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# St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

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## KØAGF

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

## NEWS AND NOTES FOR APRIL 2016 — Volume 76, Issue 4

### Monthly Meeting

April 1, 2016

UST OWS LL54

7:00 pm Socializing

Membership Meeting 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

#### Public Service

Ralph Bierbaum, NØAWN

As well as sharing his expertise in how to be prepared for, and participate in, emergency communications. Ralph will demonstrate three different “go boxes” and lead a discussion on the design of portable kits--what you want, how much you can afford, what kind of equipment you need, power sources, etc., along with support equipment such as shelter, table, chairs, heat/cooling, generator, fuel, food, antenna mast, and feed line.

Ralph has had a 40 year career in Bio-engineering with emphasis on medical device research and development. He’s been member of both the Anoka County Emergency Management and the MN All Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) for seven years and is going into his 15<sup>th</sup> year volunteering with the National Multi-

(Program, Continued on page 2)

### SPRC Banquet

The St. Paul Radio Club Banquet will be held April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 at 6:00 pm in the Anderson Student Center (Rogge-Leyden Room, third floor) on the University of St. Thomas campus. By now you should know UST Dining Services provides great food and service. With the Club subsidizing a portion of the cost, this is a great deal for members. Our speaker will once again be Ralph Fedor, returning to make us dream of far-off islands and DX. Dinner will be \$12.50 per person and tickets must be bought in advance. We will have some nice prizes to be given out by random drawing. Directions to the Rogge-Leyden Room, menu details, and reservation information are included in the flyer. Included with this *Ground Wave*

#### Ralph Fedor, KØIR

Ralph has been licensed since 1961 and started out working CW traffic nets. He has been almost continuously active since then, operating from 27 countries. When he wasn’t off to distant lands, Ralph worked as an MD and Radiologist, skills which served him well abroad. Ralph and his wife Sandy have lived near St. Cloud for the last 36 years and have

(Banquet, Continued on page 2)

### Presidential Ponderings

During a recent visit to the “candy store,” i.e., Radio City, several hams were chatting about various topics, and up popped the question (highly paraphrased): “So, what do all of the (Twin Cities) clubs do? What makes them different from each other?” Within the group, several clubs were represented; the more specialized clubs were easily identified, but there are several general-purpose clubs which overlap in interests. The Twin Cities FM club, Stillwater Area Radio Club, Gopher Radio Club, Southeast MN Radio Club, etc., just to name a few. What does the St. Paul Radio Club do?

From my perspective, the St. Paul Radio Club is a general-purpose club-- i.e. we exist to carry on the fun of amateur radio, to help new people into radio, to serve others, and to have fun. We do not specialize in FM repeaters, ARES public service, DXing, EME communications, digital networking, etc. BUT, we have members who do those activities, and who are willing to share their interests with us on our first-Friday-night meetings. Our list of programs touches on

(Ponderings, Continued on page 2)

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-

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

from the stairs.

For detailed maps, see [www.stthomas.edu/campusmaps](http://www.stthomas.edu/campusmaps).

OWS: Owens Science Hall

Contact Kim Schumann in Disability Services at 651-962-6315 or [kjschumann@stthomas.edu](mailto:kjschumann@stthomas.edu) for any accessibility requests.

*(Program, Continued from page 1)*

ple Sclerosis Society as Net Control Supervisor and lead dispatcher for the 4000-rider MS-150 bike tour. He has experience in 911 PSAP and dispatch center operations. Licensed for 38 years, Ralph currently is an Extra Class Licensee and has been active in HF mobile and portable operations for 16 years. He claims to have made almost all the mistakes a person can make in mobile and portable operations, but hasn't dropped a tower yet.

*(Banquet, Continued from page 1)*

four children and ten grandchildren. He is a member of several radio societies, a member of the board of directors of the International DX Association and has been elected to the DX Hall of Fame. He holds nine DXpedition of the Year Awards. His presentation will recount the 2015 K1N DXpedition to Navassa Island, one of the most highly sought-after DXCC entities. The expedition was 15 years in the making and will be over too soon in the telling.

*(Ponderings, Continued from page 1)*

many different topics, from building cube-sats, working with low voltage wiring, grounding a station, organizing a special event, putting in OCF antennas, and even traveling to Bletchley Park.

During last Fall's quick survey of members attending the October meeting, we listed many topics to cover in the future. This year, we've covered five, and we'll cover another before year end. We are working on finding folks to present the future topics. Examples:

*Using oscilloscopes*

*Dan Fish of Radio City on current topics*

*History of the SPRC. (How and when it started, locations, equipment, was the call sign always KOAGF?)*

*Building a fox hunting Yagi*

*Antenna tuners--how they work and what they can/can't do*

*Contesting*

*J-poles*

*VEs and OOs*

*Building and maintaining towers*

*Tracking down RFI--noise control/mitigation*

*Building simple single-band CW HF transmitters in the 25-50 watt range*

*ARES*

If you would like to present on one of these topics, please let Jay Maher or myself know. We will continue to present programs covering a variety of topics, to meet your expectations.

Thanks & 73,

George, KØGCP

## **Dale's Details**

### **Dale Maroushek, NØPEY**

The Inrad Filter order now has the minimum of 10 set to order. Since the Club credit card won't arrive right away, I think we can hold the order until the April meeting. So, if you want 20% off the regular price, get your order in to me by then.

Leon, WØCOE, our VE leader sent me seven more free memberships—that should bring us to 140 members. Hopefully the new ones will join us for a meeting or activity.

Field Day is now only 3 months away. I have been working with Maplewood Parks, and also the Fire Department, for permission to land a spot here. With the sale of Tartan Park and the announcements that came out with it, we might have a sliver of a chance at one more year out there. Don't hold your breath. Step two of FD will be to retrieve gear from the farm in Isanti, or find replacement gear from other member sources. We have money—we can also buy gear that would stay with the club.

The new Fusion repeater will be on UHF; possible locations are at UST if we can get approval, at my QTH in Maplewood, or anyone else's volunteer spot. We have 2 untested amps

to go through, a four-can duplexer that checks out good and 60 feet of half inch hard line all waiting to be put together. First we need to get a frequency pair coordinated. Mike Thompson is the lead person on this and is determined to get it done.

The Buffalo Midwinter Madness Hamfest was fun to attend—found a few small-item deals and picked up the repeater parts I mentioned. The disappointing part was the lack of volunteer sitters. I got there and was setting up and Jim Moen stopped by to help, but by the time I was done setting up he was gone. Then Allan came out and sat while I shopped and vice versa. Other members visited with us, but showed no interest in sitting. Let's do better next year, four volunteers or we don't set up.

The change to Daylight Time caused a problem for my cat Charlie. Since we are babysitting my son's small dog Josse, she gets let out in the morning to do her duty. Well, it's dark again at 0530, so Deb opened the front door and Josse went out, did it and came back to the door. Deb let her in, but, she didn't see Charlie dart for the door to get out. Upon getting home tonight, everyone was looking and calling for Charlie. Finally, she opened the front door and there he was between the doors, kinda cold, a little messy and hungry. He has a very soft voice (until he is angry), so now we get "the look" as he walks by.

## **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.

## Board Meeting March 11, 2016

Members present: George Power, Dale Maroushek, Allen Klein, Jay Maher, Mike Thompson, and Orcy Lyle. Don Kelly was standing by to participate by telephone, but the room we were in did not have a telephone, so Don was excused.

We discussed upcoming programs. On April 23, the banquet will be held, and Ralph Fedor will talk about Navassa. Orcy will get Ralph's biography, and give it to Jay so he can use it for publicity. We have tentatively planned on having Dick Roberts in May, to talk about the MARS radio program, but he has not yet confirmed.

US Bank will give us a VISA credit card. It will give us cash back on purchases, and there will be no fee for

the card. It will have a \$1,500 limit.

Chris Wilson, from Yaesu, is willing to do a presentation on Fusion, either remotely or via interactive hookup. Chuck, KØORK runs a net on Monday nights that includes Fusion discussions. Mike will check with Chuck to see how to coordinate the Yaesu presentation .

Auction software was discussed. We decided to devote some time at the May Board Meeting to the topic so that people could practice on the software well before next year's auction. George has started to compile an "Auction Playbook" that will describe how our auction works so that newcomers don't have to spend time reinventing the wheel.

There was a general discussion of equipment owned by the Club. We decided to do an inventory over the next few months so that we know

what we have and where it is. We also discussed the FT DX-400, an older tube rig that failed to draw any bids at the auction. We decided that we would ask Radio City to sell it for us on consignment. We decided to buy three Inrad filters for the fancy rig—a roofing filter, a SSB one, and a narrow CW one.

We also discussed the Fusion repeater. Mike has sent in the paperwork to transfer the KØAGF trustee position from Tom Sturm to Mike. The Fusion will be on 440. Location is to be determined. Mike will run some simulations so that we can compare UST versus several locations. There are many factors that have to be considered in choosing a location, including the availability of very good coax or hardline for 440 and the possibility of sharing feedline with the 144 repeater.

AK:gp

Fri Apr 1	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See Page 1.
Sat Apr 2	10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Apr 2	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Apr 8	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) **
Sat Apr 9	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Apr 16	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Apr 16	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Apr 16	9AM – 1PM Brainerd Area Hamfest, Brainerd National Guard Armory, 1115 Wright St., Brainerd, MN
Sat Apr 23	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Apr 23	9AM-5PM Northern Lights Radio Society Aurora Conference. First Lutheran Church, 4000 Linden St. White Bear Lake, MN
Sat Apr 23	6PM SPRC Banquet. Rogge-Leyden Room, UST Anderson Student Center. Doors open at 5PM, dinner at 6PM
Sat Apr 30	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri May 6	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54.
Sat May 7	10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat May 7	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat May 14	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat May 21	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat May 21	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat May 28	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.