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St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN, Editor
Dale Maroushek, NØPEY, Publisher

KØAGF

www.stpaulradioclub.org
Club Repeater: 145.310 MHz
114.8 kHz Tone
PO Box 9375
North St. Paul, MN 55109

NEWS AND NOTES FOR DECEMBER 2018 — Volume 78, Issue 12

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY DECEMBER 7, 2018.

6:00 PM Board Meeting (all are welcome to attend)

7:00 PM Holiday Party

7:30 PM Short Business Meeting with More Party following.

Our December meeting is our annual Holiday Party. The club usually springs for a couple of deli trays and members are asked to bring something to share. Don't worry if you are not a blue-ribbon cook or baker, as chips, crackers, cookies, and other packaged goods are always welcome. Don't even worry if you cannot (or forget) to bring something. There is always plenty to go around and your presence is always the most important thing.

All meetings are in 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.

New input tone

Our SPRC Repeater (145.310 MHz, -600) has had a tone of 114.8 kHz added to its input. Please remember to program this into your radio. Also, the repeater has been moved a couple of miles ENE of its old location, so its radiation pattern may be slightly different.

Robust Member Voting Results in ARRL Division Leadership Changes

(From the ARRL Letter, November 29, 2018) Four new Division Directors will take their seats around the conference room when the ARRL Board of Directors next meets in January. After the votes were tallied on November 16 at ARRL Headquarters, incumbent Directors in the ARRL Hudson, New England, and Roanoke divisions had lost their re-election bids to challengers. In addition, a new Director and Vice Director will fill seats in the Northwestern Division that are being vacated by incumbents. A total of 22,257 votes were cast in seven contests within five ARRL Divisions.

In the Central Division, incumbent Kermit Carlson, W9XA, edged out challenger Valerie Hotzfeld, NV9L, 1,898 to 1,755 votes. Carlson, of Batavia, Illinois, has been Central Division Director since 2016. Incumbent Vice Director Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, faced no opposition for re-election.

In the Hudson Division, incumbent Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, narrowly lost his bid for a new term to challenger Ria Jairam, N2RJ, of Sussex, New Jersey, 1,292 to 1,239 votes. "I am very excited to have a front row seat to shape the future of our beloved pastime," Jairam reacted on her QRZ.com profile. Lisenco has served as Hudson Division Director since 2013. He's been most visible as a prime proponent of the Amateur Radio Parity Act and as *ad hoc* Legislative Advocacy Committee chair. Vice Director Bill Hudzik, W2UDT, was unopposed for a new term.

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In the New England Division, challenger Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, of Lincoln, Massachusetts, edged out veteran incumbent Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, who has twice served as New England Division Director and once was an ARRL Vice President. Frenaye first served as Director from 1985 until 1992, when he was elected as an ARRL Vice President, an office he held until January 1996. Later that year, he was again elected as Director, taking office in 1997, and has served since that time.

Hopengarten, an attorney, is the author of the book *Antenna Zoning for the Radio Amateur*, now in its 2nd edition. An ARRL Volunteer Counselor, Hopengarten said in his campaign that ARRL should work to attract more new members and retain more Technician licensees. He joins incumbent Vice Director Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF, also an attorney. Raisbeck faced no opposition.

In the Northwestern Division, incumbent Jim Pace, K7CEX, opted not to seek a new term after serving since 2014, opening the door to a three-way race for the seat. Mike Ritz, W7VO, of Scappoose, Oregon, topped the field, outpolling current Vice Director Bonnie Altus, AB7ZQ, 1,589 to 1,308 votes. The third candidate, Horace Hamby, N7DRW, garnered 495 votes.

"I am grateful beyond measure, and will work diligently for all of you," Ritz said in a message to the Division's membership. He also thanked Pace and Altus for their "leadership and dedication."

Succeeding Altus as Northwestern Division Vice Director will be current Eastern Washington Section Manager (SM) Mark Tharp, KB7HDX. He topped a field of three candidates with 1,368 votes, to 1,228 for Daniel Stevens, KL7WM, and 767 for Delvin Bunton, NS7U. Tharp served as Eastern Washington SM for 15 years, starting in 2003. Altus, a former Oregon SM, has served as Vice Director since 2014. Jack Tiley, AD7FO, of Spokane Valley, Washington, has been appointed to serve out Tharp's unexpired term of office as SM.

In the Roanoke Division, George "Bud" Hippisley, W2RU, of Penhook, Virginia, defeated incumbent Director Dr. Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, 1,891 to 1,365 votes. Boehner has been Roanoke Division Director since 2015. Hippisley served as ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director from 1982 until 1985, and more recently as the Eastern Area Chair for the ARRL National Traffic System (NTS™). The co-author of *Practical Antenna Handbook*, Hippisley is a 2010 recipient of the ARRL George Hart Distinguished Service Award.

Incumbent Roanoke Division Vice Director Bill Morine, N2COP, fended off a challenge from John Humphrey, W4IM, 1,742 to 1,505 votes.

All successful candidates will begin 3-year terms at noon on January 1, 2019.

Dale's Details by Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

Here we are again in that strange 30 some days between Thanksgiving and Christmas. We lived through one Holiday with the relatives and the next one may be better or worse than before. Three turkeys were cooked and mostly eaten, with a large container of soup base made from the carcasses. The Smoked one was done well and a hit again this year. The "old folks" mention duck (all dark meat) or Goose (texture change) but

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the prices for them are three fold of the beloved Turkey.

Speaking of turkeys, ever wonder where they come from in the massive quantities we eat them? Well yes, they come from eggs, but where do the eggs come from? Check out YouTube, MN Millennial Farmer. Zake and his son Onxie, tour a turkey farm that only produces eggs for other raisers to use. Very interesting.

Along that line, YouTube is now my favorite pastime. Not only can you find answers to problems that you may need to fix, but educate yourself about anything you have an interest in. I have used it to help me repair my old lawn tractor engine (twice, for the same governor problem), my toilets that would not flush properly, and watched tons of Ham Radio videos that can show you new ideas or what to fix in your system.

Ready for the December meeting/Holiday party? It hits on Pearl Harbor Day again. Please make it a point to thank the vets for their service. Bring what you can to fill the table of goodies plus the club furnished trays.

Back to the radio aspect. A RX tone was installed on our two meter repeater to help keep interference out. The new tone is 114.8 kHz, so find your manuals and make the change. The new UHF Fusion repeater (on order from Yaesu) will most likely have the same tone, when it is received and installed.

Speaking of Fusion repeaters, the Mining two meter repeater, 147.12 is now Fusion. So if you have a Fusion digital radio, try to get into it on net night Tuesday, at 2030. It is also open to FM signals, so each can hear both. Our UHF repeater will be the same. Additionally, it hears much better now, Joe in Isanti makes it in regularly.

Radio City needs your help to clear out the rest of the inventory. I spent an hour digging through the close-out baskets and other low-priced gems, (like I need more stuff here!). Make another visit if you can, before the doors are closed forever.

The big move from the storage locker to the new space at CDR should be done by the time you read this. Another bill we don't have to pay. Much thanks to those who help make it happen.

Dale, NØPEY

Tie It UP! By Scott Holisky NØAR

We use them for just about everything and if you're like me you have a pretty good stock pile on hand. Cable ties, zip ties or Ty-wraps if your talking old school. Originally invented in 1958 by Thomas & Betts, an electrical supply company, for use in securing wiring in airplanes. They have spun off hundreds of different sizes, styles, colors and material types. This doesn't include the multitude of mounting options.

For our general purpose use we have the various lengths and colors or black to choose from. The colored or white are good for indoor use, the black are generally outdoor rated as they don't deteriorate in sunlight. So use the black ones on that tower, the white ones will disintegrate in just a few seasons. Most are made of some formula of Nylon. Turns out that one of the properties of Nylon is that it is hygroscopic. What this means is they absorb or give back water to the air depending on humidity. So it is a good idea to store them inside. Once used and attached it doesn't seem to matter but it can affect them otherwise.

Nothing looks better than transforming a rats nest of cables into neat bundles. From an RF stand point the coiled and tied extra cables behind your rig act like a choke.

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Being able to see the connections and all the wiring paths makes for quick troubleshooting too.

The extra length of a cable tie can be cut using a “flush” cutter. If you leave any tag sticking out it quickly becomes a skin cutting hazard when you brush against it. If you need to lock down a tie so it doesn't tighten any more a quick drop of super glue will seal it tight.

One word of caution. Don't “reef” on cable ties. Your goal is to make them snug not tight! Almost all our good cables have softer insides and an overly aggressive cable tie can cause a serious dent in the cable. Deformities in the cables will affect the performance. This could mean an increase in SWR or a speed reduction in networking cables.

The professional network cable installers use Velcro tie wraps. These are a gentle solution for indoor use. They can be wider and provide a quick way of making things tidy. The bulk rolls of Velcro ties are the least expensive way to go. Amazon has lots of choices in whats available. Don't forget these are all reusable ties. Spit a reel with a buddy and have a life time supply.

Grab the ties and turn that extra cable into a neat bundle. It will be time well spent.

Minutes of the SPRC Board – November 2, 2018 – Cretin-Derham Hall High School

President Don Kelly (WA6ZMT), called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. We had a quorum attending: Don Kelly, Dale Maroushek (NØPEY), George Power (KØGCP), John Faughn (KDØCAC). Excused absences: Allan Klein (WØNLY), Orcy Lyle (WØQT). Non-board club members: Br. Bob Walsh (WCØJ), Jay Maher (NJØM).

Reports and topics discussed

Club Storage

Br. Bob has offered storage space (about 12' x 6') in the basement of the Christian Brothers residence hall. Dale has seen it and thinks it will work out well. The board accepted Br. Bob's gracious offer of the space. Our next goal is to move the club's equipment out of the Public Storage facility before the end of November, to avoid accruing more storage expenses.

We will still be looking for an inexpensive used trailer (10' long, enclosed, single axel, under \$1000) for storing non-temperature sensitive equipment for club events, such as field day and the auction.

Banking access and legalities

Allan accompanied Don to US Bank and had him added to the club's checking account. The board formally approved the action, and Don will draft a confirmation resolution letter to be sent to the bank. Allan also submitted his treasurer's report – the three funds (general, education and repeater) are solvent and in good shape.

Allan also arranged for George to become the club's Registered Agent at the MN Secretary of State's office.

Upcoming Events

The spring banquet planning has started. Brother Bob obtained the quote from Taher

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(the usual CDH caterer) and Don and Jay compared it to the past cost from UST and report that Taher is offering prices in the same range as we had at UST. Jay will work with Taher regarding the menu choices, minimum number of attendees required, and report at the next board meeting.

Dale presented a draft of the 2019 Auction flyer and will incorporate the board's suggestions in the next version.

Membership

Dale reported our current 2018-2019 membership count has climbed over 70, and he was expecting more applications/dues to be turned in at tonight's general membership meeting.

Repeater

Dale has ordered the upgrade to our Yaesu fusion repeater, and has bought a used amplifier for it. The amp needs a bit of repair before using, but the new box is not here yet. The fusion repeater will run on UHF frequencies, while our VHF repeater is being hosted by Terry Londroche (N0GOI). Don has written a thank-you letter to Terry for his donation of repeater space and services.

George attended the fall meeting of the MN Repeater Council as an unofficial representative of our club. He brought back a copy of the council's revised UHF frequency spacing plan (which does not affect our club's allocated frequency pair).

Dale confirmed that the club's UHF listing is in the repeater book. We found that it is difficult to monitor our VHF repeater from within the Commons Areas hall, so we will explore using the N0GOI repeater (monitoring it) for the auction and our membership meetings.

Circuit Builders

The group has been put into "hold mode", pending finding a meeting space and a volunteer to drive it.

GroundWave

The November issue was emailed on time with kudos to Jeff Iverson (WB9DAN), Don and Dale. The format has been revised to a single column, to ease reading on a computer screen. Contributions are always wanted, and can be sent to the new email address: GW.SPRC@gmail.com.

Website

Jay is working with a new site host, QTH.COM, to get our website up and running with current information. The contact email address will be: WEB.SPRC@gmail.com.

The meeting was closed at 6:57 PM

:gp

Revised 11/24/2018

Saint Paul Radio Club — Member Meeting — November 2, 2018

President Don (WA6ZMT) opened the meeting at 7:34 PM.

We did the usual round of introductions, with 24 members and 4 guests present.

Officer/Committee Reports:

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Secretary George (K0GCP) reported that the minutes for the October Board meeting and the Member meeting were posted in the *GroundWave*, with an invitation to correct the same by emailing George. Since no corrections were received, both sets of minutes were accepted as posted.

Treasurer: Allan (WØNLY) reported (via Don) that the club's three funds are solvent and in good shape.

President Don reminded us that the regularly scheduled VE session occurs tomorrow (11/3/2018).

Vice-President Dale (NØPEY) reported that our 2018-2019 membership is over 70, with more renewals being turned in tonight.

Old Business:

Circuit Builders has been suspended until someone can step up and run it, and we find a space for it.

Field Day planning is moving ahead. John Warenski (K9NJ) is looking at a possible site in Woodbury. Other sites mentioned included the Ramsey County and Washington County fairgrounds.

New Business:

None

Announcements:

Paul Bittner (W0AIH) has become a Silent Key. He died this week, falling from one of his tower projects.

For the Good of the Club:

We are looking for a used, enclosed trailer, preferably 6'x10', for club storage and carrying supplies for Field Day. If anyone knows of something inexpensive (preferably less than \$1000), please contact one of the club officers.

The business meeting was closed at 7:44 PM.

Program: Association of Emergency Radio Organizations

Michael Ostlund (NØANP), chairman of AERO, presented the history and growth goals for the organization. Started in the mid-1980's, it's primary role has always been to provide training for the amateur radio operators so they can be more useful as responders during an emergency. Since 9/11, the federal emphasis (from Homeland Security via FEMA) has been to ensure communications groups work within the NIMs and ICS structure, so AERO has been modifying its curriculum to reflect those changes. The classes start at AERO 100, the basics of "Using Your New Radio" (What is this PTL/RTL switch?) which is open and available to any and all clubs that want to use the curriculum materials. More advanced classes in working within networks, network control and data communications are available through AERO, and all classes are free.

The classes are available to any amateur operator, and AERO hopes that the radio clubs will encourage new hams to take the classes if they have an interest in emergency communications. We offer a free membership in the SPRC to any new licensee who earns their ticket at one our of VE sessions.

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The meeting ended around 9:10 PM with the customary raffle.

:gp

Revised 11/24/2018

Editor's Notes by Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN

An App for my Android phone (it may be available for Apple, too, but I have no way of checking) that I find useful is called "Ham Radio Podcasts." It is available in a free version that has advertisements or for a few bucks you can get an ad-free version. It brings together in one place over 30 podcasts related to ham radio. A "podcast" if you don't know is a digital audio file made available for downloading to a computer or mobile device, usually on a regular schedule. You could subscribe to each of these separately, but it's real nice to have them in one place. Examples include: *100 Watts and a Wire*, *ARRL Audio News*, *Amateur Radio Newslines*, *RSGB News Bulletin*, and my favorite, *The Dr. is In*, with Joel Hallas from QST.

My Seagate external USB hard drive died two weeks after its two year warranty had expired. How is that for planned obsolescence? I bought a Western Digital to replace it. We'll see how that works out. This was the drive that I kept all my photographs on. Luckily (?), I had a backup from July, so all was not lost. I also have the original RAW files from the camera's SD card. I don't reformat them anymore, but keep them for emergencies like this. They are just too inexpensive to bother reusing them. So all I really lost was my Lightroom edits on my photos from July-November. These I can recreate with some time. The moral of the story is: backup, backup, backup.

This idea is not my own and I can't remember where I saw it. I have an MFJ-259B Antenna Analyzer that has served me well over the years. The only annoying thing about it is that it is difficult to adjust the Frequency Tuning knob to a precise frequency. You usually end up a few kHz off from where you really want it. By simply replacing the stock knob with a bigger one, precise tuning becomes a whole lot easier. I ordered the knobs (I had to buy four) on eBay from a slow boat from China (4-6 weeks) and it had to be reamed out a bit to fit, but in the end all was well and it works great.

73, Jeff, WB9DAN (GW.SPRC@GMAIL.COM).





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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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| 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. See Page 1. |
| Sat Dec 15 | 9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling. |
| Fri Jan 4 | 6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albert Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. * |
| Fri Jan 4 | 7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albert Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. |
| Sat Jan 5 | 10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338 |
| Sat Jan 19 | 9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling. |
| Sat Jan 26 | 8:30 – 1PM SPRC Annual Auction. Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albert Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. |

* Depending on business to be considered, Board Meetings are sometimes held electronically. Check with a Board member beforehand to confirm a meeting.