground Wave deadline for next issue is Sept 21.

Programs for October and November: Randy on Ham Radio Deluxe is good for November. October is still open. There are some good videos on using an MFJ antenna analyzer available.

Skip Jackson has updated the club membership application.

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Support the League
www.arrl.org/join

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We updated the club brochure and discussed the ongoing issues of updating of membership database and web site.

We will hold a Technician License class in February-March as part of the St. Paul Community Education program. Allan Klein is coordinating.

Washington School project status: with John's passing Allan Klein is heading this up. He needs additional volunteers.

Our repeater is "on-line" status and Minnesota Repeater Council records should be updated.

Auction plans for January: The auction site in North St. Paul that we have used the last two years is under different management and may not be available for a reasonable cost. We will look into Our Lady of Guadalupe church in St. Paul as a possible site.

We have in our possession a Yaesu FT-1000MP Mark V Field with Heil HM-10 desk mike from the estate of WØRCO that we have volunteered to sell/auction off. Might we want to purchase it ourselves as a club station? Our old Icom is getting very dated. George made a motion that we offer the estate \$1000. John seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey A. Iverson, WB9DAN, Secretary

"Real" RTTY Equipment

Would you like a Teletype model 15 or two? How about a HAL ST-6 RTTY Terminal Unit?

Contact Don Kelly, WA6ZMT, right away at 952 474-2766 or dk@donkelly.biz.

Sources of Ham Info

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Whether you're a newcomer or an old-timer, the Internet is possibly the best way to learn as much as you can about amateur radio. On the Internet, you'll find many, many ham radio mailing lists, podcasts, and videos. In essence, these resources give you access to hundreds, if not thousands, of Elmers.

One mailing list that I always suggest to new hams is the HamRadioHelpGroup (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HamRadioHelpGroup>). The purpose of this group is to help "those who are interested in getting started in Amateur Radio or upgrading their license." This mailing list has a good mix of beginners and experts, and most questions are answered quickly and correctly. One thing that I really like about this group is that the moderators do a good job of keeping the discussions on track, and will squelch them when they stray off topic or threaten to turn into flame wars.

In addition to the HamRadioHelpGroup, you might also want to join a more targeted mailing list. For example, if you're interested in learning Morse Code (hint, hint), you might join the SolidCpyCW list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SolidCpyCW/>). If you just bought a Yaesu FT-60 hand-held transceiver, you might want to join the FT-60 list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FT-60/>). Chances are that no matter what your interest, there's probably a mailing list to discuss that interest.

I'm subscribed to a lot of amateur radio mailing lists and could probably spend most of my day just reading and replying to them. In order to get the most out of them, without them taking away from my on-air time, I only read those threads that I am really interested in, and even then, I quit reading them once they have started to drift off-topic. I also un-subscribe myself from lists that cover topics that I'm no longer interested in.

Blogs, podcasts and videos

In addition to getting on a few mailing lists, you might want to read a few blogs and subscribe to podcasts. These are also great sources of information about ama-

teur radio. I blog about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com, and lots of hams find it a good source of information. You can find a list of other ham radio blogs that I'd recommend on my home page.

Podcasts are also a good source of information. One podcast that you might want to check out is the Practical Amateur Radio Podcast (<http://www.myamateurradio.com>). Since 2008, Jerry, KDOB1K, has been producing PARP, and currently has more than 50 different episodes online. For other podcasts, consult the list on Jerry's home page.

Finally, there are literally thousands of amateur radio videos on the net. On YouTube alone, there are approximately 32,000 of them. The American Radio Relay League has its own channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ARRLHQ>), but perhaps the most popular amateur radio video channel is the K7AGE channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/K7AGE>). K7AGE has more than 6,200 subscribers and his videos have garnered more than 2.1 million views!

Whatever source or sources of information you select, remember to not let them take up too much of your time. Ham radio is about more than just reading, listening, or watching. It's about doing!

When he's not answering yet another e-mail, Dan blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com, teaches ham classes, and ragchews on 30m and 40m CW. You can e-mail him with comments or questions at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Classified Ads

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

Your Membership Has Expired

Well, probably.

Each fall, we renew our membership in SPRC. Please complete a membership application and bring it to the meeting or mail it to the PO Box.



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Meeting locations at UST are subject to change due to changes on The University of St Thomas campus.

Fri Oct 5	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. See page 1. UST classroom OSS LL-18
Sat Oct 6	9AM VE testing followed by EC exams. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Oct 6	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Oct 12	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415)
Sat Oct 13	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Oct 20	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling
Sat Oct 20	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Oct 27	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Nov 2	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. Program – R. Gawtry – Ham Radio Deluxe , UST classroom OSS LL-18
Sat Nov 3	9AM VE testing followed by EC exams. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Nov 3	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Tues Nov 6	Election Day
Fri Nov 9	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415)
Sat Nov 10	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Nov 17	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Nov 17	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Nov 24	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.