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|  <p><b>www.arrl.org</b></p> |  | <p><b>Saint Paul Radio Club</b></p> <p><b>Ground Wave</b></p> <p><i>Dan Meyer, NØKFB, Editor</i><br/> <i>Dale Maroushek, NØPEY, Publisher</i><br/> <a href="http://www.stpaulradioclub.org/">http://www.stpaulradioclub.org/</a></p> | <p><b>KØAGF</b></p> <p>Club Repeaters:<br/> 145.310 MHz, 442.450 MHz<br/> Both use a 114.8 Hz tone</p> <p>PO Box 9375<br/> North St. Paul, MN 55109</p> |
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**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 May 2025**

**Volume 85, Issue 5**

### **NEXT MEETING: Friday May 2nd, 2025**

- 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 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. Zoom meeting information can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

The program this month is scheduled to be presented by Dan Dionne, K9ALV, who is the Radio Scouting Liaison for our club. He is also in MNYARC (Minn Youth Amateur Radio Council) and is active with MSBike events.

Dan will explain how he helps Scouts grow STEM skills by exposing them to Scout-to-Scout radio communications, both locally and internationally. Examples of these programs are: Radio Merit Badge training, Scout Camps on the Air (SCOTA), the Scout JOTA (Jamboree on the Air), FCC Tech Licensing and more.

In our SPRC meeting this Friday (5/2) Dan will present details of programs and events of the past and future. He is in the process of becoming involved in regional and national Radio Scouting organizations and will share some of these points, and let you know how to get involved.

If you would like to make a presentation to our group, either in-person or via Zoom, please contact any board member. Contact information is located in the back pages of this newsletter.

Please join us Friday May 2<sup>nd</sup>!

## **Dale's Details**

### **by Dale Maroushek NØPEY**

April and May are my Medical Checkup months and I get to visit all kinds of specialists that look me over from stem to stern. The Rotator Cuff Orthopedic treatment from last summer is very well healed and working, but I still exercise it to make sure what I can do with my left arm I can also do with my right arm. The Orthodontia is done and the upper left bridge is installed with the front veneers coming up next. Relearning to talk with each new thing is the hard part.

I was screened at the sleep deprivation clinic and have a date with them this month for an overnight session. Looking forward to my ONE Adderall tablet. I met with a new younger Urologist and did a MRI for him. All that can be done is working so see you next year. Off to the Oncologist next for blood work and cancer screening again. It's a yearly thing, he usually tells me I will die from something else before cancer. Nephrologist is happy until mid-summer.

Made a visit to my Optometrist because I was getting blurred vision in the right eye. Sure enough I have a quick Cataract. Since I'm so close to full VA care, I will weigh the options on this one and maybe give the VA a test run.

Developed a new one too. Arthritis in the three left digit in my left hand. Usually not a problem once I break it loose each morning. Deb brought me some Icy Hot to make it better. It has some effect but I won't be play Banjo anymore.

The biggest accomplishment for April was finally getting the meeting arranged with my Ramsey County Veterans Service Officer and even that was a hoot. Last spring, I started with Maggie, who retired soon after, they moved me to Chris who was promoted to something else, on to Mary who also retired and to Maada who had to be the receptionist that day so she handed me off to Royce. I never had any problems with any of them, and Royce took in my three inch pile of paperwork, worked his way down to four pages for him and a half inch of records for me and a pile to shred on the floor. Plus full access to all the files on line with an easy to use website. I have upcoming meetings with the VA to start picking and choosing which care I want from what source.

So endeth the Medical report for April 2025. What will May bring me?

SPRC nets on the air, all are working to the best of our ability. Since summer is here and people stay outdoors this month until the mosquitos come next month, the 10 meter side is a bit slow, but VHF still rambles on. Always room for one or two more to join in. Wednesday at 1930 and 2030.

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We have two Estate clear ups this month. Ralph and his gang will remove the roof antenna in Circle Pines and I will need a crew in Roseville for an antenna removal and transport to my house. I hope we can sell off the gear and finalize the sales before the July Tailgater as last resort. That tower is a steal at the price. None of this is dangerous work, roof work yes but that fall only hurts for a week of two. If something breaks, maybe a bit longer.

No elections this month, look forward to November 2025 to vote for the two at large directors. This is the place to get into the policy making and spending of SPRC assets. Sure, you can kibitz from the sidelines, but that has no vote. Why not take that step and become a voting Board Member?

Three Hamfest this month. May 3rd up in Superior, WI. I used to end the meeting, buy some food and drive on up to this one. Spend the night in the parking lot and get in line in the morning.

Then on May 17<sup>th</sup>, for the long distance travelers, off to OHIO for the huge one. I have heard that signing up with WBØVHF Evelyn is a wonderful trip. Contact her if you are interested.

The May 10<sup>th</sup> Progressive Ham Fest has Ray and I giving and selling stuff on Hazelwood Street in Maplewood for the short trip to the east side. I don't know if construction on Hwy 61, (Arcade Street) will be done by then, but avoid it if it is under construction. Use either of us N0PEY or WB0EBG on QRZ.com to map our locations.

We have a new seller! Just moved in from West Allis so his QRZ location hasn't caught up with him yet.

James A Borowski K9TF jim.gmforum@gmail.com  
17064 Uranimite St N  
Ramsey, MN 55303-5439

Here is what he says about this stuff: The ceramics are free so are the fuses. Only thing is, you take it all. All fuses, egg insulators, open feed line ceramics..... or all ceramic as an example. Oh yes fuses and ceramics are ready to give away now. So if you live up that direction or want to take a long drive for some great gear, sen Jim an email and set up a date.

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Just a few of the items available at Jim's, K9TF, progressive Ham Fest site at his home in Ramsey, MN. Be sure to visit Dale's, N0PEY, Neighborhood as well!

At left, two variable capacitors and a beverage for size reference.

Right: Dozens of ceramic insulators and other useful hardware.



Below: Fuses galore!



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So how was the Banquet you ask? You missed a good one if you did not attend. I didn't get to do all my jokes but the food was excellent as usual, served on time and we were well taken care of by the staff. Jan and Ralph furnished the excellent cake and it was similar to that Mexican chocolate one we used to have at UST. The noise from the bar wasn't bad, even though the Wild game was on, and they lost 4-3. They added a pool table into the room this year, so practice up for next year.

Kevin and Aaron gave us a delightful talk about his two seater fold up flying death machine. Not really guys, it is a very safe if you follow the rules. They followed with some beautiful movies as they fly to Duluth, then Ashland and back to Somerset. Additions clips from a run around the St. Croix River and a hilarious bunch of shorts about what not to do.

Chairman Jay informed us this was his 17<sup>th</sup> year in a row for doing the job and he was good for 20 before an oil change. A big cheer for Jay for his wonderful work. Door prizes were plentiful and the drawing was fair with only two couples getting double dips. Finally, the Member of the Year for 2024 is John Crabtree KC0G. I recalled a few of the tricky ways the Board has made sure the presentation is a surprise to the recipient and I think we did it again. John is a secret soldier, when the club needs help, John is usually in the front row. A tireless volunteer at Field Day, the Auction, Estate helper, and at CDH.

So what is coming up after this meeting? Well we get the two Estates cleared up and sold off, then concentrate on Field Day planning and preparation. Same place, Benson Airport in White Bear Township. We will confirm the Planning meeting location and time later in the month, probably June 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>, we will put out a FD only GW prior to that meeting. The main event starts on Friday June 27<sup>th</sup> at 1500 and we run through Sunday June 29, usually done by 1500. We have a few new people to guide into chairmanships and we can always find jobs for more. Most important will be a food trainee/helper since Kevin is not available and I volunteered for this year but I've been here done that and would like not too be here again. If that makes sense.

Dale Maroushek NOPEY  
President, again...still?

# SAINT PAUL RADIO CLUB

2024

MEMBER OF THE YEAR

**John Crabtree**  
**KCØG**



IN RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE WITH THE SAINT PAUL RADIO CLUB. JOHN IS ESPECIALLY NOTED FOR BEING THE GO TO PERSON WHEN OUR SERVICES NEED TO GET DONE THE CORRECT WAY THE FIRST TIME. HE HAS CONTINUOUSLY BEEN INVOLVED IN MANY FACETS OF CLUB ACTIVITIES AND ALWAYS PRODUCED OUTSTANDING RESULTS. JOHN WAS OUR FIRST AND ONLY NOMINATION AND RECEIVED A UNANIMOUS VOTE THIS YEAR.

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Dale Maroushek NØPEY Saint Paul Radio Club President

26<sup>th</sup> Day of April, 2025

## **Member of the Year Presentation Speech**

**By Dale Maroushek NØPEY Saint Paul Radio Club President**

What are the qualifications to become a MOTY?

We try to find the folks that are not fully brain washed into being on the Board or Chairs for our various helper squads. They get recognition as the year goes on and we spot light them at the meetings or at FD.

How are moty's chosen? Hint: Use Kevin's Rule here.

- A) Darts are thrown at names on a spinning board.
- B) We put nominations on the bottom of plastic ducks and pick one out of the bucket.
- C) We carefully document the activities of our list of volunteer helpers and painstakingly deduce the most qualified and dedicated winner.
- D) The nomination that's gets the least laughs.

What does the MOTY award help the recipient with? Wallpaper, things to hang on his shack walls to cover the hole he punched in it when he missed the latest DXpedition contact on 160 Meters.

To introduce our MOTY tonight, I thought long and hard about how to make it a surprise, which is the custom since I don't remember when. My first indication of that was long ago when Jay Bellows came to the April meeting and was telling friends how his wife had suddenly WANTED to attend the banquet that he had previously chosen not too. Yes, we will even enlist XYL's (wives) to assist us in making it a surprise. Jay was surprised. Any of your XYL's been acting differently lately? That may be election related, or NOT!

Over my years at the helm of this radio sport club, and thanks to our crack photographer Dawn Holmberg, we have gotten some great immediate facial expressions of the lucky winners as they were recognized. Let us look back at a few of them.

A few years back, we got Jay Maher in a total miss direction ploy. We convened him that Skip Jackson was the real winner, and I can see the wheels turning in the photo what was on his mind. It said, let's get this over with, I have other things to do. Like get Raquel back home and in bed. Good plan but Raquel was on jet lag from London, and went to bed alone.

Another year I announced that William was the winner. Everyone is looking around with that "who's William stare", we have no William. Mert Nellis, who we lost last year, actual first name was William.

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I sent out WB9DAN in Morse code for Jeff Iverson one year, but of course we could not see his face of recognition because he wears that beard to cover his seal team six assignments.

Our 2024 winner is still a mystery, let's see if we can slowly identify him or if he is reluctant to realize who it is.

He is a world traveler and sometimes returns to his last known overseas address to visit his relatives.

Some of his early younger day travels would shock people today. We can't go there anymore.

Why is he here? Job selling used stuff to other used stuff people. A one man not ham fest!

His first name Is John, which brings down your odds to a smaller percentage. Hint: the KC in his call sign could be for King Charles.

Let's welcome John Crabtree KCØG up to receive his plaque.

*Photo by Dawn Holmberg WXØZ*



## **Ramblings from the VP's Work Bench**

### **by Kevin Welna W5LNA**

Hooray Hooray it's the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. Outdoor fun begins today! (I cleaned that up a bit for younger readers.....;-) Warm weather is getting closer!! I am so excited!!

First a bit of club business

We need a cook for field day!!!! I will not be able to attend nor cook for field day this year. The club needs someone to step up and take the position. We have the griddles and tools but we need a cook. Please volunteer for this. Otherwise, you may go hungry for the event. It's not a hard job and is actually quite satisfying.

OK, On to fun stuff.

So one of the things I am changing about my articles for the newsletter is that I will be writing bits and pieces all month. To this end, I will add in updates to the newsletter as the month progresses.

So whats going on in the shack? Well, let me tell ya, a lot!

Let's start with Ham Radio. I finally started on my QMX+ about a week ago and it is coming along very well. I did run into an issue initially though and that was that ½ of my solder joints were not flowing correctly this drove me nuts until I went on line and looked up my issue. It seems that the modern PC boards have multiple layers. In my case of the QMX+, it has a 5 layer board. All this extra thickness and layers act like a heat sink especially on anything that is getting soldered to ground. This heat sinking issue prevents the solder from doing its thing. (Melt and flow around and onto the wire leads of the components.) The fix was easy, MORE POWER! Well actually more heat. I switched to a slightly larger soldering tip and turned up the temp to 750 degrees F and the problem went away. There are times that I will leave the soldering iron on the board for 15 to 20 seconds to get it all hot enough. Time will tell if this damages the other components.....

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Update! The QMX is done!!!! and of course there is a story here. Somewhat similar to a past story... Once again my own actions caused a bit of stress on this project. I finished up the QMX+ and powered it up. Low and behold it powered up and the display was blank. Luckily I read the instructions and this was to be expected. You have to load in the pre-written program before the display turns on. Loading the program was a piece of cake. Super simple and went off with out a hitch. I then restarted the QMX+ and TA DAH the display turned on and I was able to move forward with some of the configurations on the radio. Once the initial configurations were done, I tied the radio to my antenna and NOTHING!!!! The radio was stone DEAF, plus, as soon as I tried keying up the transmitter, the radio went into safe mode and basically shut down the output power amplifier... What the heck??!!

I double check all my connections and re-tuned the antenna, tied it all back together and same issue. Now I am depressed and I admit a bit confused. So, off to the internet and a couple email sent to people in the know. (By the way, I am the smartest person in the world because I know that I don't know. But, I know people that do know!!) So, less than 6 hours later, I have a answer! Once again the issue lies with the nut behind the soldering iron. In the instructions, there is a step where you have to add a jumper between 2 solder pads that tie the antenna input to the SWR bridge or basically tie the input signal to the radio. I read this step (By the way it was yet again printed in RED) and still forgot to do it! I soldered in the jumper and BINGO the radio works flawlessly. Once again a step highlighted in red and I did not do it.. What is my problem! Anyway, the radio is up and running. It works perfectly. The moral of the story here is RTFM!!!

Yet another update on the QMX+ radio.

When I was listening to the CW tone (Which sounded perfect.) I was in practice mode. Once I switched over to transmit mode it sounded terrible and has the god awful CLUNK when ever the tone stopped. Again I was baffled and a bit depressed. Back to the internet and asked if anyone else has had this issue. I received a number of ideas on what to check and then finally a member of the QMX+ talk group said he had the same issue and it was because his power supply was insufficient to run the radio. That is when I remembered that I had set to power output to have a max current of 250ma. I kicked up the output current to 2 amps and TA DAH! Now it really does work perfectly!!!! Plus I made my first CW contact at 3.5 watts with a 599 signal report to a ham in Kentucky. Wow on 3.5 watts, not too bad. I'll report on its ability to do SSB next month once I load in the alternative program and have a bit of time to play.

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If any of you are interested, building the QMX+ was super easy. There is lots of room for my fat fingers and shaky soldering hands. If you ever wanted to build a software controlled radio this is it. For about \$150 you get a QRP HF radio, enclosure and GPS Module. This radio does all modes including SSB that works from 180 Meters to 6 Meters. Has a great receiver and super clean audio in both directions. Plus all the diagnostics and tuning tools are built into the software. Did I mention it has a built in GPS for syncing the clock for digital modes, a cw decoder that works and it does SSB? It can be built by a complete novice with little to no soldering skills in about 10-20 hours for about 1/5<sup>th</sup> the cost of similar QRP HF radios. Oh yea, you will need to be able to count to 40 accurately and that's about it.. I can not recommend this radio enough!!! Check them out online at QRP Labs.

On to other stuff.

At this point the no new projects moratorium is basically over. I've wrapped up almost all the old projects and I have started a number of new projects. First is I am building a demodulator for looking at AM audio envelope with my O Scope. I found a video on line and a circuit for which I have all the components on hand. Using EASYEDA I captured the circuit and created a (Gerber) file that I have sent off for fabrication. 5 boards was about \$30 shipped to my home with about a 1 week turnaround time. I will probably have a board or two left over once I have built mine and sent a couple off to a couple hams in PA. If you are interested in building this, contact me and I get you a board for \$6, plus, I'll print you an enclosure to put it in.

Next on the workbench is revisiting my CG scale that I have yet to get working. My confidence is up so finger crossed!!

On the airplane front, I have finished up and installed radio gear in the trainer I rebuilt. The flying wing is also ready to fly. All of the variations on the small small gliders I designed and made are also ready to take flight. Yep, they are all ready for summer fun. I am now switching over to stick and tissue model plane building for next winters indoor flying. In addition, I have finally finished the design for a portable model plane hobby box that will live on the RV so I will have something to play with on the days when it rains while I am out camping. I will start cutting out the parts on the laser later this week.

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Another update:

The hobby box is assembled and glued up. It looks pretty good and I think it will work for my needs. All I have left to do is stain and finish the outside and add a 24ga 12 x18 steel sheet to use as a magnetic building board as well as print out the drawers for holding all the tools etc. I am going to try something new with my laser. I am going to try and etch a 1/2" x 1/2" grid into\onto the steel sheet used as the magnetic building board. If this does not work, I will try a technique where you use powder coat instead and cure\bond it to the steel using the laser. I'll let you know how this turns out in a later Ground Wave.

Next, I designed and printed a circuit board hold that mounts to my PhaseDock workbench thingy. (I use this workbench thingy when I am building electronics projects.) I sent off my design to PhaseDock and they have posted it on their website for others to download and print for their own use. Wow, does this mean I'm now a published author???....LOL

On the artsy-fartsy side of things, I made a laser cut wood name puzzle for my grand daughter and a guitar "picture" that my XYL wanted. The puzzle came out pretty good. The guitar "picture" was looking really good and then I applied a final coat of clear that caused the white paint to bubble up. I will not repeat what I said as this time as this is a family friendly newsletter.....I have since scraped off the paint and re-sanded and stained the "picture". This time I will test for compatibility of the different finishes that I apply to the "picture".

I also printed out a desk mic with a flexible goose neck to use with the QMX+ that uses an electret mic element. It's almost done as well. Just waiting for some longer sheet metal screws to attach the top to the base.

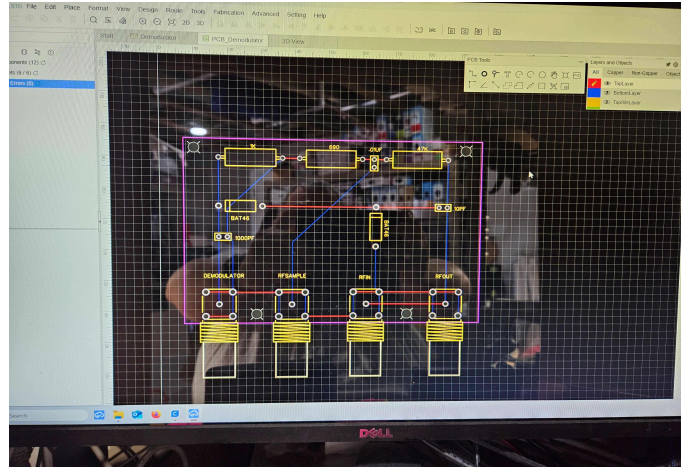
Well, that's all I have for now.

Till next month,  
May your signals be strong and your antennas have extra gain.

73 Kevin - W5LNA

Once again – A few pics for your entertainment:

Guitar "Picture" paint scraped and ready for clear coat and then white paint.  
Screen Shot of the demodulator board in EasyEDA. What an easy program to use!

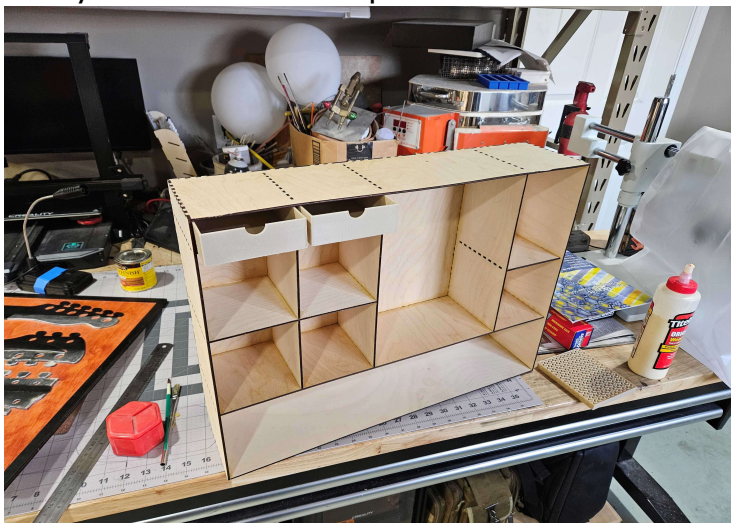


Finished Airplanes, ready for summer fun.

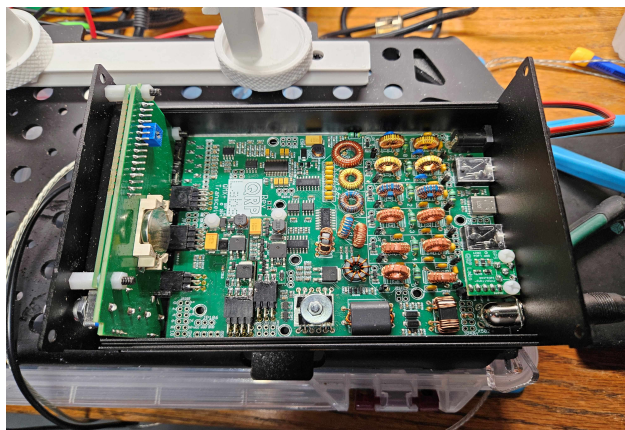




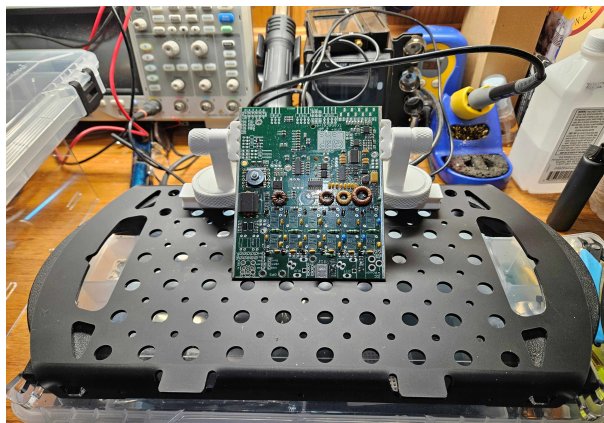
Hobby Box with 2 - 3D printed drawers installed



QMX+ 180 m – 6m, All mode transceiver.  
Completed and working great. Again an easy project to build.  
All the Surface Mount parts are preinstalled.  
If you can count to 40 you can build this radio.



DIY Electret Mic for QMX+  
and the PC Board holder that mounts on to a PhaseDock Workbench





## **VE Report**

### **by Steve Scott WA7HPK**

We had a great pool of 9 candidates for our April 5<sup>th</sup> VE exam session. Six candidates successfully passed their Technician class exams including 11 year old Stevan Randall (Otsego) KFØTVH; Mike Burnham (Minneapolis) KFØTUX; Jeff Dahl (Albertville) KFØTWJ; Richard George (Minneapolis) KFØTVZ; Dan Howlett (Andover) KFØTWQ and Andrea Williams (Minneapolis) KFØTWK .

Moving up the the General class was Thomas Walsh (Minneapolis) KFØONT and missing a perfect score by one question on the Extra was our own Paul Cierna (Falcon Heights) NØJOD. Bruce Nelson (Forrest Lake) KFØTUD, whose ink on his Technician CSCE had barely dried missed the General upgrade on successive tries by two then again by a single question. I did confirm he retook the Element 3 exam several days later with another exam provider just a few days later and did pass. Congrats to all!

Again, please visit the above candidate's QRZ pages and sign their weblogs with a congratulatory note. About half our new licensees appear to be taking advantage of the QRZ Jump-start program. That offer not only affords them the QRZ Explorer 1 VHF/UHF HT, but the programming software and cable AND a 1 year premium QRZ subscription. That subscription seal is displayed on the QRZ home page.

VE's assisting with the April session were Ralph Bierbaum NØAWN; Leon Dill WØCOE; Scott Holisky NØAR; Ted Kinnear NØNPJ; Terry Londroche NØGOI; Dale Maroushek NØPEY; Andy Parent ABØNX; Shep Shepardson NØNMZ; Ray Speltz KFØEKD; Curtiss Trout ACØCT; Rich Weil KWØU and myself WA7HPK. Yep, that's twelve VE's. BTW, the list I send out each month to solicit VE help is from a list I inherited. If you are a current VE and want to participate but haven't been getting asked, please let me know.

I've only got one definite and another candidate which had to postpone again so our May session may be much lighter. If you are interested in taking a test please contact me at the e-mail address below.

Steve Scott WA7HPK pipemajor2@gmail.com

## **Oh, for Pete's Sake!!!**

### **by Pete Guldan KDØSQJ**

Before the Field Day spiel, congratulations to Paul NØJOD/AE who upgraded to Extra. We've got a few more from our study groups with plans to take their tests soon. Good luck. If I can do it you can too. If anyone would like to join a study group for Tech or either upgrade we will offer them in order starting in the October time frame.

Field Day weekend is June 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>.

I would like you to join us at Benson Airport 5860 US61, White Bear Township, MN.

Okay, so what is Field Day? Field Day is the largest on the air ham radio operating event in North America. Maybe in the world, I don't know if anyone's done the math. Math can be hard but Field Day doesn't have to be hard if you do it with a group. The Mining Amateur Radio Club and the St. Paul Radio Club have grouped together for many years and will do so again this year. You don't need to be a member of any club to join us. You don't have to stay the whole time, you can participate as little or as much as you want.

In a way Field Day is fertilizer for ham radio. When I was a kid our family vacations were often the 4 hour trip in the genuine imitation wood grain paneled station wagon to visit my uncle in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. For a kid a 4 hour drive was an eternity. I guess the joke's on me because a 4 hour drive is usually in my logbook before lunchtime. We didn't have cell phones or tablets like the kids do now. We actually had to look out the window and amuse ourselves. When my favorite sister KD9DIY and I got tired of making faces at the cars behind us in the rearward facing back seat we would make up games. We knew singing 99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall would likely mean "The Board of Education" applied to our posterior region would make the remaining 3 hours and 57 minutes less comfortable. Sure we did the "Bug Slug" game where the first one to see a VW Beetle would shout "Bug Slug Red!!!" or whatever the color and punch the arm of the other sibling. We expanded that to "Peddidle!!!" which was a car with a burnt out headlight. One of the games we made up involved less violence and was unique to a trip through Wisconsin. It is the Manure Spreader Game. For any of you city slickers a manure spreader is a farm implement that when towed behind a tractor spreads that pungent "Brown Gold" on the farm fields where the natural organic fertilizer makes the crops grow better. The rules of the game are simple, the first person seeing one would call out "Manure Spreader!!!" in a loud voice. It counts double if being pulled by a tractor, and 3 points if actually spreading a steaming pile in the field.

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The way you can fertilize our hobby is by being a "Manure Spreader" and invite or bring someone with you and show them our Field Day station. If they are already licensed and not very active, or even if they might just be interested in what we do they might be the next new person to become a ham or a more active one. We will have the GOTA tent as well as VHF for non-licensed and Techs, SSB and the 2 digital stations CW (the original digital) and a station for the new-fangled modes. Whatever they might be interested in we should be able to encourage their growth in ham radio.

There will be another edition of the Ground Wave a week or so before Field Day with details about the planning and such so if you have something to add please get them to Dan in a few weeks. [dan@meyer-family.net](mailto:dan@meyer-family.net)

73 "MANURE SPREADER!!!"

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## **SPRC 2025 Banquet Recap**

**By Jay Mahre**

Despite the nominal price increase, we had a great turnout of 32 people for the 2025 SPRC Banquet. There were some struggles with the operation at Jameson's again but the food was excellent. The pool table was a bit distracting though so we may need to look for another venue next year. Please forward any suggestions to me. Our speaker Kevin Szalapski kept us entertained with a little help from his friend (that SOB Aaron). I think most of us were ready to try a flight after watching those videos. Congratulations to John Crabtree on receiving the Member of the Year award. Well deserved! We finished with the usual door prizes though the canned ham was missing. A big thanks to Ralph and Janet Bierbaum for providing the cake this year! Thanks also to Ron Walkinshaw who contributed some nice hats for door prizes and Colleen Raskob Lundeen who can't seem to stay sitting when there is an opportunity to help out.

## Operating Remotely

### by Richard Weil KWØU

Late in 2023 my wife and I moved. From our house on the hill behind the Capitol we went to the top floor of an apartment building at the old Ford factory site. The view is terrific but radio conditions are not. I'd been doing okay with a dipole in the attic (a \$3 wire gave 272 DXCC entities on 20 phone) but this place is like a Faraday cage! I strung the antenna inside the office, but that didn't work. If anyone else is in a similar situation my solutions might be helpful.

What I did first was to buy a battery powered Yaesu FT-710. Using it in the park with a telescoping vertical it works fine, and I've made some nice contacts around North and South America on 10, 15 and 20 meters. And it is fun to set things up, show the station to passers-by and just be outside. But you know this is Minnesota, and calling CQ from a park bench in February is not very appealing.

As an alternative I signed up with the Remote Ham Radio group. What you do is buy time on one of their stations in the Northeast. These have amplifiers and huge rotating antennas. Does this system work? Oh yes, in the recent WPX contest I used a radio in New York on 10, 15, 20 and 40 to make contacts with 30 countries ranging from Australia to Chile to Finland to Saudi Arabia. Basically, everything that was heard could be reached, and usually on the first call.

But it is too easy! With the dipole you had to sit and tune around, yell through the pile-ups and when you made a contact there was a real sense of achievement. That is gone. Also, now you have to watch your time on the air since the meter is always running and that adds pressure. So leaving the set humming in the background is not a good idea and the fun of just hunting around or having a long conversation are not efficient uses of your time. (Costs vary depending on the radio used, but 75 cents a minute is in the average range.) So to see what is on the air it is very useful to look at a website like DX Summit.

Still, it is nice to know that one can get on the radio at any time. If a DXpedition shows up in some really distant place there is a good chance you can work it. (In fact, in the contest I got two new entities, Oman and Hong Kong. For me they had always been just out of reach.) And it is fun to start exploring bands that were never used before. So there are reasons why you might consider signing up.

But is it radio? Well yes, the ARRL accepts such contacts since the transmitter and receiver are together—you are just controlling them with a really, really long wire. (Though for island chasing the IOTA people don't buy that argument.) To record contacts in Logbook of the World you have to change your location to that of the station, but this is easy to do. What it comes down to is that, like so many other things in our hobby, you have to decide what is acceptable.

If you have questions about remote operation, or want to see a demonstration, let me know. I will be glad to show it to you--on the air via a laptop of course!

# U.S.S. North Carolina NI4BK Operating opportunity!

**For those East Coast traveling Ham Radio operators among us.**

**Guest Operator Program**

**Compliments: Azalea Coast ARC**

**Wilmington, NC**

**Art Thell NØIWQ**



Welcome to the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club! The Club supports many local activities, has a Volunteer Examiner program, elmers to new hams and helps with antenna and radio questions.

Azalea Coast ARC uses club call AC4RC for Field Day and other functions. Club Call NI4BK is used for events from the Battleship USS North Carolina.

If you are currently a licensed ham and are in, or will be traveling to, the Wilmington area, please feel free to contact us about our [Guest Operator program](#) for the Battleship USS North Carolina. You may schedule a time to get on the air from Radio Central within the battleship! If you are traveling through don't miss out on the chance! [Find out how!](#)

Please feel free to contact the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio club via email at [ac4rc.ilm@gmail.com](mailto:ac4rc.ilm@gmail.com)

Inquiries about becoming a guest operator on the [Battleship North Carolina](#) should be directed to [ni4bk.bb55@gmail.com](mailto:ni4bk.bb55@gmail.com)

*(Artwork used with permission)*



## 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. Stay tuned!

DATES

Event

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|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 2025-05-03    | <b>Waconia Half Marathon</b><br><a href="http://www.lakewaconiahalfmarathon.com/">http://www.lakewaconiahalfmarathon.com/</a><br><a href="https://tinyurl.com/pn4r47dz">https://tinyurl.com/pn4r47dz</a>                                   |
| 2025-05-04    | <b>MS Twin Cities Walk</b> (Mpls)<br><a href="https://events.nationalmssociety.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&amp;eventID=2188">https://events.nationalmssociety.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&amp;eventID=2188</a> |
| 2025-05-10    | <b>MS Twin Cities Ride</b> (Mpls)<br><a href="https://www.bikemn.org/events/bike-ms-twin-cities-ride-2024-985/">https://www.bikemn.org/events/bike-ms-twin-cities-ride-2024-985/</a>   |
| 2025-05-17    | <b>Superior Spring Trail Run</b> (50k,25k,12.5k)<br><a href="https://www.superiorspringtrailrace.com/">https://www.superiorspringtrailrace.com/</a>  |
| 2025-05-17    | <b>Headwaters Road Rally</b><br><a href="https://www.americanrallyassociation.org/blog/categories/headwaters-regional-rally">https://www.americanrallyassociation.org/blog/categories/headwaters-regional-rally</a>                        |
| 2025-05-29    | <b>Prairie Island Nuclear drill training</b><br>(see Events tab on the Washington County ARES web page)<br><a href="https://www.mnwashcoares.net/">https://www.mnwashcoares.net/</a>   |
| 2025-05-31    | <b>Tour de Cure (ADA) ride</b> (Mpls)<br><a href="https://tinyurl.com/3suvb6b7">https://tinyurl.com/3suvb6b7</a>   |
| 2025-06-05    | <b>Prairie Island Nuclear drill</b><br>(see Events tab on the Washington County ARES web page)<br><a href="https://www.mnwashcoares.net/">https://www.mnwashcoares.net/</a>  |
| 2025-06-7/8   | <b>MS-150 Bike Tour</b><br><a href="https://tinyurl.com/3yspr4b5">https://tinyurl.com/3yspr4b5</a>   |
| 2025-06-27/29 | <b>ARRL FIELD DAY WEEKEND</b> (SPRC setup 27, FD 28-29)<br><a href="https://www.arrl.org/field-day">https://www.arrl.org/field-day</a>   |
| 2025-07-05    | <b>Afton Trail Run - Rocksteady Running</b> (50km, 25km)<br><a href="https://www.aftontrailrun.com/">https://www.aftontrailrun.com/</a>  |
| 2025-07-20    | <b>Tour of Saints ride</b> St. Joseph<br><a href="https://www.bikemn.org/all-events/tour-of-saints/">https://www.bikemn.org/all-events/tour-of-saints/</a>   |
| 2025-07-21/25 | <b>MS-TRAM</b><br><a href="https://www.bikemn.org/events/bike-ms-ride-across-minnesota-2025/">https://www.bikemn.org/events/bike-ms-ride-across-minnesota-2025/</a>  |

(continued on next page)

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 2025-07-26    | <b>Richfield Urban Wildland marathon</b><br><a href="https://tinyurl.com/2rbemy9n">https://tinyurl.com/2rbemy9n</a>   |
| 2025-08-02    | <b>Tour de Tonka</b> Orono<br><a href="https://tinyurl.com/wa7w77c7">https://tinyurl.com/wa7w77c7</a>   |
| 2025-08-07/10 | <b>Gaylord Eggstravaganza</b><br><a href="https://tinyurl.com/22e9avwy">https://tinyurl.com/22e9avwy</a>  |
| 2025-08-22/23 | <b>Ojibwe Forests Rally</b> Park Rapids<br><a href="https://www.americanrallyassociation.org/ojibwe">https://www.americanrallyassociation.org/ojibwe</a>  |
| 2025-09-05/6  | <b>Superior Fall Trail Race</b> 100mi, 50mi, 26.2mi<br><a href="https://www.superiorfalltrailrace.com/">https://www.superiorfalltrailrace.com/</a>  |
| 2025-09-14    | <b>River Falls Autumn Trek</b><br><a href="https://www.rivervalleytrails.org/autumn-trek/">https://www.rivervalleytrails.org/autumn-trek/</a>   |
| 2025-09-14    | <b>BikeMN Twin Cities Ride</b><br><a href="https://www.bikemn.org/all-events/tcibt/">https://www.bikemn.org/all-events/tcibt/</a>   |
| 2025-10-05    | <b>Twin City Marathon</b><br><a href="https://tinyurl.com/tcsnan63">https://tinyurl.com/tcsnan63</a>  |
| 2025-10-11    | <b>Northstar Radio Convention</b><br><a href="https://northstarradio.org/">https://northstarradio.org/</a>  |
| 2025-10-11    | <b>Scenic Byway River Run</b> Belle Plaine<br><a href="https://belleplainedfestivals.org/event/scenic-byway-half-marathon/">https://belleplainedfestivals.org/event/scenic-byway-half-marathon/</a> |
| 2025-10-17/18 | <b>Mankato Marathon</b><br><a href="https://www.mankatomarathon.com/">https://www.mankatomarathon.com/</a>  |
| 2025-12-06    | <b>Nemadji Forest Rally</b> Kerrick ( <i>Date is tentative</i> )<br><a href="https://www.americanrallyassociation.org/nemadji-trail">https://www.americanrallyassociation.org/nemadji-trail</a>     |
| 2025-12-07    | <b>Arlington "Arlidazzle"</b><br><a href="https://www.arlidazzle.com/schedule/">https://www.arlidazzle.com/schedule/</a>  |

An ongoing public service opportunity for SPRC members is the Metro Hospital Compact; see this link

<https://www.metrohealthready.org/our-coalition/metro-hospital-compact/>

and find a Hospital you either live near or work near. Then contact Tim Arimond at 612-741-9307 who will get them in touch with the people to arrange registration and training for the project.

Thank you very much for helping!

## Photos from the April SPRC Meeting

### By Dawn Holmberg WXØZ



Left: Janet KD0BZZ at the door prize raffle table

Below: Scott N0AR and Jim K9TF exchanged QSL's a long time ago and recently met when Jim moved to the area and joined the Saint Paul Radio Club.



Above: Andrew Surine, KFØTDA presenting his very interesting program about his high altitude balloon flight.

Right: Andrew taking questions after his presentation from several interested SPRC members.



## **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)**

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### **Club Wearables**

Many different items with the Saint Paul Radio Club logo may be ordered at: <https://www.hamthreads.com/> Dale recently 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.

## BoD Meeting Minutes – by Art Thell, NØIWQ

**Saint Paul Radio Club**  
**Hereinafter referred to as “SPRC”**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**04-04-2025**

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

Dale Maroushek (Pres.)-NØPEY \*

Art Thell (Secy.)-NØIWQ \*

Br. Bob Walsh-WCØJ \*

Ralph Bierbaum-(P. Pres.)-NØAWN \*

Kevin Welna (V. Pres.)-W5LNA \*

George Power- (Treas.)-KØGCP \*

Don Kelly-WA6ZMT r

Also present (If \* or R):

Jay Maher-NJØM \*

Pete Guldán-KDØSQJ

Janet Bierbaum KDØBZZ \*

Andy Parent-KFØMJQ \*

Jeff Iverson-WB9DAN

John Crabtree-KCØG

Dawn Holmberg WXØZ \*

Doug Lueck KØDLX

Dan Meyer-NØKFB \*

Ben Otto-KEØRFZ

Steven Scott-WA7HPK \*

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**6:18 Pres. Dale:** Call the meeting to order.

President: Call for added agenda items: \_\_\_\_\_

### Old Business:

Secretary's Report:

Move to accept Minutes as published in the Ground Wave: Kevin Second: Br. Bob Passed

Treasurer's report: George

General Fund: \$9089.27, Repeater Fund: \$1311.09, Education Fund: \$1315.38,

Total Bank Cash on Hand: \$11,715.74. Pay Pal acct.: \$100.00

So noted and filed: Secretary

Budget update: George In process.

Auction Final: Dale reported a final profit of \$2939 from the auction.

George moved that SPRC send a check in the amount of \$3000 to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund.  
Seconded by Art. Passed.

CDH ARC Report: Br. Bob Hope for some activity from student body.

Repeater Report: Dale: Both working. Little activity even on nets.

*(continued on next page)*



Membership Report: Dale, 116 confirmed total to date.

Website report--Dale: (stpaulradioclub.org) Nothing new. Still needs some work.

VE Report: Steve. 4/5 Upgrade Session: 9 candidates scheduled.  
Sessions scheduled out through June.

Training Report: Pete. Extra Class in process. Chapter 10 on 4/6.

Banquet: Jay (April 26, 2025, 6:00 PM at Jameson's at Smith & Annapolis.)  
12 confirmed. Possibly 20 total.

Field Day: Dale, Pete, Kevin.  
Set up 6/27. Operate 6/28 & 29.  
Need asst. Food Chair  
Scouts participation: Dan K9ALV, is pursuing possibilities.  
Program for May: K9ALV--Scouting

**New Business:**

Kevin: Possible builder group. May have space at Cottage Grove Library.  
Interest? Contact him.

Pres.: Usual gratuity of \$250 to CDH Staff for auction-related chores.  
Move: George      Second: Kevin      Passed.

**Club Breakfast:** Saturday, April 19 at 9:00 AM.      (Normally third Saturday)  
Place—Denny's at 1664 University Ave. W.—Across from the AxMan

Adjourn:  
Move: Art      Second: George      Passed

**7:00: Adjourn.**

# Membership Meeting Minutes – by Art Thell, NØIWQ

**Saint Paul Radio Club**  
**Hereinafter referred to as “SPRC”**  
**Member Meeting Minutes**  
**04-04-2025**

**7:30 Call to order** by Pres. Dale.

41 Members present plus Remote.

President call for other agenda items \_\_\_\_\_

**Old Business:**

Financial Report,

General Fund: \$9089.27, Repeater Fund: \$1311.09, Education Fund: \$1315.38,

Total Bank Cash on Hand: \$11,715.74. Pay Pal acct.: \$100.00

Membership report, Dale: 116 total to date.

Repeater Report, Dale: Both working. Low traffic

VE Report: Saturday, 4/5 (9) upgrades plus scheduled out through June.

Training Report, Pete: Continuing Extra Class Session 10 on 4/6.

Banquet: Jay--April 26, 6:00 at Jameson's, Smith & Annapolis.

12 confirmed to date. Possibly 20 total. Contact Jay by email to confirm.

Field Day: Dale

Setup 6/27, Field Day 6/28 & 29.

CS, SB, Dig, UHF.

Open volunteer positions report:

Need help for Field Day—all positions

Upcoming Board Members terms ending

**New Business:**

Kevin: Builder group possible at Cottage Grove Library. Interested?

Other operating events: (Need not be Board-initiated)

**Club Breakfast:** Normally Third Saturday---April 19 at 9:00 AM.

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

**Adjourn: 8:00**

**Program to follow:**

Andrew Surine, KFØTDA: His balloon flight experience of 2024

## SPRC Contact Information

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

## SPRC Calendar

Fri May 2 6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room,  
John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. \*

Fri May 2 7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting.  
Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School.

Sat May 3 9:30 AM Amateur Radio testing administered by the Saint Paul Radio Club  
volunteer examiner team. Galilee Lutheran Church, 145 N McCarrons Blvd, Roseville,  
MN. Reservations required; Contact Steve Scott WA7HPK, Telephone 651-503-7441 or  
e-mail [pipemajor2@gmail.com](mailto:pipemajor2@gmail.com)

Sat May 10 Dale's Progressive Yard Sale

Sat May 17 9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.

Sat Jun 7 9AM- 5PM. Northern Lights Radio Society Aurora '24 Conference.  
West Medicine Lake Community Club. 1705 Forestview Lane N, Plymouth

Sat Jun 7 9:30 AM Amateur Radio testing administered by the Saint Paul Radio Club  
volunteer examiner team. Galilee Lutheran Church, 145 N McCarrons Blvd, Roseville,  
MN. Reservations required; Contact Steve Scott WA7HPK, Telephone 651-503-7441 or e-  
mail [pipemajor2@gmail.com](mailto:pipemajor2@gmail.com)

Sat May 17 9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.

Sat Jun 21 7AM-Noon TCFM Club Spring Tailgate Swap Meet.  
West Medicine Lake Community Club. 1705 Forestview Lane N, Plymouth

Fri-Sun June 27-29 Amateur Radio Field Day. SPRC will participate from Benson Airport,  
5860 Highway 61 N White Bear Lake. Everyone, licensed amateur or  
not, is welcome to join us for an hour or for the weekend. See you  
there!

Sat Jul 12 8AM-Noon 21st Annual Magic Repeater Tailgate Hamfest.  
Galilee Lutheran Church. 145 N McCarrons Blvd, Roseville

Sat Jul 19 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

SPRC Monthly Meeting

Time: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month, 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>

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](mailto:dk@donkelly.biz).

One-tap mobile:

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

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

For audio-only, dial 507-473-4847 and follow the prompts

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