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## St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

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### KØAGF

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## NEWS AND NOTES FOR NOVEMBER 2018 — Volume 78, Issue 11

### NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2018.

7:00 PM Social Meeting,  
7:30 PM Business Meeting with Program following.  
Cretin-Duram Hall, John R. Albert Center\*



Our November presentation is by Michael Ostlund, NØANP, on AERO (Association of Emergency Radio Organizations). Michael has been in communications of one form or another since his parents gave him his first pair of walkie-talkies at age 5. Besides being the Assistant Engineering Manager for iHeartMedia – Minneapolis, Mike also works as an Emergency Management Coordinator specializing in Interoperable Communications with Hennepin

\* The Commons meeting room in the John R Albert 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 Albert Center building is about 400 feet west of the lot entrance –use the double-door entrance on the east side of the building.

County Emergency Management. Mike works on various communications related projects including helping HCEM with their Super Bowl LII Communications plans along with other projects that serve to protect the 1.3 million Hennepin County Residents.

Mike is also serving as the Chairman of AERO which is an organization that provides training to amateur radio operators so they can work with their local Emergency Manager. Michael is a certified CERT Trainer and has coordinated a “CERT Training Day” sponsored by HCEM for the past four years. Michael has taught numerous classes in Emergency Communications and Management to volunteers including teaching CERT Communications to volunteer groups across the metro.

As Mike has nothing else to do, last fall he passed his Emergency Medical Responder Certification and serves as a First Responder for the Eagles Nest Volunteer Fire Department in northern Minnesota.

### Presidential Ponderings by Don Kelly, WA6ZMT

I’m so pleased that Jeff has taken on the responsibility of editor of the Ground Wave—it will give me more time for all the other things that I’ve overcommitted to. Overcommitting is typical of our SPRC volunteers—each of us handle a dozen little jobs that add up to a significant commitment. If you’d like to help with one of the little jobs, let me know.

For years I’ve been imploring people to submit contributions to the *Ground Wave* in a timely manner—now Jeff can do that and deal with last-minute submissions. I’m loathe

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to admit that this is a last-minute submission—so it's short.

The Saint Paul Radio Club has evolved a lot since 1931. What do you think should be the next changes? Drop me a note.

Also, let me know if there's anything the club can do for you.

Speaking of doing things for you, ARRL is. Are you a member? It's easy—check out [www.arrl.org/membership](http://www.arrl.org/membership). It's only \$49.00 a year (a buck less than life membership when I joined in 1962).

## **Dale's Details** by Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

Bought the Halloween candy today and have my eye on a turkey that's just about ripe for the picking. The community gardens across the street are done and disked, ready for winter. The boat project is being extended until next year, the fish are safe for now.

Radio projects, moving slow too. I have finally applied to Yaesu to upgrade the DR-1X to a DR-2X, and have an amplifier (needs a look see first) standing by too. When it all gets up and running, those that want to learn more about Fusion will be able to do it hands on. I also purchased a FTM-7250D to mount in the vehicle so I can control it from outside. It should also be capable of on line internet control too. The icing on the cake will be the Yaesu Fusion presentation by John Kruk, N9UPC, the sales manager from Yaesu, at the January Meeting. You may have met him at the Radio City celebration.

Which brings us to that bump in the road. Our local Ham store will be gone, after most of our lifetimes, we will not have a local multiline business. Many Thanks to Dan and Maline, and the staff for years of great service.

So where do we go now? Dealer on line sales, Amazon, E-Bay, Craig's list for starters. The Club is working on a new association, but it is only preliminary at this time. We hope it will develop into something.

Question, "what radio related projects did you do over the summer"? A short note on Field Day in June, it was rustic, fairly well attended, the scores were down and the food was good. Next year's location is in limbo but a couple locations are under study. July and August are for vacations, too hard to get a group together. September 16<sup>th</sup>, a mixed group of guys from SPRC and MARC took down and shipped out the tower and associated goodies from Ted Thorquist's, W0EMF (SK) house. It wasn't pretty, but it goes to show that Ham's will do "what it takes to get it done".

Then, on the 30<sup>th</sup>, a similar group completely disassembled everything we ever installed onto and into UST from the roof on down. Again, the plans changed as the day went on, but in the end, it was finished.

Now, one last thing needs attention. Where does a Radio Club get attention from? The membership, hopefully. Members may not even know they can help themselves by helping the Club. Cryptic enough? The Club has a lot of gear, and it lives with many of the members, who care for it, and keep it ready to go. We also had to rent a storage locker to put extra stuff in from the UST donation and takedown. That locker is a real debit in our treasury, and needs to be turned into something else.

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First, we came up with buying a trailer. That would be an investment, and stay with the club. We have a safe place to store it, and access can be maintained and controlled. That could take about \$3000, half our funds. I have looked at a few examples of new stock and it would be ok. The used market has a fast turnover and limited quality. If you have one about 6x10 that needs a new home, contact us.

Is there another way to solve this problem, in the cheaper or free column? Try this on as one possibility. If anyone has a spare garage space, outbuilding or room that needs a job, we are interested. Here's the deal; that Donation of space to the Club, becomes a Tax deduction for you! And you set the price (within reason) yourself. Again, contact us.

Please bring all your extra Halloween candy to the November meeting, we need the refreshments! See you there.

Dale, NØPEY

## **Label UP! By Scott Holisky NØAR**

Ever hooked up the two meter antenna to the HF rig and wondered why the rig is so quiet? Lets put an end to that!

Around work we have a thousands of cables, all the same color and manufacture that are all labeled. To say cable labels can be important is an understatement. You don't want to accidentally connect something to the other that shouldn't be. Over the years we have progressed from using masking tape to now finally settling on labeling tape.

During our recent remodel one of the network installers was using a hand held "Brother" label printer that caught my eye. This turned out to be just the ideal replacement for our old failing printer. I was pleasantly surprised to see Brother offered a free software download of their application for both your PC and smart phone. The Brother program has a list of special uses for cable labeling, flags or wrap around styles. There are templates and examples for just about any item you might label. Using the computer program means you will get a label that looks just like what you see on the screen, gone are the days of tape waste. The program will also display rulers to help you know exactly what you are going to print, spacing has never been easier. All this and the ability to save the set-up and type in a file for use later on.

On one of my trips to the local office supply house a Brother tape printer on sale that caught my eye. It didn't have a keyboard and was only addressable via a USB connection (PT-1230pc). This little printer had it's own simple version of the full function program installed in its memory. You could simply plug it into a PC and use it as is or throw a switch and use the full blown software on the computer. So for a few bucks I had a printer that would do the same thing as the expensive hand-held unit under computer control.

Tapes are available in many sizes and colors. They are a bit spendy but since there is minimal waste it works out to be very inexpensive. I've tried some of the cheap off-shore tapes, they seem to work OK but as for long-term the jury is still out.

Now every important cable in the shack has a label and there is no more guessing what goes where. My parts containers sport readable labels. You can print out a front panel

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"white on clear" label, put it on your new project and cover the whole front with a photo mask just like we used to do with paper.

Don't toss your 70's Dymo label gun out yet. If you ever get into building flux capacitors you'll need it for the Plexiglas cover. Click click. *(I still use my 70's Dymo label gun quite regularly — I just have to buy the tape NOS on eBay. Ed. :-)*

## **Minutes of the SPRC Board — October 5, 2018 — Cretin-Derham Hall High School**

### **Attending:**

President	Don Kelly, WA6ZMT
Vice-President	Dale Maroushek, NØPEY
Secretary	George Power, KØGCP
Treasurer	Allan Klein, WØNLY
Member-at-large	Orcy Lyle, WØQT
Past-President	John Faughn, KDØCAC

### **Visitors:**

Jay Maher, NJØM  
Br. Bob Walsh, WCØJ  
Randy Gawtry, K0CBH

Don called the meeting to order at 18:12.

## **TOPICS**

**Membership:** Dale discussed 2018-2019 memberships, which are coming in rapidly. As of today, we have about 70. At the 2017-2018 year end, we had about 150, which included free memberships for those folks who earned (or upgraded) a license at our VE exam during the year.

**Treasurer:** Allan reported that the three funds (general, repeater and education) are in good shape. Income over the summer included donations for removing a SK's radio tower on 9/16 and proceeds for antennas sold at Bob's (KØIKV) Lake Elmo Hamfest on 9/15, and membership renewals. Expenses included our donation to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund and rental charges for a storage locker (to store club equipment moved from the University of St. Thomas).

**Ongoing expenses:** In order to eliminate the monthly storage rental fees, we will be looking at alternative storage locations. We are exploring the possibility of purchasing a 10 foot box trailer, either new or used. This would be used to hold club equipment and also equipment donated for the January auction.

**Radio sources changes:** We bemoaned the upcoming closing of Radio City, with the notice posted in last month's *Ground Wave*. Dan and Maline Fish have been great sources of advice as well as equipment, and have made several presentations to our club. They will be selling off their remaining inventory before yearend, so you might like to make a last visit or two to see them. Randy pointed out that our closest radio store will be HRO, in Milwaukee. The drive would make a nice over-night trip. In his experience, HRO does a good job of mail order shipping (usually overnight to the Twin Cities area). With Radio City closing, we will explore building a relationship with HRO, to see if they

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might like to advertise in the *Ground Wave* and possibly sponsor a door prize for the spring banquet. Our emailing list exceeds 200 names of amateur radio enthusiasts.

*Ground Wave*: Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN, has volunteered to become the *Ground Wave* editor. We are happy to have him on the *Ground Wave*. Don was heard heaving a long sigh of relief from his multiple duties in the club.

### **Upcoming events:**

1) The club's auction will be on Saturday, January 26, 2019, with setup on Friday, January 25th. Br. Bob has arranged for the club to use the John R Albert Center Commons Room of Cretin-Derham Hall for the auction, which works very well as it has a good PA system, plenty of tables and chairs, and facilities for light food sales.

2) The club's spring banquet will also be held in the Commons Room of Cretin-Derham Hall. Dates in April or May to be determined. CDH has a catering service available. Board members will be working out the details. We are looking for possible speakers and topics for the auction, and will ask club members for suggestions.

Repeaters: George will attend the MN Repeater Council meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup>. We will work on the paperwork for moving the VHF repeater from UST to Terry (N0GOI) Londroche's shack. He has volunteered to host our K0AGF VHF repeater for us, and we will send him a letter to formally thank him for his donation of hosting services. The K0AGF UHF repeater is located in Dale's shack, and is being upgraded by Yaesu.

Website: Due to the buyout of our host service provider, we lost most of the content of our website. If you visit it now, the content showing is from February, 2009, but we did get a message at the top saying it was being rebuilt. Our rebuilder team includes Jay, Don and Tom (KC0INP) Bredemus.

Programs for future: November is Mike (N0ANP) Ostlund, talking about Association of Emergency Radio Organizations (AERO). We are always looking for suggestions for programs.

Don closed the board meeting at 19:04.

## **Saint Paul Radio Club — Member Meeting — October 5, 2018**

Meeting called to order by President Don Kelly, WA6ZMT, at 19:30.

Round of introductions: 34 members, 1 guest and 1 presenter were present.

### **Officer/Committee Reports:**

*President Don Kelly (WA6ZMT):*

Thanks to the antenna removal party on 9/30/2018, the club's two antennas have been removed from the roof of UST's science building, the cables pulled out, and holes were patched. Unfortunately, the work crew was the usual team and did not have any additional members to help, which seems to be the usual state of affairs for the club. It would be nice to have additional members step up and help with club work.

*Vice-President Dale Maroushek (NØPEY):*

Reported that we have another Silent Key, with an estate to sell. An itemized list was passed around (and an image is below). Contact Tom, KCØWWO, at 612-715-7204 for

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details.

*Secretary George Power (KØGCP):*

Reminded us that the minutes for the September 7 meeting were posted in the *Ground Wave*, and he would accept corrections (preferably by email).

*Treasurer Allan Klein (WONLY):*

Reported that the three funds (general, repeater and education) were solvent. Income over the summer included donations for removing a SK's radio tower on 9/16 and proceeds for antennas sold at Bob's (KØIKV) Lake Elmo Hamfest on 9/15, and membership renewals. Expenses included our donation to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund and rental charges for a storage locker (to store club equipment moved from the University of St. Thomas).

*Membership Chair Dale Maroushek (NØPEY):*

He was accepting membership renewals at tonight's meeting and said our 2018-2019 count was over 70 now.

*Circuit Builders Orcy Lyle (WØQT):*

Had no report as we have no space available at this time.

*Volunteer Examiner Leon Dill (WØCOE):*

Reminded us that the next VE session is tomorrow.

*Repeaters:*

The VHF repeater is at Terry Londroche's (NØGOI) and the UHF repeater is at Dale's shack.

*Old Business:*

Jeff Iverson (WB9DAN) has become the *Ground Wave* editor. (Many thanks!) Don reminded us that we are an ARRL Service Club, and that part of our club responsibilities include providing services to other hams, other organizations (think Public Service activities). Do you know of groups or individual who might need our help? If so, please contact one of the club officers.

*New Business:*

Many topics (repeater plans, Radio City's closing, working with HRO, etc.) are covered in the Board meeting report and need not be repeated here.

Some members would be interested in getting club name tags and wearables (shirts, caps). Nametags are available through [www.tagme-engraving.com](http://www.tagme-engraving.com), click on name tags, then St. Paul Radio. Wearables are available through [www.hamthreads.com](http://www.hamthreads.com), and they have our club logo in their files.

*For the Good of the Club:*

We are always looking for alternative Field Day sites, which will allow 24 hour operations. Suggestions from the members included: an astronomy site near Afton, MN; Dakota or Ramsey County fairgrounds; Lebanon Hills Park; Willow River State Park; or recently closed shopping areas (parking lots). One member said that working with our elected officials, we might be able to get a waiver for overnight operations at one of the county parks, especially if we stress the public service/public safety aspects of Field Day. Don encouraged members to check on these suggestions.

Dale is looking for 1968-1969 QSTs, to find information on a north pole expedition known as Lark 47. If you have any information on these issues, contact him please.

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The business meeting was closed at 19:50, followed by a short break to refresh (and buy raffle tickets).

*The program tonight is on Satellite Communications:*

Soren Straarup, AK4WQ, shared his experiences in working Low Earth Orbit satellites. His equipment is simple – an Arrow Yagi combining both VHF and UHF, and two HT radios. Depending on the satellite, the uplink and downlink may vary from UHF/VHF, VHF/UHF, VHF/VHF or UHF/UHF. His preference is to work roving rather than a fixed location. Sources of satellite tracks are available from many websites. He shared a video of working a contact, and how the antenna is moved to track the satellite.

SK's estate image below: (omitted for space reasons ed.)

## **Editor's Notes** by Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN

As noted above I am relieving Don Kelly of his *Ground Wave* editor duties. Many thanks to Don for doing it all these years and many thanks for his stepping up to be our new President. For those who don't know me, I was born and raised in Hudson, WI and first licensed as a Novice in 1969. I have been a member of the SPRC for about 30 years in two different hitches: 1976-1989 and 2001-present. My wife Jean and I have four children, two of which are hams: Trent KCØKQJ and Joel KDØNUW. My current ham interests are FT8 digital mode and re-learning CW to work QRP with my recently acquired FT-817D. I also enjoy photography (digital and film), playing around with Arduino micro-controllers, and reading theology.

As Editor, I figure it is my prerogative to try new things. I have moved to a single-column format which I hope will make the *Ground Wave* easier to read on the screen. You can read the whole thing top-to-bottom without hunting around for continuations of articles. I am also using a font, Verdana Pro 12 pt., which is very easy to read on screen. (I also hope it will be easy to read in print). To make for the easiest on-screen reading with Adobe Acrobat Reader: First, close the menu on the right side of the screen by clicking the little triangle. Second, from the top menu select View -> Zoom -> Fit Width. Seeing as most of us get a digital copy, perhaps we can save a few trees by not printing it out to read it. Let me know what you think of the new format: love it, hate it, don't care. Jeff (GW.SPRC@GMAIL.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.

### **Can you contribute to the Ground Wave?**

It's nice to have the "regulars," but it would be even nicer to include tales, advice and whatnot from other St Paul Radio Club members (or non-members!).

**Send your contributions  
to GW.SPRC@GMAIL.COM**



**Look for our group:**

**"St. Paul Radio Club"**





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

## ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Fri Nov 2	6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albert Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. *
Fri Nov 2	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albert Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. See Page 1.
Sat Nov 3	10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338
Sat Nov 17	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.
Sat Dec 1	10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338
Fri Dec 7	6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albert Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. *
Fri Dec 7	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting and Holiday Party. Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albert Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School.
Sat Dec 15	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.