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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 FEBRUARY 2020 — Volume 80, Issue 2

### NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2020

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

7:00 PM Fellowship and Refreshments

7:30 PM Short Business Meeting with Program Following

### Program

Our February program will feature Art Thell, WØIWQ, speaking on “Smoke Signals to Cellphones (almost),” a dissertation on some of the basic developments, methods, and processes that have made our present communication systems possible.

### Dale’s Details – Dale Maroushek NØPEY

Well the shack is cooling down a bit after the big build up to the Auction last month. I’ll first send out a huge thank you to the staff of volunteers that planned it, practiced it and

executed it. Then we must thank the fine crop of bidders and sellers that took the time to bring in the gear and spend big money, allowing it to change hands, rather than landing in a dumpster. I don’t have the final figures yet, but I say it was another success.

What I do know and can report on. Sixty-eight bidder number were issued, but 4 of those were not bidders, sellers only, slightly down from previous years. There were 191 lots up for auction, not broken down between silent and live. Of those, 157 were sold or 82%. There were 5 partial estates including gear donated to SPRC from previous years. The larger the gear, the better the deal in dollar value. The smaller and older the gear, the better the deal in personal value. As usual, bidders are hard to get started, but once going, they bid competitively.

Summing it up, we completed another successful auction and will be making our donation to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund soon. One more special “Thank you” goes out to the lunch lady, my wife Deb, for faithfully staffing the food table all these years.

So what’s coming up? Hamfests every month, meetings, breakfasts and VE testing weekly, someplace in the metro area. MNQP will be over, hope you had a chance to operate. If you did, and collected MN ops from many counties, you may be on your way to

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.

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start working on your Worked all MN Counties Award. Rich, WD0K, has been working on a more up to date (computer based) process to handle it and will be reporting back to the Club soon.

April will bring in the next Banquet. Our search for a speaker continues, as does our selection of the Ham of the Year. Any suggestions or nominations, tell us. More nominations or volunteers will be needed at the May meeting to campaign for the election of officer positions. Then, never too early to start the excitement, before you know it the end of June arises and Field Day is here. June 27/28, the FOURTH FULL weekend, not the last weekend. Last year this was confusing since we crowded in five full weekends which made FD very early on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Doesn't happen very often, but plan your vacations carefully.

I'm getting back with Lou the photo guy next week to get his HT's programmed and hitting the repeaters. I ordered in some more Bao Fang gear to complete the programming capabilities and cloning of these cheap radios. I spent a few hours figuring out the CHIRP and BF programming steps, which I'm sure I can still improve on, but we can get him started back on the air. He also has a couple of FT-470's that have bad voodoo and act completely different under the same circumstances. They may have to visit Gary Grivna, K0GX, for some TLC. An outside antenna is the key to this, and I may have picked one up at the Auction!

The column can't end without the usual begging for volunteers to get involved in a method of their own choosing, to become the leadership of the Club into the future. There are seven Board members and about 20 other members that are doing the management work needed to keep things going. Most are between 55 and 80 years old, with a few younger ones with club spirit. We need our younger generation to come forward and learn. Believe me, you will have the support of the entire current staff to ease your mind, advance your education and guide you into a fantastic club experience. As always, if you get a twinge of interest, contact a Board member!

### **Building Blocks – Jay Maher NJØM**

Movement does a body good and most of us should do more of it. It is difficult in the winter when my bikes see less use. Over the frozen months, my primary activity is walking, with much of it on a track at the local Y. The track is a sixth of a mile long, but it still feels like a hamster wheel going round and round. Podcasts are my salvation.

One of my favorite amateur radio podcasts is QSO Today, hosted by Eric Guth 4Z1UG/WA6IGR. Every week he interviews a member of the amateur radio community and posts it on his website along with show notes and links ([www.qsotoday.com](http://www.qsotoday.com)). Eric follows a regular format, usually starting people off at the beginning of their ham radio experience, and the conversations are fascinating. There are close to 300 episodes to choose from now. I gravitate toward the homebrewers in the list, but I've also gotten glimpses of aspects of the hobby I would've never encountered without this podcast. They will make an hour walking in circles or shoveling your (and all your neighbors')

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sidewalks go by in a flash.

The SolderSmoke podcast was the first podcast I listened to after getting licensed in Spring 2007. Bill Meara, MØHBR/N2CQR, and Mike Caughran, KL7R (SK), started recording and posting their EchoLink conversations about homebrewing in 2005. At the time, Bill was stationed in London and Mike lived in Juneau, Alaska. Their sessions covered whatever they might have on the bench and were less structured than QSO Today podcasts. I only recently heard the episodes with Mike, as I started listening to SolderSmoke after he was tragically killed in a car accident while vacationing in Hawaii in January 2007. Going back to those early 2005-2006 episodes last fall, it was fun to hear Mike give a shout out to local homebrew hero Craig Johnson, AAØZZ, about help he'd given Mike with the PIC-EL. In another installment, Mike mentioned an EDN Design Idea about an audible circuit tracer that varied in tone with the quality of the circuit path. I searched that article out and made a note to revisit the circuit when time allowed. There are over 200 episodes now, and of the ones I have heard, nearly all have left me with something I want to follow up or that I'm inspired to try ([soldersmoke.blogspot.com](http://soldersmoke.blogspot.com)).

I mentioned that EDN Design Idea circuit for a reason. When I searched it out last fall, the EDN site pulled up the 2003 article and you could click and get a schematic and pdf copy. Going back recently, the link to the schematic and pdf returned errors. The Internet Wayback Machine did not have a copy. Bitten by not following my own advice to save things locally! I did finally locate a copy of the schematic on another website and saved it promptly to my computer. As is normally the case when searching the internet, I bumped into several other interesting things along the way. Though the good people at [archive.org](http://archive.org) (home of the Wayback Machine) did not have the EDN article schematic, I recently found they have archive issues of QEX magazine from 1982-2016 - very handy. They also have a pdf copy of Solid State Design for the Radio Amateur (one of Bill Meara's favorites so you'll hear about it if you listen to SolderSmoke). I have a collection of old radio texts myself, but here is someone who has made it a mission to save them - [http://www.tubebooks.org/technical\\_books\\_online.htm](http://www.tubebooks.org/technical_books_online.htm). If you have made it this far, you have the stamina to crunch through some dusty material. Take advantage of these dark days to read or listen!

## **January Board Minutes**

Saint Paul Radio Club Board Meeting Minutes  
January 3, 2020

President Don Kelly (WA6ZMT) called the board to order around 6:20 PM. Board members present: Don Kelly (WA6ZMT) President, Dale Maroushek (NOPEY), Vice-President; George Power (K0GCP), Secretary; Allan Klein (W0ONLY), Treasurer; Ben Otto (KE0RFZ), board member-at-large, Br. Bob Walsh (WC0J), board member-at-large.

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## Reports and topics discussed.

### President

Don reminded us that he will be away during the auction this year.

### Vice-President

Dale reported that he has worked with several people for programs to be presented at the February, March, April and May meetings. The June meeting will be coordinated with the Mining Club for Field Day preparations.

### Secretary

George said the December meeting minutes were posted in the Ground Wave.

### Treasurer

Allan reported that the funds are in good shape: Education \$1157, Repeater \$692, General \$7136. He has paid the printer for the new auction bidder tickets and forms.

### Auction

George updated the auction forms, and brought a computer and printer for the auction "dry-run" as part of tonight's meeting. Dale updated the auction flyer and sent them out.

### Membership

Dale has our 2019-2020 membership at 119 as of the meeting start.

### Programs

The program tonight is the auction "dry-run."

Programs have been set up for January, February, March, April and May of 2020. The June meeting will be held with the Mining Club in mid-June for Field Day planning.

We are still looking for a speaker for the club banquet in April (or May).

Meeting adjourned around 7:00 PM, to set up for the auction "dry-run."

:gp

## **January Membership Meeting Minutes**

President Don Kelly called the business meeting to order at 7:32 PM. We had 33 members and 2 guests present (guest names and calls missed). He led a round of introductions, with an additional piece of information requested: "What did you get for Christmas?"

Carried forward from board meeting:

Treasury is in good shape.

Programs for rest of year are set.

Membership is a 119 for the 2019-2020 membership year.

Ed Jacobson (WB0VHF) announced that he has space in his RV for the Dayton Hamfest trip.

Jay Maher (NJ0M) recommended joining the British QRP society, as they have excellent articles in their newsletters.

Remember that the SPRC is sponsoring the MN QSO party again.

The business meeting was concluded at 7:52 PM.

Program: Members were invited to come up to the auction registration table, sign in, get their bidder numbers, and work the auction "dry-run" -- about a dozen or so members did so. The auction committee ran the software, listed any problems, and made notes for minor changes to get ready for the real 2020 auction (January 25, 2020).

The rest of the members socialized.

The meeting concluded with the raffle.

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

Sorry I missed the Auction. Sounds like a good time was had by all. I have been doing some computer work this month. I doubled the memory in my laptop to 16Gb to perk up its performance on Lightroom and Photoshop, which it did. An added benefit is that it perked up my work on the *Ground Wave* when I often have to have Publisher and Word open at the same time. I developed a roll of film last month which I hadn't done in a while. It was fun to smell the chemicals and see the images on the film. I don't

have a darkroom set up, so I scanned the negatives into my computer and worked on them with Lightroom.

I have also been studying up on the architecture of my old Zenith Z-100. The Z-100 was unique in that it had two processors: an 8085 for CP/M and an 8088 for DOS. I am looking to do some C programming on the DOS side and assembler programming on the CP/M side.

I also continue to work on my chess game with a "Great Courses" class (which is excellent) and the Stockfish computer engine.

Dale mentioned the free "CHIRP" handheld programming software. I am on a Facebook Yaesu page and a Yaesu factory rep says using CHIRP on Yaesu radios voids the warranty and they will not attempt to repair radios programmed with CHIRP. Pretty harsh, so there must be something to it. So be forewarned: you get what you pay for. By the way, they recommend ADMS software, which will cost you \$30-40 depending on whether you need a cable. So using CHIRP on your \$40 Baofeng is probably ok, but I wouldn't risk it on your Yaesu. I'd be curious what Kenwood and Icom say.

### **Service Opportunity:**

On Saturday, May 16, 2020, there is going to be an event called "Hands Across The River" in celebration of the bike trail opening on the Stillwater bridge. We have been asked as hams to help with this event working with hams in Stillwater. We are in need of at least 10 hams on the WI side and 10 hams on the MN side.

Anyone that is interested, please send me an email with your contact information including cell phone number.

[rickn@asm-mmf.com](mailto:rickn@asm-mmf.com)

Thank you, Rick Nelsen KC9RYZ SCVRA

### **Auction Preliminaries:**

Allan reports that the Auction raised about \$1600 (subject to adjustment), a record in recent years. The following photo is courtesy of Tim, WD9IGX:





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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## SPRC Calendar

Sat Feb 1	10AM VE testing. Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., St. Paul. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338.
Fri Feb 7	6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. *
Fri Feb 7	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. See Page 1.
Sat Feb 15	9AM - ? St. Cloud Amateur Radio Club Cabin Fever Reliever Hamfest. Eagles Aerie, 730 41 <sup>st</sup> Ave N. St. Cloud, MN 56303 – Note location change!
Sat Feb 15	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.
Fri Mar 6	6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. *
Fri Mar 6	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School.
Sat Mar 7	10AM VE testing. Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., St. Paul. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338.
Sat Mar 21	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.
Sat Mar 21	8AM – 1PM 39 <sup>th</sup> Annual Midwinter Madness Hobby Electronics Show, Buffalo Civic Center, Buffalo, MN

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