



Saint Paul Radio Club, Inc.

[www.stpaulradioclub.org](http://www.stpaulradioclub.org)

# The Ground Wave

September 2008



## CQ CQ Club Members

de Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

Welcome to the 2008-2009 Radio Club season. I hope you enjoyed your summer activities and attended some radio related events. Your Board of Directors and Committees have been keeping the Club on course and will have some new programs and interesting projects to get your attention this year.

We had our Club Picnic at Tartan Park in June during Field Day. It was well attended and no one left hungry. We will decide if this is to continue or change.

The Field Day scores were good, the weather just right and there were few problems to solve. My feelings are that this was the best Field Day we have ever put on. The Get on the Air station, which is supposed to introduce Amateur Radio to newcomers and retreats, was on target. At 1300, there were eight new people at the door, and it kept up that way all weekend. **Ron, KØRJW**, was busy being an Elmer all day.

The phone station had an air conditioned RV, but never needed the AC. **NØAWN, Ralph's** tower and radios

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Saint Paul Radio Club Meeting**  
**Friday, September 5th, 2008, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Socializing 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**University of St. Thomas**  
**Murray-Herrick Campus Center, Room 155**



## The Last Voice of Kuwait

This video portrays the story of **Abdul-Jabbar Ma'rafi, 9K3DZ**, who operated amateur radio from Kuwait continuously during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990-1991. Ma'rafi did this at great danger to himself, under the nose of Iraqis stationed across the street. Ma'rafi sent Health and Welfare messages, news of atrocities that were being committed by Saddam Hussein and his forces, and military information to hams outside Kuwait who passed it on to the State Department and news media. Ma'rafi used AMTOR so that the Iraqis would not recognize that messages were being sent, since amateur radio was illegal under the Iraqi occupation. He used a portable radio which he hid outside at night. The world became aware of what was happening in Kuwait due to this courageous ham.

Presented by Skip Jackson, KSØJ

**Directions to Meeting:** Take the Cretin-Vandalia exit from I94 and take Cretin Avenue six blocks south to the St. Thomas campus. Murray-Herrick Campus Center, site of the meeting, is off of Cleveland Ave. South, which is two blocks east of Cretin. Enter the parking lot from Cleveland Avenue South, between Ashland and Portland Avenues. Go in the door at the west end of the parking lot and turn right after the second set of double doors, then around through an open area to **Room 155, on the 1st floor.**

Parking permits are not needed after 6 p.m. on Fridays in the red and yellow lots.

Maps are available at [www.stthomas.edu/campusmaps/stpaul.asp](http://www.stthomas.edu/campusmaps/stpaul.asp). The color version is easier to read but takes longer to download than the black and white version. MHC is #5 on the map; the most convenient parking is lot G..

did an excellent job. **Lou, ACØX**, had operators to cover the whole day.

VHF was up and down until Sunday morning when 6 Meters opened up and cranked out near a hundred contacts in a couple hours. Thanks **Dallas, NØLKD**, for making it work.

Good old CW with the big loop and small beam covered the bands nicely. With the aid of smart software with rig control, logging contacts was quick and easy. **John, K9NJ**, also had full operator coverage.

Our Digital station is still having some issues with reception amongst all that RF, but worth the effort. **Orcy, WØQT**, keeps on trying with other helpers.

We also had a logging network on WiFi between all the stations, thanks to **Kirk, NØQND**.

We ate breakfast, lunch and a fantastic dinner with salad, garlic bread, corn pudding and the choice of Spaghetti sauces from **Allan, WØNLY**, or **Jay, NJØM**, with meatballs by **Dale**. Thanks to my sister in law **Lisa** for the unbelievable desserts.

Comedian **George Carlin** died that weekend, and Saturday Night Live replayed the first show from 1975 with Carlin as Master of Ceremonies. It was still funny after all these years.

The big Dakota Division Convention and WØDXCC rolled into Rochester in August and those that attended had an educational and entertaining time. Many seminars covering Emergency Services, antennas and amplifiers for DX, contesting techniques and software aids, and DXpedition stories from the sources. Many honors bestowed on deserving people and new friends made form around the area. Add in a small Ham fest to round out the day. Be sure you make the next one; it was well worth the time and money.

Our own KØAGF repeater finally has its new controller board installed and is working well. Another antenna lift and other roof work are in progress this fall.

Coming up this year, we will elect a Board member in November, have a Holiday party in December and the Auction on January 16<sup>th</sup>. So mark the next first Fridays on your calendars except for the Auction—too much fun to miss.

## Washington Technology Middle School

The SPRC will partner with 7th and 8th graders at Washington Technology Magnet School for a second year, beginning in September. Hams from the club will again help the students build projects and operate their Club station, KDØCNH. But there will be some changes resulting from the experience gained from last year's pilot project.

**Denise Kapler, KDØCOT** is the lead teacher for the program. In August, she went to Newington to participate in the ARRL Teachers Institute and passed her General test while there. This year, she will do most of the teaching, and SPRC volunteers will play a more passive supportive role than they did last year. **Allan Klein, WØNLY**, reported that last year the hams tried to do the teaching, but it didn't work very well. "There are a lot of special techniques for teaching kids this age, and some of us hams just didn't know how to do it too well," said Klein. "Denise has been teaching this age group for years, and she knows how to do it right," he explained.

Washington was the first Minnesota school to be selected for the ARRL Education Technology Program. The School club will get some equipment to use, and books for its library. In addition, Kapler will have access to a variety of teaching tools through the ARRL. The SPRC's involvement with the school was a positive factor in the school being selected for the program. Washington was one of only nine schools in the country that received grants this summer.

### Vanity Call Fees Increase

Effective September 25th, the cost of a vanity call sign will increase from \$11.70 to \$12.30 for new applications as well as renewals.

## Friday Night Roundtable Net Fox Hunt and Picnic

You are cordially invited to the Friday Night Roundtable Discussion Net 2nd Chance Pot Luck Picnic and T-Hunt.

The T-Hunt will take place on Saturday September 20th at 1430 hours (that's 2:30 p.m. to you and me) and will be a walking hunt within the confines of the Como Park map you see at [www.fridaynightroundtable.net/events.html](http://www.fridaynightroundtable.net/events.html).

You will be looking for two hidden Foxes in public areas. Final meeting place after the hunt will be in picnic area "E" shown on the map. The Pot Luck Picnic will begin at 1600 hours (4:00 p.m.) in the area of the "X" on the map.

Fox Hunt Frequency 147.470 Mhz; Picnic Frequency 146.850 Mhz

For further information or to R.S.V.P. contact **Rich, KA6TMQ**, through email - [ka6tmq \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:ka6tmq@gmail.com) or you can try him on the WDØHWT repeater (146.850 Mhz).

### General License Class

The Stillwater ARA will hold a General Class license class from September 25th through November 20th at Courage St. Croix in Stillwater. Class meetings will be from 7:00 p.m. until approximately 8:30 p.m. The class will use the new ARRL General Class License Manual, 6th edition.

Additional information is available at [www.radioham.org](http://www.radioham.org).

Contact Greg Widen at 436-8811 (H) or via e-mail at [k0gw@arrl.net](mailto:k0gw@arrl.net).

## SPRC 2008 Picnic

By Jay Maher, NJØM

What a nice night for a picnic! We had clear skies and a comfortable evening for our combined Field Day / Annual Club Picnic on Saturday, June 28th. The Tartan Park site came complete with all the amenities and the added benefit of not having to deal with other picnic crowds.

Several members brought their spouses and children and there was much eating, talking, snacking, checking out Field Day stations, and eating. Did I mention we had more than enough food? **Dale Maroushek, NØPEY, Allan Klein, WØNLY, and Jay Maher, NJØM** conspired to bring the food together. We served the traditional Field Day Spaghetti and Meatball Supper as established by **Skip Jackson, KSØJ**. Dale and Allan pulled everything together on site with the help of **Fred McCormick, KBØNVC** and other family members while Jay found another use for a 40,000 BTU propane heater - toasting garlic bread. As a special treat we had Allan Klein's Famous Corn Pudding and a very tasty assortment of baked desserts made by Dale's sister-in-law **Lisa**. Thanks to everybody that made it out to join us.

## BOOK REVIEW

By John M Hunt, KGØJD

### Thunderstruck

By Erik Larson (New York: Three Rivers Press, 2006)

On February 23, 2007, the Morse Code requirement for becoming a licensed amateur radio operator in the United States was abolished. Some hams rejoiced, some cried. In the larger picture, though, wireless is here to stay. The origin of wireless communication is the subject of best-selling author Erik Larson's 2006 book, Thunderstruck.

Thunderstruck is the story of the work of Guglielmo Marconi that led to his most famous accomplishment, receiving the 3-dot (dididit) Morse Code signal for "S" sent to North America by wireless telegraphy from a station in England on December 12, 1901. Using a variety of primary sources from the 1890-1910 time period, Larson gives us a well-documented account of Marconi's life and his life's work of wireless communication. Thunderstruck succeeds as a Marconi biography, describing his childhood in Italy, his life as an inventor in England, and the countless professional, economic

and personal challenges he faced to gain acceptance for his new wireless technology and to make it profitable for himself and for investors.

But there's more. What makes Thunderstruck unusual and especially compelling reading is that the author has alternated the biographical chapters devoted to Marconi and wireless with chapters devoted to a seemingly unrelated tale of mystery, equally well documented, that was playing out in England at the same time Marconi was trying to gain acceptance for his accomplishments. It is a true account of a horrific crime committed in London. Only as the book concludes does it become clear how this crime was of key importance to the future of wireless communication. Larson's book, then, is a creative combination of the history of radio and a Sherlock Holmes thriller.

So what's in it for hams? Larson is not a ham, but in Thunderstruck he gives the reader enough description of the transmitters, receivers, and antennas of Marconi's time to raise many basic questions in the reader's mind as to how radio actually works in theory and in practice. Trying to answer these questions is certainly part of the mission of the amateur radio service. You don't have to be a licensed ham to enjoy this book, but it helps.

### *This Space Available*

*Contributions to the Ground Wave are  
always welcome*

Send your report, story, monthly column, ad or whatever to

dk@donkelly.biz

or

Fax: 651 842-1001

or

Don Kelly  
1547 University Ave W #350  
St Paul MN 55104



**"You never heard of a ham  
operator before?"**

# Field Day



GOTA Station



Lou Sica, ACØX  
Field Day SSB Chair

Photos courtesy of  
Ed Van Cleve, WØVC



Setting up the VHF antennas



Tuning the 40 Meter Rotatable Dipole

ay 2008



SSB Yagi ready to run the Qs



CW Tent and Yagi



Inside the SSB Station Running QSOs



CW Operation



Six and Two Meter Operation

## You are invited...

In the Ground Wave, near the end, we publish our list of SPRC Volunteers. These include the Club officers and Board members and list all of the people working in the twenty-one plus Committees that have developed over the years. As I stated during the election in May, I want to meet with these people to talk about what the Club can do to make things work better. Using those old corporate adages, "think outside the box," "get everyone on the same page," "follow up," "garbage-in garbage-out," etc., I have scheduled a meeting for this group and anyone else that is interested in joining the volunteers in any capacity. It will be on September 12<sup>th</sup> in Room MHC 155 at 1900 hours. We can get you in and out quickly if need be, but the main goal is to exchange ideas and adopt a course for the coming years.

I also stated that some new positions should be created, the Emergency Management and/or Volun-

teer Coordinator. The Club gets calls from organizations to provide active backup communications nets for their events, like the Capitol Classic Bike Race and Rowing Club this summer. We now have a new one for Sept 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 to 3, around Lake Phalen in St. Paul for the Hearing and Service Dogs Organization.

Another position might be a Contest Chair. Let's get the Club a presence on the contest circuit. The MN QSO Party is a start—we can build from there.

You get the idea? The Club is ready to assist you with leads, ideas, and funds. The energy is up to you. Andy Lokken jumped in and got the two-meter net back up; what can you do for Your Club?

We will be there waiting for you—bring your ideas. Can't make it? Send me your ideas; we just want as much input as possible.

Dale, N0PEY, President

## Repeater Upgrade By Jim Klassen, KB0UAZ

On August 7th, **Tom Sturm, NØBGO**, and **Jim Klassen, KB0UAZ**, installed the new repeater controller in the St Paul Radio Club repeater.

Along with the new controller we are now running on a new 40A supply with battery backup. There is still work to be done such as setting up the autopatch, configuring DTMF codes and adding "telemetry" sensors, however, we should be to the point where the repeater is working at least as well as it was before the upgrade.

This is the result of at least 4 half days of work spanning several months. Roughly put the first day was inspection and setup of the new controller hardware. Day two was programming the controller via computer. Day three was designing and building interface cables between the controller and existing hardware. Day four was building the power distribution system, installation, and testing. Also, I am sure Tom put time into this project that I don't know about obtaining the parts for the new power system, loading software, etc. Just in case, we did not make any permanent major changes (the old controller/power supply and wiring is still there) so the old configuration could be restored if necessary.

Initial tests show everything is working as expected so please give it a try.

## *St. Paul Radio Club Wearables*

When people want to order a total of 10 items, we will put in an order. If you are interested in ordering Wearables, plz let **Orcy, WØQT**, know.



**The St. Paul Radio Club, Inc.**, has served the amateurs of this area since 1931 except between 1941-45 when most of the members were in the military service. The first issue of *The Ground Wave* was published in November 1938, under editor Frank Vowles, W9BBL. The club call is KØAGF issued in 1956.

**Club Meetings** are held monthly (except June, July and August), generally on the First Friday at 7:30 p.m. Consult current Ground Wave or club website for meeting location. Social time 7-7:30 p.m. If you have any interest in radio communications, whether you are licensed or not, please accept this cordial invitation to join us as a member or come visit us at one of our meetings or events. All are welcome!

**Individual or family dues** are \$20.00 per year payable on September 1; new members joining in mid-year are prorated. Student dues are \$10.00 per year. Children 18 and under are free.

**The St. Paul Radio Club's "Friendly Net"**, an informal get acquainted net, meets at 8:00 p.m. every Wednesday on 28.310 MHz.

**Want Ads...** *The Ground Wave* solicits your want ads...free to club members, \$1.00 to others.

**Free Classes...** SPRC conducts free classes in Code and Theory between September and May for Technician and General licenses.

**The Mission** of *The Ground Wave* is to bring a good blend of local, national and world news affecting amateurs in addition to technical knowledge, club events and humor. The editor solicits your letters, knowledge and first-hand experiences and stories for future articles.

**The St. Paul Radio Club** is affiliated with the ARRL.



VHF NETS

145.17 MAGIC Repeater Net Saturday 7:00 p.m.  
 146.76 Saturday Swap Shop Saturday 9:30 a.m.  
 146.85 MARA Bulletin Board Sunday 7:00 p.m.  
 145.31 SPRC 2 meter Net Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

HF NETS

28.310 SPRC Friendly Net Wednesday 8:00 p.m.  
 3.860 Minnesota State Phone Net Noon and 5:30 p.m. daily  
 3.860 Minnesota ARES Net 6:00 p.m.  
 3.710 Minnesota Slow Speed CW Net 6:00 p.m. daily  
 3.605 MN State CW Traffic Net 6:30 p.m. and 9:50 p.m. daily  
 3.925 MN PICO Net 9-Noon Mon-Sat, 3-5 p.m. Mon-Fri

**ST PAUL RADIO CLUB REPEATER KØAGF 145.31 – 600** Open access no tone

**ST. PAUL RADIO CLUB VOLUNTEERS**

President	Dale Maroushek	NØPEY	651 777-5309	president
Vice President	James Klassen	KBØUAZ	651 451-8612	vp
Treasurer	Allan Klein	WØNLY	651 291-8815	treasurer
Secretary	Jeff Iverson	WB9DAN	763 560-4458	secretary
Past President	Orcena (Orcy) Lyle	WØQT	612 827-2707	past president
Board of Directors	Don Greenheck Skip Jackson	NØJPG KSØJ	651 483-1214 651 451-2313	n0jpg ks0j
Membership Chair	Steve Huntsman	AAØP	952 894-3341	membership
Membership Registrar	Skip Jackson	KSØJ	651 451-2313	registrar
Call Trustee	Tom Sturm	NØBGO	651 699-4270	trustee
Education Coordinator	Allan Klein	WØNLY	651 291-8815	education
VE Exams	David Buending	AD2B	952 486-0836	ve
Ground Wave Editor	Don Kelly	WA6ZMT	952 474-2766	editor
Club Historian	Joe Zwirn James Klassen	WØXL KBØUAZ	651 483-4784 651 451-8612	historian vp
Field Day	James Klassen	KBØUAZ	651 451-8612	fieldday
Parliamentarian	Tom Sturm	NØBGO	651 699-4270	parliamentarian
Annual Banquet/Picnic Coordinator	Jay Maher	NJØM	612 850-0810	banquetpicnic
January Auction	Coordinated by the board			auction
Refreshment Coordinator	Jay Maher	NJØM	612 850-0810	refreshments
Skywarn	Dallas Fogg	NØLKD	651 644-2361	skywarn
Door Prizes/Drawings	John Hunt, Chair Tom Bredemus	KGØJD KCØINP	651 647-1341 651 414-5535	doorprizes kc0inp
Member Technical Assistance	Brian McInerney	NØBM	651 738-5932	technical
Circuit Builders Chair	Jake Jacobson	NØEIZ	651 554-0441	circuitbuilders
Friendly Net	Marty Gammel	KAØNAN	651 646-5428	friendlynet
2 Meter Net	Andy Lokken	KØAJL	651 224-5553	2mnet
Repeater Committee	Joe Zwirn, Chair Tom Sturm Skip Jackson Keith Miller Joe Kreitzer Jeff Iverson	WØXL NØBGO KSØJ AGØH KCØJK WB9DAN	651 483-4784 651 699-4270 651 451-2313 651 777-0109 651 785-9402 763 560-4458	repeater trustee ks0j ag0h kc0jk wb9dan
University of St Thomas Liason	Tom Sturm	NØBGO	651 699-4270	ustliasion
Webmaster	Orcena (Orcy) Lyle	WØQT	612 827-2707	webmaster

To send email to these club volunteers, use the prefix listed followed by an at-sign and "stpaulradio.org" (note: The word "club" is not included)

**DAKOTA DIVISION ARRL OFFICERS**

Director	Jay Bellows	KØQB	651 222-7253	k0qb@arrl.org
Vice Director	Greg Widin	KØGW	651 436-8811	k0gw@arrl.org
Asst. Directors	Michael Siegelman Brian McInerney	KØBUD NØBM	612 542-8450 651 738-5932	n0oe1@aol.com briann0bm@aol.com
MN Section Manager	Richard (Skip) Jackson	KSØJ	651 451-2313	ks0j@arrl.org

## St. Paul Radio Club - Summary Calendar of Events

Fri Sep 5 7pm Socializing, 7:30pm St. Paul Radio Club Meeting, UST room MHC 155 (see page 1)  
Sat Sep 6 9am SPRC VE followed by EC Exams – Call David M. Buending AD2B, 952 486-0836, or ad2b at arrl.net for info  
Fri Sep 12 7pm St. Paul Radio Club Board/Committee Meeting, UST room MHC 155  
Sat Sep 20 9am St. Paul Radio Club Breakfast. Perkins Midway on University east of Snelling  
Sat Sep 20 11am SPRC Circuit Builders. University of St. Thomas OSS 415\*  
Sat Sep 20 2:30pm Fox hunt, 4:00 Pot Luck Picnic. Contact Rich at 651 222-0755 or ka6tmq at gmail.com  
Thu Sep 25 7pm Stillwater ARA General Class begins. Contact Greg at 651 436-8811 or k0gw at arrl.net  
Fri Oct 3 7pm Socializing, 7:30pm St. Paul Radio Club Meeting, UST room MHC 155  
Sat Oct 4 9am SPRC VE followed by EC Exams – Call David M. Buending AD2B, 952 486-0836, or ad2b at arrl.net for info  
Sat Oct 18 9am St. Paul Radio Club Breakfast. Perkins Midway on University east of Snelling  
Sat Oct 18 11am SPRC Circuit Builders. University of St. Thomas OSS 415\*  
Fri Nov 7 7pm Socializing, 7:30pm St. Paul Radio Club Meeting, UST room MHC 155  
Fri Jan 16 Annual Auction, UST room MHC 304

\* Check the SPRCCB Yahoo group or contact Jake at [circuitbuilders \(see page 7\)](#) to confirm CB schedule.

NOTE: The dates listed above for VE exams are the usual session dates for each VE team; occasionally sessions are canceled or changed. We urge our readers to call the contact number to confirm the test time, place and space.

The calendar is provided as a service to our readers; the St. Paul Radio Club is not responsible for errors or omissions.

To list your general interest amateur event in the calendar, contact the editor. Priority given to SPRC events, area events and national/international events in that order, space permitting.

**St. Paul Radio Club Meeting**  
**Friday September 5th — UST Room MHC 155 (see page 1)**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

