



www.arrrl.org



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 2019 — Volume 79, Issue 12

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY DECEMBER 6, 2019.

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

7:00 PM Fellowship and Refreshments

7:30 PM Short Business Meeting with more Socializing following.

Program

December is our annual Holiday Party. It begins with refreshments at 7:00, a short business meeting at 7:30, followed by more food and socializing. The club provides beverages and cold cuts. Members are asked to bring something to share. (If you cannot bring anything, that's okay, there is always plenty of food to go around).

Dale's Details by Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

The last one for this year. That is, the year 2019. A few more to go in 2020 and the end of the membership year in August. Coming up this month is the Holiday Party. The club will be furnishing the main meat and cheese tray and refreshments. You, if you choose too, may bring anything you please to share with the group. Homemade or store bought, or even re-gifted is fine. A very short meeting to pass on any hot news, no door prizes and no program. So come on down and enjoy a totally social evening with the Club Membership.

This would be the perfect night to thank our refreshment guy, Jay Maher, for his continuous dedication to that task for so many years. Even better, offer to assist him so he can take a night off occasionally.

Radio wise, not much to report. Our 10 M Friendly Net and 2 meter net on Wednesday nights are rolling right along. Six to twelve check-ins on average, with good conversations on various topics. We had a few new guys coming over from the DMR net that were happy to hear us out there. Voluntary net controls are welcome to step forward and start a rotation.

The snow is just starting, which means it will be antenna work time! When the ground is white, it makes it so much easier to see and find the weights you use to shoot wires into the trees. I have to string up the OCFD across the back yard one way and over the house the other. Might have to remove a few branches before that, and they slide so

All meetings are in the Commons meeting room in the John R Albers 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 Albers Center building is about 400 feet west of the lot entrance—use the double-door entrance on the east side of the building.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

nice over the snow too.

Projects ahead. I purchased a small Chinese spot welder and have been experimenting with it to rebuild battery packs, and make new ones for other toys too. It's not like the \$10K machine we had at the battery store, but it will put cells together quickly. I need to buy some good old non gel super glue to fix the cells together before welding.

I have 2 old Hy gain 2M verts that need a rebuilding and testing. That means arranging the garage for work and getting some non-toxic heating to make it comfortable. That means disassemble, clean and replace parts as needed, reassemble and test.

I also have a complete set of the Hustler mobile antenna system that needs a home. These work best on larger vehicles that are not garaged, or have high overhead doors. There is a fold over mast or two, but you have to remember to stop and lower it before it goes boom. If interested, let me know.

Did some upgrading in the house, so the shack room has a new window. That wasn't a big problem, since the op desk is set out from the window wall by 18 to 24 inches. The workman had enough room to do his job. Now we are doing new blinds to finish that off. Then we start carpeting. Something tells me this room may never be re-carpeted. I recall the fun it was to move things in here a few years ago, and I have added more and more. Part two of that would be where do I put it while the carpet is replaced? I guess, if I am forced to do it, there will be a HUGE sale beforehand.

Enough for this month. Looking ahead, if you haven't put Jan 25th, 2020, on your MUST DO calendar, do it now! That is the annual Auction, which will be bigger, better and easier to sell at than prior years. We have modified the seller ticket to be all in one, and condensed the final bookkeeping to speed it up. Watch for the Flyer in days to come. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

November Board Minutes

President Don Kelly called the meeting to order around 6:20 PM. Board members present: Don Kelly (WA6ZMT), President; Dale Maroushek (NOPEY), Vice-President; George Power (K0GCP), Secretary, Orcy Lyle (W0QT), board member-at-large, Allan Klein (W0ONLY) (late), treasurer. Interested parties present: Jay Maher (NJ0M), Br. Bob Walsh (WC0J), John Crabtree (KC0G).

Reports and topics discussed.

Secretary

George is working on updating the auction forms, particularly the blue bid ticket so that it can be stapled to the silent auctions sheets.

Membership

Dale has our 2019-2020 membership at 83 as of the meeting start.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Lake Elmo Hamfest

Bob (K0IKV) is willing to keep holding the hamfest at his place in Lake Elmo, but needs to have someone in charge of running it. John Crabtree will chair the hamfest for 2020 and submit the info to QST for publication. When September rolls around, he will be looking for volunteers to run the Hamfest.

Elections

The elections for the two board members-at-large occurs this meeting. We have two candidates, and will take nominations from the floor at the meeting.

Programs

December: Our traditional Christmas party. Jay will arrange for soda, meat and cheese trays. George will bring plastic ware utensils.

We are looking for programs for January, February, March, April and May of 2020, and a speaker for the club banquet in April (or May).

Finances

Allan reported that all three funds are in good shape. General fund 6952, education fund 1157, repeater fund 692.

Other business

Don will not be here for the December meeting or the auctions due to travel commitments.

We discussed the status of our ARRL Special Service Club designation. George will be contacting Skip Jackson regarding the interpretation of our services (special events, auctions to sell estates, running the Lake Elmo Hamfest, etc.) in light of the SSC requirements.

Orcy talked about the Regional Convention held recently in north central Minnesota.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

November Membership Meeting Minutes

President Don (WA6ZMT) opened the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Introductions were made by our 38 members, 2 visitors and guest speaker.

Business Meeting

Don mentioned that he would be absent for the December meeting and the auction.

We held the Board Members-at-Large elections. We had two candidates, who were given a chance to make a speech, and Don asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, the two candidates were elected unanimously by voice vote (John Berglund (K0UBA) moved, George Power (K0GCP) seconded). Our new Board Mem-

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

bers-at-Large are Brother Bob Walsh (WC0J) and Ben J. Otto (KE0RFZ). Our thanks to Mike Thompson, AEØMT, and Orcy Lyle, WØQT, for their service these last two years.

Opportunity – Dale (N0PEY) was looking for volunteers to run the “Worked all Minnesota Counties” contest. He had a large box with all of the forms, instructions, etc. Pete Guldán (KD0SQJ) volunteered to work with it.

Opportunity – help work on organizing Bob’s (K0IKV) Hamfest for next September year. See John Crabtree (KCOG).

Opportunity – assist as a net control operator for one of the club nets (10 meter Friendly Net or 2 meter casual net). See Dale (N0PEY) for details.

Dale reported on our 2019-2020 membership status. Including renewals received tonight, we have 86 members.

VE: Don reminded us that the next regularly scheduled VE session occurs tomorrow (11/2/2019) at the Sun Ray branch of the St. Paul Public Library.

Program: "Ham Radio and Stage Rallies" PowerPoint presentation by Joe Hibberd, W3QLC

Joe is a member of SEMARC, SARA, Washington County ARES, and is a VE. He retired in 2015 from Ramsey County after a career of 40 years in environmental public health.

Joe has his amateur radio license since 1984. He has also been active in stage rallies since 1971. He has been a driver, co-driver, marshal, control captain, net control operator, radio chief, and radio operator. He gave a great presentation on stage rallies, specifically the Ojibwe Rally this summer, and how radios help make the rally fun and safe.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM (after Scott’s raffle).

From our new At-Large Board Member—Br. Bob Walsh, WC0J

I started with the hobby while working in Nicaragua for six years (1980-1986) using five different callsigns...YN4RC, YN4RCB, YN8RC, HT4ZHC, and HT4RCB. (Every annual license renewal came with a new callsign!!) Right out of the chute, I had to learn how to control pileups. St. Paul Radio Club member K0MG, Dick Hunt (silent key), was my Elmer for a stateside license. I’ve operated from several QTH’s over the years including WI, MS, NM, and MN. In 1992, three other hams and I organized a DXpedition to Corn Island (43 miles off the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua) and operated YN0YN. While staying in Rome for three months in 1987, I was able to operate from Vatican City as a guest of HV1CN, Domenico Petti. Currently, I’m residing at Cretin-Derham Hall HS with plans to put antennas on the school roof. This setup can be shared with SPRC members and any future licensed high school teachers and students. Please volunteer your ideas/help for setting up this new QTH. Personally, I’m a retired high school teacher/administrator and a member of the DeLaSalle Christian Brothers, an international religious order of men in the Catholic Church. My interests include curling,

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

golf, long-distance road bicycling, weight-room workouts, walking/hiking, reading biographies, and supporting our local sport teams.

Field Day Results by Pete Guldan KD0SQJ

The ARRL has published the results for Field Day and They appear on page 64 in the December QST. So how did we do? Because we changed form category 2A to 3A, I got out my calculator and did the apple to orange math.

Last year our score (3716) places us in the 389th highest out of 2902 entries. That equates to just below the 87th percentile of all entries. This year we scored 5806, which is the 149th best overall score. This moves us over the 95th percentile out of the 3112 total entries.

In 2018 using the results from just the 2A stations we made 62nd highest out of 328 in that category. This equates to the 81st percentile. 2019 we ranked 34th out of 309 submissions in 3A. This bumps us well over the 88th percentile. Any way you measure we improved our score.

Okay that's enough math to make my head spin for a while. We did not make a clean sweep. There were 2 sections we were unable to communicate with. Newfoundland/Labrador only had one station operating QRP. They logged 12 contacts. The Northern Territories had 2 stations making a combined 115 contacts. One was an Emergency Operations Center and the other was a mobile station working QRP on battery power. We did contact that elusive North Dakota section. We made a few DX contacts as well. Cameroon, (I had to look it up, Atlantic coast of Africa just above the equator) Haiti, European Russia, and Turkey. Did I mention North Dakota?

There was a 3A station in Minnesota operating with a special event call sign who did have a score higher than ours. There was also a South Dakota station who scored really high. This makes us the number 3 scoring station in the Dakota division. We did however score higher than all the Wisconsin stations in our category.

I would like to give a big personal THANK YOU!!! to all of you who helped make Field Day fun and a big success. I want to encourage everyone to mark your calendars for the weekend of June 27th and 28th 2020 and hope to see you all there.

Editor's Notes by Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN

Not much new this month. I have been reading a book titled *Game Changer: AlphaZero's Groundbreaking Strategies and the Promise of AI*. AlphaZero is a chess playing computer. Previous chess computers/programs have learned by brute force, memorizing moves from its programs and databases. AlphaZero starts with only the most basic understanding of the rules and then *learns* to play chess by playing games against itself. If you are interested in chess, computers, or artificial intelligence (AI) you may find the book interesting.



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

SPRC Calendar

- Fri Dec 6 6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. *
- Fri Dec 6 7PM Socializing followed by possible brief 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting and more socializing for SPRC Holiday Party. Cafeteria (note location), John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School.
- Sat Dec 7 10AM VE testing. Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., St. Paul. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338.
- Sat Dec 17 9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.
- Fri Jan 3 6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. *
- Fri Jan 3 7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School.
- Sat Jan 4 10AM VE testing. Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., St. Paul. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338.
- Sat Jan 18 9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.
- Sat Jan 25 8:30 – NOON SPRC Auction. Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers 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.