

 <p><a href="http://www.arrl.org">www.arrl.org</a></p>		<p><b>St. Paul Radio Club</b></p> <p><b>Ground Wave</b></p> <p><i>Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN, Editor</i>  <i>Dale Maroushek, NØPEY, Publisher</i></p>	<p><b>KØAGF</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.stpaulradioclub.org">www.stpaulradioclub.org</a></p> <p>Club Repeaters:  145.310 MHz, 442.450 MHz  114.8 kHz tone  PO Box 9375  North St. Paul, MN 55109</p>
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**SPRC Nets: Wednesdays 7:30 PM 28.310 MHz USB; 8:30 PM 145.310 MHz FM 114.8 tone**

## NEWS AND NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER 2022 – Volume 82, Issue 9

### NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY September 9, 2022

(NOTE: There will no meeting on September 2 because of the holiday)

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

7:00 PM Refreshments and Socializing

7:30 PM Business Meeting Followed by Program

### Entrance to CDH for our meeting

Meetings are held at Cretin-Durham Hall High School on Hamline and Randolph in St. Paul.

Park in the lot off Hamline near the athletic field.

Enter door 21 at the Ryan Stem Center addition. The meeting room is down the hallway on the right (the Commons). Door 21 will lock at 7:45 so if you arrive after that, please call me to let you in. 612-201-0818 Br. Bob

N.B. Soccer games the evening of our September and October meetings are scheduled to end around 6:30 PM. This will affect parking for our board members.

FYI: Hamline Ave S by the school is being resurfaced and redesigned but access will not be closed.

### Program

Our meetings are hybrid meetings. That means there will be an in-person meeting at Cretin-Durham Hall (CDH) and a meeting on Zoom for those unable to attend in person. Zoom details are at the end of the newsletter.

The program for 9/9 will be Ralph telling us how hams are helping the military handle communications when satellites die.

## **Isolation of a different kind by Scott NOAR**

Boy haven't we all hear that word enough in the last couple of years. This quick read is on hooking your computer up to that USB port on your radio and thing you should be thinking about. Most all our modern radios have the ability to be computer controlled. This along with the rig control software or the addition of other programs really unlocks the rigs potential. Even though it seems simple enough to plug the radio into the USB port of the computer there are things that should be investigated before doing so. I hope we all have bonded our radio gear together and tied this to a common ground as required. Turning our attention to the rig/computer hook-up you should check if this is a plug and play or if you might want to add a USB Isolation device between the radio and the computer. The issue is that some radios internal USB chips are very sensitive and tend to fail. This usually ends up with a return to the workbench and a big bill for the repair. USB isolation devices are really inexpensive insurance for what they prevent. You can find them on the on-line stores. Most radios have newsgroups of users for your particular radio. This is a great spot to find out if you should be concerned about this or other issues to your radio. There might also be specific recommendations from other users as to what they found works best. In my case I found that adding an isolation device caused no changes to the radio or settings whatsoever.

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

Welcome back to the new SPRC 2022-23 season. A couple of things you, as members, could do to make this year more enjoyable. How about chairing, co-chairing or being a member of one of our committees? Or present a program on something you do with radio? Participation is what keeps the Club going and growing.

Although I haven't seen the numbers yet, I for one am calling our Field Day event a great success. Just because the port a potty was in the wrong place, and it didn't rain certainly didn't kill the operation. I bet we had the most RV's and pop up shelters of all the local FD's. Scott's contribution of the best dipole and beam heights seemed to work very well. I suppose the fact that we found out we have been putting the Mosley Classic 33 together wrong since I don't know when, helped out too. Let's carry these forward. One glitch in the networking over night, but it was quickly fixed when Dan got up early. I enjoyed being able to get on the air a couple of times and logging in some contacts. No winged visitor for us but the airport did have some activity this year. Bro. Bob did a fantastic job handling the liquid refreshment job. The rest of the food was about normal...for a four star restaurant! Needless to say, great fun was had by all.

Ham fest on the three September Saturdays, one north, one east and one west. Pick one or make them all. Must be something out there that you absolutely positively can't live without!

Antenna season with cooler temps and without leaves is coming soon. Prepare for it now, get your plans and materials ready. If you need to borrow the Big Sling Shot, I have it packed in a case for easy transportation. Just let me know.

The next Auction will be in January, and since the club really hasn't received much to sell, plan on bringing in your overstock to sell. Of course it's still five months off, no hurry.

One more thing, everyone is welcome to attend and contribute to the Board Meeting which are held at 1800 just before the meeting. If you have a suggestion or question that you think the Club could use, come on down!

## **SPRC VE Report for the 2021-22 exam season**

Respectfully submitted by Leon, WØCOE

Our exam season consists of an exam the first Saturday of each month, September through June, plus an additional session in conjunction with the MAGIC Repeater Tailgater in July. Here are the results of last seasons exams:

Total Candidates	84	
Unique Candidates	78	
Average Candidates / Session	7	
Most Candidates at a Session	19	(April)
Fewest Candidates at a Session	2	(Sept.)
New Hams Licensed	48	
Technician Licenses	40	
General Licenses	25	
Amateur Extra Licenses	16	
Expired Hams Returning	2	
Pre-1987 Technicians	0	
Novice Upgrade to Tech	0	
Nothing Earned	3	
Total Licenses Earned	81	
Total Exams Given	108	

There were seven candidates who passed both their Technician and General exams, one who passed his General and Amateur Extra exam and two who passed all three exams. Of course, none of this could have happened without the selfless Volunteer Examiners who make these exam sessions so successful. We had 16 different VEs who helped with our exams, averaging 8 per exam session. Those who helped were:

Terry	NØGOI
Dick	WAØLIF
Ralph	NØAWN
Shep	NØNMZ
Scott	NØAR
Dale	NØPEY
Dave	WAØRKE
Greg	KCØRET
Don	KCØDWZ
Richard	KWØU
Jeff	KAØUPA
Ted	KDØNPJ
Brian	NØBM
Curt	ACØCT
Dave	NØTXW

A big THANK YOU to those who participated!

## **HELP WANTED**

This year will be my 13<sup>th</sup> year as the VE Liaison for the St. Paul Radio Club. Now that I've been retired for a few years, there are times when I would like to be out of town on the first Saturday of the month (our exam days). So I have decided that this will be my last year in this position. Therefore, your club is looking for a replacement.

Currently, our exam year runs September through June with a session on the first Saturday of each month, plus an additional session in conjunction with the MAGIC Repeater Tailgater. All sessions are being held at Galilee Lutheran Church in Roseville at 9:30 am.

No experience is necessary, as you will be provided with on-the-job training, for a whole year if you act now. I got this position with no previous experience, but merely a

willingness to help out the club. The person for this position needs to be 18 years of age or older; and never have had your amateur station or operator licenses suspended or revoked; and hold a valid Amateur Extra class license; and be an accredited ARRL Volunteer Examiner. To become a VE, you merely have to take an open book exam from the ARRL, and you don't even need to purchase a manual, as it's all online. You don't even need to be a member of the ARRL.

We currently have a large team of experienced VEs who help out with the monthly exams (see the article about last years exams elsewhere in the Ground Wave) so anyone volunteering for this position will have plenty of help. The time commitment for this position is about 2 hours per month plus the exam sessions themselves, which are typically another 2 hours. All paperwork / forms and instruction on their use will also be provided. This is a great opportunity for someone to help out the club with this important position. Please consider doing this. Contact Leon, WØCOE, with your willingness to help or with any questions by sending an email to w0coe@arrl.net.

Leon, WØCOE

## **Ramblings from the VP's Work Bench - Kevin Welna - W5LNA**

Summer has come and is almost gone. It's almost time for antenna work!!

I'm still in the process of moving to the new digs. Progress has been slow but steady. I took the summer off from Radio with the exception of occasionally practicing my morse code sending and receiving. I did attempt to make a contact while on vacation... Is it still considered vacation if you are retired?..... It was an utter failure, I requested that he slow down a bit, and then I was inundated with other hams and lost him in the fray. Oh well, if my receiving were better, I would not have lost him, so this is on me. I still meet with one gentleman every Sunday for an hour to practice with each other. I am retaking the Fundamental class offered by CW Ops starting in September I need the refresher and I need to improve my ICR (Instant Character Recognition).

Most of my gear back in place at the new house, but still no antennas up on the roof. My VHF antenna is propped up in the corner of the basement. I can hit the 146.850 repeater, but not the St. Paul repeater. I'm hoping that once it is up on the roof, I will be able to reach the St. Paul repeater as well. My final decision on HF antennas is to continue using the magnetic loop antennas from MFJ. But instead of a 30+ foot crank up mast in the back yard, I am going to try mounting them on my roof with 3' tripods and 10 feet of masting. But I am going to mount the loops antennas on rotors so I can hopefully null out noise should I encounter any.

The shack is coming together nicely. I have benches that are being set up for each of my hobbies. I will have a dedicated soldering station in the new shack! (Oh, the smell of hot solder!) I am using the Menard's Xtreme garage shelving for the bench

structures. It is decent quality and looks to be sturdy enough for anything I might think to build\do. I'll add pictures in later issues of the ground wave. It will truly be a man cave once completed. Now if I can just get it all done before the snow flies...

We have a face-to-face meeting coming up in the near future and it will be great to see everyone. I do hope you can make it! Speaking of clubs, there is a good possibility that MN ARTS will be having some kind of building project to be announced later this fall. Watch their website for more information. ( <https://www.mn-arts.org/> ) or better yet join and get on their email list.

Sorry I do not have more to report on or projects in the works at this time. Although an Arduino based keyer may be in the works. If it is, I am hoping it will be an end-to-end build including using an online cad program to design the circuit boards and then have the design sent off to get the boards made. Supposedly, it's not that difficult. We shall see.

That is for now. Maybe there will be more once the move is complete and the new shack is up and fully functional.

Till then: May your signals be strong and your antennas have extra gain....73

## **Field Day Results by Pete Guldán KDØSQJ**

Time to answer that question... "So How Did We Do?" As most of you know we don't get the official results until the December QST. When I fire up my calculator it tells me



our score will be lower than last year by a good amount. But as always, in the contest that is not a contest, there is more to the story. So if I channel my best Paul Harvey, here's the Rest of the Story. Our score is lower because we had fewer people doing the things that directly affect our score. We concentrated on things that made for an awesome Field Day that do not add to the score. The food was Yummy and a huge thanks to the new guy to head up that area. Thanks Kev. If we would like to have a higher

score we could emphasize things that affect score. We didn't have as many "customers" in the GOTA tent until a huge gust of wind toppled the tent over Sunday morning taking that station off the air. In October we are having a weekend class at CDH for the Tech license and this could increase GOTA participants. If any of you know inactive licensed hams or anyone who's not that might be interested in our hobby this could pique their interest. If they are under 18 we get bonus points. We could also use a few more



experienced operators on the main stations as well. If you have other ideas to make FD even better for your fellow club members please let me know. Before I finish I must apologize to some of you because after checking my notes I failed to emphasize to not park on the active taxiway. No it was not used by any aircraft while we were there, but that is not the point. I messed up and am sorry. A big THANK YOU to all of you who helped us big or small, it all helps. 73

## **May Board Meeting Minutes – by Art Thell, NØIWQ**

**St. Paul Radio Club  
Board Meeting Minutes  
05-06-2022**

Board members present, (Absent or virtual):

Lou Michaels (Pres.)-WD8NOV	Kevin Welna (V. Pres.)-W5LNA
Art Thell (Secy.)-NØIWQ	Allan Klein (Treas.)- WØNLY
Br. Bob Walsh-WCØJ	Ben Otto-KEØRFZ
Don Kelly-WA6ZMT	

Also present:

Jay Maher-NJØM	Jeff Iverson-WB9DAN	Dale Maroushek-NØPEY
Pete Guldán-KDØSQJ (Z)	John Crabtree-KCØG (Z)	

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**6:06** VP Kevin called the meeting to order.

Secy. Art moved to approve the April minutes. Second by Don. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Allan

Funds: General \$8,370      Education \$1,402      Repeater \$1,014

Allan personally paid \$200 for the ARRL Club Liability insurance and \$45 to FedEx for copying materials for the CDH Student Activity Fair. He will, as Treasurer, write a SPRC check to reimburse himself and email copies of the expenditures to the board.

The ARRL Club Insurance for equipment previously approved is: \$1.40 per \$100 replacement cost with a \$50 deductible. This covers inventory as well as the CDH station equipment. The Club will need to insert more detail (model & serial #'s) in our inventory listing. Provision is already available for that data and some is already in. Inventory sheet is revised to denote "Serial #" in place of misc.

Repeater Report: Dale

Humming right along

Membership report: Dale  
134 paid members.

**Old Business:**

Circuit Builders—Kevin, Ben  
Pixie kit builders—No progress  
Education/Outreach—Pete  
MEA-October 21-23. Tech weekend “Ham Cram”  
ARRL will rebate all but \$5 of the cost for age 18 & younger.

Certificate of Appreciation & SPRC mug:  
To Lou Michaels.

**Field Day—Pete**

Weekend of 6/24-26

The Field Day edition of the Ground Wave or whatever we are calling the pre FD email blast will be out in early June with some of the details.

Saturday June 18th will be the final site survey/walk through at Benson's and will be at noon after the SPRC club breakfast.

Tuesday June 21 will be the final planning meeting. It's at Davanni's 1905 Donegal Dr. Woodbury 6PM to eat and 7PM for meeting.

Friday, June 24 Setup will begin at Benson's around 3PM. Members of both clubs and all interested persons are encouraged to attend. 73 KDØSQJ

\*Chairs are filled, but operators are needed for VHF, Digital and SSB stations.

Members of both clubs are encouraged to attend.

POTA (National, state, regional POT) or other excuses to operate!

**New Business:**

Election of officers at General Meeting.

**6:47 Adjourn.**

Lou moved, Allan seconded. Approved.

**May Membership Meeting Minutes – by Art Thell, NØIWQ**

**St. Paul Radio Club**

**Member Meeting Minutes**

**05-06-2022 7:00 pm**

**7:30 Call to order** by V. Pres., Kevin



24 Members present plus Zoom.

### **Election of officers:**

Don brought nominations:			Votes
President:	Ralph Bierbaum	NØAWN	23
V. President:	Kevin Welna	W5LNA	24
Secretary:	Art Thell	NØIWQ	24
Treasurer:	George Power	KØGCP	23

Don called for floor nominations. None offered.

Ballots tallied—confirmed nominees to their positions.

### **New Business**

Request was made for an editor for the Ground Wave to replace Jeff Iverson who has stepped down. **A rousing Thank you to Jeff.**

Also **‘Thank you’** to the past officers: Allan Klein—WØNLY and Lou Michaels—WD8NOV.

SPRC needs someone to Chair the “Worked all Counties” efforts.

### **Field day**

Set-up June 24

Operating June 25-26

Need help for

Cooking

Set up

Operating chairs

Operators—slot hours—Noon Saturday to Noon Sunday!

Club Breakfast Third Saturday, May 21

Visit & report by

Bill Lippert ACØW, ARRL Division Director.

Thanked us for the donation to the ARRL Defense Fund.

Announced ARRL Webinar: Focus is on school STEM programs for grants.

Announced ARRL Dakota Division Convention in Fargo the last weekend of Sept.

**Adjourn: 8:20**

## Link to Magic Repeater Hamfest Photos

<http://www.magicrepeater.net/fest.htm>

## Editor's Notes – by Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN

Well, I am back as the Ground Wave Editor, for time being at least. Don't forget to submit articles to me at [jaiverson@juno.com](mailto:jaiverson@juno.com). Please put your name in the filename of your article. It gets confusing if I get multiple files named "September Ground Wave" or something similar – that may be unique to you but it is not to me.

If you are on Facebook, join our Facebook group. We have close to 150 members there.

## Officer Contact Information

President	Bierbaum, Ralph, N0AWN	<a href="mailto:rwbierbaum@comcast.net">rwbierbaum@comcast.net</a>	
Vice President	Welna, Kevin W5LNA	<a href="mailto:kwelna@gmail.com">kwelna@gmail.com</a>	651-354-5515
Past President	Michaels, Lou WD8NOV	<a href="mailto:louthephotoguy@gmail.com">louthephotoguy@gmail.com</a>	612-638-8159
Treasurer	Power, George K0GCP	<a href="mailto:georgecpower@gmail.com">georgecpower@gmail.com</a>	651-233-3215
Secretary	Thell, Art NØIWQ	<a href="mailto:thellaj@comcast.net">thellaj@comcast.net</a>	651-492-0254
Member At-Large	Otto, Ben KEØRFZ	<a href="mailto:ke0rfz@gmail.com">ke0rfz@gmail.com</a>	651-352-9590
Member At-Large	Walsh, Bob WCØJ	<a href="mailto:brw.fsc@gmail.com">brw.fsc@gmail.com</a>	612-201-0818

## SPRC Calendar

Sat Sept 3	9:30 AM VE testing. Galilee Lutheran Church. 145 N McCarrons Blvd, Roseville, MN 55113. Reservations required. No walk-ins until further notice. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338.
Fri Sept 9	6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. *
Fri Sept 9	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 Sept 17	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.
Sat Sept 17	8-Noon Lake Elmo Tailgate Hamfest. 8247 27 <sup>th</sup> St. N. Lake Elmo, MN 55042
Sat Sept 24	7AM-Noon Twin Cities FM Club Fall Swap Meet. West Medicine Lake Community Club, 1705 Forestview Lane N, Plymouth, MN 55441
Sat Oct 1	9:30 AM VE testing. Galilee Lutheran Church. 145 N McCarrons Blvd, Roseville, MN 55113. Reservations required. No walk-ins until further notice. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338.
Fri Oct 7	6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. *
Fri Oct 7	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School.
Sat Oct 17	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.

## Zoom Information

Simply click the link below (or copy and paste link into your browser if that doesn't work) or call in from any phone. If you're not familiar with Zoom and would like to arrange to practice, text Don at 651 276-4838 or email [dk@donkelly.biz](mailto:dk@donkelly.biz).

Saint Paul Radio Club is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: SPRC Monthly Meeting

Time: Sep 9, 2022 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Sep 9, 2022 06:00 PM

Oct 7, 2022 06:00 PM

Nov 4, 2022 06:00 PM

Dec 2, 2022 06:00 PM

Jan 6, 2023 06:00 PM

Feb 3, 2023 06:00 PM

Mar 3, 2023 06:00 PM

Mar 31, 2023 06:00 PM

May 5, 2023 06:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZMlf-uvpz8uGdAS6lYyFBq9uL1cXxTVtmJ-/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGvpjMoHd2RtBqDRpwEGoqga-3xmClbjad8r0nMOjl1QBKvI84TMYpnJO7E>

Click to Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87882794434?pwd=bGdueVVhNmZXVjQrRjFOL2tZMlhmZz09>

Meeting ID: 878 8279 4434

Passcode: 6512764838

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kuWkJhGiz>