

 <p>www.arrl.org</p>		<p>St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave</p> <p><i>Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN, Editor</i> <i>Dale Maroushek, NØPEY, Publisher</i></p>	<p>KØAGF www.stpaulradioclub.org Club Repeaters: 145.310 MHz, 442.450 MHz 114.8 kHz tone PO Box 9375 North St. Paul, MN 55109</p>
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NEWS AND NOTES FOR OCTOBER 2020 – Volume 80, Issue 10

NEXT (ON-LINE) MEETING: FRIDAY OCTOBER 2, 2020

- 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 October program will feature SPRC member Ben Otto, KEØRFZ, on the topic of “Cable and Internet Alternatives: How to Cut the Cord and Save.”

Elections

Elections for Saint Paul Radio Club officers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary) will be held at the October meeting, Friday, October 2. All positions are open for nominations:

President: Presides at all meetings of the Board and Members, appoints committee chairs and enforces all rules and regulations. The President is an ex-officio member of all committees.

Vice-President: Assists the President and officiates in the President’s absence.

Treasurer: Receives all dues and other monies, manages club banking, keeps an account of all receipts and expenditures, and makes regular reports to the Board and Members. The Treasurer maintains an inventory of Club property and its condition.

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.

Each officer performs such other duties incident to his office as the President or Board shall prescribe.

Many officer duties may be delegated, but the responsibility remains with the officer. Our Vice-President, Dale, NØPEY, is retiring. Kevin Welna, W5LNA, has volunteered for the Vice-President’s position. Although we would like to see “new blood” on the board, the other current officers are willing to continue if there are no additional nominations.

Officers elected at the October meeting will serve until May 2022.

Nominations may be made “from the floor” during our October Zoom meeting, but it’s preferable that they may be made ahead of time.

If you are licensed and have been an SPRC member for at least a year, you are welcome to self-nominate.

Nominations can be texted to Don at 651-276-4838 or emailed to dk@donkelly.biz.

Dale’s Details by Dale Maroushek NØPEY

If you agree, stand up and yell. My new Motto: The 1970's where great, being in your 70's SUCKS!

It's been that kind of month. Between regular things like, pre-planned events, pop up events, medical events, Mother events, family events and the weather, I didn't accomplish my Club goals and jobs this month.

Today, September 21st, I am now recovering from rotator cuff surgery...doing well. But it will get worse as the nerve block wears off. Then I'm a one-armed ham for a few weeks to come.

I'll still try to coordinate my mess of estates ASAP, watch for more emails.

Field Day Recap by Pete Guldán, KDØSQJ

Okay so how did we do? With all the changes I cannot even wager a guess. The ARRL will publish the results in the December QST. We will be able to compare our results to the other clubs and groups at that time. Maybe by then I will be able to do the apple to pumpkin comparison and bake up a pie.

The score from our socially-distanced outpost at Benson's Airport was 1300. There were 10 additional stations adding to our club’s results from their own locations. I have seen some of the results and they are impressive. You guys even worked the Roughrider state of North Dakota.

In addition to those of you who were checking in on Zoom there were well over 3 dozen members and guests who visited us at the airport. Not a bad turnout considering we didn't have our grill masters there to tempt your taste buds. I want to thank each of you who helped with the setup and take down of the equipment and all of you who were there to make those all-important contacts. 73

Easy way to use 75-ohm coax on a 50-ohm antenna by Scott NØAR

I wanted to improve my two-meter signal into the Club’s repeater. I didn’t need anything more than just a vent pipe, roof mounted antenna and a short run of coax to the radio. With the antenna mounted it was time to rummage around for coax. Nothing fit the bill, either too long or way too short. Then I spotted a perfect run of RG-6, but it was 75-ohm coax. So how could I just trim it up to make it the correct length without having to dig out the tape measure and calculator?

If you put a resistor on a length of coax that value repeats itself every half wave of coax for the frequency you are going to use. At that half wave point the coax impedance

doesn't matter. If I hook up my old MFJ-259 to the coax and put a 50 ohm dummy load (resistor) on the other end at some point around 145 MHz I should see 50 ohms and a reactance of 0, $X=0$. Now if the frequency is not exact, we need to trim the coax a bit to bring it closer to the correct length. So, if the reading is low, we need to bring it up by cutting off an inch at a time. If the 50-ohm point is higher than our desired frequency we need to trim off even more to bring the length into a half wave point. In the end I had a length of coax that was multiple half waves long at 145 MHz.

If you are talking HF the half wave gets pretty long. You are just as well off to use what you have and either not worry about the mismatch or use that built-in tuner to zero it out. In either case the loss will not affect your signal. Close counts and sometimes "good enough" is all you need.

You get the idea. Now you can put on one of those F compression fittings and maybe an F to PL-259 adapter and start using the new antenna.

After finishing the above I asked "wonder what's on YouTube about this?" Well here's a bit more in-depth with Stan Gibilisco <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RndU1pc0br0>

September Membership Minutes by George Power WØGCP

Our meeting was held via internet. After a half hour of socializing, President Don Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

Secretary George Power reported the minutes of the board meeting (held 8/19/2020, to prepare for the September meeting) were posted in the September *Ground Wave*.

Treasurer Allan Klein (treasury is in good shape).

Membership Coordinator Dale Maroushek reported our membership was 143 for the 2019-2020 membership year, and that we are just starting the 2020-2021 membership year tonight. He will be revising the membership database, which goes back to 2002, and will be removing several obsolete fields. The working database will be purged of everything prior to 2010 (an archive copy will remain).

Inventory Coordinator Ben Otto has completed the off-site inventory of our club's radio equipment and will be working on the equipment located in the storage room (provided by Br. Bob Walsh).

The January auction is pending, depending on the COVID-19 restrictions. We hope to have a go/no-go decision in November.

Elections for Club officers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary) will be held at the October meeting. All positions are open for nominations. Kevin Welna has volunteered for the Vice-President's position. Nominations can be texted to Don at 651-276-4838.

Our presenter tonight was Ralph Bierbaum, talking about the February 20, 2020 Becker, MN fire at the Northern Metal Recycling plant. He is a member of the Minnesota FAST team, which is the All-Hazards response team to help with the CFLOP functions (Command, Finance, Logistics, Operations and Planning).

What they found were about 700 crushed cars burning, which were in piles 40 feet high and 200 feet long, with no firebreaks between the piles. At the plant, there was not enough water to fight the fire at first – the 3600-degree heat turned the usual 4-inch stream of water into steam. Over the course of 4 days needed to knock down the fire, the firefighters drew assistance from about 80+ other fire departments, primarily for their water tenders.

The Minnesota Pollution Agency determined that there were no hazardous emissions in the smoke plume. The final report indicated that the fire was accidental.

After several questions, the meeting wound down, and finished around 8:45 p.m. We had 30 folks attending this meeting via our Zoom account.

For Sale

Glenmartin RT-832 eight-foot roof top tower with manual; rotator plate; TB-25 thrust bearing with manual; and ten-foot aluminum mast 2" OD. Never used. \$480.00

Contact: brw.fsc@gmail.com

Editor's Notes – by Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN

There is a change in this month's *Ground Wave* that I hope is not too noticeable to readers. After using Microsoft Publisher for over two years I have made the transition to Microsoft Word. You will still see it as a PDF document. Publisher is a powerful, but complicated program that I never really got the hang of. Word is also enormously powerful, but I have been using it over 25 years and am someone more adept at it.

I have been making a few FT8 contacts. Hungary was a new country for me. I understand that there is FT8 activity on 6 meters that I would like to try. Anyone have an omni-directional, horizontally polarized 6-meter antenna that they would like to sell? Contributions to the *Ground Wave* are always welcome. Send them in a Word document to jaiverson@juno.com. Deadline is one week before the next meeting.

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: Friday, Oct 2, 2020 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-qqgz4oHtVwLbEZHWPwR3LQGBE6qJXL/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrqDMpEtGQsh2GRpwqBlqgb_zwmCVBgrdrizPnJhp7VRPhBLFuA5VdNY7B



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

SPRC Calendar

Fri Oct 2	6PM Virtual SPRC Board meeting, Look for Zoom link from Dale, NØPEY.
Fri Oct 2	7PM Virtual SPRC Membership meeting. Look for Zoom link from Dale, NØPEY. See Page 1.
Sat Oct 3	10AM 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 Nov 6	6PM Virtual SPRC Board meeting, Look for Zoom link from Dale, NØPEY.
Fri Nov 6	7PM Virtual SPRC Membership meeting. Look for Zoom link from Dale, NØPEY.
Sat Nov 7	10AM 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.