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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 2014 — Volume 74, Issue 9

Monthly Meeting

September 5, 2014

UST OWS LL54

7:00 pm Socializing

Membership Meeting 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

Antenna Analyzers

Your antenna analyzer is great for measuring impedance, SWR, and for holding open the pages of the Antenna Handbook. What else can it do? We'll watch Martin F. Jue from MFJ demo an analyzer in a few YouTube videos and then try some of the tricks there in the room. If you have an analyzer or a hint on using them, bring it along. (Be sure to label your equipment—this is not intended to be an analyzer-swap.)

Have You Renewed?

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.



Circuit Builders

Orcy Lyle, WØQT

This photo of Daniel Kelley (KCØQHZ), taken during Show and Tell at a MN-ARTS (Minnesota Amateur Radio Technical Society) meeting, appeared in a recent MN-ARTS newsletter. The caption described Daniel's interest in Raspberry Pi, a unit of which Daniel is holding in the photo. Daniel has been attending the SPRC Circuit Builders Forum to brush up on his soldering skills, having not done any building since Heathkit days.

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Presidential Ponderings

THINGS PAST

Well, we got through another water event, but still successful Field Day on June 28 & 29. Not quite as much rain and wind as FD last year, but enough rain to wash away the mosquitoes, and even some of the food at the Saturday night picnic. "But, I love cooking in the rain . . . <grin>." The weather timing just reminds me that we do not control everything.

I've heard from the repeater committee that we may have the updated repeater installed soon, perhaps before the September meeting. It is a good team and I hope we can appreciate the amount of work that they have put into the boxes and antennas.

THINGS PRESENT

In the past couple of columns, you've heard me rail a bit against the computerization of amateur radio. Well, this fall, I'm going to quiet down on the topic, as two of our programs will definitely use computers. In October and November, we will have pro-

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PLEASE NOTE: SPECIAL DIRECTIONS DURING CONSTRUCTION

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 Summit Ave. Turn right and take the first left, turn left at the stop sign and park in the surface lot on your left OR from Cretin and Summit continue one block and turn right, then park in

the ramp on your left. In general, on-campus parking restrictions 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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Daniel learned about Raspberry Pi in the Circuit Builders sessions. Raspberry Pi is a small computer (see photo) which has 1/2 gig memory, plugs into a TV and keyboard, and has many applications. It was introduced to Circuit Builders by Greg Moselle (KG6WIM) and Clayton Hamilton (KCØNMM).

Come to Circuit Builders to learn about Raspberry Pi, to put together a 20-meter half-wave antenna (for those who signed up for parts), to build your own projects, and/or to learn how to solder and build electronic projects from kits. Circuit Builders meets on Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in OSS Room 415 on the St. Thomas University (UST) south campus. OSS is adjacent to OWS, where we hold our monthly meetings (see page 1) or click on <http://webapp.stthomas.edu/campusmaps>, then click on "OSS Science Hall" under "Find a Building by Name" and the building will be marked on the UST map.

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grams on Digital Voice on HF (Joe H. and team) and Remote Control Operations (Pat Tice, HandiHams).

THINGS FUTURE

Orcy Lyle has access to the engineering building room again, so Circuit Builders is possible. Let her know what projects you might be interested in building.

There is a request for funding, FT4TA, an expedition to the island of Tromelin in the Indian Ocean. The expedition we supported in the fall, 2013, was FT5ZM, to the Amsterdam Island, which took place in January, 2014. Their request is below.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming year.

Our General Membership meeting dates for 2014-2015:

September 5, 2014

October 3, 2014
November 7, 2014
December 5, 2014
January 2, 2015
February 6, 2015
March 6, 2015
April 10, 2015 (UST Easter break is 3/30-4/6)
May 1, 2015

George, KØGCP

DXpedition Support

We are at 6 months of the beginning of the FT4TA operation from the island of Tromelin in the Indian Ocean. The preparation is in progress and we are currently on the logistic phase of our project. In a days, most of the equipment will be shipped towards the Réunion island, first step of our travel. We continue to gather all necessary equipment while taking care not to take useless things to keep the control of our expenditures.

Since our first contact in December 2013, more than 40 clubs, foundations and associations joined our project. They helped us to gather a part of the needed budget for this operation. We keep hope to gather the remaining share to lead in a serene way our adventure and to allow the amateur radio community to establish again contacts with the island of Tromelin.

Following to our first email exchange in January regarding a possible support, we have not received yet your answer so I send you this email to keep you informed of the Tromelin2014 project and check what is your decision.

We hope sincerely that the St Paul Radio Club can join the project through a financial grant to our expedition.

For recall, it is possible for you to support us by using the Paypal link on our website. It is for sure the fastest and most practical way to help us. However, on request, we will be happy to provide you the bank informations

of FT4TA. All received help will result in the display of your logo on the website, QSL, videos, expedition stories.

Our website was enriched with new pages and we regularly continue to add informations. Do not hesitate to also follow us via Facebook and Twitter.

Regards.

73

Flo F5CWU / In charge of Sponsors for FT4TA

<http://www.tromelin2014.com>

(email dated May 22, 2014)

Amateur Radio As I See It Your Name Goes Here

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!

FD 2014 Recap Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

Highlights: Weather forecast was dismal, rain and wind going in and out all three days.

We caught the end of the shower moving northeast on Friday 3 p.m. Breezy but we got the towers and antennas up. The kitchen was ready and we had a nice supper for the set up squad. Some relaxation time around the campfire-in-a-can, with the discovery of a networking problem which was soon resolved when Dan arrived with just what we needed and Kirk made all the links work happily together! Ed worked overtime getting the CW keying operation perfected after many problems.

A quiet night in the air conditioned RV followed by the Saturday Continental Breakfast. Continued the set-

up of VHF and fine tuning of everything we have encountered over the years. We served a great lunch of dog/brats/burgers for the gang although we had to wait for the slow cookers to get the hot dishes up to temp. Ham based and turkey based this year. George can get a burger flipper job anytime! Kudos to the Tartan park staff again—we were well taken care of and watched over. They really pull out all the stops to make our weekend as comfortable as they can. Huge gas grill, bunkers of ice delivered, continuous contact to see how we are doing, and donations of other goodies.

At 1300 hours, the generators were tanked up for 24 hour operation, (we use 12 gallon tanks). We were on the air, on the network, GOTA had customers and the snack stand was open. The weather was 15 MHP breezy with rain in the line of fire. Radar showed a long front line moving north/northeast at 30 mph. We watched and waited, hoping it would slide by us.

The SPRC picnic is called at 1800 Saturday night, so members were arriving ready for a fantastic spaghetti and meat balls dinner. At 1730, everything was there, we were ready! OOPS!

Mother Nature dealt us a gully washer that spun round and round, heavy rain-light rain-no rain and back again for hours. So what do we do? Well George kept grilling stuff, people kept coming in the rain; we moved the serving line under cover and continued! Pretty soon, the spaghetti was up and these dedicated hams, families, and guests—mostly wet and cold—were making the best

of the situation. This is what Hams normally do! Sorry to say, but from my vantage point, we all looked like a school of salmon swimming up stream!

After all the visiting died down, and the group thinned out, the ops went back to work and I cleared the picnic area of trash and raccoon bait, and packed myself into the RV just before the news at 10. The VHF and GOTA stations had been shut down before the storms and stayed that way until Sunday morning. Our phone and CW ops worked on through the night and I popped up to get the Sunday food parade going about 0800. The wind had done a good job of drying things out and the sun warmed us up nicely.

GOTA and VHF ops were back up and ran with good contacts until closing. Mike Siegelman (KØBUD) anchored the 9 to 11 local shift, working with Don Kelly (WA6ZMT) as logger and did 250 contacts on SSB. Don has never been in an HF contest or logged before and did a fantastic job with Mike. Mike spent his after time and lunch visiting with other ops and old friends. He has expressed to us that he had fun and enjoyed working and talking with our group. He wants to do more contesting with us. Welcome back Mike!

We cooked up the rest of the grill food, had turkey soup/stew, hot dish, and leftover spaghetti/meat balls, potato salad, etc. Started the slow shut down, clean up, and pack up procedure after that. You know, when you bring a trailer full of stuff out to FD, you have to get it all back into the trailer, too. Thanks to all that helped us load the many bins and equipment back on board. Luckily, the group consumed large quantities of food so the weight was much less.

Over the 11+ years of MARC and

SPRC FD operation we have done what HAMS do—solve problems that occur and get on the AIR.

Tech Class

As usual, Allan is looking for hams to teach just one session of this fall's tech class. Email AllankMN@cs.com.

Here's the announcement from the Community Education booklet:

Ham Radio Licensing

Ages 11 and up. Learn everything you need to know to pass the FCC exam to get a license to transmit a Ham Radio. Help with emergency communications and storm spotting, and have fun communicating with other hams around the world! Bring the book *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual*, or purchase one at class for \$30. **No class Nov. 4.**

Tue Sep 30 • 6:30-8:30p • 8 sessions • \$12 fee paid to Community Ed in advance. Course# 3072FEA .

Students must register in advance at commed.spps.org.

The class will be held at Highland Park Middle School. Parking is in the large lot behind the school. Enter off of Montreal, just west of Snelling. Books are available at Radio City, Barnes & Noble and on the first night of class. Make sure you get a current manual — dates are on the cover.

VE Status

Leon Dill, WØCOE

Here's my yearly report on the status of your St. Paul Radio Club VE sessions. It was quite a year, starting off with a special session in August for the Minnesota National Guard, held at Ft. Snelling. We therefore had 11 instead of the usual 10 sessions last season. Not only that, but many of the sessions had double-digit crowds—a really nice thing to see for the state of Amateur Radio!

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FACEBOOK USER?

Look for our group:

“St. Paul Radio Club”

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All in all, we had 95 total candidates last season, 90 of whom were unique (the other 5 attended more than one session). We administered 123 exams, plus gave General credit for two pre-1987 Technicians, one of whom then passed his Extra exam.

64 candidates received their first license with us, 13 of those also passed their General exam and one passed all three to become an Extra for his first ticket. The breakdown ended up showing 50 candidates left the exams with their Technician ticket, 25 walked out with their General, and 11 became an Extra.

Many thanks go out to the fine job done by my fellow examiners, without whom these exams would never be possible. Here's the honor roll of helpers we had:

Name	Call	Sessions
Greg	KCØRET	11
Leon	WØCOE	10
Ray	KGØDK	10
Ralph	NØAWN	8
Al	AEØAL	5
Richard	KDØJDF	5
Shep	NØNMZ	4
Lou	ACØX	2
Tim	KDØPOW	2
Dave	AD2B	1
Paul	KDØKTT	1

VE exams this season will all be in the Willow Room of Roseville City Hall at 0900 on the first Saturday of each month, September through June, with the exception of December when it's the second Saturday due to a Holiday Craft Fair scheduling issue.



Support the League

Board Meeting August 8, 2014

A meeting of the St. Paul Radio Club Board of Directors was called to order on August 8, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. by President George Power.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Power, KØGCP, President
Jay Maher, NJØM, At-large Member
Orcy Lyle, WØQT, At-large Member

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND OTHER INTERESTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

As a quorum was not established, the meeting was informational only.

Calendar of General Membership meetings.

- September 5, 2014
- October 3, 2014
- November 7, 2014
- December 5, 2014
- January 2, 2015
- February 6, 2015
- March 6, 2015
- April 10 [April 3 is Good Friday & UST is on Easter break 3/30-4/6], 2015
- May 1, 2015

Joe Kreitzer was sent date requests in July and on 7/31 said he would get right on it.

Programs for September (LotW – Al Dewey -tentative), October (Handihams & remote control operations -- Pat Tice), November (Digital Voice – Joe Heitzinger, Keith Miller, Bob Jensen) and December (Mobile operations -- John Platt).

Circuit Builders – Orcy has key card for OSS 415 during the Fall, 2014. Discussed possible projects, but no decisions were made.

Technician's license class. Alan Klein. Set for Tue Sep 30 • 6:30-8:30p • 8 sessions • \$12 Highland Park MS • Course# 3072FEA . Alan will be looking for teachers.

Raffle items. John was not here.

Ground Wave articles to Don by August 22nd.

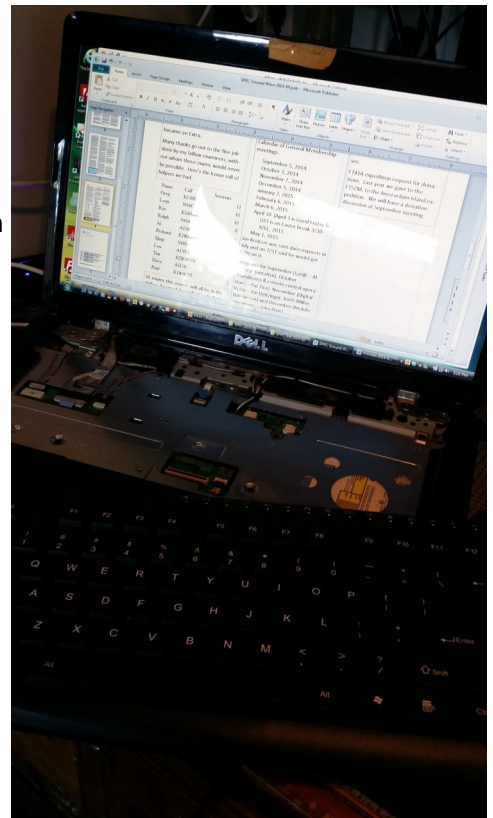
Upcoming Events: Christmas party (Dec 5), January auction (Jan 30), April banquet (date to be set in January or February (speaker is Charles Fodor), June Field Day (June 26/27).

Repeater status

Tom Sturm, performed a good cleaning of the OSS 415 lab and store room.

Joe Zwirn, Had a problem with the repeater receiver (replaced it with a different unit), and getting the controller to interface properly. Will be putting in more time to finish up this project—I want to get it up to St. Thomas before the start of fall classes.

FT4TA expedition request for donations. Last year we gave to the FT5ZM, to the Amsterdam Island expedition. We will have a donation discussion at September meeting.



The GW editor was behind schedule, but chicken soup in Don's keyboard delayed the Ground Wave even more this month.



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Fri Sept 5 7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See Page 1.
Sat Sept 6 9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Sept 6 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Sept 6 East Central Minnesota Amateur Radio Club Hamfest. Rush City High School, Rush City, MN.
Fri Sept 12 7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415)
Sat Sept 13 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Sept 13 8AM – Noon Lake Elmo Tailgate Swapfest. 8247 27th St. N, Lake Elmo, MN 55042
Sat Sept 20 9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Sept 20 After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Sept 27 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Oct 3 7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See Page 1.
Sat Oct 4 9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Oct 4 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Oct 10 7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415)
Sat Oct 11 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Oct 18 9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Oct 18 After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Oct 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.