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St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

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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 MARCH 2019 — Volume 79, Issue 3

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY MARCH 1, 2019.

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 March meeting will be an extended "Show and Tell." In addition to our usual self-introductions, be prepared to spend 5-10 minutes talking about your career in amateur radio. Examples could include: What year were you first licensed? How old were you? Have you ever built homebrew equipment or a kit? What was your favorite radio? Try to have a little fun with this. If you have something to show, bring it along. See you on Friday.

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.

Save the Date!

We are firming up plans to have the Annual SPRC Banquet back in the University of St. Thomas Student Center (déjà vu all over again). If it works out, Ralph Fedor will speak to us about one of his fantastic DX adventures on April 27th. Watch for details on the program and reservations.

Dale's Details by Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

March! What happened to February? Short month, Thanks Julius.

Well, I hear the Auction was a Great success! The Treasurer is slaving away doing the bookkeeping and will have the final totals shortly. Also, all those membership checks have finally been received by Allan and should be cashed soon. I know, our system needs to be upgraded, another Board issue coming up.

March, we are off to Buffalo for the Midwinter Madness Fest. We need some table sitters to intrigue potential members to take the leap and join the fun we have at SPRC. Hopefully, some of them will become doers and then leaders. I say this because the Auction produced two new volunteers, Kevin and Ben. They seem to be interested and willing to help with club activities into the future. Big "Thank You" guys!

I put in the preliminary requirements for a Field Day site to Bro. Bob tonight. He will see if CDH area will be able to accommodate it. The bad news follows: the former CW

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tower is not available anymore; Ed will not be bringing his RV (CW station) this year; Kirk will not decide about his RV (phone station) availability until it comes back from extensive repair from being vandalized. We may be working from tents again!

If you haven't heard or read about the SPRC/Mining ARC radio nets, let's shoot them past you once more. Starting Tuesday night at 2030 hours, on 147.120 (no tone) we have the MARC 2 Meter Net, (except the 3rd Tuesday when we have the meetings at 3M, but feel free to gather for an impromptu net if it develops). Wednesday, we start with the Friendly Net on 10 meters, 28.310 Hz at 1950, probably one of the longest running nets in the area or country. I picked it up when Marty left us, but helpers would and should step forward to cover some of the nights. I guess the same goes for the 2 Meter net (145.310 tone 114.8), which follows at 2030 hours. A good time is had by all.

The UHF Fusion repeater is set up and active. Being that it doesn't beep back, you should probably set up a sked with someone. FM and Fusion are welcome, it puts out 50 Watts at my house in north Maplewood, coverage estimated at 10 miles. If I'm in the room I can hear you, and will respond.

Vintage Radio gear, many Hams are also students of this fascination. If you are one, or if you know one anywhere, please get them in contact with me. My second cousin's father left her with more stuff than I can express. I have some pictures what I can share, speakers, capacitors, table top radios, parts and the whole routine. Somebody said that tubes were scarce. Did you check? I can find almost any tube on the web and from what my cousin has in stock, could flood the market! This isn't free lunch, she is a smart lady. Her eBay income is over 10K a year selling this stuff. Unfortunately all this stuff is in Bettendorf IA...east Davenport, about 7 hour away. I will be going down when the snow melts to help her identify and market this mess. This makes my heap of stuff small in comparison. We need buyers!

That's about it for tonight, but there is much room for many others to contribute to this newsletter!

Dale NOPEY

SPRC — Board Meeting — February 1, 2019

President Don Kelly (WA6ZMT), called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM. Board members present: Don Kelly, Dale Maroushek (NOPEY), George Power (K0GCP), John Faughn (KD0CAC), Orcy Lyle (W0QT). Interested parties: Jay Maher (NJ0M), Br. Bob Walsh (WC0J).

Reports and topics discussed.

Membership

Dale reported that the 2018-2019 member numbers are over 110 now.

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Finances

No report.

Club Storage

We are very satisfied with the storage that Br. Bob Walsh has provided to the club. The search for an inexpensive, used trailer (10' long, enclosed, single axle, under \$1000) has become a very low priority item, as Dale's neighbor has a suitable trailer that he will lend to the club for Field Day and other events.

Repeater

We added a PLL tone of 114.8 to our UHF repeater (replacing the DCS code).

Banquet

Jay has tentatively scheduled our banquet at UST for April 27, pending our speaker's commitments. We are waiting for replies from possible speakers.

Website

Jay has gotten our website up and running with current information on the main page. Updating the links depends on updating the information for those links, which is a longer term project.

Auction

The auction went quite well. Gross numbers showed equipment sales over \$5000, but final numbers with the net return (for the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund) are still being calculated. Several improvements on auction procedures and the computer programs have been identified.

Circuit Builders

No activity contemplated until we find a leader team and working space.

The meeting was closed at 7:05 PM

:gp

Revised 02/05/2019

SPRC — Member Meeting — February 1, 2019

President Don (WA6ZMT) opened the business meeting at 7:35 PM. We had 32 present.

Officer/Committee Reports:

Vice-President Dale (NOPEY) reported that our 2018-2019 membership is over 110 as of tonight.

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Treasurer Allan (WONLY) no report – we do have income from membership renewals.

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

President Don reminded us that the next regularly scheduled VE session occurs tomorrow (2/2/2019).

Old Business discussion:

2019 Field Day activities -- We are still looking for sites for the event. Some caveats: we need 24 hour access (no closing at 10:00 PM rules), and the ability to park our two or three RV operating stations and to be able to run generators all of the time. Another suggestion to be checked out is the CDH fields just west of Albert Street, and Brother Bob (WC0J) will check with the school.

Trailer for storage – Dale has a neighbor with a suitable trailer (but not for sale) which we can borrow to move equipment for Field Day and other events, subject to its availability.

Jay (NJ0M) has done a great job on setting up the initial website pages for the club, and we are working on getting the links updated with current information.

Circuit Builders is still on hiatus pending on finding a leader and workspace.

The club auction sold well and the net figures will be reported after expenses are covered.

The business meeting was closed at 7:46 PM

Program:

Ralph Bierbaum (N0AWN) provided a video on the Echolink program/system, showing the basics of the Link connections and how they can be used both by radio and internet connections.

After the meeting, we held our usual raffle.

The meeting ended at 9:05 PM.

:gp

Revised 02/05/2019

SDR BCB DX'n by Scott Holisky N0AR

Winter is upon us and with it comes the best time for broadcast band reception. Ground conductivity has improved with the frozen tundra. Signals are generally stronger and reception that wouldn't be possible in six months are easy pickings now. The thunder-

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storm activity is at a minimum across the country. Those missing sunspots that limit our DX activity only help improve conditions on the low end of the dial.

I still keep a paper list of the "AM Clear Channel" stations in my log book. There's still magic in tuning across the band and hearing signals from all over the continent. Go to the [Wikipedia list](#), Click on the stations call letters for information or click on the coordinates to see where the transmitter is located.

The on-line shortwave receiver has evolved from a guy in Michigan pointing his internet camera at his receiver to the modern SDR version. There are hundreds of open receivers just waiting to be logged into. One of my favorite flavors of equipment is the [Kiwi SDR](#). It is easy to use, sounds great and has the ability to host up to four users at once. There are lots of YouTube [videos](#) on this little rig. A good place to start finding active rigs is at the [VE3SUN](#) site. Unlike Matt's sites that he used for transmitting, these are just receive and generally free to use. Of course if you are going to make it a regular site that you use, I'm sure the owner would appreciate a donation.

The SDR sites technical equipment can range from a serious DX'ers dream antennas to a short active antenna and everything in-between. There are lots of other SDR sites on the web and range the whole spectrum in frequency coverage. Most can be accessed and controlled with just your modern browser. Tuning and radio controls are just a just a point and click.

A QRP Echolink friend, Mike WA8BXN in Cleveland, had a Kiwi attached to a 6BTV. The cost for the gear was about \$300. The impact to his internet speed wasn't an issue. Listening to our local BCB stations was pretty cool, hearing my own signal on the HF bands was even better! No better way to confirm how much changing power levels affects what the other station hears.

Give it a try there's lots to be heard!

Editor's Notes by Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN

Once again I did not make a meeting. It's the first time I have missed 2 in a row since I can't remember. Our son Blake has been transferred to Lyngblomsten Care Center for rehab, and that is taking a lot of time. Hopefully he can get better and come home soon.

Many thanks to Scott, N0AR, for his almost monthly contributions to the *Ground Wave*. They are always a good read. I am sure there are many others out there who are able to write something up and send it in. Please give it a try!

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



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

SPRC Calendar

Fri Mar 1	6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. *
Fri Mar 1	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 Mar 2	10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338
Sat Mar 16	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.
Sat Mar 23	8AM – 1PM 38 th Annual Midwinter Madness Hobby Electronics Show, Buffalo Civic Center, Buffalo, MN
Fri Apr 5	6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. *
Fri Apr 5	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School.
Sat Apr 6	10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338
Sat Apr 6	9AM – 1PM Brainerd Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Brainerd National Guard Armory, 1115 Wright St. Brainerd, MN
Sat Apr 20	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.
Sat Apr 27	Northern Lights Radio Society Aurora 2018. First Lutheran Church, 4000 Linden St. White Bear Lake, MN 55110
Sat Apr 27	5-9:30PM SPRC Banquet. UST Anderson Student Center. Rogge-Leyden Room. Doors open at 5, dinner at 6PM

* Depending on business to be considered, Board Meetings are sometimes held electronically. Check with a Board member before-