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St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

Don Kelly, WA6ZMT, Editor
Dale Maroushek, NØPEY, Interim Publisher

KØAGF

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

NEWS AND NOTES FOR OCTOBER 2015 — Volume 75, Issue 10

Monthly Meeting

October 2, 2015

UST OWS LL54

7:00 pm Socializing

Membership Meeting 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

A Dipole for Odd Situations

Art Thell, NØIWQ

Art will tell us about his experience working with Off-Center Fed (OCF) dipoles and how to successfully put antennas in small spaces.

Art has been working with electronics as a hobby since high school, including kit building as well as projects built from scratch. His first license was attained in 1977 and he's currently an Extra Class licensee. He's had experience with various versions of dipoles and several verticals as well as grounding systems and problem mitigation.

Employment included working at Univac and Control Data from 1961 until 1975. In 1976 he purchased his first commercial computer for business use. His career has included participation or leadership in several large software applications.



The End of an Era

As 3M is putting Tartan Park on the market, the Mining club is forced to relocate. Mining and SPRC members have been working on mothballing the Mining club's shack and antennas. Here, the Rohn tilt-over tower is coming down.

Déjà Vu

If you were at the meeting on October second, you already know most of what's in this Ground Wave.

Between challenges gathering information and the editor's travel schedule, we weren't about to complete this issue in a timely manner.

If you're interested in volunteering as newsletter editor, let President George know!

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.

Presidential Ponderings

"The Amateur Radio Parity Act once again merits front page coverage. Your continued support is needed to keep our U.S. Congressmen and Senators focused on moving this legislation forward. There are opponents to the legislation spreading obfuscations (lies) about the legislation and your letters of support are needed as a reminder of grass roots support." [from the Scott County ARES newsletter, Sept. 2015]

I couldn't say it better. The ARRL has information about the legislation (and its intent) on its web site. Many of you have homes with sufficient space for antennas, but some of us have don't—so, from a self-centered interest, I'm hope you write your legislators in favor of our bills.

—/—

Sometimes, I just like to get out and enjoy nature, and having a radio gets me outside. Last Saturday (9/19), I helped with the Cystic Fibrosis bike ride in and around Mound, MN. It was a simple event (radio-wise) with 2 meter simplex at the reporting points and in the SAGs. But the weather was perfect (as a TV station would say, it was a "10" day), cool and clear, and we were out in farm country (complete with appropriate smells and sounds). The event started and finished at an apple orchard, and families swarmed about—tractor-pulled hay rides, a cornfield maze, animal petting area, old equipment to crawl upon and pretend to operate, and food. I enjoyed the sights, smells and sounds, and it brought back memories of childhood times spent on a farm.

Later, at home, I was thinking of an image of some stereotypical radio operator, cooped up in a shack at all hours, engrossed in the technology of radios, and disconnected from the outside world. Compare his/her ex-

perience with that of the "toppers", who take their radios to the hill tops and send their signals out to the world. At the risk of seeming evangelical about radio, I rejoice in the options that radio offers us.

If you like the outdoor activities with radios, here are some events left this Fall:

[walking] American Diabetes Assoc. Step Out for Life, Stillwater (Oct 3)

[running] Twin Cities Marathon (Oct 4).

[on-the-air] Boy Scouts JOTA

All would love to have you join them.

Mark your hamshack calendar for an October special event marking the anniversary of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

George, KØGCP

Dale's Details Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

Fall is here and it is the perfect time of the year to do outside antenna work. Cool enough and warm enough with light winds to keep the bugs away. With the Mining Club being forced out of Tartan Park, many volunteers from both clubs have spent some work parties taking down two towers and lots of antennas. We have culled and packed bunches of stuff in the trailer and are well prepared for final loading and moving. Unfortunately, we still have no idea of where the company will find a new home for us. At this point, we expect that we will be packed away over winter.

Membership renewal time at the Club is off to a good start with 58 renewals at the first meeting. Probably more letters waiting for me in the mail box.

The 10 Meter Friendly net at 2000, and 2 Meter net at 2030 on Wednesdays have been running between 8 and 12 check ins. If you have some

time, we could use a few more to keep the chatter going. The 1900 on Saturday night Magic Repeater net with George NØSBU on the 145.17 Mhz side also is a fun one.

My sons and I finally got the boat in the water for a "four hour cruise" last Saturday up at the Vets Camp on Big Marine Lake. It has been ready and waiting since before Memorial Day. Now it is time to unload it and store it over winter too. We rediscovered the vibration coming from the motor that we had noticed last year and forgotten about. Might have to become a mechanic again like I did in July when the yard tractor bent a push rod when the rocker arm screw lost its lock and loosened. Even before we got on the water, we found the female gas line connector had failed and was leaking gas out and air in, so the motor stalled. A quick run to Wal-Mart got us the new part which solved the problem. For 30+ year old gear, we can't complain, I guess.

We always have room for and need of volunteers for support positions in the Club. Right now, both the refreshment chair and door prize chair could use an assistant in training. If you have other specific interests that you want to learn about or are willing to start up a new avenue for the Club, Please contact one of the Board Members.

Dale, NØPEY

Best Road Trip Ever Your Name Goes Here

This space is available for your input to the Ground Wave—and you haven't submitted anything to fill it!

Writing isn't your thing? Send in your thoughts and your contact info for follow-up questions and the editor will put an article together.

Please send something to WA6ZMT at ARRL.net for the next Ground Wave.

Membership Meeting September 11, 2015

No one from the UST Radio Club was present at 7:30 p.m.

George Power (KØGCP) called the SPRC Membership Meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Everyone was invited to introduce themselves. Several announced when they had been first licensed (some in the 1950s). 32 members and one guest were present.

Secretary's Report: The August board meeting minutes were accepted as printed in the September Ground Wave.

Treasurer's Report: Allan Klein (WØNLY) wasn't present. At the board meeting he reported:

\$922 Education Fund
\$1,197.24 Repeater Fund
\$3,995.13 Club General Fund

Committee Reports:

Circuit Builders—Orcy Lyle (WØQT) sent word that Circuit Builders would resume Septem-

ber 19th and that the card-key access issues have been resolved.

Public Service/Emergency Communications—Ralph Bierbaum (NØAWN) said that the MS150 raised \$3.78 million and went smoothly with top-notch communications.

VE Exams—Leon Dill (WØCOE) reported that six people took tests at the new location at the Ramsey County Maplewood Library. After many years, the Roseville City Hall location is no longer available. He reported that the FCC no longer charges for vanity call signs.

Miscellany:

It was announced that ARRL is fighting misinformation about the Amateur Radio Parity Act intended to benefit hams restricted by HOAs.

9/12-14 will be the ARRL VHF Contest.

9/12 Is Radio City's sidewalk sale.

9/18-20 Illinois Superfest, for those who happen to be in Peoria. Flyers are available.

9/19 Lake Elmo Tailgate Swapfest.

9/19 Cystic Fibrosis Cycle for Life event looking for hams.

9/12 is also the Rush City Hamfest, free at the high school.

The tailgate swapfest in July was a great success (especially for President George, the grand prize winner).

There was a discussion about moving the Mining club's shack, potentially to Cottage Grove.

ABC Electronics in Minneapolis is closing; merchandise is expected to move to Ax Man Surplus.

SK: Walter Nelson (NØSKY)

The Business meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m., followed by a break.

John Hines (NØKCJ) talked about his experience building the water-dielectric antenna tuner that he had demonstrated outside before the meeting.

Fri Oct 2	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See page 1
Sat Oct 3	10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Oct 3	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Oct 10	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Oct 17	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Oct 17	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Oct 24	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Oct 31	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Nov 6	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54.
Sat Nov 7	10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Nov 7	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Nov 14	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Nov 21	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Nov 21	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Nov 28	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.