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St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

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KØAGF

www.stpaulradioclub.org
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NEWS AND NOTES FOR JANUARY 2015 — Volume 75, Issue 1

Monthly Meeting

January 9, 2015
UST OWS LL54
7:00 pm Socializing
Membership Meeting 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

Broadband-HamNet Mike Tabbert, KC0IQW

Mike will introduce us to using off-the-shelf hardware to create a high-speed amateur radio data network. Broadband-HamNet is an amateur radio implementation of mesh networking, providing Internet-like information exchange including messaging, video, voice etc.

Mike Tabbert has been licensed since 2000 and holds a general class license. As an apartment dweller, Mike finds campgrounds the preferred operating location.

SPRC Auction 2015

Save the Date

Clean out the Basement

The 2015 St Paul Radio Club Auction will be on Saturday, January 31st at Our Lady of Guadalupe church.

Presidential Ponderings

THINGS PAST

Jon Platt shared his experiences with Mobile DXing. Besides exploring the nuances of equipment setups, he talked about his techniques that allowed him to earn high scores in the various QSO contests. He was more than willing to stay after the presentation and answer individual questions. (I suspect if I had asked him "just one more," he might have said something less helpful <grin>.)

THINGS PRESENT

We have something a bit different for January 9th, which does not utilize our regular radio rigs. Mike Tabbert will talk about SEMARC's efforts to develop a Broadband-Hamnet. He is presenting an introduction to using off-the-half hardware to create a high-speed amateur radio data network. Essentially the idea is to create a private amateur radio network that parallels the Internet where we can exchange information of all sorts like messaging, video, voice etc. The concept is like packet, except it will have much more speed and carrying capacity. The network we are creating is a "mesh network" which utilizes lots of power nodes that connect with each other

(Continued on page 2)

Dale's Details

Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

I hope everyone enjoyed the Holidays. Our family certainly had a wonderful two days of Christmas (with way too much food) and spent a quiet New Years Eve and Day.

January brings us the Club's annual Auction on the 31st. We had a practice session last month to get the computer system all linked up and checked for problems. We have the ability to add a third computer that we hope will make the operation smother. We also made some plans on when to end the silent auction so that all the information has time to get logged into the system before people start checking out.

If you plan on selling a bunch of stuff, you will be able to set up on Friday evening. We will be setting up the tables and chairs at 6 P.M. Come on down and check it out.

As announced at the last meeting, Lisa's sweets will be available this year. Her hand surgery has healed now and she is back near normal.

The weekend before the auction, out at the Mining Shack, the gang will be working overnights trying to win an-

(Continued on page 2)

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 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.

(Continued from page 1)

to form the mesh backbone. For background, see <http://www.broadband-hamnet.org/>

Our newsletter, the Ground Wave, is looking for some good articles on topics that you find interesting. If you would like to share your interests, please write a short article about it, to share with our members.

THINGS FUTURE

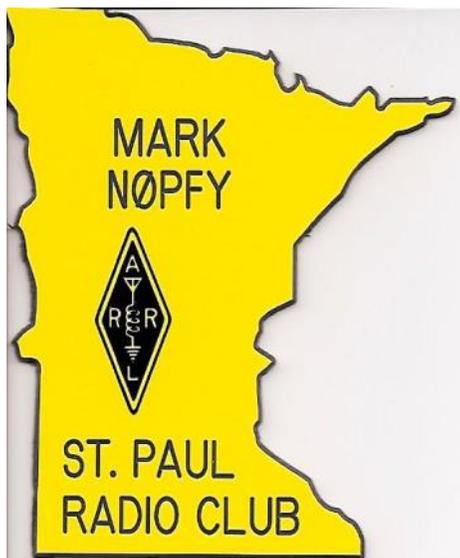
We are always looking for interesting programs for our members. If you have a source for a program that you think might interest the club, please contact Jay Maher <jay@umn.edu> with the contact information. If you would like to present a program (or co-present a program) of your own interests, please contact Jay about it.

Upcoming meetings without programs:

February 6, 2015 and April 10, 2015

See you at the next meeting, January 9th.

George, KØGCP



SPRC Name/Call Badge

Badges are available from Tag-Me Engraving for \$9.00 plus shipping and tax (They accept PayPal).

www.tagme-engraving.com
Click "Name Tags" then "St. Paul Radio"

(Continued from page 1)

other award in the CQ 160 Meter CW contest. They will be looking for operators and I will have a couple hot dishes out there too. The Phone side of the contest is in February and we do it all again. Early February hosts the MN QSO Party and we usually run two stations, one CW and one phone.

Our membership continues to grow so Thank You for getting your dues and donations up to date.

Dale NØPEY

Raspberry Pi at Circuit Builders January 10th

Come to the Circuit Builders lab January 10th to learn about Raspberry Pi, which is a credit-card sized computer that plugs into a TV or computer monitor. It uses a standard keyboard and mouse and has the ability to do what your desktop or laptop can do, such as browsing the Internet, making spread sheets, doing word processing, and so on. It can be interfaced with Arduino. The basic Raspberry Pi unit has a low cost.

Clayton Hamilton, KCØNMM, will bring his Raspberry Pi computers to the lab **Saturday, January 10th, at 9 a.m., OSS 415**. He will give demos of how Raspberry Pi works and will answer questions about using the device. He already has been helpful to club members in use of their devices. Clayton joined SPRC last year, after attending Circuit Builders.

For directions to the lab, see the SPRC website at www.stpaulradioclub.org.

Join the SPRCCB group at Google Groups to stay in touch.

Membership Meeting December 5, 2014

7:30 **UST Radio Club:** Tom Sturm [UST], called UST meeting to order to see if any UST members were present; since there were none, he adjourned the meeting.

7:35 **George called the SPRC general meeting to order**

Introductions: Given the extensive socializing of the Christmas Party, we skipped the round of introductions but counted 38 people attending, with at least 5 guests. We had a very short business meeting.

Secretary's Report: Posted in Ground Wave. No changes to version posted in the Ground Wave.

Treasurer's Report: (Allan Klein) Reported same balances as previous meeting, excepting the additional general funds increase from membership renewals. We have 119 members as of this meeting.

Committee Reports:

Orcy Lyle reported that Circuit Builders would meet next Saturday, after the club breakfast.

Ralph Bierbaum suggested people check their favorite activities' web pages for the 2015 opportunities for Public Service/Emergency Communications.

Leon Dill said the next VE Exams are 12/6 (tomorrow).

Special Business: Skip Jackson [KSØJ, MN Sect Mgr] announced that Mining/SPRC won the MN cup for having the highest field day score in 2A in the section for field day 2014. He then presented the club with the traveling trophy and a nice certificate. (The trophy went with Skip to the Mining Club meeting for their award—they have storage space for it).

There was no **Old Business** and the only **New Business** was to announce

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

the January meeting is the second Friday (Jan 9th) to fit the UST calendar.

George adjourned the Business meeting at 7:48.

Break -- remind people of raffle after the presentation.

Program An Introduction to Mobile HF Contesting Jon Platt, WØZQ.

Jon covered equipment issues with mobile computing (noise reduction, bonding the car, antenna mounting, power supplies, etc.). He then shared his operating techniques for maximizing his roving scores in contesting in the QSO parties. His main tactic was extensive preplanning and scheduling (operating locations, frequencies, possible contact lists, etc.). As best he can, he follows his schedule to the minute. Jon was willing to stay after his presentation to answer the many questions we had for him.

The meeting adjourned, with very little left-over food, about 9:30.

Board Meeting December 12, 2013

A meeting of the St. Paul Radio Club Board of Directors was held by email

BOARD MEMBERS PARTICIPATING:

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

GUESTS PARTICIPATING:

Ed Jacobson (WBØVHF)
Dallas Fogg (NØLKD)

Agenda Items discussed

1) Upcoming Programs: Jay Maher

January 9: Mike Tabbert -- Broad-band-Hamnet - An introduction to using off-the-shelf hard ware to create a high-speed amateur radio data network.

February 6: open

March 15: Greg Widin -- presentation on "Why I am an ARRL Member".

April 10: open

May 15: Lyle Koehler -- program on Cheap and Easy SDR (including using one as a panadapter) with the cheap USB dongles.

2) Auction issues: Dallas Fogg, Dale Maroushek, Ed Jacobson, Don Kelly, George Power

We held a practice session with the computers, and discussed the bottleneck at data entry and how we might improve checkout speeds. We've tested more than 2 laptops on the peer-network, confirmed passwords, improved the data forms, etc. (i.e., fewer names per sheet for registration, separate PCs for silent auction and live auction data entry.) Other details from Dale: we will have Lisa's baked treats to sell, and we have confirmed our sound system will be available.

3) Remote radio operations: Orcy Lyle

We still have a lot of questions about how much people really want a remote station. If it is to be located at UST, it should be UST equipment/UST station and they will control access. So far, our UST member hasn't shown much interest in driving this issue. Is this interest just a SPRC effort or is there any interest from the UST students? Orcy was going to meet with Tom Sturm and the UST astronomy de-

partment to see how they handle remote access.

4) ID badges: input from all.

No changes to current status -- the club already has a plastic ID badge option at \$9, with the club symbol, member's name and call-sign. There is no reason to have a badge that has an expiration date or a member's photo on it. We also have wearables (shirts, jackets, caps, with club identification) available at reasonable rates.

5) Promotional items: input from all.

We will stay with the mugs as speaker gifts, and offer members an opportunity to purchase their own mug(s). We will see about adding the club's URL to the design.

If people want club business cards, George has a sample design worked out.

6) Publicity efforts: Input from all.

We are putting notices of the club meeting into the MN District 6 ARES reflector and the AERO reflector (showing meeting date, time, location and topic). Other publications that usually accept notices include the Highland Villager in the Highland area of St. Paul. It is a good newspaper, which gets read a lot, and covers a good part of St. Paul as well as a little of Minneapolis across the river. Their website has due dates for copy to be published and it takes a little advance planning to, for instance, get info for a meeting in in time.

Orcy -- The U. of St. Thomas has an online publication of some sort, which students read.

Orcy -- Put up meeting notices at Radio City and at the Consignment Center, also such things as Auction and FD flyers (they flew out of the Consignment Center and went out more slowly at Radio City). Meeting notices went on the door at the Consignment Center

(Continued from page 3)

and on the bulletin board at Radio City. Seems like the bulletin board at Radio City was always full, so it took some rearranging to get the notice up.

On a light note, it was great to see Don Kelly (on his visit from Texas). Don still does our Ground Wave editing via the magic of the internet.

This summary of the board meeting was closed on 12/19/2014. (E-mail meeting adjourned.)

Better Operating Practices?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A lament that I often hear is that many amateur radio operators either don't seem to understand the importance of good operating practices or just don't care about them. Just this morning, a reader sent me an e-mail saying, "I think there are too many hams out there that don't know how to call a station on split frequency. It's amazing that we have so many dummies out there."

I wrote back, saying, "Maybe we need another type of Official Observer, called the Operating Observer. This group would note when operators

aren't following good operating procedures and send people gentle reminders." Of course, as soon as I hit Send, I knew this wasn't a very good idea. As my reader noted, this would be a thankless job, and chances are the poor operators would simply ignore the notices, anyway.

Even so, there must be some way to encourage good operating procedures. One effort to promote better operating procedures is the DX Code of Conduct (<http://www.dx-code.org/>). This is a list of 13 suggestions to make DX operation, particularly pileups, less chaotic. The website includes a small image that you're supposed to post to your website to show that you support the Code. While this is certainly a step in the right direction, I wish there was something that we could do to be more proactive in improving operating practices.

There is, of course, the ARRL Operating Manual. This publication is now in its tenth edition and is a valuable source of information about how to operate properly. The problem is only a fraction of the amateur radio operators on the air have a copy, much less read it.

Another attempt at promoting good operating practice is the ARRL's A-1

Operator's Club (<http://www.arrl.org/a-1-op>). While a noble effort, I think that this program really requires more promotion. In addition to being more aggressive about finding A-1 operators and bringing them into this "club," the ARRL should use it to promote better operation. Perhaps a series of videos with the A-1 Ops logo showing how to operate split or how to properly call CQ would help improve operating practices overall.

Talking about videos, I'd be surprised if there weren't already some YouTube videos that illustrate good operating practices. If you know of any, please e-mail me. It would be great to have a list of really good ones that I can send to people who want information on how to operate better.

What do you think? Do we need to be more proactive about encouraging hams to use good operating practices? If so, how do we go about it? What do you do to encourage better operating practices?

When not worrying about the state of amateur radio operating practices, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides, teaching one-day Tech classes, or blogging about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com.

Sat Jan 3	9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Fri Jan 9	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54.
Sat Jan 10	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Jan 16	7PM SPRC Board meeting. OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415)
Sat Jan 17	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Jan 17	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Jan 24	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Jan 31	8:30AM – 1:00PM SPRC Auction. Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 401 Concord St., St. Paul, MN 55107
Fri Feb 6	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54.
Sat Feb 7	9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Feb 7	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Feb 13	7PM SPRC Board meeting. OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415)
Sat Feb 14	9AM – 1PM Cabin Fever Reliever Hamfest, St Cloud Armory, St. Cloud, MN
Sat Feb 14	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Feb 21	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Feb 21	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Feb 28	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*