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St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

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NEWS AND NOTES FOR NOVEMBER 2017 — Volume 77, Issue 11

Monthly Meeting

November 3, 2017

UST OWS LL54

7:00 pm Socializing

Membership Meeting 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

Minnesota's Response to Irma

Ralph Bierbaum (NØAWN) will tell us about Governor Dayton's deployment of the Minnesota All Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) to the Florida Keys for two weeks in immediate response to Hurricane Irma, and Ralph's own part in that deployment.

Ralph, currently Extra Class, was first licensed 40 years ago in 1977. Retired from the biomedical engineering field after 36 years, he's an active builder (putterer), VE, instructor, and longtime volunteer with the MS Society Event Communications. He also professionally volunteers with Anoka County Emergency Management and AHIMT as a Technical Specialist.



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Presidential Ponderings

A call out for help again! SPRC, like most hobbies and clubs, only exists because of members helping out—being part of the group that keeps things going in one way or another.

St. Paul Radio Club is short on a number of things—we need someone to step up as vice president and several committees need help or someone to take on the duties.

My living situation is hampering my ability to do some of the presidential duties, creating another opportunity for service!

Keeping a club going only happens with members pitching in, and the same few people doing all the things to keep it going is problematic at best.

So again, just another attempt to gather help, volunteers, and nominations. Call 651 402-6482 or email john.faughn@gmail.com with your thoughts. I only get to wifi at coffee shops, generally only once a day in the morning.

73 de John, KDØCAC



There's no ham in this picture—it could be you. The next SPRC breakfast is November 18th. See the article below.

Club Breakfast Change of Venue

Orcy Lyle, WØQT

We have had St. Paul Radio Club breakfasts, for years, at Perkins on the Midway (University Ave. in St. Paul). "Our" Perkins recently closed. I searched the Internet to find out why it closed, but found no specific information about our Perkins' closure. What I found was that Perkins restaurants are closing in many locations, in different parts of the country, due to financial prob-

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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 restrictions 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 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.

(Breakfast, Continued from page 1)

lems. In some regions, Perkins has declared bankruptcy. Perkins has not been able to afford to build new restaurants or remodel old ones that need remodeling. Our Perkins must have been caught up in the financial problems. Information regarding the nearby stadium had been all along that Perkins (and the nearby McDonald's) would remain during the two years of the soccer stadium rebuilding, so the stadium does not appear to be involved in Perkins closure.

Fortunately, there is a Denny's two blocks west down University Ave. from our old venue of Perkins. It is at 1664 University Ave. It is kitty-corner across University Ave. from the Axman store. Some people will remember the St. Paul Embers, which closed years ago. Our Denny's is in the building that housed the Embers.

To get to Denny's, coming from I-94, exit north on Snelling Ave., turn left (west) onto Spruce Tree Ave. (at the stoplight where you used to turn right into the Midway shopping area to Perkins). Follow Spruce Tree Ave. around the bend where it turns into Fry St. going north. Look for the entrance to Denny's parking lot on the left.

Our last breakfast, on Saturday, October 21st, was our first at Denny's. People located it okay, due to information in the breakfast announcement. Art Thell (NØIWQ) posted a notice on the Perkins directing people to Denny's, in case they hadn't seen the email announcement.

Denny's isn't as elegant as Perkins, but the service was top notch (no waiting a long time for our food), the food was good, there was room for us (two tables pushed together for this breakfast), and the parking lot had adequate room for our cars. Four strips of bacon came with my breakfast (Perkins had two strips). The staff noted that our radio club

would be there the third Saturday of the month. I came in a little late and heard our waitress mention this, as well as the cashier when I checked out. So it looks like we're in good hands with Denny's, as well as still being centrally located in the Twin Cities.

Thanks to George, KØGCP, who happened to drive by Perkins two or three weeks ago and noticed that Perkins was closed and equipment was being carried out of the building. George let us know of the closure. Otherwise we would have been standing in the rain by Perkins last Saturday, trying to figure out where to go next!

The breakfast is on the third Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at Denny's, 1664 University Ave. (between Fry and Pierce Streets), two blocks west of the Midway shopping center, on the south side of University Ave.



Your email Bounced

Well, maybe yours didn't—but some of them do. If you haven't been receiving email every month from SPRC, make sure that we have your correct email address. Send it to:
NOPEY at comcast.net

Building Blocks Jay Maher NJØM

Temperatures are dropping and there are even a few mentions of rain/snow mix in the forecast. You know what that means—time to crawl out on the roof or up the tower to tweak that antenna while the ground is still soft and forgiving. Thoughts are also turning to projects for the winter. Many of us have a backlog of kits and projects on the shelf just waiting for available

hours. If you are just getting into building, where do you start?

There was a time when companies like Heathkit and Ramsey Electronics offered a wide range of kits to suit everyone from beginners to more advanced builders. Their guided construction method likely set quite a few of us on the path. Now Heathkit exists primarily in memory, and though you can still find Ramsey kits to buy online, the company is gone. Fortunately for the radio amateur, there are still places to find projects that will allow you to build your skills and end up with something useful. For everything from accessories to transceivers, try www.qrpkits.com. They have a selection of kits targeted at new builders which are a great place to start. Simple kits with low parts count are a good way to hone your soldering and construction skills. Leave the packed circuit boards and tiny toroids for when you have built up some experience. Closer to home, the Four State QRP Group (www.4sgrp.com) sells kits to help fund their annual OzarkCon gathering. SPRC member Craig Johnson (AAØZZ) makes his pcb enclosures, EZKeyer, and ZZR-40 receiver kits available through their website. The kits seem to be particularly popular with our Circuit Builder group. John Thurow (NØVYX) and Daniel Kelley (KCØQHZ) have each built 4SQR Bayou Jumper and Cricket kits recently. The Bayou Jumper is a transceiver made to fit in a wooden box and is reminiscent of the WWII spy radios. The Cricket is a minimalist 80 meter transceiver that would be a good choice for a newer builder. It was designed to be built at the 2017 4SQR OzarkCon Buildathon using all through hole parts and coils that are printed on the board so it should go together easily.

I build things to try to understand how they work. I always appreciate it

(Building Blocks, Continued on page 3)

(Building Blocks, Continued from page 2)

when designers include a theory of operation and step you through the process. If they let you in on why they made certain design decisions, so much the better. Craig does a nice job with his ZZR-40 receiver kit for example, and many of the other offerings from 4SQRP and qrpkits.com include descriptions. Extending that, some of the most valuable learning opportunities come as group builds where interaction is possible. The best example I know of was the Elmer 101 project that was conceived on the QRP-L listserve in the late 90's and then brought back in 2016 by George Heron (N2APB) and Joe Everhart (N2CX). In the Elmer 101 project, they moved stage by stage through the building of 30 and 40 meter radios from Small Wonder Labs (SW30+ and SW40+). All the resource material is available online (<http://www.cwtd.org/sw30/2016-05-31.html>) although Small Wonder Labs no longer produces kits. A recent eBay search for Small Wonder Labs turned up a seller (fmradio_man) producing a limited run of these boards and kits. Maybe it's ok that winter is coming.

Membership Meeting October 6, 2017

Tom Sturm (NØBGO) called the UST radio club to order at 7:30 p.m. He is continuing to involve UST faculty in encouraging UST computer club members to become involved with the radio club. With no other business, he adjourned the UST club meeting at 7:35 p.m.

President John Faughn (KDØCAC) called the SPRC meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. We did self-introductions of 32 members and the speaker.

Business meeting reports:

John mentioned that we still do not have a Vice President.

Don Kelly (WA6ZMT) asked about net control volunteers. Dale (NØPEY) said that Tim handles the first week, Jim the second, and Dale handles the rest.

John said the club was contacted by someone looking for relatives in Puerto Rico. Contacting Red Cross is best. Traffic volume would be too high to attempt to handle each of these requests individually.

George Power (KØGCP) noticed that the Midway Perkins has closed. After several minutes of discussion, it was

decided that the October breakfast would be at the Midway Denny's, then a decision would be made regarding future months.

Treasurer's report: Allan Klein (WØNLY) reported by email: Education fund \$982, Repeater \$602, and the General fund \$7,873 (the auction proceeds have not been forwarded to ARRL yet).

There was a brief discussion of Field Day locations.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Program:

The program was Matt Holden, ARRL Dakota Division Vice Director (KØBBC) with an ARRL update including disaster response, the Amateur Radio Parity Act, the upcoming Dakota Division election, and attracting new (younger) hams. He followed that up by introducing us to VHF contesting—roving style.

Following the raffle we wrapped up the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

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

Fri Nov 3	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See Page 1.
Sat Nov 4	10AM VE testing. Ramsey County Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Nov 4	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Nov 10	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) **
Sat Nov 11	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Nov 18	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.
Sat Nov 18	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Nov 25	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Dec 1	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting and Holiday Party. UST classroom OWS LL-54.
Sat Dec 2	10AM VE testing. Ramsey County Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Dec 2	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Dec 8	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) **
Sat Dec 9	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Dec 16	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.
Sat Dec 16	After Breakfast. 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.