



www.arrl.org



St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN, Editor
Dale Maroushek, NØPEY, Publisher

KØAGF

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

NEWS AND NOTES FOR OCTOBER 2019 — Volume 79, Issue 10

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY OCTOBER 4, 2019.

6:00 PM Board Meeting (all are welcome to attend)

7:00 PM Fellowship and Refreshments

7:30 PM Program followed by Short Business Meeting (**note change**)

Our September program will feature Eric Westgard, speaking on MESH networking. Erik, NY9D, is the chair of medical communication volunteers at the Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon and also the Red White and Boom Half Marathon. He was instrumental in the construction of the MN Statewide Packet Network, MN Statewide D-Star Network, and Reflector 53, and a new 5 GHz mesh network covering both cities. He is a regular contributor to the ARRL EmCom Newsletter, as well as QST and CQ Magazines and the TAPR Journal. He has spoken at Dayton on EmCom and QRP topics and at TAPR.

All meetings are in the Commons meeting room in the John R Albers Center at Cretin-Derham Hall High School, 555 Hamline Ave. S., St. Paul MN 55116. From the intersection of Randolph Avenue and Hamline Avenue S., take Hamline southward for 3 blocks. The parking lot entrance is on the west side of Hamline Ave. opposite Watson St. The Albers Center building is about 400 feet west of the lot entrance—use the double-door entrance on the east side of the building.

Dale's Details by Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

Almost through the September Hamfest weekends, I only sold at Bob's in Lake Elmo. It was great to see all the new faces, regulars and out of town hams that made the trip. Glad they did, I finally found the controller I needed for my TX2! I sold garage clearing stuff, not much, but it made some people happy with cheap deals on good merchandise.

I'll include a monthly reminder to those of us that have accumulated masses of radio treasures and now have nowhere to sell them and may have to pay to dispose of them. Find a way, E-Bay, Craig's list, QRZ, QTH or donate it to a new ham or Club. Or your family ends up with it and either tries to sell it (Nancy Gammel is working hard) or donate it. The Club is starting to be a collection area but doesn't have enough storage area. And if we get too much stuff, or Bro. Bob leaves, then what? (*Ed. Note: don't forget free classifieds in the Ground Wave!*).

Looking forward, fall antenna hanging season is coming up. When the leaves are gone and the wind is down, it's time to string wires in the trees. Depending on your lot size, many variations of loops, diploes, OCF dipoles, slopers, L's and others can be "fit" in. It may not be pretty, but if they work, and they usually do, it's cheap.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

So how do you “hang” these wires? Many ways of shooting lines over tree limbs have been developed. Slingshot, fishing pole, arrows, compressed air/gas launchers, climber spikes, or the best climbers sling shot. MARC has one we can use, I think the Club should have one too. For more info, YouTube or Google.

Coming up next month, elections of our two “at large” Board members, currently held by Orcy and Mike. Both are open to challengers, but do not indicate they will run a campaign. We have one new candidate, and are looking for others that want to move the Club forward. Who do you want to Represent the Actions of the Club...speak up now! We Need New people to step up and be the leadership of our future.

The program this month, from Eric Westgard, NY9D, couldn't be timelier. We get all the good information, and the Marathon is on Sunday. Hopefully, many members will be out to support the event.

Fall officially arrived this week, unless you are a Loyal Member of the 21st ers. We believe that the seasons are really one quarter off. Based on the length of daylight, and how the days now get shorter, this should be the beginning of Winter. On December 21st, the days start getting longer, therefor indicating the coming of Spring. March 21st would be the beginning of Summer, as the days get longer yet. Then from June 21st, the days get shorter again meaning Fall. Think about it.

Editor's Notes by Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN (jaiverson@juno.com)

I have been off the air (HF) almost a month now waiting for the tree trimmers to come. The commercial trimmers won't trim a tree that's too close to the power lines and Xcel doesn't want to spend any time trimming trees that aren't all that close. I guess it all depends on what your definition of “close” is. Anyway, I think everybody is happy now and the work will get done next week. Before the first date they were supposed to come, I dutifully took down my 80 meter Off Center Fed Dipole (OFCD) so that it wouldn't get hit with branches. It will be interesting to see how it works with a number of leaves and branches out of the way. When it was up before I could get it to load on the bottom half of 160 and all bands 80-10 (except 15). The OCFD is an interesting antenna. It is basically a dipole fed at the 1/3 point with a 4:1 balun and 50 ohm coax. It is reminiscent of what they used to call a “Windom,” but that antenna was fed with a single bare line.

During my time with no HF to play with, I have been brushing up on my chess game which is covered with 45 years of dust and rust. I have joined a chess club at the library and have found a few programs and apps to play, so I am losing to both man and machine these days. Hopefully the cobwebs will clear and the gears will start turning. I could certainly use it.

The *Ground Wave* is a bit short this month, but your contributions could fix that!

Just a reminder that “Classified Ads” in the *Ground Wave* are free to registered SPRC members

FOR SALE

HEATHKIT SB-200 Linear Amplifier

Rated at 600 watts output on SSB and 500 watts on CW. The unit looks pretty clean and I was told it was working when last used, but because of its age it is being offered AS-IS.

Note:

- This is not a plug-and-play deal for most folks. This unit will need to be modified to work with modern solid-state radios (see <https://harbachelectronics.com/>). But if you are willing to put in the time and money on the mods you will end up with a nice system costing less than 1/3 that of a new amplifier.
- This unit covers only the traditional 80-10 meter bands (no 160, no 6, no WARC).
- “Parts-only” examples of this unit sell for \$330-\$350 on eBay, plus postage.
- The complete assembly manual is available on line.

This package includes:

- The SB-200 (wired for 120v, easily changed)
- 2 new 572b replacement tubes (new old stock—still in wrapped package)

All for **\$325**. You pick up in Brooklyn Park or I will deliver to an SPRC meeting.

Contact Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN, 763-560-4458,
jaiverson@juno.com

CDH is Tobacco-Free

Cretin-Derham Hall is a tobacco-free school. Tobacco includes any kind or form of tobacco, nicotine products, e-cigarettes, cigarettes, cigars, chew, snuff, plugs, etc., prepared in such manner as to be suitable for chewing or smoking in a pipe or other tobacco-related devices.



Visit us on
Facebook

Look for our group:
“St. Paul Radio
Club”

Can you contribute to the Ground Wave?

You betcha! It's nice to have the “regulars,” but it would be also nice to include tales, advice and what not from other St Paul Radio Club members (or non-members!). Remember, everything doesn't have to be radio related. Tell us about your other hobbies, your travels, or anything else readers may like to read about.

**Send your contributions
to: jaiverson@juno.com**



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

SPRC Calendar

Fri Oct 4	6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. *
Fri Oct 4	7PM SPRC Membership meeting. See Page 1 for possible time change! Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. Please Note!
Sat Oct 5	10AM VE testing. Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., St. Paul. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338.
Sat Oct 19	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.
Fri Nov 1	6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. *
Fri Nov 1	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School.
Sat Nov 2	10AM VE testing. Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., St. Paul. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338.
Sat Nov 16	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.