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St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

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KØAGF

www.stpaulradioclub.org
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NEWS AND NOTES FOR JANUARY 2016 — Volume 76, Issue 1

Monthly Meeting

January 8, 2016
UST OWS LL54
7:00 pm Socializing
Membership Meeting 7:30 pm



PROGRAM

Grounding

Jim Mohn, NØRQR

Jim will help us understand the importance of grounding for our safety, the safety of our equipment, signal quality, and stray emissions—focusing on single-point grounding and single-point entry.

Jim has BS degrees in Electrical Engineering and Industrial Technology and has worked the last 23 years designing public safety radio systems. He is currently the Chief Engineer for the State of Minnesota Public Safety Radio System.

Presidential Ponderings

As I write this column, we're waiting to see if congress acts on the Amateur Radio Parity Act legislation. Recently, it has landed in the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. If you see your Senator or Representative over the holidays, please put in a positive plug for the Act. [S 1685 and HR 1301, respectively]

Of course, I am an advocate (being an apartment dweller), but as more and more of our members downsize and move into condominiums and apartments, the Act will help all of us.

Unless Ralph (NØAWN) surprises us with a new event before New Year's Eve, I believe the Public Service events are done for 2015. The last event completed was the 2015 Nemadji Trail Rally on December 5th, up near Duquette, Minnesota, with the race in the Nemadji State Forest (south of Duluth). There were four stages (totaling 33 miles) run over the dirt roads at ridiculous speeds. The official description of the course reads: "Type of road surface: Hard packed class 5 gravel, occasionally rocky, tight and twisty. Potential for

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Dale's Details

Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

Having a hard time thinking about some Ham related activity that was memorable in the last month or so. Not much operating except for the two meter nets on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Did some battery powerpack work and finally decided to go without them. Final preparation for the Auction will be in January, and the rules have been published and posted so most have it on their calendar. Must be something to write about, but what.

I suppose I could touch on the Great Mining Radio Club Pack-up, but that went so smoothly it is hardly worth mentioning. I mean all we had to do was gather a few members from both clubs and more, and get together on a few days, nights and weekends. Then we sorted stuff to stay or go, took down numerous antennas, two towers and pulled coax out of the tubes. Disconnected radios and computers and packed it all up into plastic totes.

During most of this time, we expected to have a new home to move into, but that did not quite develop

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The OWS building is located on the **University of St. Thomas (UST) South Campus.**

From I-94, take Cretin Ave south about a mile to Grand Ave. Turn right, then park in the ramp on your left or the surface lot on the right. In general, on-campus parking restrictions are not en-

forced after 6:00 p.m. on Fridays, but do not park in spots with parking meters unless paying or displaying a handicapped placard.

Enter the building just north of the parking ramp and take the elevator (in the hallway to the right) or stairs to the lower level. LL54 is not far

from the stairs.

For detailed maps, see www.stthomas.edu/campusmaps.

OWS: Owens Science Hall

Contact Kim Schumann in Disability Services at 651-962-6315 or kjschumann@stthomas.edu for any accessibility requests.

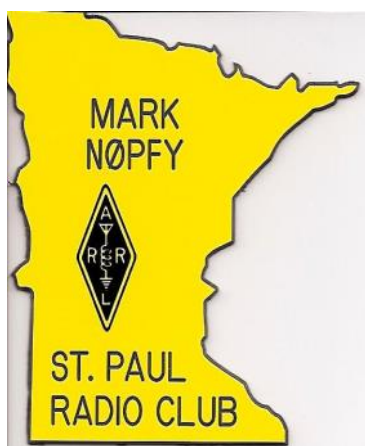
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any and all weather related road conditions: snow, ice, mud, or dry.” With temperatures in the low 40’s, would you believe roads more like mud, slush and a bit of ice. Two stages were run in the light, and two stages were run after sunset. Most cars succeeded in completing the stages, with a few trying off-road excursions (but no injuries). Dave Grant and Vickie Poirier publish a Racing Enthusiast newsletter and the current issue features the Nemadji Rally—if you would like to see it, I have a PDF copy which I can send.

Hopefully you all enjoyed the White Elephant gift exchange at the December meeting. I’ve heard both gleeful sounds of useful objects, and groans and utterances of “what the heck is this???” coming from members. If you liked the event, or didn’t like it, please let me know. We could make it part of our usual December meeting, with more time to run the traditional rules.

REMINDER: The January meeting will be on January 8th, not on January 1st. We hope to see you there.

George, KØGCP



SPRC Name/Call Badge

Badges are available from Tag-Me Engraving for \$9.00 plus shipping and tax (They accept PayPal).

www.tagme-engraving.com
Click “Name Tags” then “St. Paul Radio”



Used, but serviceable, antenna farm kit

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properly. The powers above told us we could leave the trailer but we had to move all of our gear someplace, and be clear of Tartan Park by December 18, 2015. The option we choose came from Joe (NØJOL) to store it at his farm...just down the road... in Isanti. So with borrowed trailers and a crew of volunteers from everywhere, we loaded all the antennas and towers, a few vehicles with tubs and bins, another trailer (Thanks Jonathan, KØCAR) with as much big stuff as we could, we set off to the farm to unload it and store it. Three hours loading, an hour drive up, three hours unloading and another hour or so back. We took a week off to plan and hit it again on the 12th.

We loaded Jonathan’s trailer again with the heavy tables and empty file cabinets and anything else we want-

ed to keep. Back to the farm, we built some racks to store the metal tubes on and stored the big stuff under that. Covered it all in plastic and put it to rest until, well we don’t know when yet. All the bins, a mile of coax rolls and power cords plus much miscellaneous stuff was stored on some pallet racking in another barn. The towers are piled and covered nearby. All ready for a long winters nap!

We were very lucky the weather stayed nice and we had good volunteer support. I’m sure the Mining crew chief made a list of the workers and will be sending out that info later. We keep telling ourselves that it will be much more fun when the time comes to put it all back together again. I’m in favor of having a whole new crew take on that operation! I guess there was something to talk about after all.

Dale, NØPEY



No longer a ham shack—just a shack

Leaning Tower of Cushcraft

Thanks to the work crew that straightened the Cushcraft antenna on the roof of the OSS building. Responding to a picture (below) of a definitely curved signal launcher, this intrepid crew assembled on the 4th floor of OSS on November 25 and ascended towards the heavens. Under the stern directions of Sir Thomas of Sturm, we reworked the guy wires so that the base pointed vertically, albeit in a somewhat sinuous S-curved fashion. After a round of self-congratulations, we adjourned to the warmth of our cars and departed—hopefully we don't need to repeat this action during the winter.

Allan Klein
Don Kelly
Joe Kreitzer
Paul LaFontaine
Orcena Lyle
George Power
Thomas Sturm
Joe Zwirn

THANKS gang. Your help made the repairs swift and easy.



Miscellaneous News

Joe Simonet

SARA member **Joe Simonet** (WØTBC) recently moved into the assisted care section of Boutwells Landing followed an accident in which Joe slipped and fell. Joe could use some cheering up. Call and say hello—651275-5000 Ask for Joe (let it ring extra) or visit him in rooms 206 in "The Commons." Call before you stop in—he's often out of his room. Send a card to Boutwells Landing, Joe Simonet #206, 5610 Norwich Parkway, Oak Park Heights MN 55082 or send an e-mail Joe via w0oxb@arrl.net and Dave will print and hand-deliver it to him.

Pat Tice Retirement Party

Most of the members of the ham radio community are aware, that Pat Tice WAØTDA has retired from Handihams. Nancy Meydell is the Handiham Secretary, and has asked me to spread the word about a retirement party for Pat. This will be an Open House party at Courage St Croix in Stillwater on January 29th from 2-4pm.

By the Numbers

Money

General Fund	\$5,402.23
Repeater Fund	\$1,262.24
Education Fund	\$962.00

Membership

Current membership 112

(Only a few that haven't signed on from last year. Some new ones from VE testing.)

All the checks from the last three months have finally been taken to the bank so your check books will balance again. Sorry for the delay.

UST Tobacco-Free

UST's St. Paul and Minneapolis campuses are tobacco free.

In the St. Thomas policy, "tobacco" is defined as any lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, clove cigarette, hookah smoked products, electronic cigarettes and any other smoking product, as well as smokeless or spit tobacco, also known as kip, chew or snus. Promotion, sale and distribution of tobacco products and merchandise, including any items carrying tobacco logos, also are prohibited on the cam-

Membership Meeting December 4, 2015

No one from the UST Radio Club was present at 7:32 p.m.

George Power (KØGCP) called the SPRC Membership Meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Everyone was invited to introduce themselves. 42 members and one guest were present. Jim Asp (NØAIS), a former member, was attending his first meeting in 30-years.

Secretary's Report: There were no corrections to the October and November minutes as printed in the Ground Wave.

Treasurer's Report: Allan Klein (WØNLY) is traveling.

Committee Reports:

Membership—Dale Maroushek

(NØPEY) reported that we have 106 paid members.

Circuit Builders—Orcy Lyle (WØQT) will hold the CB session tomorrow (12/5) in OSS415.

Public Service—Ralph Bierbaum (NØAWN) pointed out that we need to be prepared due to the potential of terrorist attacks. The next scheduled activity is the John Beargrease Marathon at the end of January.

George pointed out that the next meeting will be the second Friday, January 8th, not the 1st, due to UST's Christmas break. The auction will be January 31st.

Old Business:

Mining Club—Volunteers are invited to join the Mining club for breakfast at Denny's on Century Ave in Maplewood, then meet at Tartan Park

around 9:30 to move the towers, antennas, and miscellaneous equipment to Isanti.

New Business:

There was no new business.

The Business meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Program—Orcy Lyle (WØQT) shared her experience in planning and running special events.

White Elephant Exchange—Members selected "wrapped" items and opened them with sounds of glee and horror.

Board Meeting December 11, 2015

As there was no pressing business, the board did not hold a meeting in December.

Sat Jan 2 10AM VE testing. Ramsey County Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964

Sat Jan 2 No Circuit Builders

Fri Jan 8 7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See page 1.

Sat Jan 9 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*

Fri Jan 15 7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) **

Sat Jan 16 9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.

Sat Jan 16 After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*

Sat Jan 23 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*

Sat Jan 30 8:30AM – 1:00PM SPRC Auction. Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 401 Concord St., St. Paul, MN 55107

Fri Feb 5 7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54.

Sat Feb 6 10AM VE testing. Ramsey County Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964

Sat Feb 6 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*

Thu Feb 11 Don Kelly's Birthday – send cards and gifts care of the GroundWave editor

Fri Feb 12 7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415)

Sat Feb 13 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*

Sat Feb 13 9AM-1PM Cabin Fever Reliever, Nat'l Guard Armory, St Cloud. See www.W0SV.org for details

Sat Feb 20 9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.

Sat Feb 20 After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*

Sat Feb 27 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*

*Circuit Builders is each Saturday morning if someone is available to open the lab and there is no conflicting activity. Check the SPRCCB Google Group to confirm that the lab will be open.

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