



Saint Paul Radio Club **Ground Wave**

Dan Meyer, NØKFB, Editor Dale Maroushek, NØPEY, Publisher http://www.stpaulradioclub.org/

KØAGF

Club Repeaters: 145.310 MHz, 442.450 MHz Both use a 114.8 Hz tone

PO Box 9375 North St. Paul, MN 55109

Devoted to the future of Amateur Radio as a hobby and public necessity. SPRC Nets: Wednesday 7:30 PM 28.310 MHz USB; 8:30 PM 145.310 MHz FM 114.8 tone

NEWS AND NOTES FOR October 2024

Volume 84, Issue 08

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY October 4th, 2024

6:00 PM Board Meeting (all are welcome to attend and observe)

7:00 PM Membership meeting, refreshments and socializing

7:30 PM Membership Meeting Followed by Program

Entrance to CDH for our meeting

Meetings are held at Cretin-Derham Hall High School located at the intersection of Hamline and Randolph in St. Paul. Park in the lot off Hamline near the athletic field.

Enter door 21 at the Ryan STEM Center addition. The meeting room is down the hallway on the right (the Commons). Door 21 will lock at 7:45; if you arrive after that, please call Br. Bob at 612-201-0818 to be let in.

Program

Our meetings are (usually) hybrid meetings. That means there will be an in-person meeting at Cretin-Derham Hall (CDH) and a meeting on Zoom for those unable to attend in person. The October meeting will not be a Zoom meeting because Dan Meyer and his equipment is not available to stream the meeting on Zoom.

The speaker at our October meeting will once again be Bob Parnell, NØKLC, and the topic will be "Automatic call distributors and predictive dialers and why they are so annoying.".

Bob is an extra-class ham, licensed since 1985. He had an extensive career in information technology with the State of Minnesota and AT&T. During his career with the State of Minnesota he had full technical responsibility for both governors Tim Pawlenty and Jesse Ventura. Please join us Friday May 3rd! Please join us Friday Octoberber 4th!

Ramblings from the VP's Work Bench by Kevin Welna W5LNA

It's September 16th and as usual I got lots to say!!!Where has the summer gone!!!!! LOL

Let's start with Ham Radio:

Remember those wild winds that hit Cottage grove a few weeks ago? It uprooted trees and made a mess of the streets. Well, it also blew over one of my antennas. The weird part was that it folded the mast right at the top of the tripod! These are only held in with the lag bolts going through the roof sheeting. I do not think any of them are also hitting the roof joists, only the OSB roof sheeting. How they are still bolted in and the mast was bent completely over is a mystery. Anyway, this means that I first have to remove the loop antenna and bent mast. I'm not sure which one of my loop antennas is actually down. I am hoping its the 40 - 20 as I use the 20-10 more and almost never get on 40 these days. The upside is that I now have a reason to put up the VHF\UHF Yagi antenna and then hopefully be able to finally hit the St. Paul repeater! I think this will be an October project. I want it a bit cooler out especially if I am going to attempt to climb up into my attic and reinforce the securing of the tripods. I have actually cleared it with "SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED" to putting up a hex beam!

This will probably go up next spring\early summer. I am actually thinking of hiring professionals to come out and do the installation..... Time and finances will tell on that!!

Looking at my hobby room, I am thinking it needs a bit of clearing out and re-arranging..... I am still unable to fit all my interests into the room. This will be a fairly big endeavor , so I'm going to wait till the white fungus flies before I start. In the mean time, I have been organizing, cleaning, staging electronic components, tools etc. on my desk to make room and prepare for the upcoming winter building of ham radio stuff. On my list are 50 watt Power Amp Kit, a couple more QRP Labs HF Transceiver kits, finishing up my Programmable Keyer (Home Brew) as well as possibly getting the Heath Kit SB-301 and SB-410 up and running. This last one will require a bit of hand holding from an older ham that has tube radio experience. Then I can also learn how to set the plate and grid voltages. I have read through the process and well, I still am not fully confident I understand this process. It always pays to ask for help!!

Did I mention that I am going to take the third class from CW Ops this winter as well? (Assuming that I can get in to a class.) Well, it time to refocus back in on CW and get my instant character recognition and speed up to where I want it. I took the second class placement test and got 9 out of 10 groups of letters correct! So in theory, I do not need to retake that class like I thought I would. I guess I am doing better than I thought. Who Da Thunk It!

By the time you receive this newsletter, hopefully the North Star Radio Convention will be right around the corner. I encourage all of you to come and participate in the convention. Lots of great info to be had and a great place for eyeball QSO's. As I said in the last Ground Wave, I will be offing a seminar at the MN North Star Radio Convention on using Easy EDA to design circuit boards and then sending the resulting file off to be fabricated. This is a seminar for non engineers! AKA, just us mere mortals. Hey if I can do it, any one can!

With the reprieve from winter we had last year, I can only assume we will get hammered this year. That being said, its time to get organized and ready to be inside for extended periods of time. So! Let's get the soldering iron out and clear a space for some winter building! Add in some good lighting and maybe a lighted magnifying glass on a articulated boom. (We ain't getting any younger!) Seriously, do this in stages. (That's what I do) Start by finding a location for build, then gather up tools and stuff. Then stop, take a minute (or a day or two) and then either order or pull out that kit you received way back when. Start small like maybe that PIXI kit you got from me 2-3 years ago... Next, get a parts holder\organizer that has a TIGHT cover and separate the parts by grouping them in a way that seems logical to you. Again, stop and take a moment to figure out what day you will begin building. Set the date aside and mark it on your calendar. If someone wants you to do something on that date just say "Oh sorry I'm booked up that day." It really works. Next and most importantly, go out and get your favorite snack(s) make sure they are close at hand for when you start to build. This way, on the day you said you will start, everything is in place and you will have no excuse to not give it a go. Remember, it does not have to be perfect and if you mess up, it is usually not that expensive to get a new kit and start over. This should be an enjoyable learning experience. Plus there are tons of other Hams plus the Internet and YouTube to help make your first or current project successful.

On to other stuff:

I did get my membership card from the Rich Valley Fliers and I have flown a couple of times with them at their facility. Nice guys and a good club. Alas, currently, most of what I have to fly are either light gliders (2 meter wing span aircraft that weigh less than a pound) or smaller lighter aircraft (Again under a pound). So I am limited in what I can fly at their field. Especially when the winds get up above about 10 mph. Obviously I need to build a larger\heavier plane this winter so I can fly more at their club. They like to fly later in the afternoon both during the week and week ends. This is because of the orientation of their flying field and runways. Morning and early afternoon puts the sun right in your eyes while flying. Not a good situation.

On the other hand, I do have a slope glider that is over 2 pounds and it loves the higher winds. It flies fast and cleaves the the air like a scimitar. Its is fun to fly and fast. Fun fact, currently, the fastest R/C plane in the world is a glider and it was clocked at 548 MPH. Not scale MPH but actual MPH!! There is a video on YouTube if you are interested. I said that my plane is quick, it probably goes about 40 -50 mph tops.... I guess I have a LONG way to go.....HI HI

I have flown all of my designs and had a few boo boos. Mostly due to trying to fly in too much wind. Nothing catastrophic, but definitely resulting in some repairs and redesigning of the aircraft to make them a bit more robust. It is a bit frustrating when you think you have your final design done and "perfected", go out and fly and then come back and have to make more changes. The other issue I am dealing with is too many projects in general that have been started and are still not complete. I currently have called a moratorium on myself around starting any new projects. Until what I have already started are completed, there will be no new projects of any kind! Thankfully most are close to being completed, I just have to focus... Yea right!!!

The 3D printers are still going almost daily and the laser cutter is moderately busy as well. It really needs a good cleaning before the white fungus flies. I know a number of the glider guiders and are hoping to have me cut them a few kits for winter projects. Again, I better get on the ball!!

On the new\returning hobbies front, the new moratorium is preventing me from getting much if anything done on the lamp working glass and pen turning front. Since they were both started before the moratorium was called I guess they can be worked on, but since its currently flying season and then antenna erecting season then its on to USPSA and IPSC indoor shooting leagues, it may be a bit before they too are completed. The R\C sailboats are completely out of the picture until after the first of the year by my current calculations. Thankfully later this week I will have winterized the RV and put it away till spring. Unless of course I can talk my wife into taking an extended RV "vacation" to a warmer climate in late winter. (Can you call it a vacation of you are retired?)

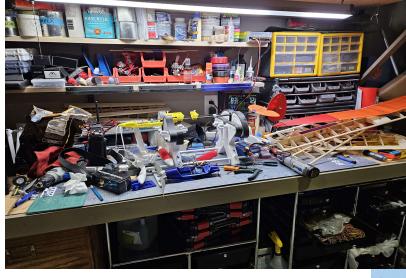
I figure with a little bit of luck I can get the bulk of the projects completed by Thanksgiving.(The Good Lord Willing and the Creek Don't Rise.) In any case, the pressure is on to get 'er done so I will have the winter to play. Once again, let me know what you are planning for a winter project or bdetter yet write it up and get it into the Ground Wave!

With that said, I better get to work!

As always: May your signals be strong and your antennas have extra gain.

73 Kevin - W5LNA (continued on next page)

Current view of the Work Bench.. Totally trashed with uncompleted projects that are waiting for either parts or repair. Also I have been stocking up on balsa, carbon fiber extrusions and other hardware for the long cold winter that is coming.





Here I am slope soaring one of my designs its the little orange speck directly above me. The 2 darker specks are either eagles or turkey buzzards that were riding the same ridge lift. At one point there were at least 10 birds flying with us. Yes, sometimes the hawks and eagles get upset with us and attack out planes. But if you pull a quick loop and get behind them , they usually leave....usually. LOL

As we were packing up for the day, a Para-Glider cam out to "Ride" the lift. By the time we actually left, he was a good 200 feet above us and still climbing. No motor, just ridge lift and thermals lifting him up. SO COOL! I think I need one??!!





Fer Pete's Sake by Pete Guldan KDØSQJ

Friday during Field Day Dale sprung it on me we were creating an awards program for Field Day. When you lob a bag of lemons at a Ham during Field Day you don't just get the standard lemonade. What you get back is a lemon meringue pie in the face, so here you go Dale. SPLAT!

For the time being until Y'all give me a better idea the working title for this award will be the Field Day Awards. As I mentioned in last month's Ground Wave Mark and Ron were the recipients this year. So going alphabetically this month I get to brag about some of the things Mark NL7AS has done to help us out for Field Day. It will be hard to limit myself to FD stuff because the antennas for the club station on the CDH roof definitely come to mind, so here goes. Mark is one of those people who always pitches in when we need a helping hand. Many of you see him before, during and after the actual operation at our FD site. I have an interesting example of one you wouldn't know about unless you read the Groundwave this month. One year (every year) I make it known we are trying to expand youth participation. One fine day I get a phone call from Mark about attending a meeting of his Civil Air Patrol squadron. I am quite familiar with the CAP and their missions as an Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. I was very briefly a member and paid them to store my plane in the back of one of their hangers for a while. Their most notable mission is locating downed aircraft and providing other humanitarian aid. They routinely are credited with saving lives through their efforts. Typically more than 100 times every year. I snuck out of work between loads and went to the meeting with Mark's squadron at the armory where they were meeting. We presented them with the information at the appropriate time. Even though the commander didn't seem interested he did say he would bring it up to the regional leadership. I don't think they did and I don't think any of their cadets joined us that year, but who knows, maybe they did and in some future time one of those hearing about FD will join us. Mark is one of those people who I would pick early on for the Field Day basketball team. 73.

September Meeting Photos By Dawn Holmberg WXØZ

Right: Ralph NOAWN presenting his talk about emergency preparedness.

Below: SPRC Members and guests enjoying the presentation.

Below right: Janet KD0BZZ and Evelyn WB0VHF announcing winning door prize raffle numbers.







HELP NEEDED WITH CDH ANTENNAS by Br Bob Walsh WCØJ

We need to replace the SPRC TH-3JRS triband yagi which was damaged by wind storms this summer. The CDH maintenance department will tip the tower. We will remove the

damaged one and replace it with a new one. After evaluating the damaged one, we'll decide to repair it or use it for parts. In either case, we will box it up to get it off the roof. This is a small 3 element beam (21 lbs). If people are free during the work week, we can schedule times. Otherwise, we'll use weekends during October and/or November. There are other chores we can look at while the tower is tipped. We need to be off the roof one half hour before sunset so evenings won't be available for work at this time of the year.



Thank you.

Br. Bob

For Sale

Kenwood TH-D75A 2M 220 and 440 band hand-held, new in the box with full warranty. \$599.00. More info KN9P is good in QRZ.com or telephone 920-853-7073 (KN9P is a personal friend of Br. Bob Walsh WCØJ)

Public Service Events By George Power KØGCP

If you have never participated in a public service event, please consider doing so. It helps to keep the participants and public safe, and it allows you to practice your amateur radio skills, have a lot of fun, and meet many like-minded people. This is by no means an exhaustive list; some of the public service events in the area this year are listed below:

For more information on any of the activities please do a web search on the activity name or email georgecpower@gmail.com.

Club Wearables

Many different items with the Saint Paul Radio Club logo may be ordered at: https://www.hamthreads.com/ Dale spoke with the owner Diane and she assured him they still have our logo in three sizes, hat/chest/back, so you can have it positioned on your favorite item wherever you like. You can shop on line, pick the clothing piece you want, list the logo, name and callsign then pay. Sit back and it comes to your house. If you have questions, give them a call 817-602-1834

September VE Report by Steve Scott WA7HPK

August was our off month to coincide with the club's scheduled dark month. We garnered one candidate who successfully passed his technician class exam – Joe Carlson of New Brighton. Joe is a bit younger than the rest of us, has a electrical background and lives in New Brighton. He completed his application to SPRC (which I'll hold until his call sign shows up) and we did give him the information regarding QRZ's Jump Start program. If any of you are unfamiliar with that, it was a joint effort by QRZ and GigaParts where a decent quality HT could be requested by hams who have been newly licensed within the last 6 months at no cost – until supplies ran out. The program is still active but the deal now includes the QRZ-1 Explorer VHF/UHF 5W HT w/charger (a \$60 value), RT Systems programming software/cable, a QRZ one year premium membership and New Ham Welcome Kit – all for a bargain \$21.99.

We had six VE's show up to help out – Greg (KCØRET); Curt (ACØCT); Andy (ABØNX – note his new vanity call); Ralph (NØAWN); Terry (NØGOI) and myself. Leon (WØCOE) showed up w/o credentials for moral support. He initially did not expect to participate. Thanks to all on my inaugural run as the club's new VE liaison.

Next month we will serve as the lead club for the VE exam session at the North Star Radio Convention @ Hennepin Technical College in Brooklyn Park. Date is Saturday, Oct 5th. Doors open @ 8am and we begin testing @ 8:30am so thanks to those who have already stepped up to help out. I have no idea how many candidates we'll get so I did reach out to Shep (NØNMZ) from the Anoka club and Gordy (NØZRD) from Maple Grove for some mutual assistance.

We did discard the old Extra exam question booklets which expired the end of June this year. ARRL sent two new sets of exams but to Leon and another set to Ron (KØKWN). Both contacted me and the new materials found their way to the new guy. I did contact ARRL to update their records. I also noted we were getting a bit thin on VE supplies so ordered a replenishment through their online portal. Realizing ARRL is still picking up the pieces from their ransomware attack, I was just about to call them personally when a FedEx package arrived with a full set of exam supplies. I compared the new answer keys to the old keys and found they don't change the answer keys when updating the exams. I figured we're in good shape until the end of next summer. Fast forward another two weeks and my Ring doorbell announces a package has been left at the front door. I figured it must be something for my wife's sewing guild activities. I picked up the package and it was from ARRL. They sent a 2nd full supply of exam materials! I figure now we're in really great shape for a number of years.

Steve Scott WA7HPK

Saint Paul Radio Club Breakfast

Third Saturday of each month at 9:00 am





Denny's Restaurant 1664 University Ave. W.

One block West of Snelling Ave. (Across from Ax Man)



The North Star Radio Convention (2024 ARRL Minnesota State Convention) will be on October 5th at Hennepin Technical College in Brooklyn Park.

For more information or to register see http://www.northstarradio.org

The website includes a list of topics and presenters—bios and descriptions are being added as they are received from the presenters. Times and room assignments will not be available until closer to the convention date.

Registration for the full day is \$30 including lunch and free parking. Registration is \$15 for youth aged 17 and under (youth aged 12 and under must be accompanied by a responsible adult throughout the day).

BoD Meeting Minutes – by Art Thell, NØIWQ

Saint Paul Radio Club
Hereinafter referred to as "SPRC"
Board Meeting Minutes
09-06-2024

Board members present: (If * or E or R)

Dale Maroushek (Pres.)-NØPEY * Kevin Welna (V. Pres.)-W5LNA * Art Thell (Secy.)-NØIWQ * George Power- (Treas.)-KØGCP *

Br. Bob Walsh-WCØJ * Don Kelly-WA6ZMT R

Ralph Bierbaum-(P. Pres.)-NØAWN *

Also present (If * or R):

Jay Maher-NJØM * Jeff Iverson-WB9DAN Dan Meyer-NØKFB *
Pete Guldan-KDØSQJ * John Crabtree-KCØG R Ben Otto-KEØRFZ
Janet Bierbaum KDØBZZ * Dawn Holmberg KØWC * Steven Scott-WA7HPK *

Andy Parent-KFØMJQ Doug Lueck KØDLX

6:12 President, Dale called the meeting to order.

President: Call for added agenda items: None

President: Comments

Old Business:

Secretary's Report:

Move to accept Minutes of 05-03-2024 Meetings as published in the Ground Wave

Move: Art Second: Ralph Passed

Move to accept Minutes of 07-20-2024 Special Board Meeting at Denny's as pub. in the G.W.

Move: Art Second: George Passed

Treasurer's report: George

General Fund: \$4921.22, Repeater Fund: \$1011.61, Education Fund: \$1105.38

Total Cash on Hand: \$7038.21. So noted and filed: Secretary

CDH ARC Report: Br. Bob. No club action. No staff member has stepped up to assume position.

Repeater Report: Dale: Works with some blind spots reported by users.

Membership Report: Dale: 2023-24 year end 135.

Website report: (stpaulradioclub.org):

Pay Pal links: Motion by Kevin for Treasurer George to share password with Don K.

2nd: George. Passed.

VE Report: Next session Sept. 14

Training Report: Pete: No sessions planned. Other nearby clubs have upgrade sessions in the works.

Field Day final report: (Lifted from the GW)

I thought the weather was going to dramatically reduce attendance and it might have but we almost matched last year's numbers with 61 instead of the 65 we saw last year. We ended up with the preliminary score of 3230 which is kind of a bummer when compared with last year's 4382 score.

We didn't get as many contacts as the last two years. We did have a server crash in the wee hours and shut down all but the CW station who were using paper logs until the server got restored.

I would like to have 1 or 2 people to lend a hand to Kevin especially for the Saturday evening meal so we can serve it up a little faster. Maybe a few more tables and another awning and a few other tweaks.

Overall it was a great time by all who showed up. We just would like a few more of you folks to join us next time.

This year we started a new tradition by giving awards at Field Day and I would like to acknowledge Ron KØRJW and Mark NL7AS as this year's recipients.

73 Pete

New Business:

Treasurer, George proposed, with the support of Secretary, Art, that SPRC change to a Fiscal year to correspond with the Membership year of September 1 to August 31. He included in the proposal that the Treasurer produce an annual report and a Budget for the following year. After some discussion, the effort gained no traction for further action.

Club Breakfast: September 21 at 9:00 AM. (Normally third Saturday) Place—Denny's at 1664 University Ave. W.—Across from the AxMan

Adjourn:

Move: Second: Passed

7:00: Adjourn.

Membership Meeting Minutes – by Art Thell, NØIWQ

Saint Paul Radio Club Hereinafter referred to as "SPRC" Member Meeting Minutes 09-06-2024

7:30 Call to order by President, Dale39 Members present plus Remote.			
President call for other agenda items			
Three estate sales/disposals coming up. One in Lino Lakes in September and one later in North Roseville. Volunteers are needed to move equipment, etc. 4 hands went up. Thank you.			
Old Business: Treasurer's report: George General Fund: \$4921.22, Repeater Fund: \$1011.61, Education Fund: \$1105.38 Total Cash on Hand: \$7038.21. So noted and filed: Secretary			
Membership report, Dale: 135 end of 2023-24			
Repeater Report, Dale: Works but some blind spots. Art offered to check some local geography.			
VE Report: Next session September 14.			
Training Report, Pete: No sessions current planned. Neighboring clubs have upgrade sessions in process.			
Field Day final report: As reported in the Ground Wave.			
New Business:			
Other operating events: (Need not be Board-initiated)			
Club Breakfast: Normally Third Saturday September 21, 2024 at 9:00 AM.			

Place: Denny's at 1664 University Ave. Across from the AxMan.

Program to follow: Ralph Bierbaum—Presentation on Emergency Preparedness.

Adjourn: 8:00

SPRC Contact Information

President	Maroushek, Dale NØPEY	n0pey@comcast.net	651-238-5720
Vice President	Welna, Kevin W5LNA	kwelna@gmail.com	651-354-5515
Past President	Bierbaum, Ralph NØAWN	rwbierbaum@comcast.net	612-201-9510
Treasurer	Power, George KØGCP	georgecpower@gmail.com	651-233-3215
Secretary	Thell, Art NØIWQ	thellaj@comcast.net	651-492-0254
Member At-Large	Kelly, Don WA6ZMT	dk@donkelly.biz	651-276-4838
Member At-Large	Walsh, Bob WCØJ	brw.fsc@gmail.com	612-201-0818
Ground Wave Editor	Meyer, Daniel NØKFB	dan@meyer-family.net	763-238-8239

SPRC Calendar

- Fri Oct 4 6 PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. *
- Fri Oct 4 7 PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting.

 Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School.
- Sat Oct 5 North Star Radio Convention Brooklyn Park MN http://mnconvention.org/
- Sat Oct 5 8:30 AM Amateur Radio testing administered by Saint Paul Radio Club volunteer examiner team. Hennepin Technical College, 9000 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Park, MN. Reservations required; Contact Steve Scott WA7HPKN, Telephone 651-503-7441 or e-mail pipemajor2@gmail.com
- Sat Oct 19 9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.
- Fri Nov 1 6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room,
 John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. *
- Fri Nov 1 7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting.

 Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School.
- Sat Nov 2 9:30 AM Amateur Radio testing administered by Saint Paul Radio Club volunteer examiner team. Galilee Lutheran Church, 145 N McCarrons Blvd, Roseville, MN. Reservations required; Contact Steve Scott WA7HPKN, Telephone 651-503-7441 or e-mail pipemajor2@gmail.com

Sat Nov 16 9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.

* - Depending on business to be considered, Board Meetings are sometimes held electronically. Check with a Board member beforehand to confirm a meeting.

Zoom Meeting Information

Please note: Since Dan Meyer is unable to attend the October meeting, **it is unlikely there will be a Zoom meeting available** unless someone else can come up with the required hardware. The information below is being included just in case someone can host the meeting.

Simply click the link below (or copy and paste link into your browser if that doesn't work) or for audioonly call in from any phone; dial 507-473-4847 and follow the prompts.

If you are not familiar with Zoom and would like to arrange to practice, text Don at (651) 276-4838 or email dk@donkelly.biz.

SPRC Monthly Meeting

Time: May 3rd, 2024 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

To Join the Zoom Meeting use Meeting ID: 651 842 1000 and Passcode: 6512764838

Or this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6518421000?pwd=djluU3dha0FBN1hERIRoUVA0RVNUQT09

Or

https://tinyurl.com/ys4efevx

One-tap mobile:

+13462487799,,6518421000#,,,,*6512764838# US

+12532050468,,6518421000#,,,,*6512764838# US

For audio-only, dial 507-473-4847

To find other dial-in numbers, see: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kuWkJhGiz