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St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

Don Kelly, WA6ZMT, Editor
Dale Maroushek, NØPEY, Interim Publisher

KØAGF

www.stpaulradioclub.org
Club Repeater: 145.310 MHz
PO Box 9375
North St. Paul, MN 55109

NEWS AND NOTES FOR MAY 2015 — Volume 75, Issue 5

Monthly Meeting

May 1, 2015

UST OWS LL54

7:00 pm Socializing

Membership Meeting 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

Cheap and Easy SDR

Lyle Koehler, KØLR

Lyle will provide a brief review of what SDR is and the present state of SDR technology including examples of currently available SDR transceivers and receivers. The presentation will include a live demonstration of the \$15.00 RTL-SDR dongle and some of the available free software. Lyle will also suggest where to find additional information.

Lyle got his Conditional class ham license in 1951 while stationed with the Army in Germany, and upgraded to Extra in 1960. In the meantime, he received a EE degree from the University of Minnesota and went to work for Honeywell. Retirement in 1990 left a lot of time for tinkering with things like low-frequency operation, APRS and Software Defined Radio.

SPRC Banquet 2015

Jay Maher, NJØM

Details for this year's Banquet came together a bit later than usual so notice was short. Despite that, we had a good turnout of members and family, with thirty four registered.

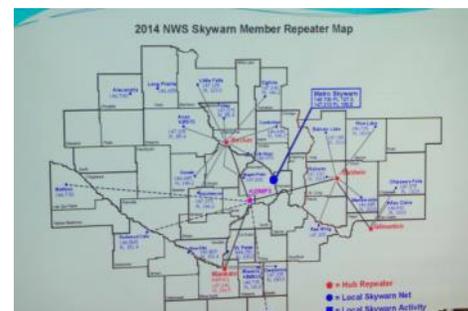
Theresa Caspers, Board Chair and Training Coordinator for Metro Skywarn, gave us an overview of the history of the organization and shared some personal experiences with storm chasing. It was interesting to learn how integrated the storm spotter networks are with the National Weather Service and how important their roles can be in getting advance warning to people in the path of severe weather.

Despite a few snags with the food orders, the buffet was tasty as usual. Leon Dill was in asparagus heaven and Mark Linafelter took home the coveted Canned Ham.

All pictures on this page courtesy of Jeff Iverson (WB9DAN).



Some of the members and guests enjoying dinner and conversation.



Theresa explained the repeaters that support Minnesota Skywarn ham networks.



President George (KØGCP) presents a St. Paul Radio Club mug to Theresa in appreciation for her presentation.

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.

OWS: Owens Science Hall

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

Presidential Ponderings

One of the “other radio clubs” in St. Paul is our own Saturday Morning SPRC Breakfast gathering. It meets regularly (the 3rd Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m.) in a standard location (Perkins Restaurant, on University Ave east of Snelling Ave. in the Midway District). It usually has the same small group of attendees (5 – 8 hearty souls) with several who do not usually make the Friday night meetings. It is a social function, combining eating and lively discussions about varied topics (not all radio related).

Orcy (WØQT) usually sends out a reminder about the breakfast and includes a notice about the Circuit Builders activities, which occur around 11:00 A.M. after the breakfast back at the UST Campus (Room 415 OSS).

Speaking of other radio clubs—when asked to talk about the SPRC to other hams, I usually say that we are a general purpose club, with a membership that has interests in most aspects of amateur radio but no one limiting activity focus. I can (and do) mention other, more specialized, clubs for activities including DXing, Repeaters, FM radio, building equipment, offering special projects, etc. But I think we fill a valuable niche in the broad range of clubs, one that offers a range of educational programs, services, and a valued socializing component.

We have only one more meeting this academic year, on May 1st, with a program on Software Defined Radios. The year’s activities will conclude with Field Day (June 27-28), which is our time to show how we can operate outside our usual home shacks. (Good practice for emergency operations.) Of course, the Field Day activities will include our fantastic picnic celebration on Saturday night with Chef Dale (NØPEY) directing.

See you on May 1st.

George, KØGCP

Dale's Details

Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

I’m going right to Field Day which is only two months away now. We have Ed Jacobson (WBØVHF) as chair again this year. He does such a great job! George (NØGCP) and Dale (NØPEY) will feed you all weekend, with Jay (NJØM) and Allan (WØNLY) helping make the Picnic another success. I’m hoping that John (K9NJ) will chair the CW station as usual, and Ron (KØRJW) will have the GOTA station up. We haven’t confirmed chairs for SSB and VHF; hopefully James and Ray will do it again this year—or get some new chair people exposed to the fun.

I will be attaching the 2014 FD recap and the list of possible chairs that make the weekend run smoothly.

Other interesting or new things about FD:

FD would be a great place to try that Hamnet set up we heard about in the January meeting.

Some of the Mining guys now own the crank up portable tower we use for the SSB station, so that’s a for-sure. The other portable is most likely available too. Antennas may vary and need to be confirmed.

We have pretty much perfected the automatic CW control, copy the call and punch F# keys on the keyboard does the job.

The usual RV stations will be there, so air conditioned positions and sleeping quarters for the overnights if you can sleep with the noise.

The only uncontrollable problem at FD is the weather. I found a training program that may help with this aspect—it says controlling the weather is just like training buffalo, which can be trained to do whatever they want to do anytime they want to do it. Sounds like a winner to me!

Dale, NØPEY

Skywarn Training

5/7 1800 Medina
5/9 1200 Blaine
5/30 0900 Arden Hills

See <https://metroskywarn.org/schedule> for details.

Members' Memories Don Kelly, WA6ZMT

The April SPRC Membership Meeting was especially enjoyable—not just because it was the first meeting I’ve been to in several months due to a very pleasant winter “down south,” but because the format was different. Instead of having a single program, we had a number of members take about five-minutes to tell us about their ham radio memories.

People who have expressed an opinion say that we should definitely do it again, and generally feel that we should commit an entire program to it, rather than just have an occasional five-minute talk along with a regular program.

The members who stepped up were long-time members and had quite a bit in common in their ham radio careers. I’m looking forward to some newer members with fresher memories next time!

The brave souls for our first Members’ Memories meeting were:

John Bergland, KØUBA
Ralph Bierbaum, NØAWN
Randy Gawtry, KØCBH
Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN
Clarence Netwal, K9ELX
Tom Sturm, NØBGO
Joe Zwirn, WØXL

Members must have enjoyed hearing a bit of the history, because it seems like people stuck around and chatted longer than usual after the meeting wrapped up.

Membership Meeting April 10, 2015

Tom Sturm (NØBGO) called the UST Radio Club meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There was a short discussion about remote access and the meeting was adjourned at 7:32.

George Power (KØGCP) called the SPRC Membership Meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

A visitor, Jay Fillmore (WØRBB), said his General license expired in 1958 and he has recently become licensed again. He's interested in QRP and building simple things.

Secretary's Report: The March general meeting and board meeting minutes were accepted as printed in the March Ground Wave with a minor correction.

Treasurer's Report: Allan Klein (WØNLY) reported that the only disbursement was \$28.00 for the club table at Midwinter Madness.

Committee Reports:

Membership – Dale Maroushek (NØPEY) reports our current paid membership is 131 (3 more than March).

Education – We need to build a list of Elmers available to support people using the David Casler videos.

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

Circuit Builders—Orcy Lyle (WØQT) reported that a couple people are starting to work with Arduino; there is some interest in Raspberry Pi.

Public Service/Emergency Communications—Ralph Bierbaum (NØAWN) mentioned a number of public service opportunities: Iron Man, MS TC (one day), MS 150 (two day, June 13-14, Duluth to Minneapolis, 4000 riders), MS TRAM (five day, starts 7/22), and Tour de Cure (May 30). See ms-scam.org for the MS events.

VE Exams—Ralph reported that eight people took tests at the April session. The next session is May 2.

Old Business:

We received a thank-you letter from ARRL for the \$1,000.00 Spectrum Defense Fund donation.

The annual SPRC Banquet is Saturday, April 18. Reservations must be paid by tonight.

We are looking for a volunteer to become the club historian.

Please forward any information regarding the history of the SPRC annual auction to Dale. He is working on an article for QST on the club's auction history.

Ed Jacobson (WBØVHF) has agreed to again chair Field Day. He is looking for volunteers. Dale and George will do food again.

Members may email Ed (wb0vhf@arrl.org) if they would like a Field Day shirt or other merchandise. Ed will pick it up in Dayton and collect when he delivers.

New Business:

George had a current listing of hamfests available. It's available on the ARRL Dakota section website www.ARRLDakota.org under the Calendar tab.

The location of "Everything under

the Sun" and the "TwinsLAN Tailgate Swapfest" is likely to change due to liability insurance issues. We are waiting for updated information.

Mark showed azimuthal maps available on-line.

John announced a QCWA Meet and Greet on April 4 at 11:00 a.m. at VFW Post 755 in Roseville. QCWA membership is available to those licensed 25 or more years ago.

Dale reported that the time change for the 2-meter net from 1900 to 2030 was popular and going to happen after one more week of nets at both times. One person showed a preference for 1900, 13 for 2030 and 10 were OK with either.

Dave Fisk (NØMK) has a list of equipment available from the estate of John Frazier (W1000).

The Business meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m., followed by a break.

Rather than a formal program, ham radio memories were shared by:

John Bergland, KØUBA
Ralph Bierbaum, NØAWN
Randy Gawtry, KØCBH
Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN
Clarence Netwal, K9ELX
Tom Sturm, NØBGO
Joe Zwirn, WØXL

The Memories ended around 9:05 p.m. and were followed by the Raffle.

Best Contest Ever 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 for the next Ground Wave.

Board Meeting April 17, 2015

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Power (KØGCP) President
Allan Klein (WØNLY) Treasurer
Don Kelly (WA6ZMT) Secretary
John Faughn (KDØCAC) Vice Pres.
Dale Maroushek (NØPEY) Past Pres.
Jay Maher (NJØM) Member at Large

EXCUSED ABSENCE:

Orcy Lyle (WØQT) Member at Large

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND OTHER INTERESTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

Review of Banquet—34 registered; doors open at 5:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00, end at 8:30.

Wednesday Night Net—Last double net will be April 16. This week there were five at 1900 and five at 2030. The Twins game may have been a conflict.

Elmer List—Allan will give George lists of past instructors so George can handle inquiries.

Next Program—The May 1st program

will be Lyle Koehler, Cheap and Easy SDR with a cheap USB dongle.

Members' Memories Feedback—All feedback was positive. We should do it again. Would be best to have a complete meeting rather than a single speaker at a meeting with another program.

MN Repeater Council—No report. Terry Londroche (NØGOI) attended the April 11 meeting.

Remote Operation—Dale will be checking out a device that will be presented at the Mining ARC meeting that may be suitable for remote operation of an SPRC radio. It does not support CW. Dale would be willing to host the club station at his home for remote access.

Ham of the Year—Certificate is not ready; will be presented later.

Video Meetings—No new information.

Digital Recorder—George has acquired one for recording meetings.

\$64.26 has been reimbursed.

SPRC Mug—Order mugs with current design on both sides, adding the SPRC website url.

QST Article—Mert Nellis (WØUFO) has an article on page 32 of the May 2015 QST, "A Voltage or Power Monitor." Mert is a frequent contributor to QST.

Auction Software—Dallas Fogg (NØLKD) has requested to end his involvement in the auction processing and has given George a disk with all of the auction software and data. We are looking at open-source options that may replace our current approach.

Field Day—June 27-28, 2015, with June 26 evening setup. Dale will check with Ed Jacobson to coordinate with the Mining club. There will be a \$200 charge if we use the grill; we expect to split it with the Mining club. We supply the propane. Dale will check on options besides spaghetti and meatballs—perhaps grilled steaks.

Elections—There are two at-large board member positions open. Orcy would like to continue; Jay would be happy to step down to bring someone new onto the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.



Fri May 1	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See Page 1.
Sat May 2	9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat May 2	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri May 8	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) **
Sat May 9	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat May 16	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat May 16	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat May 23	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat May 30	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat June 6	9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat June 6	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat June 13	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Tues June 15	7PM Field Day planning meeting with Mining Club, Tartan Park.
Sat June 20	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat June 20	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
June 27-28	Field Day Weekend, Tartan Park
Sat June 27	6PM SPRC Field Day Picnic

*Circuit Builders is each Saturday morning if someone is available to open the lab and there is no conflicting activity.