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St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

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KØAGF

www.stpaulradioclub.org
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NEWS AND NOTES FOR APRIL 2015 — Volume 75, Issue 4

Monthly Meeting

April 10, 2015
UST OWS LL54
7:00 pm Socializing
Membership Meeting 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

Members' Memories

Several of our members will share some of their Amateur Radio memories. This will be a great opportunity for us to learn a little more about each other.

As we listen to these memories, think about memories you'd like to share for the next Members' Memories program.



Your email Bounced

Well, maybe yours didn't—but some of them do. If you haven't been receiving email every month from SPRC, make sure that we have your correct email address. Send it to:

NOPEY at comcast.net

The OWS building is located on the University of St. Thomas (UST) South Campus.

From I-94, take Cretin Ave south about a mile to Grand Ave. Turn right, then park in the ramp on your left or the surface lot on the right. In general, on-campus parking restrictions are not en-

Annual SPRC Banquet Saturday April 18

Our speaker will be Theresa Caspers, known to many of you through her work with Metro Skywarn.

Please see the attached flyer and be sure we receive it no later than April 10th

Presidential Ponderings

Everyone talks about the weather (babies excluded) "but nobody does . . ." goes the familiar saying. We have alternately praised and disparaged this winter's lack of snow and abundance of cold, but my son living on the northeastern coast has a difference perspective about snow this year. Many of us are fascinated by the weather and what it can do to us.

My fascination with weather was enhanced by taking the Metro Skywarn classes, in conjunction with the National Weather Service office in Chanhassen, MN, and sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Skywarn course is obviously concerned with stormy weather

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forced after 6:00 p.m. on Fridays, but do not park in spots with parking meters unless paying or displaying a handicapped placard.

Enter the building just north of the parking ramp and take the elevator (in the hallway to the right) or stairs to the lower level. LL54 is not far

Dale's Details Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

The idea of Remote operation seems to be the current buzz around the world. This month I will get to see my third presentation, this one controlled over your cell phone and Skype, but no CW. Give it another year and it will be built into the new rigs. Space/power/phoneline/Internet connection (without intrAnet firewalls)/antenna field/tower and rotor control are all needed. Where do we find that in one space?

The first 2 meter net time-change survey was held on March 25th. The question is which would be better for you: a 1900 net like we do now, or move to 2030 after the Friendly net. The results are: one 1900 only, 9 both times, and 10 2030 only. We plan to do the survey again to catch some new voters. Stay tuned, this looks interesting.

SPRC had a table at Midwinter Madness and a good time was had by the staffers. Not many of us, but it was a nice morning. The crowd was great, larger than I've seen lately. Lots of sellers, many new ones, with the full range of good used Ham gear to the usual parts box filler stuff for a future

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from the stairs.

For detailed maps, see www.stthomas.edu/campusmaps.

OWS: Owens Science Hall

Contact Kim Schumann in Disability Services at 651-962-6315 or kjschumann@stthomas.edu for any accessibility requests.

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(for MN, mostly rain, blizzards, hail, ice storms, wind with and without tornadoes, etc.), but it is a quick study in meteorology, and how weather forms. This year my wife joined me in the class, and she found it quite interesting.

The Skywarn classes are offered each year in the Spring, and their class schedule can be found at metroskywarn.org. This year's classes continue through May so, if you find weather at all interesting, you might give the class a bit of your time (the classes are four hours). Did I mention that the classes are FREE?

The St Paul Radio Club is a ARRL Special Services Club. What does that designation mean to you? Does it fit the image that you have for the SPRC? Has being a club member helped you in any way, with your enjoyment of amateur radio?

At our April 10th meeting, you get to tell us how you got started in amateur radio, who helped you (Elmers) and where you want to go with the hobby.

We are always looking for interesting programs for our members. We are also looking for special projects that might interest you.

If you have a source for a program that you think might interest the club, please contact Jay Maher <jay@umn.edu> with the contact information. If you would like to present a program (or co-present a program) of your own interests, please contact Jay about it.

If you have a special project that you are interested in doing as a club, please let me know.

See you at the next meeting, April 10th.

George, KØGCP

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project. The computer gear that was available was good stuff, and reasonable. There was a table selling a sheet of Mylar(?) stick-on, that you could design for yourself. Put your call sign or club or activity on a 30X8 inch sheet that they laser cut and stripped for \$10. Drones are a hot topic, but this young group sold the parts to build your own! Add the video camera and learn to control it and have some fun. Pin cushion vehicles from at least four states were observed. We signed up one new member: Joe Rasinowich, NGØV from Burnsville. He's coming back into the hobby and will be looking for Elmer help.

The Banquet is in the planning stages; Jay will tell us more when it is confirmed. May will bring the election call for the two Board members at large, Jay and Orcy hold the current positions. This is a good starting point for members who want to help the club move forward.

Field Day is only 3 months away. Our favorite activity for operating and the Club Picnic on Saturday is included. Plan to come out to Tartan Park, help the effort, operate some and bring the family to have more fun. Believe it or not, we have some positions filled and even a few operators lined up already! Plenty of room for others, but you might want to sign up sooner this year.

We have been searching for a special operating project for the warmer months. Here's a couple to consider.

The club has an FT-1000 Field (ac only) that very few have seen or know how to operate. Maybe have a training session at a central location/parking lot. (RV for power). Stick up a vertical or a dipole and see who wants to play.

Way back when, in 73 magazine, a fel-



Support the
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low wrote about his 2 meter only DXpedition to an Island. Long story short, it was to the Self Service Island at the gas station. So we get members with club shirts or hats to cover as many gas station islands in St. Paul on a specific date and time and get some exposure.

Good Luck.

Dale, NØPEY

Skywarn Training

4/9 1800 Richfield
4/14 1800 Maple Grove
4/18 0900 Burnsville
4/18 0900 Maplewood
4/25 0830 Brooklyn Park
4/25 0900 Cottage Grove
5/7 1800 Medina
5/9 1200 Blaine
5/30 0900 Arden Hills

See <https://metroskywarn.org/schedule> for details.

Membership Meeting March 6, 2015

George called for the UST radio club meeting at 7:30PM but without representation, the meeting was closed.

George called the SPRC general meeting to order at 7:35PM and asked for Introductions. We had 28 members and 4 guests, plus our presenter (Total of 35).

Secretary's Report: February general meeting and board meeting minutes were accepted as printed in the March Ground Wave.

Treasurer's Report: Allan has sent our \$1000 check to the ARRL (for the Spectrum Defense Fund).

Committee Reports:

Membership – Dale reports our current paid membership is 128 (up 2 more since Feb.).

Education – the board decided not to hold the Spring class as 8 weeks on Tuesdays do not seem to work well.

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Circuit Builders - see web site for schedule.

Public Service/Emergency Communications – no report.

VE Exams - Leon reported that the last testing session passed 2 more licensees.

Old Business:

1) The board is continuing to discuss our education strategy.

2) Dale is working on an article for QST on the club's auction history and he is looking for information about the auction from the members. The auctions started in 1958 (with the proceeds going to the club) and in 2005, the club started donating the net profits to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund.

New Business:

1) We are looking for a volunteer to become the club historian. Several members have materials to donate to the club's archives.

2) One member suggested that we host a Metro Skywarn class. The board will consider it.

3) Greg Widin reminded us that a current listing of hamfests is carried on the ARRL Dakota section website under the Calendar tab (www.ARRLDakota.org).

4) Reminder that the April 10th meeting topic is "Remembering your Elmer" – short (5 minute maximum) personal histories.

5) George asked for suggestions of club special projects – email suggestions to him at KØGCP@ARRL.NET.

The Business meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM, followed by a break.

Program was Greg Widen (KØGW), our ARRL Dakota Division Director, who talked about why he belongs to the ARRL and the many benefits that ARRL membership provides to individual hams and clubs.

Meeting ended around 9:05 PM.

Board Meeting March 13, 2015

George called the meeting to order at 7:04PM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Power (KØGCP) President
John Faughn (KDØCAC) Vice Pres.
Jay Maher (NJØM) Board Member
Dale Maroushek (NØPEY) Past Pres.

EXCUSED ABSENCE:

Allan Klein (WØNLY) Treasurer

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND OTHER INTERESTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

1) Treasurer's report—General fund balance is \$5319 (after sending check to ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund); Repeater, \$1197; Education, \$922.

2) Education—In place of our Tuesday night classes through Continuing Education, we will be referring students to the David Caslere videos on YouTube, and our list of teachers, who will "Elmer" them. We need to confirm our list of Elmers before posting the plan on our website.

3) April membership program—We will be asking members who are willing to talk about their ham ra-

UST Tobacco-Free

UST's St. Paul and Minneapolis campuses are tobacco free.

In the St. Thomas policy, "tobacco" is defined as any lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, clove cigarette, hookah smoked products, electronic cigarettes and any other smoking product, as well as smokeless or spit tobacco, also known as kip, chew or snus. Promotion, sale and distribution of tobacco products and merchandise, including any items carrying tobacco logos, also are prohibited on the campuses or at any university-sponsored events.

dio involvement, how they got started, who was their Elmer, etc. We came up with a short list of potential speakers for us to contact.

4) Banquet—Orcy is working with Ralph Fedor to set a date for our banquet this Spring. Once Fedor confirms, Jay will try to get the facilities set up and we can begin to publicize and sell tickets to our members.

5) MN Repeater Council—Terry Londeroche will represent us at the April 11 meeting in Mankato.

6) Video board meetings progress—Not much success to report. George, Allan and Dale have been trying Google Hangouts, and Skype. George found that Skype's video conferencing with more than 2 participants requires the session be initiated by a user with Windows 8.1, whereas a conference between only 2 participants can use almost any version of Windows, Linux, Mac OS, etc. For the immediate future, we will continue our physical meetings.

6) Wed night net—the net control folks have considered a time shift to pick up new people. On March 25, they will try a dual-time session (19:00 and 20:30 hours CDT) to see if a few more hams will join in the conversation.

7) Digital recorder for secretary—George will ask Allan to see if he has a spare available for the board meetings.

8) Battery for repeater—George will ask Allan to send a check to John to purchase the backup battery. Estimated cost is \$229 + tax.

9) Other matters:

March Madness—the club will host a table. We need to have Allan send a check.

Field Day—this year FD is June 27-28, with a June 26 evening setup. Dale will check with Ed Jacobson about organizing it between the Mining Club and the SPRC.

George closed the meeting at 7:34.

Make a Few Dipoles

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

One of the things that always gets my goat is the price some companies charge for dipole antennas. It's not that they're charging an outrageously large sum of money, and I certainly don't begrudge them making a profit for their efforts. It's just that if hams would just buy their own wire and parts, they would not only save money over the long run, but be encouraged to experiment with antennas. That's what I started doing about ten years ago, and I've been very happy with the results.

One of the first things that I did was to purchase ten Budwig HQ-1 center insulators and ten HQ-2 end insulators (<http://www.budwig.com/antenna-connector-insulators.html>). I've made a bunch of antennas with these insulators, including several 40m/20m inverted vees for portable use (such as Field Day and special events), a 17m dipole, and a 10m loop antenna. These insulators are very well-made, and can easily be reused,

too.

Universal Radio sells the set (<http://universal-radio.com/catalog/antsup/1782.html>) for \$18.50. I just placed another order for ten HQ-1s and 20 HQ-2s (the minimum number that you can purchase to get a quantity discount). The price, including shipping, is \$143.

There are a bunch of other center insulators on the market {Editor's note: I've snipped the info about other sources due to space considerations. Send me a note at WA6ZMT@ARRL.net if you'd like the full list.}

If none of these strikes your fancy, you can always make your own. WP4AOH has some very good instructions on how to do this using PVC pipe and fasteners that you can find at your local hardware store (<http://wp4aoh.blogspot.com/2012/07/dipole-antenna-center-insulator.html>).

Whatever route you take, I encourage you to keep several on hand and enough antenna wire and coax to complete the antenna. You never know when the urge will strike you to build an antenna, and if you don't have the parts you've missed an opportunity to do some experimenting.

When not checking his stock of antenna parts, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides, blogging about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com, or working 30m CW.

Looking for member contributions to the Ground Wave.

It's nice to include something from Dan, but it would be even nicer to include tales, advice and whatnot from St Paul Radio Club members. Send your contributions to WA6ZMT@ARRL.net

Sat Apr 4	9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, W0COE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Fri Apr 10	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See Page 1.
Sat Apr 11	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Apr 17	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) **
Sat Apr 18	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Apr 18	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Apr 18	9AM – 1PM Brainerd Area ARC Hamfest. Brainerd Nat'l Guard Armory, 1115 Wright St., Brainerd, MN 56401.
Sat Apr 18	6PM Annual St. Paul Radio Club Banquet. Rogge/Leyden Room, Anderson Student Center, UST Campus
Sat Apr 25	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Apr 25	9AM – 5:30PM Northern Lights Radio Society Aurora 2015. First Lutheran Church, 4000 Linden St., White Bear Lake, MN 55110
Fri May 1	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54.
Sat May 2	9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, W0COE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat May 2	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri May 8	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) **
Sat May 9	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat May 16	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat May 16	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat May 23	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat May 30	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*

*Circuit Builders is each Saturday morning if someone is available to open the lab and there is no conflicting activity. Check the SPRCCB Google Group to confirm that the lab will be open.

** Depending on business to be considered, Board Meetings are sometimes held electronically. Check with an officer or board member to confirm that the meeting will be at UST.