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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 MAY 2014 — Volume 74, Issue 5

### Monthly Meeting

May 2, 2014

UST OWS LL54

7:00 pm Socializing

Membership Meeting 7:30 pm



PROGRAM

### ARRL at 100

#### A Century of Ham Radio

This video explains the American Radio Relay League's history and mission over the last century with pictures and interesting tidbits about the pioneers of radio.



Pictures above courtesy of Jeff Iverson (WB9DAN)

## SPRC Annual Banquet

Forty-five members and guests signed up for the banquet this year. While a few of those weren't able to make it, those who did enjoyed a great evening as usual. The St. Thomas Catering crew provided a wonderful meal and great service. Dale Maroushek (NØPEY) did another stellar job as Master of Ceremonies for the event, keeping us on track, entertained, and wondering how he'll surprise us

with the Member of the Year announcement next time (This year's announcement was in Morse code). Jeff Iverson (WB9DAN) was the recipient of the award and it was well deserved for the many contributions he has made to the Club. Jeff and his wife Jean also won a door prize each – but that was pure luck. Thanks to Skip Jackson and the

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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 Summit Ave. Turn right on Summit and take the first left into the UST South Campus. Turn left at the stop sign and turn left again into the surface parking

lot. In general, on-campus parking restrictions are not enforced 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 east of the parking lot and take the elevator or stairs to the lower level. LL54 is at

the south end of the hallway

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.

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ARRL for contributions to the door prize pool.



The program, "Twin Cities Broadcasting in the Analog Age," was a history of broadcast radio from its beginnings until digital media started taking

its toll. Jeff R. Lonto shared dozens of pictures and intriguing anecdotes. Did you know that the early University of Minnesota broadcast radio station transmitted play-by-play sports results in Morse Code? How about that station WDGY shared the initials of its owner, Dr. George Young? Jeff is a walking encyclopedia of Twin Cities broadcast history and you would be amazed at the twists, turns and firsts that happened right here. Whether you made the banquet or not, check out his books at [www.studioz7.com](http://www.studioz7.com) for some fascinating stuff. If you ever get on a quiz show, put Jeff on speed dial for the phone lifeline.



Banquet pictures this page courtesy of Dawn Holmberg (WXØZ)



Emcee Dale uses modern technology to play a Morse code announcement of the Member of the Year



Jeff points to one of his collection of broadcasting artifacts

## Presidential Ponderings

### THINGS PAST

John Crabtree (KCØG) showed us the evolution in receiver technology from the 1930s through the late 1990s. User needs and technology spinoffs from the war efforts drove the changes as reliability, stability and accuracy improved through the decades. Thank you, John, for an enlightening evening.

### THINGS PRESENT

Computers and radios (part 2): A couple of events continue the debate (such as it is) about computerizing our radio activities.

The Stillwater Area Radio Association just had an interesting presentation on Digital Voice transmissions on the HF bands. The free software enables clear voice communications on the HF bands, using minimal bandwidth. Quoting from the FreeDV.org website, "Speech is compressed down to 1600 bit/s then modulated onto a 1.25 kHz wide signal . . . Communications should be readable down to 2 dB S/N, and long-distance contacts are reported using 1-2 watts power." We're working to get them to present Digital Voice to us at a future meeting.

A large-scale drill, the Large Atlantic Tsunami Exercise (LANTEX), is a yearly tsunami drill that runs on the Ca-

nadian and US east coasts and the Caribbean basin to test the reliability of communication systems and protocols between centers of tsunami alerts and focal points of communications in the event that a tsunami alert is issued. Part of the take-away from this year's drill was the continued need for regular HF SSB voice (and CW and VHF/UHF FM), because "it works, where data failed".

Not quite back to the spark gap age, but the KISS principle still applies. In general, the less hardware involved, the more robust the operation.

By the time you get this, the Club Banquet should have been held (on April 26<sup>th</sup>, with Jeff Lonto as the

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speaker), and I hope that you enjoyed it. I regret that conflicts with personal commitments kept me away this year.

### THINGS FUTURE

Officer elections – positions open include: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. If you are interested in any of these positions, please let the current officers know so we can answer any questions you might have about the offices.

Some of the first Public Service events coming up include: the 2014 Ironman Bike Ride April 27, the Minneapolis Marathon on June 1, the ADA Tour de Cure on May 31. I'm looking forward to these (and more) because it's summer, and I'm tired of snow (written April 17<sup>th</sup>).

Several club members participated in recording an audio program for KFAI radio, titled "Ham Radio in Minnesota". This was part of the Minnesota Legacy project, and put together by Dixie Treichel. It is scheduled to air sometime this month (date is uncertain), but we will let you know. If you want to hear the opinions of your fellow members: Allan Klein (WØNLY), Ralph (NØAWN) and Janet (KDØBZZ) Bierbaum, Manny Block (WØPIG), Twila Greenheck (NØJPH), Henry Kinane (KC9IMC), Orcy Lyle (WØQT), Keith Miller (AGØH) and me, this is a snapshot of our views on amateur radio. We do have a copy of the program as an MP3 file, which is 29.5 minutes long.

The year is capped off in June with Field Day on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, and with setup on the 27<sup>th</sup>. I'll be working alongside Dale to provide some good eating from Friday night through Sunday noon.

George, KØGCP

### FACEBOOK USER?

Look for our group:

"St. Paul Radio Club"

## Dale's Details

For some fun and using modern technology to today's standards, I came up with a helpful event for the meeting. We will have a photo opportunity night, so we can add a photo to our address books, caller ID's, face book pages or any other social media we use. Participation is optional; don't play if you don't want too. Bring your cameras, phone cams, video cams, it's your choice. We'll have some cards to write your name and call on to hold in the photo. We can line up the group on the back wall, each person then moving down the line to photo the others and reforming to allow everyone to get all the pictures.

I have talked to a few others about my next idea and offer it for your consideration. Call it a Mini Hamfest Circuit. Based on the Magic repeater yard sale that Terry and George do in July, this would be the same plan as it moves around the metro. There are many of us Hoarders around town and it would be just too much work to load, haul and sell stuff. I can dig it out and show it at my house, and others can bring their stuff to add to the fun. Then we get others in other area of town and have one once a month or more. No selling fees or table rental, just bring it out and sell it.

Just like any garage sale, parking may be a problem, you might find food, but restroom privileges may not be available to everyone. Terry has July booked, I could do one in September, Jay may do one in south Mpls and we can find others to the north and west. Your feedback is requested.

The Banquet will be almost over when this hits the mail, but I'll be sure to have a cover sheet of the Ham of the Year award winner and

the program review.

Election of Officers is on the agenda, and we need to look at the big picture. New people should be brought in and get experience on what it takes to run the Club. It is very good to have continuing officers, but they get worn out and what to try other things. One or two new offices with new ideas could lead the Club in other new directions. George is doing a wonderful job as President, but he is leaning toward my job as Past President, doesn't like writing a column. I have been on the Board for 12 or 14 years now, and it's time for me to be relieved. So be brave, step up and join the leadership roles, and let take a break!

June brings Tailgate Swapfest and Sun Sale, then Field Day. I'll attach sheets on all these events with the mailing.

Dale, NØPEY

## Membership Meeting April 4, 2014

A meeting of the St. Paul Radio Club membership was called to order on April 4, 2014, at 7:30 PM by President George Power, KØGCP.

*Signed in on Members sheet: 31*

*Signed in on Guests sheet: 2*

**Introductions:** Everyone present introduced themselves.

**Secretary's Report:** (Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN, for Don Kelly, WA6ZMT) The minutes were approved as printed in the *Ground Wave* with the following clarification added by Terry Londrache, NØGOI:

The NØSBU/R 443.050 114.8 PL, Hugo was put on the air March 15, 2014, as a Motorola GR1225 repeater. On April 2, 2014 we upgraded the NØSBU/R 443.050/448.050 114.8 PL Hugo to the MSF5000 repeater with 60 watts going to the duplexers.

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NØGOI/R, 444.050: This Motorola MSF 5000 was put on the air 3/14/2014. It replaced the Motorola GR1225 which had been used for the 444.050/448.050 PI of 114.8. The MSF 5000 has a power output of 60 watts going to the antenna. (after the duplexers).

**Treasurer's Report:** (Allan Klein, WØNLY) All funds are solvent. Members may request details from Allan.

**Membersip report:** (Dale, NØPEY) 112 members.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Education** (Allan Klein, WØNLY) The General Class continues with one session left to go which is a practice exam on 4/10.

**Circuit Builders** (Orcy Lyle, WØQT) Orcy will be out of town the next three Saturdays. Contact Don Kelly if you wish to use the lab.

**Public Service/Emergency Communications** (Ralph Bierbaum, NØAWN) Now soliciting for help on three MS Bike Rides. The Bike MS on May 10; the MS-150 on June 6-8<sup>th</sup>; and the MS Tram on July 14-18. Volunteers are needed for all three. Contact Ralph for more information.

**VE Exams** (Leon Dill) VE exams are scheduled for tomorrow; seven people have pre-registered.

#### **Old Business:**

Several members attended the Midwinter Madness hamfest in Buffalo on March 29th.

Banquet is coming on April 26th. Speaker is Jeff Lonto on "Twin Cities Broadcasting in the Analog Age." Menu is the same as last year. Price is \$12.50. Details in *Ground Wave*.

#### **New Business:**

New local activity called "HF in the Park" is being held the second Saturdays April-October. Flyer was

included with April *Ground Wave*.

Officer elections at May meeting: 2 year terms for offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Fun Under the Sun/Twins and Tailgate Swapfest at Mining, June 7th

Field Day, June 28 – June 29, with setup on Friday night, June 27. HF phone, HF CW, VHF, and probably a GOTA station. We traditionally have supported the Mining Club on this event. It includes lots of fun and food, with a festive dinner on Saturday night for everyone (bring spouses, significant others, friends, etc.). Ed Jacobson is heading up the effort and needs committee chairs.

ARRL Convention announcement (July 18-19 in Hartford, CT) in QST.

Brainerd Hamfest is April 19; Arrowhead (Duluth-Superior) is May 3. Hamfest details are on [magicrepeater.net](http://magicrepeater.net).

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.

The program was John Crabtree on "HF Receivers from 1930-2000."

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeffrey A. Iverson, WB9DAN, Acting Secretary

## **Board Meeting April 11, 2014**

The minutes of the April 11 board meeting were mislaid in the transfer from the Secretary to the *Ground Wave* Editor. They will be included in the next *Ground Wave*.

## **Help for New Hams Dan Romanchik, KB6NU**

I recently ran across "Help for New Hams" by Doug DeMaw, W1FB. This book hits on just about all the topics that a new ham in the late 1980s would want to know about, and W1FB does a great job of walking the new ham through these topics.

Of course, being 25 years old, some of it, is out-of-date, and it doesn't cover some questions that a new ham today would ask. For example, there's nothing in this book about digital modes or using a computer in the shack.

So, I'm thinking of writing my own *Help for New Hams*. I've listed the chapters of the W1FB version below. If you have any comments about what I should include in my version, I'd love to hear from you.

- \* The Newly Licensed Amateur.
- \* Your New Equipment
- \* Constructing and Using Antennas
- \* Station Layout and Safety
- \* TVI and RFI—Strange Bedfellows
- \* Operating Problems and Fears
- \* On-the-Air Conduct and Procedures
- \* Station Accessories—What to Buy
- \* DX and Contest Operating
- \* Logs, QSL Cards, and Record Keeping
- \* Obtaining Accurate Information

I am especially interested in hearing from new hams about these topics. What about amateur radio confused you at first? What information would have helped you have more fun with amateur radio? What do you know now that you wish you had known when you got started?

If you're interested, contact Don Kelly, WA6ZMT, [dk@donkelly.biz](mailto:dk@donkelly.biz).



St. Paul Radio Club, Inc.  
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## ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Meeting locations at UST are subject to change due to changes on The University of St Thomas campus.

Fri May 2	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See Page 1.
Sat May 3	9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, <a href="mailto:WØCOE@arrl.net">WØCOE@arrl.net</a> or 651-688-9964
Sat May 3	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri May 9	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415)
Sat May 10	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat May 17	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat May 17	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat May 24	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat May 31	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Jun 7	7AM – 1PM TwinsLAN Tailgate Swapfest, 3M Center St. Paul
Sat Jun 7	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Jun 7	9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, <a href="mailto:WØCOE@arrl.net">WØCOE@arrl.net</a> or 651-688-9964
Sat Jun 14	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Tue Jun 17	7PM Field Day Planning Meeting. MARC trailer, Tartan Park
Sat Jun 21	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
June 28-29	2014 Field Day. Tartan Park
Sat Jun 28	6PM SPRC Field Day Picnic. Tartan Park

\*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.