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St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

Don Kelly, WA6ZMT, Editor
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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 OCTOBER 2016 — Volume 76, Issue 10

Monthly Meeting

October 7, 2016

UST OWS LL54

7:00 pm Socializing

Membership Meeting 7:30 pm

October Program

Program details were not available in time for the Ground Wave.

Future Programs

Do you have an idea for a program? Have you seen an interesting program at another club? Do you know someone who knows something that we'd all like to hear about?

Send your idea to
WA6ZMT@ARRL.net

Program Coordinator

If you'd like to help plan future programs, contact any board member to volunteer.

Presidential Ponderings

Seems to be a good time to talk about the need for volunteers to keep clubs functional. A reminder to the membership that clubs only keep going by members taking on positions that are needed to make a club function .

As an example , I forgot to duck last spring and ended up President, so with no volunteer for the door prize job , we have to let that go by the wayside .

Also with no vice President, we will start having issues there .

So I hope that bringing the subject to the forefront will help. Sometimes, if things are not mentioned, we just do not think about these issues, so a call for help to the members is in order.

We need a vice President at a minimum, and others to step up for backup positions, And we need someone to handle door prizes if the membership wants to continue that part of our meetings.

Thanks for being there.

73 de John, KDØCAC

Dale's Details

Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

The importance of being seven.

As you know, or should know, the SPRC bylaws provide a structure for the Board of Directors that manages the club activities and assets—four officers, the Past President and two members at large. Five of those seven people are required to make up a quorum at a Board meeting in order to do “legal” business. Roberts Rules of Order tells us that any business done without a quorum can be challenged by the membership at the next meeting and can be then passed or failed. If not challenged, it stays passed. You get the picture yet?

Back up one step. At the May elections, we had no nominee for the Vice President position, which is a tricky position since it has a bylaws tag line that says the VP will be a candidate for the next presidential election, in 2018. All well and good, but the club would never force anyone to hold a position they did not want, nor would a member stay with the club if we did. Call it part of the rock-and-a-hard-place complex. President John was one of the only

(Details, Continued on page 2)



Support the
League

www.arrl.org/

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.

SURPRISE!

Our two regular columns have the same theme this month. The editor apologizes, but apparently the lack of volunteers is important!

Also, keep in mind that anyone is encouraged to submit content. If you're not a "writer," let us know what you'd like to say and we'll help.

**Send your contributions to
WA6ZMT@ARRL.net**

(Details Continued from page 1)

VPs that I can remember that took the responsibility after many years on the Board.

What am I getting at you wonder? One: Getting five out of seven people together on a Friday night is tough some times. Without a VP, now we have to hope five out of six make the meeting. Two: Suppose we have the six people and a motion comes up to do something semi-crazy in this mad world we have now. (For reference, search out the City council problems that have gone on in all the eastern suburbs over the years, starting in Maplewood and now in Lake Elmo.)

Motion to reduce the Club dues to five dollars a year, motion to purchase one hundred dollar Blazers for the Board members, motion to pay rent to those members that store or host Club gear. The first example is poor since that type of motion would require membership approval, but it would be a start.

So, worst case scenario would be a 3 to 3 tie with nothing getting done. Without that seventh tie-breaker vote, it could lead to problems. We need to find a VP to fill this vacancy. If it takes 10 minutes of waiting for a volunteer or a nomination at the next meetings, it should be done.

Part two, other volunteer chairs without backups. The discussions at the Board meetings pertaining to these situations is now very simple. If no one wants to step up and take a position or be a backup chair, the position is left open and not presented. Last month, we did not have door prizes and the coffee was missing. President John has enough to do without being the door prize chair, we need a chair and a backup. Refreshment chair Jay was away and George followed instructions but UST dropped the ball. Jay needs a backup. Any other Chairs that need backups, this is the time to speak up.

Although my jobs are many, most of the important ones can be done on line and I recall doing a GW mailing from a camp ground a few years back. Providing food service to the masses will require more people to get involved in the next couple years. The Field Day group is a small job, but including the picnic becomes a big adventure. Or, we can farm it out to food trucks or a caterer.

Membership renewals are growing fast, over 60 now, keep those cards and letters coming!

I'm EXTRA Ignorant Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On Sunday, I received the following e-mail from a reader:

"Just wanted to let you know I passed the General exam using your study guide. It was very helpful. I am now generally ignorant whereas before I was only technically ignorant. Ha!"

My reply to him was:

"Well, if you're generally ignorant, I guess that makes me EXTRA ignorant!"

This isn't just a joke--being ignorant is part of the hobby. Amateur radio operators will always be ignorant about something or other. Even if you could master every facet of the hobby at

some point in time, your mastery would be short-lived as the technology continued to advance.

Over the course of my amateur radio career, we've gone from equipment that primarily used vacuum tubes, to solid-state gear that first used discrete transistors and then integrated circuits, to software-defined radios. I could have, at some point, simply given up on the new technology and still enjoyed amateur radio. Some guys do that, and that's OK. It is only a hobby after all.

I'm not one of those guys, though, and if you're not one of those guys, then you have to resign yourself to being ignorant. But, that's a good thing, as long as you realize that you're ignorant. Realizing that you're ignorant will spur you on to learn new things and accept new challenges.

Recently, I realized that I'm mostly ignorant about satellite operation. I know some of the basics from having read articles and writing about the topic in my study guides, but I have never made a contact using a satellite. I think that might be one of my next challenges. With the advent of CubeSat, there are many new satellites up in the air and many more opportunities to have interesting contacts.

So, what are you ignorant about? By that I mean, of course, what's going to be your next challenge in amateur radio?

When he's not challenging himself with new things, Dan falls back on something he knows pretty well--operating CW. You'll find him mainly on the 80m, 40m, and 30m bands. Dan is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and you can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

[This was Dan's April, 2016, column]



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Sat Oct 1 10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Oct 1 No Circuit Builders.
Sat Oct 1 7AM – NOON. Twin City FM Club Outdoor Swap Meet. West Medicine Lake Community Club - 1705 Forestview Lane N., Plymouth, MN.
Fri Oct 7 7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See Page 1.
Sat Oct 8 No Circuit Builders.
Fri Oct 14 7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) **
Sat Oct 15 9AM SPRC Breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Oct 15 After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Oct 22 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Oct 29 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Nov 4 7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54.
Sat Nov 5 10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Nov 5 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Nov 11 7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) **
Sat Nov 12 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Nov 19 9AM SPRC Breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Nov 19 After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Nov 26 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.