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St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

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KØAGF

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NEWS AND NOTES FOR NOVEMBER 2012 — Volume 72, Issue 8

NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 2, 2012

UST OSS LL18

7:30 PM

7:00 PM Socializing

November Program

Ham Radio Deluxe

Randy Gawtry, KØCBH

Randy Gawtry will tell us about the current version of Ham Radio Deluxe, an integrated suite of software products for amateur radio providing rig control, logging, digital communications, satellite tracking, and rotator control.

Randy Gawtry is the president of Time-wave Technology, Inc. Timewave manufactures instrumentation and communication devices for the amateur radio, industrial and government markets. Randy has been a ham since 1960.

Dale's Details

Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

When last we left off, I was concerned about the Ham related gear all of you and I have accumulated. Since my birth in 1949. I bring forward a story, probably much like your own, of just how one gets HOOKED on Shortwave Radio Communication.

Sometime in 1953, Father took his son (that would be me) to the Radio Store in Mankato MN. Yes—in that era large furniture style home sets with big tubes and lots of AM band coverage and a huge speaker were in vogue. So we loaded up this big Philco floor model and proceeded back up Thompson Ravine to the rental house. It took its place at the small end of the rectangular front room so the sound would carry for all to hear. We listened to all those old 50s radio shows (I now have a cassette box in the closet full of them). Family entertainment at its best, without TV.

So what happened to the old Philco?

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Presidential Ponderings

THINGS PAST

Whew! It is with a great sigh of relief that we have held our first meeting in our new space (OSS LL-18) and it seems to be working out well. The seating is excellent, the audio-visual projector works, etc. Parking in the lot west of the building is plentiful. I don't think we lost anyone with the move. Joe Heitzinger (KCØOIO) gave us an excellent program on Digital Modes: Getting Started.

Tom Sturm, NØBGO, convened the UST Radio Club before our general meeting, and led a short discussion seeking ways to get UST students involved with the club. Several suggestions were offered by the SPRC members; unfortunately, I only managed to copy a few into my notes. So, . . .

THINGS PRESENT

As a follow-up to Tom Sturm's discussion, I am asking you to email me with your suggestions on how we can get UST students involved with their (and our) clubs. You are my collective memory. Please email your ideas to georgecpower@gmail.com.

Allan Klein, WØNLY, got off to a good start with the Washington Magnet School Radio Club, but the radio portion is temporarily on hold as Allan has some other priorities now. If there are some other members who would be willing to work with the kids on radio theory and practical hands-on exercises, please drop a

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The OSS 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 into the UST South Campus. Park in the ramp on your left or the surface lot ahead to the right. In general, on-campus parking restrictions are not enforced after 6:00 PM on Fridays, but do not park in spots with parking meters unless paying or displaying a handicapped placard.

Enter either of the buildings north of the parking ramp and take the elevator or stairs to the lower level. LL18 is at the north end of the main hallway.

For detailed maps, see www.stthomas.edu/campusmaps. OSS: O'Shaughnessy Science Hall

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

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We moved to Hastings in 1960-61; it took us awhile. It was still in use until Father went mad (very unlike him) and brought home a 23-inch B/W refurbished TV from Sears. So we had the big 5 channels, 2.4.5.9.11, until the UHF folks broke out in the 70s.

The Philco followed me upstairs to my bedroom where it was connected to some antennas strung out through the screens to the trees. It was fantastic! I could hear clear as the guy next to me, Boston, Little Rock, Chicago, Denver, all those wonderful Rock and Roll AM stations of the period.

Then I switched over to SW, tuned up and down the dial (wkrp), and found all those funny sounds of CW RTTY, and SWL broadcasts. Amazing reception of BBC, Ecuador, FSN and many others.

Problem was--no earphone jack; parents objected to the thump of the bass and high audio bursts. So junior-high Dale disassembles the works, big ungrounded chassis and tried to adapt the speaker to something. Well, it used the 70-volt powered speaker system and, after a few shocks, I gave up.

The Philco was replaced with a competent arrangement of receiver, turntable and big speakers--but it had a headphone jack so I could go from shaking the timbers to blowing my eardrums out. Since I was the all American boy and took Shop Class from my Scout Leader, I built a wall mount shelf for the system; it is still on the wall, the Philco is in an attic and the guts are still around the house in Hastings. It will be brought back to life!

So, in 1967--to beat the draft--I enlisted in the Army Security Agency (ASA all the Way) to hopefully learn electronics on the Government's bill. They had a better idea, and although I lived and worked with radios, most-

ly CW and RDF technology for the next 4 years, my job was to analyze the enemies' communications and make sense out of it. It works very well, around the world and though all services--think National Security Agency, unlimited budget and no accountability.

Tired of radio after the Army, took a break to marry and then reconnected to CB radio in 1975-76. I was mobile and base station big time. The swing was to go Ham and many of us did: NØSBU, NØPEZ and NØPEY took turns at getting licensed. SPRC was a big factor in making this happen.

Tnx see you next time. Looking forward to the January Auction.



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note to Allan, allankmn@cs.com.

By now, the Boy Scout JOTA (Oct 20-21) should be over, and I hope that some of you had the opportunity to chat with these great kids--their enthusiasm is catching, and we would love to see new ham operators develop from the JOTA program. Perhaps Jim Mohn (NØRQR) will give us a report for the Ground Wave and at the next general membership meeting.

From the public service side, the Stillwater ADA walk on 10/6 went well, and the Twin Cities Marathon (10/7) was as fun as ever. My station at Mile 18 had a small bit of excitement--a runner who had to drop out due to hypothermia, severe enough that he could not walk. Even after 18 miles of running, he couldn't get warm. (He was from Louisiana and had never run in temperatures below 50 degrees.) The TCM informally marks the end of most of the public service events, until the Idi-

tarod Trail Sled Dog Races in March.

Jay Maher has programs lined up for the rest of Fall quarter. November will be Randy Gawtry of Time-wave Technology, Inc., presenting Ham Radio Deluxe, and December will be Dan Fish from Radio City presenting his views on the latest in Chinese radios.

A correction from last month's PP, the Stillwater Area Radio Association's slow-speed CW net (the River Valley Slow Speed Net) has ceased temporarily. At our general meeting, several members said there are plenty of other CW nets available.

THINGS FUTURE

Christmas party as part of the December 7 general meeting. Expect a very short business meeting, a good presentation by Dan Fish, and good eats (please bring a small treat to share).

We have tentatively scheduled the club auction for the 4th Saturday in January, 1/26/2013.

If you would like to provide more information on other areas of amateur radio, especially upcoming events that might interest your club members, please write a short article or list of events for the Groundwave. Don Kelly, WA6ZMT, our newsletter editor, would appreciate more articles. Send them to Don at dk@donkelly.biz.

If you have suggestions, especially about programs you would like to see, please feel free to contact me at georgecpower@gmail.com, or through the club address in the newsletter.

George, KØGCP

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!

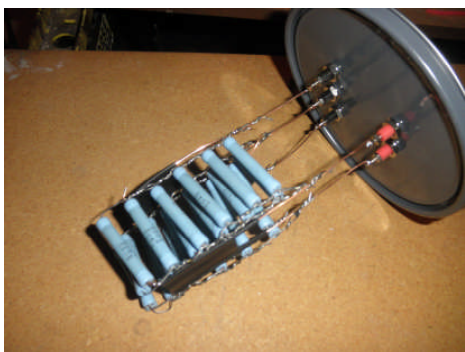
A Balanced Dummy Load

Jim Mohn, NØRQR

I have been looking for a high impedance dummy load for the purpose of testing the baluns that I use with some of my antennas. While browsing through the local surplus store, I came across a box of 1.2k Ohm 5 watt ceramic resistors. I picked up enough of them (24) to make a 50-ohm load, as well as a metal paint can from the local building supply store and a few binding posts.



I assembled the resistors into four 200-ohm loads



These attach to five binding posts on the lid of the can



This allows the load to be configured for 50 Ω, 100 Ω, 200 Ω, 300 Ω, 400 Ω, 600Ω and 800 Ω.

With the load in the 200 Ω configuration connected on the output side of a 4:1 balun, the SWR is good on 160 through 10. The second half of the test* is to configure the load for 400 ohms--this should produce an SWR of 2:1. The closer the SWR is to 2:1 the less the loss. The closer the SWR is to 1:1 the greater the loss. Generally the baluns I tested were good on the lower bands and increasingly lossy on the upper bands.

* F. Witt, AI1H, "Baluns in the Real (and Complex) World," The ARRL Antenna Compendium, Vol 5, (Newington: ARRL 1996), pp 171-181.

Another Vanishing Resource

Jay Maher, NJØM.

Most hams like to tinker with things and have voided warranties on all manner of devices and appliances. If you are one of those people who just won't leave well enough alone, you're probably familiar with Lindsay's Technical Books. Owned by a guy with eclectic interests and a slightly cranky demeanor in Bradley IL (I checked and, yes, he is a ham), they put out reprints of old books and articles along with some newer material. Just taking a few hops across their index takes in subjects like: aluminum casting, hide tanning, machine shop work, old-time photography, steam power, radio, and whiskey distillation. Some of the information he has collected is hard to find elsewhere. I particularly like a pair of books written by Pete Friedrichs: *The Voice of the Crystal* (crystal radios obviously) and *Instruments of Amplification* (build your own vacuum tubes anyone?). Their latest catalog says it will be the last, as Thomas Lindsay (WA9QCW if I have identified him correctly) is about to retire. They have an online presence www.lindsaybks.com but their print catalog is more extensive. I have no connection with them other than as a satisfied customer. Just a heads up to those who might be interested.

2013 Auction Items

These items will be at the auction from the Robert C. Oswald, WØRCO, estate.

Yaesu Ft-100D mobile rig, separation kit, MH-36 DTMF mic, Manuals
Kenwood R-5000 Receiver, cw, ssb and am filters
Home brew CW transmitter all bands
MFJ-260C 300 watt dry dummy load
Antenna switches
MFJ versa tuner 901B
Daiwa 1.8 to 150 M Hertz CN- 101C
Vibroplex Key J-36 style #385707
Vibroplex Military J-36 Key, Order 8634-WF-43 Date 12-31-42 #330
Old Signal Electric hand key from Menominee, MI
Isolation Transformer
Tripp Lite 300 watt inverter
Books, info sheets and folders
Lots of cables and Miscellany
Power distribution panel, 6 filtered a/c outlets and full grounding on a sheet of copper
Gap Challenger DX-VIII antenna, may need parts, w/ manuals
Miscellaneous wire and antenna remnants
Lots of coax and window line
Box of old small power supplies and filters

Membership Meeting

October 5, 2012

Prior to the meeting, Tom Sturm of the University of St. Thomas Radio Club discussed the need for more members in the St. Thomas Radio Club. He challenged SPRC members to come up with ideas on how we can help them increase their membership.

A meeting of the St. Paul Radio Club membership was called to order on October 5, 2012, at 7:35 PM by President George Power, KØGCP. Signed in on Members sheet: 28 Signed in on Guests sheet: 1 Secretary's Report: (Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN) There was no Membership Meeting in September. There were no corrections to the Board Meeting Minutes as printed in the *Ground Wave*.

Treasurer's Report: (Allan Klein, WØN-

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LY) In Allan's absence, George gave the Treasurer's report. All accounts are solvent. Club members wishing details may contact Allan.

Committee Reports:

Education (Allan Klein, WØNLY) In Allan's absence, George gave a brief report.

1. Washington school: There are 17 kids, in both middle and high school, both boys and girls, who are in a Math and Engineering Class five afternoons a week. On Tuesday afternoons, they are doing the Radio Club as part of their class. Currently they are building crystal radios. It would be nice if a few people could drop by and help the kids as they solder and build the radios. The Radio Club meets on Tuesday afternoons, from 1:45 to 3:00 in Mrs. Kapler's room, Room 4440, on the far north end of the building. The building is at 1475 Rice street, just north of the intersection of Arlington and Rice. It would be good to arrive at the building by 1:30, because there is quite a walk from the entrance to Room 4440. But there is an elevator for those who don't want to climb stairs. The teacher, Denise Kapler, got her license a couple of years ago, and is very interested in having the kids learn about radio.

2. Tech class in St Paul Community Ed program: Winter/spring Technician Class will go forward as part of the St. Paul Community Ed program. Instructors will be needed. Some in the audience expressed concern as to whether this would increase costs for the students. It will be investigated.

Circuit Builders: (Orcy Lyle, WØQT) No report.

Web-site: (Tom Bredemus, KCØINP) Send updates to Tom.

Repeater: (Joe Zwirn, WØXL) Repeater is working.

Boy Scouts: (Jim Mohn, NØRQR) Gave a brief update on the status of Jamboree On-the-Air (JOTA) preparations. It will be at the Northstar

Scouting Museum, October 20th, Noon – 10 PM.

Public Service/EmComm: No report. Upcoming events: December Christmas party; January auction; April Banquet.

New Business:

Tom Sturm NØBGO is looking to use a tube tester. Several offers were made.

Manny, WØPIG reported that the widow of a friend was looking for help in selling his equipment.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.

The program was Joe Heitzinger (joseph.heitzinger@radioham.org) on Digital Modes

The November program will be Randy Gawtry, of TimeWave Technology, Inc. on Ham Radio Deluxe.

The December program will be Dan Fish, of Radio City, talking about the new Chinese HTs.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey A. Iverson, WB9DAN, Secretary

Board Meeting October 12, 2012

A meeting of the St. Paul Radio Club Board of Directors was called to order on October 12, 2012, at 7:05 PM by President George Power.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Power, KØGCP, President
Joe Clysdale, KDØJCC, Vice President
Dale Maroushek, NØPEY, Past Pres.
Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN, Secretary
Jay Maher, NJØM, At-large Board Member
John Faughn, KDØCAC, At-large Board Member

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND OTHER INTERESTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

Treasurer's report – George gave in Allan's absence. It was restated that we do not publish detailed reports. Members can always ask Allan for de-

tails.

WORCO estate sale – Dale – it was decided to hold for auction.

Ground Wave deadline for next issue (Oct 19).

Upcoming programs: (Jay) November, Randy Gawtry Ham Radio Deluxe; December Dan Fish on Chinese radios; January, Auction.

Ed (WBØVHF) has a Brick applications for the ARRL Diamond Terrace Brick donation that he is willing to offer the SPRC to fit the inscription on one.

(<http://www.arrl.org/memorial-gifts>).

Board members will look at on-line examples and send ideas to George.

Ongoing process of updating of membership database, club brochure, web site. Membership errors correction process? Wait until Skip has transferred database to Dale.

Technician License class in St. Paul Community Education program - no report

Washington School project status – no report

How to develop the UST Radio Club? Ideas from October general meeting. Recruiting students? Member recruitment coordinator or social welcome committee? Send ideas to George.

Details for Christmas party at December general meeting (12/7)? How do we make our new meeting room work?

Auction plans for January: Date is tentatively January 26. We will contact Brother Bob at Our Lady of Grace to discuss arrangements.

Banquet: tentatively 3rd or 4th Saturday in April. Jay will check on location and Dale on speaker.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey A. Iverson, WB9DAN, Secretary



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Meeting locations at UST are subject to change due to changes on The University of St Thomas campus.

Fri Nov 2	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. See page 1. UST classroom OSS LL-18
Sat Nov 3	9AM VE testing followed by EC exams. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Nov 3	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Tues Nov 6	Election Day
Fri Nov 9	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415)
Sat Nov 10	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Nov 17	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Nov 17	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Nov 24	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Dec 1	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Dec 7	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. Program – D. Fish – Chinese HTs , UST classroom OSS LL-18
Sat Dec 8	9AM VE testing followed by EC exams. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Dec 8	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Dec 14	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415)
Sat Dec 15	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Dec 22	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Dec 22	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Dec 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.