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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 APRIL 2019 — Volume 79, Issue 4

### NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY APRIL 5, 2019.

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

7:00 PM Fellowship and Refreshments

7:30 PM Short meeting followed by program

### Program

We'll have another improv program—no formal program has been scheduled for April or May. Would someone like to step up as program coordinator? See you on Friday.

### Blake Iverson

We grieve with the Iverson family as Blake lost his three-year battle with brain cancer on March 24 at age 25.

<https://www.evansnordby.com/obituaries/blake-m-iverson> (Don Kelly (WA6ZMT) is standing in for editor Jeff Iverson (WB9DAN) this month.)

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.

### St. Paul Radio Club Annual Banquet

The St. Paul Radio Club Banquet will be Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm in the Anderson Student Center on the University of St. Thomas campus. Our speaker will be Ralph Fedor, KØIR. Dinner will be \$12.50 per person and tickets must be bought in advance. Please see the banquet flyer for details. The due date for reservations is April 17<sup>th</sup>. Bring your reservations to our April meeting or mail your forms as soon as possible!

### Top Five Reasons to Give a Presentation at an SPRC Meeting - Jay Maher NJØM

1. You'll receive an SPRC Mug! This handsome blue mug with the SPRC logo will look great on your desk and make any beverage it contains taste ten times better. Do another presentation and get one for your spouse (nothing says *I love you* like a Radio Club mug). Do a series and build a set!
2. Planning a presentation is a handy motivational tool. Give yourself another reason to finish that project that has been languishing. You get the satisfaction of a job done and we get to learn from your efforts.
3. It's a chance to learn about something new. Amateur radio takes many forms and follows many paths. See something shiny off your normal path? Check it out and tell us about it. You don't have to be an expert to let us know what you've found. You might spark that same interest in others.

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4. You have something to share. There are decades upon decades of experience sitting in the room at each meeting. Don't worry if it is something we've covered before, give us your perspective. What are you particularly passionate about?
5. It's a friendly crowd. We are all here because of a shared interest. In possible contrast to your spouse/significant other/family, we WANT to hear about it. If some of us fall asleep during your presentation, it isn't you, it's just the demographic.

Have an idea for a presentation? Contact one of the Board members for more information.

### **Dale's Details by Dale Maroushek, NØPEY**

Help, we're melting! Spring is taking us from subzero to early flooding in a short time period. Hams may be needed for communications assistance in the coming days. Keep those GO boxes ready and the batteries charged.

Just finished up the Wednesday night Friendly net and two meter net. We have the "usual suspects" and then we catch some old and new hams. We try to keep it on the lighter side and have some fun with it. Tonight it was why every sport or activity has to have its own clothing, where as any old clothes did the job before. I have to change clothes between the HF and VHF nets—get the idea?

I had fun helping out with Leon (WØCOE) and his band of VEs on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. They have the system down to a science. I think I may have to keep that first Saturday open for testing more often. It was fun. Becoming a VE is very simple. The ARRL page walks you through the process, and soon you could be having fun too!

Our little Fusion UHF repeater has been on the air for a few months now. I occasionally hear people trying to get in, and have talked with a few, within the 10 mile radius we expected. I guess the next step is to get it connected to Wires X and expand its domain. It will hear you on Fusion or FM, 442.450 with a tone of 114.8 for FM.

Busy four days coming up. Thursday I venture out to the Sportsman Show to see what I can't live without. Since my boat didn't get into the water last year, I won't be stocking up too much. Friday I have to process the corned beef and prepare the stew for the belated St. Patty's Day/monthly family gathering on Sunday. Saturday is at the Buffalo Hamfest shopping and table sitting for the Club. Sunday we have the family party mentioned earlier. Somewhere in there, I will finish this up with an after Hamfest report.

Midwinter Madness was very good this year. The highlight was the presentation of the NØYVZ Dennis Anderson Award to KBØXC Dan and Maline Fish, Radio City owners for over 34 years. They join the growing list of worthy recipients. Congratulations to both of you!

Other things I checked on: Vendors – 85, 5 more than last year; Attendance – over 300; median age – geriatric. Yes, it is very obvious this is the old person's hobby, nothing wrong with that, and we should plan for that. Recruit young people that show any interest at all.

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There were a few estates being sold by relatives and friends. Lot of old stuff, of great value to the beholder or collector. Pricing was normal, some just right, more too low or high, and all flexible as the hours passed. The FT-9000, for \$4,500 was a steal, but bigger than an old boat anchor!

Coming up next is the Brainerd Fest on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Will it be worth the trip? Please let us know. April also brings back "Hams in the Park" <http://www.hamoperator.com/Park>. If you are looking to learn or want to test your new gear with other hams, here is your opportunity.

Finally, it's SPRC Banquet and Ham of the Year award time. The brochure is attached and the program is a First of its Kind. Usually, we get the After the Dxpedition report, this time it is a Before the Event presentation by our repeat speaker Ralph Fedor NØIR.

Next up will be continuing Field Day preparations, and Pete (KBØSQJ) is working on a new lead to an old site. Brother Bob will have his report in from CDH about field usage, and MARC may have new info too. To bring you up to speed here, it isn't that sites are not out there. It is getting a site (public preferred, private is an option) we can use for 48 hours straight (Friday 1500 to Sunday 1500), allows generator noise, car and RV parking, high points to hang wires from, portable towers with guy line in ground, restroom/port-a-potty (we can rent one, but install and pick up need easy access), weather shelter (if possible), electric mains (not critical), Free or cheap. If you have a possibility, make the first inquiry, find out who to talk to, and pass it on to Pete or a Board member.

I have to change clothes now for my next favorite sport, sleeping! See you at the meeting, God willing and the creek don't rise!

Dale NØPEY

## **SPRC — Board Meeting — March 1, 2019**

President Don Kelly (WA6ZMT), called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM (delayed because of winter weather). Board members present: Don Kelly, Dale Maroushek (NØPEY), George Power (KØGCP). Interested parties: Jay Maher (NJØM), Br. Bob Walsh (WCØJ), Leon Dill (WØCOE).

Reports and topics discussed.

### Membership

Dale reported that the 2018-2019 member numbers are over 121 now.

### Finances

Treasurer Allan Klein (WØONLY) reported account balances by email: General Fund \$9,062, Repeater \$627, Education \$997, and the club made a net auction profit of \$1,395. The board discussed a donation for the facilities usage, and we are inclined to purchase four \$50 gift cards for the custodial staff, in appreciation for their additional work on behalf of the club.

### Secretary

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The minutes for last month's board and general meeting were unmodified. The board approved the board minutes and both are accepted as published in the Ground Wave.

### Club Storage

We are no longer looking for a trailer, as we have access to two trailers (Jonathan's and Dale's neighbor's) for Field Day and special events.

### Repeater

Dale reported that the UHF repeater has been awfully quiet—not much usage yet. The VHF repeater has our club net on Wednesday nights at 8:30 pm.

### Banquet

Jay has confirmed our banquet reservation at UST for April 27, and our speaker will be Ralph Fodor. The food choices will be similar to past years, and the costs are approximately the same. Details will be emailed to the membership as well as included in the next Ground Wave.

### Website

Jay has gotten our website up and running with current information on the main page. We have already exceeded 50% of our storage allotment on the website, so we will purchase an upgrade to our service so that we can upload updated pages and some pictures from Dawn Holmberg (WXØZ).

### Auction

The auction net profits are \$1,395. Several needed improvements on auction procedures and the computer programs have been identified, and George will work with Ted Kinnear (KDØNPJ) and interested others (hopefully starting later this month).

### Circuit Builders

We have two interested individuals, but we have no activity contemplated until we find a leader team and working space. The MN Amateur Radio Technical Society has space in Minnetonka (at \$5/meeting), and we are looking for community centers with craft rooms that might be available.

### Field Day

Br. Bob has requested the use of the school's playing fields (west side of Albert St.). Other suggested spaces include JØJOL's farm in Isanti and, possibly, Ft. Snelling. We have lost the use of two RVs as operating stations, so conditions may be a bit more primitive.

### VE Sessions

Leon suggested moving our VE sessions to the school or the Christian Brothers' residence. The topic was tabled pending gathering more information about what would be involved.

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### Midwinter Madness

Dale asked about the club's participation in the show on March 23 in Buffalo, MN. We will have a club table there, and we need several members to staff the table.

The meeting was closed at 7:22 PM

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### **SPRC — Member Meeting — March 1, 2019**

President Don (WA6ZMT) opened the business meeting at 7:42 PM. We had decent attendance (no count provided by Secretary) despite the snowstorm.

Officer/Committee Reports:

Vice-President Dale (NØPEY) reported that our 2018-2019 membership is over 121 as of tonight.

Treasurer Allan (WØNLY) reported by email – General Fund \$9062, Repeater \$627, Education \$997, and the club made a net auction profit of \$1395.

Secretary George (KØGCP) reported that the minutes for the February Board meeting and Member meetings were posted in the GroundWave, with an invitation to correct the same by emailing George. Since no corrections were received, both sets of minutes stand as posted.

President Don reminded us that the next regularly scheduled VE session occurs tomorrow (3/2/2019).

Old Business discussion:

2019 Field Day activities -- We are still looking for sites for the event. Brother Bob (WCØJ) is checking with the school about using the CDH fields just west of Albert Street. Other sites being investigated include JØJOL's farm in Isanti, and Ft. Snelling.

Banquet is set for April 27<sup>th</sup>, at UST. Speaker is Ralph Fodor. Details and reservations to come out in an email and also with the next Ground Wave.

The club auction net figure is \$1,395. The board is considering a small donation to the building staff, for their additional work on our meetings and the auction. The club will make its donation to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund.

The business meeting was closed at 7:54 PM

Program:

Show and Tell, as willing:

Ralph Bierbaum (NØAWN) brought version 3 of his Radio Preparedness Go-Kit. It consists of a metal cube-

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shaped case with three shelves, containing a HF rig (Icom 706 Mk II), a VHF/UHF rig (Kenwood, 710A), a clear-speech speaker, switching power supply, and the attendant accessories. Aside from a generator, the kit is complete in the one box. It brought forth much admiration from the crowd (or, at least, some of us).

Randy Gawtry (KØCBH) shared his experiences developing radio equipment for satellites for the military and NASA.

Don Kelly (WA6ZMT) talked about his military experiences doing radio intercept work for the intelligence world.

George Power (KØGCP) talked about a confusing long-distance radio conversation using short-range radios while working for the American Red Cross.

After the meeting, Scott presided over our usual raffle.

The meeting ended at 9:15 PM.

:gp

### **My Favorite QSO by Rich Theisen WDØK**

In 1948, at about 4 years old, I made a trip with my Dad to visit my Grandmother in the small town of St. Joseph, about 12 miles west of my home town of St. Cloud. Bored listening to the adults chatting, I went outside to explore my environment. On the return trip, my small hand was no match for the screen door of my grandma's porch with its heavy spring—it cut off the finger tip of my left hand. My youthful screams brought my Dad running. My bloody finger tip told the story. My finger and tip held on by the skin attached.

To stifle my crying on the way to the doctor in the town of St. Joe, Dad did mention the golden word “ice cream” which would be mine if I ceased the commotion. We arrived at Dr. Koller's home—a small residence covered with green ivy over the stucco walls. A nice man in his retirement years, he gave me something to calm the pain. Shortly he had the whole finger in a splint and I was enjoying the calming effect of all kids, Ice Cream!

Fast Forward to July 2, 2006. One Saturday, sitting in my radio shack, called CQ CQ CQ on 20 meters. Finally got a rise out of someone. I heard WDØK, WDØK, how copy? This is W7JG W7JG. Delighted I went back and gave him a 59, and QTH of Little Canada, in Minnesota. Name here is Rich Rich. Got my info from him. Was in Tacoma Washington. Then told him of the location of my QTH near to St. Paul Minnesota. He then said Oh, Yes—he was familiar with my area as he was from Central Minnesota. I asked about where? He said in Stearns County. I said heck, I was from Stearns County. I asked about where? He said St. Joseph. I came back with being born in St. Cloud, went to Tech High. Very familiar with St. Joe as my Mom was from just north of

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there. He said they lived in the bank building of town, went to Tech High and graduated in 1938. Got his ticket while in school, gave up studying for chasing DX. Hi!

Said joined the Navy during WW2, got his Chief crow on his Uniform, moved to Washington soon after VJ Day. Well about now I'm pretty excited as I had the privilege of telling Del that, when his Dad had the auction in St. Joe my Dad was at the auction and bought a sea chest with some Navy uniforms in it. Yes they were his! My brother and I played Navy wearing them.

I then told him about his Dad fixing my finger. Just about blew his mind with mine. We were going to keep in touch. You know how that works. Shortly after I heard of him going SK.

That concluded the best QSO I ever experienced in my 41 years as a ham. I regret his death, as I wanted it to continue.

You just never know when you transmit CQ CQ!

73 de Rich, WDØK



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

### SPRC Calendar

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. See Page 1.
Sat Apr 6	10AM VE testing. Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., St. Paul. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338. <b>NOTE LOCATION CHANGE</b>
Sat Apr 6	9AM – 1PM Brainerd Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Brainerd National Guard Armory, 1115 Wright St. Brainerd
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
Fri May 3	6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. *
Fri May 3	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School.
Sat May 4	10AM VE testing. Ramsey County Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338
Sat May 18	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.

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