

 <p><a href="http://www.arrl.org">www.arrl.org</a></p>		<p><b>St. Paul Radio Club</b>  <b>Ground Wave</b></p> <p><i>Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN, Editor</i>  <i>Dale Maroushek, NØPEY, Publisher</i></p>	<p><b>KØAGF</b>  <a href="http://www.stpaulradioclub.org">www.stpaulradioclub.org</a>          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 NOVEMBER 2020 – Volume 80, Issue 11**

**NEXT (ON-LINE) MEETING: FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6, 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 November program will feature Eric Westgard on the topic of MESH Networks.

**Sad News (from the Mining Radio Club Newsletter)**

It is with heavy hearts that we inform you of the passing of one of our members. Linda Jacobson, KCØIJB, wife of Ed Jacobson, WBØVHF, passed away peacefully at their home on Sunday, October 18th.

Additional details from Ed:

No services are planned at this time, but plans will be to have a memorial event next Summer when we'll hopefully be able to gather and enjoy each other's company. I'd be happy to connect now with anyone that wants to. Email me at the League, or any other contact means you have for me.

In lieu of cards or flowers, donations in Linda's name to Gilda's Club <https://www.gildasclubtwincities.org/> would be appreciated.

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

My rotator cuff surgery recovery is doing very well. Now in week 5 of therapy, all the motions are being worked on and it only is painful when we push too far. The sling bumper is off and the sling will come off next week. Then many more hours of workouts to get back to normal in 2021. I understand Ralph is going in next for foot surgery and will be recovering a long time too. Good luck!

Welcome to our newly elected President Lou, WD8NOV, and VP Kevin, K5LNA. I'm sure we will be helping them along and getting them up to speed. Now if we only had a Secretary, I wonder who the lucky winner will be. We also say Thank You to George, NØGCP, and John, KD0CAC, for the years they have served on the board. I am also off the board but still have too many jobs, more on that soon.

Having said that, my radio news is limited, since I have not been out and about the past month. I do have some info on the new repeater and controller that Terry, N0GOI, and Ralph, N0AWN have spent many hours working to get it right. That will be a separate attachment.

Our 10 M Friendly net is maintaining and gathers some new ones occasionally. Join us on Wed. at 7:50 pm (local) on 28.310 MHz. It is surprising to see how the band changes during the half hour net. I could use an alternate net control if you want to get your feet wet on a small net. The 2 M net, now with Tim and John as alternates, is also doing very well with a group of about 20, also Wed. night, at 8:30 pm (local) on the club 2 meter repeater.

I have lined up presenters for the next three months, after that it will be someone else's turn. The alternative is ARRL or other videos that you can watch on your own time. It is always better to have that show and tell, Q&A aspect at a meeting program.

The Auction is our next big event, but the Covid virus is making planning a mess. I would also like to step down from that job after this year. I need to be a big seller soon, the walls are starting to bulge out here. We also have a stock of antennas and tower sections out at Bob's again. Hopefully, we can put a list together and publish it.

Time to rest.

## **Building Blocks by Jay Maher NJØM**

In a virtual MN-ARTS club meeting back in September, local home brew hero Craig Johnson, AAØZZ, reiterated what a great time this is for builders. He was speaking of inexpensive tools such as the nanoVNA in particular but also all the opportunities we have available to us now. These extend from parts to information to basically instantaneous collaboration across the internet. The resources we have available are huge. He also showed a radio he was working on where he was incorporating only elements of his own design. Craig has produced quite a few kits and modules for other people over the years but this project was just for his own enjoyment as a challenge to himself. To me, that is the essence of building. It is a goal to work toward, but for now I fall closer to a paint by number builder than a designer.

If you are in this hobby, you are likely a life-long learner type of person. Maybe like me, you didn't get into this from an electrical engineering background and have to pick up practical radio knowledge on your own. Building kits and experimenting are great ways to do that but reading is what really accelerates the process. There are many learning/reading strategies, but like anything, the more effort you put in, the more you get out of it. Most people will need to take notes and actively process that information to reach the goal of better understanding.

When the physicist Richard Feynman began his studies, he would write down in a notebook what he didn't know or understand. As he learned about the topic, he would try to explain it to others and in the notebook in terms someone new to the subject could understand. Evaluating these explanations would point out gaps in understanding

which needed further work and study. The last stage (though it is really a cycle) is to refine and simplify. Ideally this would be done with someone else, as it is easy to believe you understand something right up to the point you try to convey that concept to another. In a radio building sense, you could also build a simple circuit you've generated to test your understanding. As your knowledge base grows, you can begin to link modules together. Maybe at some point you can challenge yourself to build your own radio.

## **Library Offerings by Scott Holisky NØAR**

Remember when you were a kid and the thrill of walking to the local bookmobile or taking the bus downtown to the main library. Now with the lock-downs and restrictions heading out to spend an hour or two at the local branch is a thing of the past. There still are other ways to get that magazine or book without leaving the house. Most library systems have a good assortment of magazine and e-books available for on-line reading or check-out. They also offer free reading applications that make the whole experience from reading to browsing for new material easy to navigate. I have been reading *CQ* every month from my local Ramsey County Library. Their system even sends me an email telling me that a new edition is available.

On some library systems you can download the edition and read it at your leisure, others you have to log-on and read it while connected. There is also a variety of material between library systems, so you might find St. Paul has something that Ramsey County doesn't. You do need a library card if you don't already have one and if you do need one it's free.

Between the League's offering of the e-magazines and *CQ* I've got a new ham radio read every week of the month. They also have a variety of other magazines. Some just get a glance, others I might stop and read the story of interest to me. I do find all the software readers play better on a larger screen, so while you can use the phone or a laptop the bigger displays are my choice.

I didn't touch on many of the other services that the libraries offer. I'll leave that up to you to discover and enjoy. One more thing. When we get to visit the buildings again if you run into a 14-year-old coming down from the third floor with a 33 LP of "Morse Code", smile and say "hi."

## **Board Meeting Minutes by George Power WØGCP**

October 2, 2020

President Don called the Zoom-based meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

A quorum was present: President Don Kelly (WA6ZMT), Vice President Dale Maroushek (NØPEY), Secretary George Power (KØGCP), Past President John Faughn (KDØCAC), Board Members-at-Large Ben Otto (KEØRFZ) and Bob Walsh (WCØJ). Also attending were Jeff Iverson (WB9DAN), Kevin Welna (W5LNA), Pete Guldán (KDØSQJ), Lou Michaels (WD8NOV), Jay Maher (NJØM), John Wilcox (KNØAMF), and Roger Meyer.

## OLD BUSINESS

Reports presented:

Election of new officers – scheduled for tonight’s meeting. Current candidate slate includes Lou Michaels for President, Kevin Welna for Vice-President, Allan Klein for Treasurer (incumbent) and an empty slot for Secretary (George Power is retiring as of tonight).

Membership – Dale said he has a “stack” of membership applications to process for 2020-2021.

Secretary -- George reported that the September minutes were posted in the October issue of the *Ground Wave* and has received no corrections from the members. A motion to approve the minutes was made by George and seconded by Bob Walsh, and the motion was passed.

Treasurer -- Allan was not present (he joined us at the member meeting) but had sent an email with his report – the club treasury is in good shape.

Repeater – Dale reported that Terry has installed our new controller (donated to our club by Ralph Bierbaum) and that the repeater seems to be working well.

Inventory – Ben said the inventory of off-site club-owned equipment is complete, but the inventory of the CDH storeroom is pending. A new batch of gear from a Silent Key’s estate has filled the shelves and needs listing/organizing. He would like help working on a disposition list of all the gear accumulated in CDH, showing what the club keeps, uses for club door prizes, sells, donates to CDH or tosses.

John has the pending tower removal project from Erv Grossman’s estate. He will be asking for help at the membership meeting. (Arliss Grossman has already donated Erv’s radio equipment to the club, but wants the tower down.) He discussed the removal project, but the degree of difficulty won’t be apparent until we see it. Salvageable antennas and tower sections will be kept for the club to use, sell, or auction off.

## NEW BUSINESS

CDH Antenna system – Brother Bob reported that the antenna components are up (visible from Randolph Avenue) but we need to get coax installed. He has an empty room ready for the radio equipment.

We welcomed a new member, John Wilcox, who passed his license exam at SPRC’s last VE session (run by Leon Dill (W0COE)).

Don was contacted by Bill Layer (KF0AEE), who is visually handicapped and seeking assistance in his radio setup. He lives just west of the capital building in St. Paul. Ben said he would contact Bill. Bill also would like copies of the *Ground Wave* in text or MS Word format, as our PDF version does not work with his reading machine. Dale will work on the newsletter issue.

Lou said he would like to give a gift to the SPRC in honor of his father and the Jewish holidays. He will discuss an appropriate gift with the club officers.

Jeff asked if the club would have our own website again, instead of relying on George Lavallee (NOSBU) and the MAGIC website. Jay said that he had not gotten into our old website for some time, as he was having access problems with the service provider. The problem seems to be that visitors to the club's site (redirected from MAGIC) sometimes find old information from our original website. Jay and Lou will work with George to resolve the issue, and research another service provider.

Next board meeting will be on November 6 at 6:00 PM via Zoom.

Adjournment – The meeting was formally adjourned at 6:58 PM, with members staying on the Zoom meeting for social hour discussions.

## **October Membership Minutes by George Power WØGCP**

Friday, October 2, 2020

Our meeting was held via internet. After a half hour of socializing, President Don Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Secretary George Power posted the minutes in the September *Ground Wave*. John Faugh moved to accept as published, Mark Linafelter seconded.

Treasurer Allan Klein reports the club treasury is in good shape.

Membership Coordinator Dale Maroushek is processing about 80 membership applications.

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 club's VHF repeater has a new controller (donated by Ralph Bierbaum), which Terry has installed and is monitoring.

The club's old website host (service provider) has "gone south" and George (NOSBU) has been hosting us on the MAGIC repeater site. We are looking at getting a new web provider and website. If interested, members can contact Jay Maher.

We will be removing Erv Grossman's (silent key) tower, hopefully this Sunday at 10:00 AM, and are looking for volunteers. Email Don if you can help. Address is 1640 Virginia Ave. S., St Louis Park, MN.

Elections for Club officers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary). All positions are open for nominations. Lou Michaels has volunteered for the President's position. Kevin Welna has volunteered for the Vice-President's position. Allan Klein has agreed to stay on as Treasurer. The Secretary's position is open (George Power is retiring tonight). Don asked if there were any other nominations or self-nominations. There were none. John Faughn moved election of the slate by acclamation, Ralph Bierbaum seconded, and the members voted acceptance unanimously

Don invited Matt Holden (K0BBC) to update us on events at the ARRL headquarters. [Matt is our ARRL Dakota Division Director.]

Matt discussed several items regarding changes in the ARRL: a new CEO: a new Director of Emergency Communications; Skip Jackson retired after 16 years locally; Bill Mitchell is our new Section Manager; the Division Directorship election is coming up soon (Matt is a candidate). From the FCC: new fee schedule coming for new licenses and renewals (\$50); we are losing a portion of the 3.5 GHz spectrum to the phone companies; and channels 1 and 2 of the 60 meter band are being used for fire nets on the west coast.

8:00 PM A motion to close the business meeting was made by John Faughn, and seconded by Allan Klein. It passed.

Our program was Ben Otto (KE0RFZ) talking about "Cutting the cord: Cable and Internet Alternatives".

He showed choices for reducing the atrocious cost of cable (\$217.42 is the average cost of the "triple play," consisting of internet, TV and landline phone).

To reduce the cost of TV, purchase an OTA (over the air) antenna to take advantage of free broadcast TV signals. Information on available broadcast services can be found on the web at TVFool.com.

When you keep internet services, reduce your cost by purchasing a cable modem rather than renting a modem from your provider. Rather than take a bundle of channels from your provider (including many that you may not want), check out several streaming services such as Tubo, YouTube, Sling, which can be provided by Roku or Amazon's FireTV stick. These services are less expensive than the usual provider service bundle. For movies, check out the FREE offerings from HaystackTV, STIRP, Redbox or PlutoTV – the movies are free, but you will get advertising.

To reduce your phone charges, consider purchasing VOIP ATA by buying a OOMA Telo unit, which gives you a dial-tone service over the internet.

Ben's presentation generated a batch of questions, which kept the discussion going until almost 9:00 PM.

The next club meeting will be Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. The board meeting starts at 6:00 PM, followed by socializing until around 7:30 PM, when the business meeting starts.

We had 30 folks attending this meeting via our Zoom account.

## **For Sale**

New...never used. Just bought it, can't use it

Super-Strong fiberglass telescopic mast. Equipped with military quality UV protected Quick clamps

25 Foot extended, 7 - 4 foot sections

MFJ #1904HD catalog price \$179.95

Buy it for \$110.00

Fred W0ULU Cottage Grove

651-587-5075 fred8534@yahoo.com

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

Still making a few FT8 contacts. Finland was a new country for me.

In addition to the free magazines mentioned by Scott, dozens of free audio podcasts are gathered in the phone app called "Ham Radio Podcasts." You will find technical topics, newscasts, and licensing classes all in one place.

The Minnesota Amateur Radio Technical Society (MNARTS), of which several of us are members, has begun a new net Mondays at 7:00 PM on the 146.85 MHz repeater. It has only met twice but is already getting a good crowd. The goal is to foster discussions on technical topics, so if you are interested check in.

Contributions to the *Ground Wave* are always welcome. Send them in a Word document to [jaiverson@juno.com](mailto: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](mailto: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-ggqz4oHtVwLbEZHWPwR3LQGBE6qJXL/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrqDMpEtGQsh2GRpwqBlqgb\\_zwmCVBgrdrizPnJhp7VRPhBLFuA5VdNY7B](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZcrf-ggqz4oHtVwLbEZHWPwR3LQGBE6qJXL/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrqDMpEtGQsh2GRpwqBlqgb_zwmCVBgrdrizPnJhp7VRPhBLFuA5VdNY7B)





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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

### SPRC Calendar

Fri Nov 6	6PM Virtual SPRC Board meeting.
Fri Nov 6	7PM Virtual SPRC Membership meeting.
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.
Sat Nov 14	On this day in 2007 (!) Con Edison shut down the last US direct current distribution system in New York City.
Fri Dec 4	6PM Virtual SPRC Board meeting.
Fri Dec 4	7PM Virtual SPRC Membership meeting.
Sat Dec 5	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 Dec 18	Edwin Howard Armstrong was born on this date in 1890 – Happy 130 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Ed! No static at all.