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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 NOVEMBER 2014 — Volume 74, Issue 11

Monthly Meeting

November 7, 2014

UST OWS LL54

7:00 pm Socializing

Membership Meeting 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

Digital Voice

Yes, it's on HF and it's Free!

Our November program might be just what you're looking for if you're interested in finding out what's going on in the world of digital voice in amateur radio.

Joe Heitzinger (KCØOIO), Keith Miller (AGØH), and Bob Jensen (WØGAF) will provide an overview of some tools and techniques that will enable you to get started in HF digital voice. We'll look at some of the benefits digital voice can provide, some of the software and hardware required, and a number of resources where you can get further information and guidance. If time permits, Bob Jensen will cover some of the highlights of D-Star DV.

Joe, Keith, and Bob have all been members of the Stillwater ARA for over 10 years and all hold Extra Class licenses

Presidential Ponderings

THINGS PAST

Another well-attended October meeting for the St. Paul Radio Club. Pat Tice, of Camp Courage Handi-Hams, gave a presentation on remote operations. A remote operating set-up would allow members to run a station without being physically present.

THINGS PRESENT

The request for funding FT4TA, was declined, and we are looking at criteria we can adopt to handle future requests. Probably criteria similar to those used by the Twin Cities DX Association, but also requiring a local connection. (You can read about the criteria at <http://www.tcdxa.org>).

Mark your calendars for the upcoming year of General Membership Meeting dates for 2014 - 2015:

- November 7, 2014
- December 5, 2014 (Christmas party)
- January 2, 2015 (Auction January 30)
- February 6, 2015
- March 6, 2015
- April 3, 2015 (because UST's Easter break is 3/30-4/6, it MAY change to April 10)

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Dale's Details

Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

The only detail on my mind this month is the fantastic results the Club is having re-signing the membership. Two months into the new season and we have over 100 paid members! That is amazing. So thank you all for staying current.

I'll send out a small Nudge to those that are still behind by whatever time period. The dues we collect go to help the Club provide you with interesting programs, equipment for events, entertainment and food. We also occasionally donate to DXpeditions, education outsources and contest awards.

A separate fund is setup for the repeater, which is now all refurbished and tuned up nicely. Thank you repeater committee people! It was financially cheap, but took tons of work and time from them.

Other ways you could help the Club and the ARRL will be a continuing topic at the meetings. The back-story is simple, and is the same in all volunteer clubs. We know that many of you are members of other clubs and you may hold positions in them as well. Second-

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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 re-

strictions 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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May 1, 2015

As we end the year's rush of public service events, I've given up on trying to hear the radio over the noise of the race crowd (or any noisy events), so I'm trying a new headset. A report will follow later.

I'm issuing a plea to our repeater group (and those repeater operators who get our newsletter). In the station ID, please list the PL tone. I've just returned (10/23) from another trip to Illinois, and when trying to find repeaters operating near the I-90/I-94 corridor, it is easy to hear them, but trying to communicate without the PL tone is a no-starter for me. I do not want to pull off the road, scan for a PL tone, set it, and then find my way back into traffic. Yes, I know about preloading all the repeaters with tones ahead of the trip, but that requires a level of organization that I lack. So, back to my plea to all repeater operators – please add the PL info to your station ID.

THINGS FUTURE

At our November meeting, we will have a program on Digital Voice on HF (presented by three members of the Stillwater Radio Club) Joe Heitzinger. Keith Miller and Bob Jensen.

The Remote Control Operations presentation may affect some of us directly, as the club is exploring the setup of a club station (to be used for remote operations). There are lots of issues to be examined, and the board is working on the details.

See you at the next meeting, November 7th.

George, KØGCP

FACEBOOK USER?

Look for our group:

“St. Paul Radio Club”

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ly, we know that many of you have already served the Club in years past. Again, Thank you for all you have done!

A quick glance at the SPRC leadership list that includes officers and committee chairs plus many others finds about 35 slots in it—many are vacant. Look closer and you will find less than 20 Different names listed, meaning that some are doing two, three or more jobs! Positions that should have at least two people, Refreshments and door prizes for instance, only have one. Get the idea?

Analysis, what the ASA trained me to do back in the 60's, brings forth some old answers. We have 100 members; 20 carry the work load. The old 80/20 rule, 20% do, 80% follow. Yet we get 40+% attendance at our meetings, which means you are interested—but when asked, no one is willing to volunteer for any position. The general age factor is on the old side, I don't have accurate numbers, but the age factor for the 20% is high—58 to be kind.

Staying positive here, I believe the Club members can and will step forward and make the changes we need. More volunteers to do small parts that will make the whole operation a bigger success. To be a continuing topic....

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.

Classified Ads

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

Membership Meeting October 3, 2014

A meeting of the St. Paul Radio Club membership was called to order by President George Power (KØGCP) at 7:30 PM.

31 Members present
2 Guests present

Secretary's Report: None.

Treasurer's Report (Allan Klein, WØNLY): Solvent and in good condition.

Committee Reports:

Education (Allan Klein, WØNLY): The Technician's license class was cancelled because there were only two students enrolled (and the St. Paul Continuing Ed program requires a minimum of five students to hold a class). Several members made suggestions about improving our advertising, and this issue of declining enrollments will be discussed at the board meeting.

Public Service/Emergency Communications (Ralph Bierbaum, NØAWN): ADA Walk-a-Thon is tomorrow, Twin Cities Marathon is this Sunday.

VE Exams (Leon Dill, WØCOE): Next session is tomorrow (10/4), in Roseville.

Old Business:

Repeater: Thanks to Joe WØXL, Terry NØGOI, John KDØCAC and Henry KC9IMC, the refurbished "new" club-owned repeater is now on-the-air. John said that the cans might need a little tweaking, but the repeater sounded great at this last Wednesday night on our two-meter net (7:00 p.m. every Wednesday, 145.310MHz, no PL tone). Thanks also go to Tom NØBGO, for serving as

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our conduit to the University of St. Thomas.

New Business: AERO classes in Emergency Communications on Oct 11—contact Dan Pietso, NØPIY.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:55PM.

Presentation:

Our presentation was Pat Tice, WAØTDA, HandiHams Communications Director, showing a Power-Point on how HandiHams runs HF radios by remote control, at the Courage Center site. This allows members to use the rigs from any location using a computer. (Perfect for apartment dwellers, etc.). [Post-meeting note: Pat has a YouTube video on the beta installation, at www.youtube.com/watch?v=06seq4c_ZWs. He also has a newsletter at handiham.org.]

The raffle was held at 9:15, and the meeting adjourned.



Board Meeting October 10, 2013

A meeting of the St. Paul Radio Club Board of Directors was called to order on October 10, 2014, at 7:10 PM by President George Power.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Power (KØGCP) President
John Faughn (KDØCAC) Vice Pres.
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

Volunteer Shortages: We need to work on getting more volunteers to help with the functions that have piled up on the board members. Starting with an officer's position, Secretary, which is open. Possibly start out with doubling up on a function (as backup), such as those listed below:

Club secretary (open)
Refreshment chair, Jay Maher
Program chair, Jay Maher

Banquet chair, Jay Maher
Raffle for door prizes chair, John Faughn

Education chair, Allan Klein
Advertising (for classes, meetings) & public information (open)
Circuit builders chair, Orcy Lyle
Membership registrar, (open)
GW editor, Don Kelly (via email)
GW mailer/database keeper, Dale Maroushek

Auction chair, Dale Maroushek
Field Day coordinator, Ed Jacobson
Field Day food & refreshments, Dale Maroushek & George Power

VEC team, Leon Dill
Webmaster, Tom Bredemus

If we drop some of these functions, will we lose members? Our status as a Special Services club?

Allan will call Lee Bellefeuille about the secretary position, or possibly the education chair.

George will check with Don Kelly about continuing as GW editor.

George will check with ARRL about Special Club status requirements.

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.

EDL (Capital Hill school) program request: Allan talked with Dan, at Capital Hill, and asked what they were looking for (and would settle for) in a program. They are looking for after-school activities for their students. They are not looking for a licensing class. The kids have a relatively short attention span (15-20 minutes) and want more hands-on work rather than bookwork. They do not have much of a budget per student to work with, so buying electronics kits might not fly. We agreed to turn down this request as it seem too much of a burden to corral enough volunteers to run this program.

Equipment: The equipment discussion lead to a request (which Jay accepted) to contact Denise, at Washington Magnet School, to retrieve the club's equipment stored at the school. Yaesu FT-450D and 2m rigs, and some ancillary equipment.

Recruiting for licensing classes: Talk about finding students (even SARA had to cancel their General class for lack of students this fall) started with advertising (signs in community recreation centers, Radio City, listing on the radio reflectors, etc.). There are the usual problems with offering our classes at night during the work week (Thursday), which may never be solved. It evolved into a discussion of on-line study (youtube videos) combined with "Elmers" to answer class questions. No decisions were made.

On-Line meetings: As an aside, we will explore using Google Hangout as a way of holding board meetings without having to drive to UST.

Programs:

November - Joe H. & Friends on Digital Voice

December - John Platt on Mobile contesting

January is open

February is open

March is open

April is open

May is open.

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Ideas to be followed up on include:

Jeff - Hamnet mesh networks;
"Walker, Jeff"
<jwalker.mn@gmail.com>, speakers are Mike Tabbert or Dick Roberts
Greg Widen - Logbook of the World;
Skip Jackson - FLDigi,
Orcy's friend - Edmund Fitzgerald
(radio traffic).

Insurance on club equipment: We have enough equipment that ARRL insurance (with low premiums of \$1.40/\$100.00 replacement value) is worth purchasing. Allan will collect serial numbers on club equipment and purchase the ARRL policy. If you have club equipment, send Allan a list of it (and serial numbers, if applicable).

UST Antennas: George will ask Tom Sturm about whether we can install lightning protection and properly ground the club's antenna leads where they enter the building -- will UST object?

Equipment Disposal Requests :

When we receive requests to help evaluate/dispose of radio equipment (from an estate, etc.), we will not get into selling the equipment for them. If they want to assess and sell, we'll refer to Gary Follett. If they want to donate to the club for our auction (the club gets the proceeds), we can accept it and give them a receipt for the donation.

Radio Station with Remote Operations: Pat Tice's presentation has sparked some interest in remote operations. Tom Sturm thinks it might be a good recruiting tool for students, and asked for a list of what we would need to make it operational. UST has a radio to use, but where to put it? Computer, software, Internet access (with inbound ports through UST firewall), secure location with student access.

Auction issues: We have the space reserved (Jan 29 evening, Jan 30 day). Only issue is getting some assistance for Dallas and the data input process to speed up checkouts

Raffle prizes: John has been looking for one higher-end prize for each monthly raffle, to entice participation. He got a batch of stuff from Gary Follett (who would like a donation receipt letter for the pile). Allan will send Gary the letter.

Repeater: We need a battery for backup on the repeater. Approved \$129 for the purchase of one battery.

Ground Wave: Deadline is Oct 24th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

An Awesome Project 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 by November 21st for the December Ground Wave.

Sat Nov 1	9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Nov 1	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Nov 1	8:30AM-1:00PM Northland Antique Radio Club Indoor Swap Meet, St. Croix Lutheran High School, 1200 Oakdale Ave, West St. Paul, MN
Fri Nov 7	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See Page 1.
Sat Nov 8	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Nov 14	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415)
Sat Nov 15	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Nov 15	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Nov 22	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Nov 29	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Dec 5	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54.
Sat Dec 6	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Dec 12	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415)
Sat Dec 13	9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Dec 13	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Dec 20	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Dec 20	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Dec 27	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.