

 www.arrl.org		St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave <i>Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN, Editor</i> <i>Dale Maroushek, NØPEY, Publisher</i>	KØAGF www.stpaulradioclub.org Club Repeaters: 145.310 MHz, 442.450 MHz 114.8 kHz tone PO Box 9375 North St. Paul, MN 55109
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NEWS AND NOTES FOR APRIL 2021 – Volume 81, Issue 4

NEXT (ON-LINE) MEETING: FRIDAY APRIL 9, 2021

- 6:00 PM Board Meeting (all are welcome to watch)
 - 7:00 PM Fellowship and (your own) Refreshments
 - 7:30 PM Short Business Meeting with Program Following
- (Zoom details are at the end of the newsletter)

Program

Our April program is not yet determined at press time. Join us for fine conversation in any event.

Elections

Nominations for Saint Paul Radio Club Secretary remain open:

Secretary: Keeps a record of the proceedings of the Club, including all regular and special meetings of the Board and Members, conducts the correspondence of the Club, and keeps a record of the same. The Secretary keeps the bylaws of the Club and makes them available to members upon request. The Secretary is a member of the Board of Directors.

SPRC Breakfast

Our traditional third-Saturday breakfast has had some interruptions in the last few years. First Perkins closed and we found a new physical location at Denny's, then the virus came along, and we lost that location. After a hiatus of several months, we resumed the SPRC breakfast via Zoom in February. It was a great success with 16 attending—more than we manage to lure to Denny's. The format was the same as the in-person breakfast—someone brings something up and, if it catches our interest, we talk about it. Most of the topics have nothing to do with ham radio. And, yes, some of us talked while eating breakfast. We'll continue this tradition on Zoom each third Saturday until we're able to resume in person. Watch your email for the Zoom link (It's the same as last month).

Program Suggestions

An important part of our member meetings, be they on-line or in-person, is our programs. The board will meet to plan the whole year's programs during the next couple months and we would like your suggestions of what you would like to see in a program over the next year. If you would like to present a program, that's a great idea, too! Please send your suggestions, including potential presenters' contact information if appropriate, to dk@donkelly.biz (or WA6ZMT@arrl.net, if that's easier to remember).

From the President – Lou Michaels WD8NOV

I hope you all had a safe Easter and the Bunny was good to you with new radios or some other Ham gear. Someone asked me how long I have had my ticket. I got my first callsign in Michigan back on November 27, 1976. It was a Novice, WD8ANQ. Some years later I took my general exam and passed keeping the same call sign. I wanted a vanity plate and I asked for my name LOU, but that was taken. I took the next best thing, my birth month and was issued WD8NOV. More of my history next month.

It is important that someone step up and help handle the Secretary position. The Club will guide a new person into the job.

The Board is currently the Program committee. We would appreciate any leads to programs that you have seen elsewhere.

I would like to invite other radio clubs to talk about some of the things they are doing for their club members. If you are a member of another Club, please let me know who to contact.

Pete Guldán, KD0SQJ, is on board to chair our Field Day adventure again this year. Let him know what you want to do to help out during the event.

I will also be awarding monthly certificates to someone who comes up with something at a meeting that sounds interesting enough to recognize them for it.

Dale's Details by Dale Maroushek NØPEY

Well, although the Progressive Ham Fest for this month has been: postponed, canceled, failed at this time, I will continue to push this format of sales for radio/electronics gear. Not only by Hams, but let the general public in so we (as Hams) don't have to go the SK's house and pull all the gear out on Tuesday afternoon. Simple reason: bring the buyers to the sellers at their location. So, for now, watch your email for updates as they develop.

The wind took a toll on the OCFD again. The previous break in the support lanyard gave it too much fluctuation and broke the long leg ...again. Lots of work here to correct not only this problem, but many others at the tower head. Time to plan the big redo of the 28 year old setup.

Our two meter and ten meter Friendly nets continue to gather in the usual suspects and some new ones along the way. Usually over a dozen on each net. Conversations always have Covid undertones and other wonderful radio gear and operation reports. If you haven't found us yet, we do it Wednesday nights at 1930 on 28.310 MHz SSB, and 2030 on the 145.31 MHz repeater, 114.8 tone.

The topic of Field Day has popped up the last couple weeks. The consensus is we are doing it again at Benson Airport. Hopefully we will have enough bodies to do the five station setup again and get back to a more usual routine. I understand the new lighting trailers make raising antennas much easier.

Easter weekend is next and we get to see the grandkids again! So I have some prep work to do for that. I'll make this a short one and see you at the Zoom meeting on the ninth.

Ben's Bulletin by Benjamin J. Otto KEØRFZ

Field Ops in Florida

A shorter contribution from me this installment. It has become a personal yearly tradition to make a pilgrimage to the sunshine state to convene with my parents for a long weekend. This year the vacation took place in March due to an opening in the availability of a rental home.

Whenever traveling for work or pleasure, a fresh set of scenery represents the chance of a fresh operating environment. There are new repeaters to try, as well as portable HF, both an enticing possibility. Should I be consuming precious vacation time from my employer, I've concluded, you better bet I'm taking my hobby along. A vacation is supposed to be a leisure activity after-all, an absence of amateur radio wouldn't be acceptable.

With my laptop, my Baofeng and a modest QRP station (and some essential clothes and toiletries) packed, I was ready to brave air travel in the post-pandemic era.

This year we stayed in a home in Englewood county FL, in a community known as Rotonda West. Not transparent in the literature provided by the travel agency, we quickly found out Rotonda is a subdivision incorporated into a private golf course. Home predominately to permanent residents. Though the house did have a luxurious swimming pool, the property contained no trees usable as antenna supports. If I wanted to get on HF I was going to have to venture out into the course and attempt to find a discreet place to set up shop.

And to the presumable dismay of the members of the course I did just that:



What appeared to me to be a sidewalk, I soon found out, was actually a major golf cart thoroughfare. But, no matter, I was determined that field operations would take place. And I did succeed in making numerous phone and digital contacts throughout the day. Despite a college try on CW, no QSOs were to be had. Though I did query my call on the Reverse Beacon Network and found spots from several observers.

Operating Conditions:

My field station consisted of the following:

- KN-850 QRP transceiver. (No longer available on eBay, an improved current equivalent would be the Xiegu G1M or G90).
- ATU-100 automatic antenna tuner board.
- Home brew PTT and audio interface.
- My new HP ProBook (corporate refurb with RS232 connector) accompanied by cell phone hot spot for internet access.
- 12v 7ah sealed lead acid battery (considered acceptable for checked bag airline transport) with small portable charger.
- A spool of surplus cross connect telephone wire for use as antenna and counterpoise.
- All basic amateur peripherals: microphone, power leads, interconnecting coax, as well as a small straight key from HRO.

One of the informative aspects of Field Day is the insights gained by operating in untypical conditions. As many of us have experienced, there are often unanticipated factors which can be learned from and refinements instituted for future field operations.

A couple issues provided learning opportunities: When viewing the WSJT-X waterfall while working FT8, transmitting stations appeared and were decoded but with notable lack of quality in the signals. On day two of operations at another location, it came to

my attention that it was picking up audio over the internal laptop microphone from the speaker of my transceiver.

The new laptop has a single “combo” port for headphone and microphone. Before the trip I purchased a Y adapter, which breaks out the single port into one mic in port and one headphone out. Upon troubleshooting at home, I discovered once an audio source is connected, Windows 10 immediately disables the port. The solution I've opted for is to purchase a USB sound card (with separate ports) for under \$10 on Amazon. I never had this problem with previous computers, but you know how technology products are, their engineers love to change things.

Finally, a brief product recommendation. The ATU-100. This automatic antenna tuner comes in 3 varieties: kit, assembled board, and assembled in a case. Search the model on eBay and you will find any version. I purchased the assembled board at \$39. As the kit is \$10 less, I elected to have someone in China put it together for me. It comes with a screen and connecting leads. The only part you need to add is a push button; it actuates tuning and reset. I was very impressed with the device's ability to tune random lengths of long wire antennas I used in FL.

With the City of Saint Paul recently deciding it would be a fantastic idea to cut down 95% of the boulevard trees in Frogtown, I find myself without the tree that supported my G5RV and long wire.

I will have to go back to the drawing board for the QTH horizontal HF antennas. And plan to do some work this Easter weekend. Curtailed to only one HF antenna the city has forced my hand into action.

In the meantime I've installed the ATU-100 at the base of my 55' MFJ pole/1.5 story house vertical. Until now I've been connecting its trans-match inside the shack, which is about 50' of RG6 away from the feed point.

Although I was able to achieve satisfactory VSWR with the previous arrangement, connecting an antenna tuner directly to the feed point, I suspect, will result in a noticeable improvement in power delivery to the antenna during transmit.

In this experimental setup I've terminated the ATU-100's data, voltage and push button lines to a cat5 cable. This will allow me to control it, and view VSWR from inside the shack. The output of the tuner is where the red and black binding post adapter is connected. Black goes to the radial field, white is the driven element.



March 5, 2021 Board Minutes

President Lou called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

A quorum was present: President Lou Michaels (WD8NOV), Vice President Kevin Welna (W5LNA), Treasurer Allan Klein (WØNLY), Past President Don Kelly (WA6ZMT), Board Members-at-Large Ben Otto (KEØRFZ) and Bob Walsh (WCØJ).

Also attending were Dale Maroushek (NØPEY), Jay Maher (NJØM), and Jeff Iverson (WB9DAN). Other members arrived during the board meeting.

The club currently has no Secretary. Don Kelly volunteered to take minutes.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved as published in the Ground Wave. (Motion Kevin, 2nd Ben, Unanimous).

REPORTS PRESENTED

President—Lou had nothing special to report.

Vice President – Kevin had a Zoom meeting for club-wide projects—the turnout was disappointing. He will be retiring mid-April and will have lots of time for ham projects.

Secretary—(open)

Treasurer—Allan says there are no outstanding payments. Education Fund \$1,257.

Repeater Fund \$852. General Fund \$7,204.

Past President—Don has nothing to report.

Ben—No changes in the inventory; no other official business.

Bob—Mid-summer we can work on getting the CDH station set up. We'll greet students at the fall activity fair. There was no starting date for the STEM Center construction. Ben asked about the procedure for providing equipment to the CDH station. Don suggested that the club would originally loan equipment until things have stabilized.

Membership--Dale says there are 102 members including 8 from VE exams.

Repeaters—No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Auction: We will set up a seller number for the Grossman Estate items to track sale amounts when we are able to have an auction.

Website: Nothing to report.

Budget: Discussed a draft.

NEW BUSINESS

Banquet: Not going to have a banquet due to COVID.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m. (Motion Don, 2nd Kevin)

March 5, 2021 Member Meeting Minutes

Our meeting was held via Zoom.

After the ragchew from 7:00-7:30, President Lou Michaels (WD8NOV) called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

A few announcements were made:

- Club finances are OK.
- Kevin invites members to join in completing projects.
- We are looking for someone to join the board to fill the vacant Secretary position.
- Bob is looking for summer help with CDH antennas, shack setup, etc.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. (Don Kelly (WA6ZMT) moved, Ben Otto (KEØRFZ) seconded)

Members remained 'til after 9:00 p.m. for random discussion.

Editor's Notes – by Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN

Remember, contributions to the *Ground Wave* are always welcome. Send them in a Word document (.docx) or Open Office document (.odt) as an email attachment to jaiverson@juno.com. Deadline is one week before the next meeting.

Officer Contact Information

President	Michaels, Lou WD8NOV	louthephotoguy@gmail.com	612-638-8159
Vice President	Welna, Kevin W5LNA	kwelna@gmail.com	651-354-5515
Past President	Kelly, Don WA6ZMT	dk@donkelly.biz	651-276-4838
Treasurer	Klein, Allan WØNLY	allankmn@cs.com	612-720-1324
Secretary			
Member At-Large	Otto, Ben KEØRFZ	ke0rfz@gmail.com	651-352-9590
Member At-Large	Walsh, Bob WCØJ	Brw.fsc@gmail.com	612-201-0818

Zoom Information

Until further notice, our monthly meetings in the new SPRC year will be in Zoom. Simply click the link below or call in from any phone. If you're not familiar with Zoom and would like to arrange to practice, text Don at 651 276-4838 or email dk@donkelly.biz.

SPRC is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: SPRC Monthly Meeting

Time: First Friday, 7:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

You may join at 7:00 for the half-hour "ragchew," or at 6:00 to sit in on the SPRC Board meeting.

Click to Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83683855241?pwd=Zi9tR2FVanlsVEFoTENCZlI0WTJWZz09>

Or, using any telephone, dial 312 626-6799

Meeting ID: 836 8385 5241

Passcode: 651842

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,83683855241#,,,,,0#,,651842# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,83683855241#,,,,,0#,,651842# US (New York)

If you use a calendar, download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files.

Monthly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZcrf->

[ggqz4oHtVwLbEZHWPwR3LQGBE6qJXL/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrqDMpEtGQsh2GRpwqBlqgb_zwmCVBgrdrizPnJhp7VRPhBLFuA5VdNY7B](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83683855241?pwd=Zi9tR2FVanlsVEFoTENCZlI0WTJWZz09)

SPRC Calendar

Fri Apr 9	6PM Virtual SPRC Board meeting.
Fri Apr 9	7PM Virtual SPRC Membership meeting (7-7:30 ragchew, 7:30 meeting).
Sat Apr 17	9AM SPRC Virtual Breakfast
Thu Apr 29	British radio pioneer William Eccles dies on this day in 1966.
Sat May 1	1 PM VE testing. Galilee Lutheran Church. 145 N McCarrons Blvd, Roseville, MN 55113. Reservations required. No walk-ins until further notice. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338.
Fri May 7	Russia celebrates May 7 th as Radio Day in memory of Alexander Stepanovich Popov's 1895 presentation of an early radio (lightning) receiver.
Fri May 7	6PM Virtual SPRC Board meeting.
Fri May 7	7PM Virtual SPRC Membership meeting (7-7:30 ragchew, 7:30 meeting).
Sat May 15	9AM SPRC Virtual Breakfast