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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 JUNE 2015 — Volume 75, Issue 6

Presidential Ponderings

It's the start of Summer, and I'm as happy as Mudonna (the Saint's mascot) in the proverbial pool of mud. The fair weather public service season has started. The Washington County Ironman bike ride started the season on April 26th, with nicer weather than last year, and it was followed on May 9th with the MS-Ride. For most of us, you can find events to participate in with your radios almost every weekend, and I wallow in the pool of opportunities like Mudonna. However, my version of the season closes down on October 4th, with the Twin Cities Marathon. Winter brings ski races and dog sled races, but I prefer to stay warm so I leave those events to the hearty.

Why work the public service events? They are usually fun, fairly social (you are working with many other hams), and in many events, you are supporting good causes by donating your time and energy to their fund raisers. I can participate vicariously with the runners and bike riders, without having to whip myself into shape (you all know what shape I'm in) and I don't have to suffer the agony of racers' "da feet". The people watching is fantastic.

These events usually work within a formal net, and provide practice in emergency style communications--sometimes on repeaters and sometimes on simplex. We also exercise our off-the-grid setups, helping to keep our gear ready. The events usually go on, come rain or shine, and this develops our abilities to adapt

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Field Day 2015
June 27-28, 2015
Tartan Park
Field Day Planning Meeting
7:00 p.m. Tuesday June 16th
MARC Trailer

Field Day Educational Activity Pete Guldán, KDØSQJ

The June 27-28th Field Day festivities are only a couple short weeks away. The ARRL says "Field Day is officially an operating event not a contest." That being said, it sure was nice that we earned the Minnesota Cup for 2A club stations last year. The Field Day rules award an Educational Activity bonus of 100 points for having a "formal educational component associated with Field Day."

A few months ago I was helping my nephew complete the requirements for his Radio Merit Badge. When he met his Merit Badge counselor they hid a transmitter and did a foxhunt using homemade tape-measure yagi antennas plugged into Handi-Talkies. I think the foxhunt really got him hooked on our hobby. He completed his Merit Badge and is studying for his license. Naturally my favorite sister Pam (now KD9DIY) wanted me to help them build some yagis. We pulled some plans from the web (<http://tinyurl.com/oq48rra>) got them built, and had our own mini

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Dale's Details Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

With Field Day activities and the Club picnic coming up on June 26 thru 28, we really have some old and new details to look at. Let's start with the old, which for our many new members is actually new.

The SPRC website has an extensive history and recap of previous FDs, and will soon have the operator schedules for 2015 for you to plan on. Before that, please sign up with the Chairs:

CW John k9nj@arrl.net
SSB Jim K0qei@arrl.net
VHF Dallas fdfogg@gmail.com

The joint Mining/SPRC FD planning meeting will be held at the Tartan Park Mining station trailer on June 16th at 7pm. For the most part, it is a review and fine tuning of plans we have done for at least 12 years now. The stations consist of high quality radios with towers and beams with wires for the low bands. We log on to a wireless network with N3FJP software. Food will be plentiful, fresh and hardy all weekend. Manpower is the critical part, along with cooperation from the weather. The more people we get to participate during the weekend, the better. New members are highly invited to come out and watch and learn just what we do for this event.

The new stuff--sometimes it's good; other times, not so much. The good part is, unlike Tailgate Swapfest, we still have a place for FD, but that will

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our procedures as necessary.

The summer also has its share of events for the DX'ers, announced widely in QST and other sources. Both the club activities and individual contesting events abound, and their reach goes far beyond the local public service scope. I keep meaning to get involved in the HF realms, but find the local touch of FM VHF/UHF calling to me again this summer.

See you at Field Day, June 27-28. Chef Dale (NØPEY) and I will be waiting.

George, KØGCP

FACEBOOK USER?

Look for our group:

“St. Paul Radio Club”

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most likely disappear next year. **3M has announced the closing of Tartan Park by the end of the year.** Therefore all of us will need a new FD site. The larger problem is with the Mining club, their whole station and towers will have to go somewhere else. I'm hoping the SPRC members will be open to lending a hand to MARC when a plan develops for their move.

It may be ironic, but the change in plans from the usual spaghetti dinner to a rib eye steak dinner has become a fitting farewell to Tartan Park activities for the clubs. If you can think of any other festive remembrances to celebrate the final FD here, please let us know. A short speech, some pictures, comic reviews, serious concerns are all open for presentations.

Let's make 2015 FD the best we can do for a final finish at Tartan Park. High participation, High scores, and High morale, we will persevere.

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foxhunt. That was a really fun day.

Ed (WBØVHF) agreed with me that this will be a fun educational activity for Field Day. Since no license is required to build an antenna or to receive a radio signal, we invite people of all ages (licensed or not) to participate. I priced my antenna parts new at Menards and Radio city for \$30.11, but before you buy yours you may want to check if you already have some of what you need (see below). If you don't have a full junk box, other members are planning to share parts from theirs. I will have the basic tools needed available for you to use, but you may want to bring your own solder gun and safety glasses. I will have some extra electrical power available for your solder gun if you need it.

Now that I've built a few of these I think every licensed ham should have one of these sitting next to their go kit. They are good for Direction Finding, Emergency Communications, Skywarn, or anytime you think you might need a lightweight antenna with some forward gain to get a better signal in the direction you want.

Saturday afternoon at 1:00 we'll show you how they are built and help you build your very own 2-meter, 3-element tape-measure yagi antenna. If you're not in a building mood, we'll have a few already built.

Then we'll see how skilled you are at locating a hidden transmitter, weather permitting :-).

There will be plenty of help building and hunting—no experience or license is required.

See www.stpaulradioclub.org for updates.

If you find any of these parts at a better price please let me know so I can pass the word along. I am looking forward to Field Day and hope you will join us.

Suggested Parts

1 tape-measure 1 inch wide at least 10 feet long. Menards has a 25 footer sku 2433507 for \$5.96

3 feet of 1/2" schedule 40 pvc pipe. Menards 5' sku 6898504 for \$1.11

2 each of 1/2" non-threaded end caps for schedule 40 pvc. These are optional. You can use tape to cover the ends if you prefer. Menards sku 6896674 \$0.24 each

3 schedule 40 1/2" cross tees. Menards sku 6897204 \$1.06 each

6 stainless steel hose clamps 7/8 to 1 1/4. Menards 3/4 - 1 3/4 sku 6790616 \$0.98 each

5" of #14 or #12 solid (non stranded) wire. I have a piece you can have if you promise me you will introduce someone new to amateur radio by Field Day next year.

5' of 50ohm RG-58 cable or whatever you happen to have around the shack with a pl-259 attached to 1 end. Radio City has a nice 8' patch cable sku 15547 for \$8.50. Or you can get the longer one cut it in half and share. You can save some money if you want to solder your own pl-259 to the coax you may already have.

Bring your Handi-Talkie and whatever adapter you need to attach your HT to the pl-259. The most common is the sma adapter.

Radio city has 2 varieties. The adapter without the wire sku 13627 (or sku 13628 for Baofeng or Wouxun) is \$4.50 or \$5.00.

The ones with the wire attached are more expensive ranging \$14.95 to \$17.95. Sku 15649 \$14.95 18" wire. Sku 16825 39" wire. Sku 18825 Baofeng / Wouxun reverse threading \$15.95.

The adapter without the wire is more durable and what I prefer but you decide which you like best.

Membership Meeting May 1, 2015

UST Radio Club: Tom Sturm (NØBGO) called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. He talked about the UST remote operation plans, and will meet with the UST Astronomy Department to see how they run their telescope equipment remotely (from off campus). He also mentioned a student Engineering Project which had asked about using the UST station call sign and using amateur radio frequencies to transmit data and video from a project vehicle. They now know that they need a licensed operator present to act as the station control, and they may not have enough time to get a student properly licensed before the term ended, so they may be asking for SPRC members to help them by acting as station controls.

SPRC general meeting: George Power (KØGCP) called the meeting to order at 7:40PM, and we started with a round of self introductions. Attending tonight we had 35 members, 2 guests and 1 presenter.

Secretary's Report: The General and Board meeting minutes for April were accepted as posted in the Ground Wave.

Treasurer's Report: Allan Klein (WØONLY) reported (via email) that the only income was new membership, and the only expense was for the digital voice recorder. We remain solvent. Our anticipated expenses included Field Day costs and a new or-

der of mugs.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Dale Maroushek (NØPEY) had the 2015-2016 club application forms available and reports that he has already receive five paid applications for the new year.

Circuit Builders: Orcy Lyle (WØQT) said that the CB would be available for the rest of May, but meeting during the summer might be possible by contacting her in advance (assuming that she has building access during the summer). Current projects include Arduino building.

VE Exams: Leon Dill (WØCOE) said the next exam will be May 2nd (tomorrow) and he has several candidates signed up.

Old Business:

Dale Maroushek (NØPEY) is still looking for more info on when the club started sending the auction profits to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund. Please feed your knowledge to Dale.

Field Day – Ed Jacobson (WBØVHF) has agreed to be FD Chair. He reported that the major chair positions have been filled, but that we need operators to fill the time slots.

New Business:

Terry Londroche (NØGOI) attended the Spring meeting of the MN Repeater Council as our club representative. He reports that the council reviewed the status of some inactive repeaters and worked on frequency allocations for some new applicants. They are also working on a coordina-

tion plan with the repeater councils of the Dakotas, Iowa and Wisconsin to resolve frequency conflicts near our borders.

Election of two At-Large Board members. Candidates: Orcy Lyle (WØQT) was re-elected for another term, and Mike Thompson (AEØMT) was elected for his first term. Congratulations to both members.

Terry Londroche (NØGOI) reported that the club repeater (145.310) has been having noise problems, and he requested that anyone listening to the repeater to check the input frequencies to help him identify what is causing the noise (if they can). He also reminded members that the MAGIC yard sale has changed locations this year (see the MAGIC web page for details – www.magicrepeater.net).

John Faughn (KDØCAC) reports that the collection of “really good stuff” for the club raffles has been used up, and he is looking for suggestions on what members would like to see at the raffle.

George adjourned the meeting at 7:55PM, and after the break, introduced our program speaker Lyle Koehler (KØLR). Lyle's program included a brief history review of Software Defined Radio, and then a demonstration of an inexpensive (\$15) RTL-SDR dongle which turns your computer into a receiver with many options.

The evening concluded with our usual raffle and a reminder to contact Ed Jacobson (WBØVHF) to sign up for a timeslot at Field Day.

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 26	Field Day Preparation, Tartan Park
June 27-28	Field Day Weekend, Tartan Park
Sat June 27	6PM SPRC Field Day Picnic, Tartan Park
Sat July 4	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat July 11	8AM-Noon Twelfth Annual Magic Tailgater (was the Yard Sale). New location – Gallilee Lutheran Church, Roseville MN
Sat July 11	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat July 18	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat July 18	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat July 18	8AM-? Chippewa Valley ARC Tailgate Swapfest, www.w9cva.org Hallie Eagles Club, Village of Hallie WI
Sat July 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.

** Depending on business to be considered, Board Meetings are sometimes held electronically. Check with an officer or board member to confirm that the meeting will be at UST.