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# St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

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## KØAGF

www.stpaulradioclub.org  
Club Repeater: 145.310 MHz  
PO Box 9375  
North St. Paul, MN 55109

### NEWS AND NOTES FOR OCTOBER 2014 — Volume 74, Issue 10

#### Monthly Meeting

October 3, 2014

UST OWS LL54

7:00 pm Socializing

Membership Meeting 7:30 pm



#### PROGRAM

### Remote Operation

Patrick Tice (WAØTDA) will discuss HF remote base station operation, which these days means controlling your station—or someone else's—via a really long wire, the Internet.

What do you do when you have to downsize, sell the house with a yard, and move to a condo? How can you stay active on HF if you follow the sun to Arizona in the winter? What do you do if your neighborhood has

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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 re-

#### Presidential Ponderings

##### THINGS PAST

A very well attended September meeting kicks off another year for the St. Paul Radio Club. After a couple of YouTube videos on using the MFJ antenna analyzer to check your coax cable, we had several units present to work with on a hands-on basis. We had enough questions that we ran a bit long (which is just fine with most of us, and the University has not had any problems with our meeting).

##### THINGS PRESENT

Orcy Lyle (WØQT) has access to the engineering building room again, so Circuit Builders is possible. Let her know what projects you might be interested in building.

The request for funding, FT4TA, was declined, and we are looking at criteria we can adopt to handle future requests. Probably criteria similar to those use by the Twin Cities DX Association, but also requiring a local connection. (You can read about the criteria at <http://www.tcdxa.org>.)

Mark your calendars for the upcoming year—General Membership meeting

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strictions are not enforced 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

#### How Did the Boat Get Swamped?

Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

There are Millions of Stories in the Naked City; here is one more...

From the poor picture I included in last month's GW, many of you have asked "How did the boat get swamped?" Well, the camp had two sheltered harbors for boat protection, but they were a long walk away from our site. I found an unoccupied "tent only" secluded site just between us and the lake, and next to the launch ramp, with a nice sand slot for any boat. We took Mom, Elise and Kirk out for a boat ride early evening, say 5:00 pm. Lake was calm and flat. Came back, ate supper and Kirk and his wife Tamra and I went back out to the calm lake. Wind came up slowly, we went around the East point for shelter and found a Rock Bass, biggest I've ever caught, Tamra had a hit we saw surface but lost it. So we rocked our way back around the point, wind and waves were bigger now and made land at the sand slip. Pulled the boat up high to the berm, half in and half out. Tied it off to the overweight picnic table, looked back and saw some splashes

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from the stairs.

For detailed maps, see [www.stthomas.edu/campusmaps](http://www.stthomas.edu/campusmaps).

OWS: Owens Science Hall

Contact Kim Schumann in Disability Services at 651-962-6315 or [kjschumann@stthomas.edu](mailto:kjschumann@stthomas.edu) for any accessibility requests.

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restrictive covenants that prohibit outdoor antennas? These are all questions that don't have a single answer, but wouldn't it be nice to have another option or two?

Of course it would! HF remote base operation just might be for you.

We will discuss what it means to operate remotely, and what kind of equipment you need. We'll talk about the legal aspects just a bit, but spend more time on the how and why. If your club is considering a club station, an HF remote base might just be in the mix, so we'll take a look at that possibility and find out what advantages and responsibilities it brings to a club.

Pat was first licensed as WNØTDA in 1967. He now holds his Extra Class ticket as well as an FCC General Class Commercial license. He is a co-founder of Butternut Electronics Company and has worked as the program leader of the Handiham Program for Courage Center (now Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute) since 1991. Pat is a member of the Stillwater Amateur Radio Association, SARA, and is active in the club as a volunteer instructor, newsletter editor, and VE. He has also worked as a secondary school teacher, broadcast engineer, and a licensed police officer. Pat likes to ragchew on HF and tries to stay out of the way during contests.

## 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 will be prohibited on the campuses or at any university-sponsored events.

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dates for 2014 - 2015:

October 3, 2014  
November 7, 2014  
December 5, 2014  
January 2, 2015  
February 6, 2015  
March 6, 2015  
April 10, 2015 (UST's Easter break is 3/30-4/6)  
May 1, 2015

Several of our club members are getting ready to help with the Twin Cities Marathon, October 5<sup>th</sup>. But they are looking for more volunteers. If interested, contact Dave Johnson, at [NOBHHC@AOL.com](mailto:NOBHHC@AOL.com).

I've given up on trying to hear the radio over the noise of the race crowd, so I'm trying a new headset. A report will follow later.

### THINGS FUTURE

In the past couple of columns, you've heard me rail a bit against the computerization of amateur radio. Well, this fall, I'm going to quiet down on the topic (at least a little bit), as two of our programs will definitely involve the use of computers with radios. In October and November, we will have programs on Digital Voice on HF (Joe H. and team) and Remote Control Operations (Pat Tice, HandiHams). The Remote Control Operations may affect some of us directly, as the club is exploring the setup of a club station (to be used for remote operations). There are lots of issues to be examined, but the mechanics of operating remotely is the topic for the October meeting.

See you at the next meeting, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

George, KØGCP

### Tech Class

The tech licensing class planned for this fall was canceled due to low enrollment (only two registrants—the school system requires five or more).

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coming over the back, about 8:45pm. We figured the wind and waves would die down, as it usually does in the evening, and the bilge pump would be able to handle the water later.

So, back to the campfire and refreshments, where we had no wind or gusts, even the tree tops were barely moving. We could still hear the surf, so at 10:00, I took Oliver and Elise (grandchildren) to check on the boat. OMG! The sand and water under the boat, as it worked with the waves, basically pulled the boat out into the surf. The rope was tight and the boat out into the lake by 6 to 8 feet and filled with water. The kids brought the whole family group over quickly to see. We pulled everything we could out (tackle boxes, life vests, even the front battery). I took the front anchor rope and tied it to another tree to the east for a more secure hold. I figured the wind would subside in the next hour and we could care for it then. Well it usually dies down at night! Oh so very wrong that night!

An hour later, same mess, even bigger. We found some bailing buckets and had at it. Using a USPS mail box, Kirk made a big dent into the swamp, I had an ice-cream pail and before long the boat was actually floating again. Now What? Still too much water in it to pull it up, Bilge pump was working (battery power working after being submerged in water!) but kept clogging with crap. Water would have continued to come in, so a decision had to be made. Options were make for the ramp or the protected cove. Ramp was closest, so we started her up and Kirk headed her out into the waves with his flashlight. (Landing is well lighted, not a chance he could miss it) He forgot to pull off the choke so the motor died and he had to do a quick restart, made the turn back to the ramp and got it out

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of the Big Mean Lake. Yes, he was a brave and successful boat Captain, but boy did he get the "look" and choice words from his wife later!

Got the trailer and pulled it out back to the camp site. The next day, we let it drain and sun/air dry, while we pulled everything out and hand dried it or trashed it. Lots of rusty lures and other crap went away. The plywood floor seems to be deteriorating underneath the top plastic covering, shedding crap into the bilge area that clogs the sump pump. The flotation blocks built into the seats work great, but, they pulled the rear driver's seat area so much the screws came with it!

Nice relaxing day. After looking around the camp ground and watching the other boats on the lake, the Jaws quote of "we need a bigger boat" is true. A 16 foot overloaded fishing boat with 20 HP tiller motor is great, but not on Leech with a wind.

Be careful out there!

So, where does all this fit into Ham Radio you ask? That came from a guy named Tony, and I missed his callsign, because we were not on the radio. Seems that on our move from Sandy Lake to Leech Lake on Tuesday, the RV was trying to tell me something with a little vibration and noise that wasn't observed on the way up north. It didn't take long, within the first hour, and whoop, thump, bang, and a right rear tire shredded. Luckily, there was a gravel road to turn off on and we set up to change the outside dual. (Note: If I would have pulled forward 20 more

feet, we could have done it in the shade!) Once the tire is off, we notice the inside dual is also bulging all the way around. Both are seven years old, but very low mileage, which in the RV world mean change them. The spare is older but that's all we have. Put it on and make our way back to the road. Moving slowly, 45 to 50 MPH, we head to Hill City, which does not have a truck tire center. So we change course and head up to Grand Rapids. When the two lanes changed to four lanes, we were passed by a minivan with a service logo and ladder on top, and an antenna.

Looking for Wal-Mart, and missed it so landed at the Home Depot parking lot. I look up Discount Tires, Grand Rapids. Make the call and set an appointment, he gives me directions; I check the map on my phone and don't see the streets. I look at the call and it was to a 616 area code. Grand Rapids, Michigan! They are still waiting for me.

With frustration mounting and kids getting hungry, it's lunch time. Tony drives up, remember the the service minivan with ladder. Says I saw you driving slow on the road, is anything wrong, do you need some help? I asked if he was a local, and does he know of a good tire dealer. He looks at the back of the RV, sees my callsign decal and a Garage Logic sticker, shows me his mic, and we are now best friends for the moment. Gives me the name of a tire dealer in town, I call them, they can help, I map it and we head out. Achesontire.com if you ever need tire work in Grand Rapids, **Minnesota.**

We drive in, John says back up here, before we are out of the camper, they have it jacked up and doing the job! About 40 minutes later, and \$235, we had two new Firestone tires and were ready to

go! But we are still hungry. Google tells us of an Asian place two or three blocks down. John says, park it over there, with Kirk's Flex and the boat, and take your time. I mentioned Tony and his nickname which I forgot, and he said "oh yah." So being a Ham is good both on and off the air.

We drove back home on Saturday and the ironic follow up is that my work sent me on a delivery back up to Leech, near Federal Dam, to an Indian Community center the next week. Of course the address was incorrect so I kept looking; cell phones had no service on the road. So I stopped at the only likely looking building and found a guy (janitor) to ask. Yup, this is it. Asked if they had a phone I could use to call the contact contractor that he was not familiar with. He said, "Step right over here by the front doors and your cell will work." Yup, a ten foot circle near the door had service, nowhere else for miles! So I called the contact and got intermittent voice, but in comes a pickup with trailer and four guys--one on the phone...with me. We had driven by each other a few minutes before; they were the contract workers who had been redoing the gym floor for a few days now. The janitor knew all of them, but not the company name they worked for!

One more observation: Leech is a rich man's lake. On the road into this spot, there are about 12 homes along the road, all in distress and junk all over the place. Once you get to the shore line--gated fenced homes, condos and beautiful docks and boats. It was the same on the other side too.

## FACEBOOK USER?

Look for our group:

"St. Paul Radio Club"

## Have You Renewed?

Each fall, we renew our membership in SPRC. Please complete a membership application and bring it to the meeting or mail it to the PO Box.

## **Thomas Steele, AAØHQ Silent Key**

Thomas S. Steele, 87, of Arden Hills, and Manchester, Jackson County, Wisconsin, died in his home on Tuesday, August 5th.

A small memorial gathering and picnic was held for family and close friends on September 13.

Tom was a long-time member of the St Paul Radio club.

Ted Kinnear (KDØNPJ) remembers "Several years ago, Tom started what became known as the 'Five O'clock Gang' as a number of us would use the St Paul repeater to QSO during the drive time each day."

Tom will be greatly missed by all of those who lives he touched.

### **SPRC Auction 2015 Save the Date**

The 2015 St Paul Radio Club Auction will be on Saturday, January 31st at Our Lady of Guadalupe church.

## **Amateur Radio Made My Summer Your Name Goes Here**

This space is NOT intentionally left blank. It's available for your input to the Ground Wave—and you haven't submitted anything to fill it!

Please send something to WA6ZMT at ARRL.net by October 24th for the November Ground Wave.

Interested in an official St. Paul Radio Club name badge? They are available from Tag-Me Engraving (<http://www.tagme-engraving.com/>). The cost is \$9.00 plus shipping and tax. They accept PayPal on their website.

## **Mesh Networking Jeff Walker**

Three of us at SEMARC now have broadband hamnet mesh nodes,

Essentially the idea is to create a private amateur radio network that parallels the Internet where we can exchange information of all sorts like messaging, video, voice etc. The concept is like packet, except it will have much more speed and carrying capacity. The network we are creating is a "mesh network" which utilizes lots of power nodes that connect with each other to form the mesh backbone.

Which leads me to a proposition—three nodes isn't much of a network. It would be wonderful to have 20 nodes in the area, and the more the better!

The hardware to construct the node comes from commercial wireless gear that has been reprogrammed with ham radio firmware. I purchased all the parts for my node from Amazon and have less than \$100 in the project. The node by itself doesn't "do" a lot, it's basically the transport mechanism that you hook into to communicate. The nice part about it is that between the three of us, we can provide buy lists and help people get them programmed and set up.

Once we got a reliable mesh network built, think of the possibilities. We could set up servers host chat, bulletin boards, a VOIP phone system with video chat, a DX Cluster, file repositories for documents, and have essentially a high speed internet backbone of our own as a backup to the regular internet.

<http://www.broadband-hamnet.org/>

Let me know what you think, and lets see if we can generate some interest. I'd be willing to host some informational and build-it sessions if desired.

## **SPRC Logo Clothing**

You may order SPRC logo items directly from Hamthreads, without waiting for the club to assemble an order. For the rest of the year, a free hat or T-shirt will be included with your order of two shirts, or a shirt and a jacket. (type "free hat" or "free tee" in the comments.

See the PDF attached to the Ground Wave for details.

Visit [www.hamthreads.com](http://www.hamthreads.com).

## **Reality copies Fiction What's in a Name?**

What do Tim Dick, Tim Allen, and Mike Baxter have in common?

Timothy Allen Dick's stage name is Tim Allen. His "Last Man Standing" character is Mike Baxter.

Tim Dick is now KK6OTD, joining Baxter, KAØXTT, as a ham radio operator.

## **Motorola Visar Radios**

Tom Hazen passed along this request:

Looking for someone in the Saint Paul area who can program our car club's Motorola Visar radios for a reasonable fee. One member of our club is an old Air Force guy who has an FCC license so we're good on that front.

Would also like suggestions on the best source for reasonably priced good quality batteries for the Visars. Not sure which Ebay stuff I can trust.

Any leads greatly appreciated.

If you can help, send a note to WA6ZMT@arrl.net and I'll pass it along.



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

## ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Fri Oct 3 7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See Page 1.  
Sat Oct 4 9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, [WØCOE@arrl.net](mailto:WØCOE@arrl.net) or 651-688-9964  
Sat Oct 4 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus\*  
Fri Oct 10 7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415)  
Sat Oct 11 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus\*  
Sat Oct 18 9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.  
Sat Oct 18 After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus\*  
Sat Oct 25 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus\*  
Sat Nov 1 9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, [WØCOE@arrl.net](mailto:WØCOE@arrl.net) or 651-688-9964  
Sat Nov 1 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus\*  
Fri Nov 7 7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54.  
Sat Nov 8 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus\*  
Fri Nov 14 7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415)  
Sat Nov 15 9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.  
Sat Nov 15 After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus\*  
Sat Nov 22 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus\*  
Sat Nov 29 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.