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St. Paul Radio Club

KØAGF

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

NEWS AND NOTES FOR JANUARY 2014 — Volume 74, Issue 1

Monthly Meeting

January 3, 2014

UST OWS LL54

7:00 pm Socializing

Membership Meeting 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

Propagation

Larry Gaalaas, KBØR

Larry will explain in his PowerPoint presentation how propagation works and what forces cause propagation to vary from time-to-time.

Larry was licensed as a Novice in 1962, got on the air with a home-brew Viking Adventurer transmitter, and has been active on and off—enjoying ham activities when family and work permitted. He caught the QRP bug after attending Dayton in 1989, and has been active with the Minnesota QRP Society and Minnesota Amateur Radio Technical Society.

Larry received formal electronics training in the Air Force and, after graduating from the University of Minnesota, worked for 35 years as a system programmer at Unisys and five years at Smith Medical.



Joe Clysdale, SK

Joseph M. 'Joe' Clysdale (KDØJCC) died unexpectedly of a heart attack on December 4, 2013, at age 71.

Raised in St. Paul, he graduated from Cretin High School and the University of St. Thomas. He spent most of his adult life here, living just off the UST campus on Selby Avenue near Cleveland.

Joe earned his license in October, 2009 and upgraded to General in September, 2010.

From Joe's profile on the ARRL web page, he enjoyed "Talking With Friends, Ragchewing/Casual Operating, Mobile Or Portable Operating, Conventions, Hamfests, Flea Markets or Swap Meets, Club Meetings, Build-

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Presidential Ponderings

THINGS PAST

The Holiday Party meeting went well. There was an abundance of food and drink, and plenty of time for good conversations. Some nice raffle prizes rounded out the (self-) gifting for the holidays.

Jeff Iverson attended and reports that rehab is going well.

Pat Wintheiser (WØOPW) from Pillager, MN (near Brainerd) gave a presentation on antenna modeling. He used a software program that he developed (NEC2). He walked us through several antenna designs, showing how varying parameters affect the antenna's radiating pattern, and answered many questions from club members.

In the past few weeks, several club members have been interviewed by Dixie Treichel of KFAI radio. She is working on a radio show for the Minnesota Legacy Project, and one episode is about amateur radio. We are looking forward for the air time schedule for our "on the air" debut.

One sad notice: We lost Joe Clysdale on December 4th -- I will really miss his calming presence at meetings.

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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 Grand Ave. Turn right into the UST South Campus. Park in the ramp on your left or the surface lot ahead to the right. In general, on-campus parking re-

strictions 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 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.

OWS: Owens Science Hall

Contact Kim Schumann in Disability Services at 651-962-6315 or kjschu-

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ing Equipment/Kits/Accessories.”

He loved to tinker with “things”, fixing a lot of things (computers, plumbing, wiring, etc.) for a lot of people, and became friends with them that way. He became a friend of an ex-SPRC member, Norb Santowski (WØENB) who gave him most of his radio gear (after fixing it, of course), and steered Joe into the SPRC in 2009. As a member of the SPRC, Joe served as Chairman of the Monthly Raffle (from 2009 until now), and more recently, as Vice-President of the Club. He was always willing to help out at the Club auctions and Field Days. Joe was helping a neighbor shovel snow right before he went inside and had his heart attack.

Joe was an accomplished sailor, and he and his wife Salli had a sailboat on White Bear Lake. During some of his family vacations, he sailed on Lake Pepin and Lake Superior.

Joe is survived by his beloved wife of 44 years, Sarah, “Salli;” daughters Elizabeth (Gary Brans) Clysdale and Karen (David) Scheffing; grandchildren Evelyn, Hazel, and Charlotte. Also survived by three siblings and many loving nieces, nephews, relatives, friends and neighbors.

UST Tobacco-Free

St. Thomas will become tobacco-free beginning January 1 on the St. Paul and Minneapolis campuses.

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 will be prohibited on the campuses or at any university-sponsored events.

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THINGS PRESENT

With our club auction coming up January 25th, I’ll suggest again that you might like to go over your collection of radio equipment, and perhaps do a little judicious pruning of the collection. If you discover objects that you might wish to part with for a small profit, consider the club auction. We need both larger items for the live auctions portion, and small items (or collections of items) for the silent auction portion.

As my wife and I work through our “stuff” in preparation for our downsizing move (home to apartment), I am having the usual problems deciding “do I really need this . . . “thing”? Whether radio gear, computer gear, other gadgets or just plain clothes, etc., the process is the same. Have I used it in the past year, does it work (or fit), and how likely am I to use it again? AND, what would it cost me to replace it if I get rid of it now?

What to do with the stuff that we choose to discard? Of my radio and computer stuff, is it worth enough to even try to sell at the club Auction on January 25th? Give it away at the next SPRC club meeting? Give it to the Goodwill or even put it in a landfill? You may see a “grab box” offering at the Auction.

THINGS FUTURE

The club Auction, of course, on January 25th. Bring stuff to sell and you might even get enough cash from the sales to put a down payment on the next, newer radio you have been dreaming about, so you can fill the holes in your shack created by selling older gear. Bring money to buy--the auction is our good stewardship deed for the month--we recycle our gear.

Other events coming up include the Club Banquet in April, and Club elections in May. The year is capped off in June with Field Day.

I hope to see you at the auction.

George, KØGCP

Dale's Details

This should hit just in time to wish you all a Happy New Year! Put the Christmas gifts aside for a few minutes and enjoy the January Ground Wave.

Sadly, as was announced at the December meeting, we will miss Joe Clysdale, our Vice President who passed away after shoveling snow. The memorial visitation was crowded with his many friends and happy customers from his Handyman business. His wife, Salli, says Thank You to the Club for remembering.

I’ve touched base with all the volunteer helpers in preparation for the January 25th Auction, and we are looking good for a wonderful sale. Like any Club activity, the more help we can get, the smaller the jobs become. The Board is the main work force, but without the continued help from Dallas Fogg on computers, Bob Walsh as lead man for the venue, Lisa Mills fantastic confections, Deb Maroushek and Jean and Joel Iverson in the kitchen and, new this year, John Crabtree with the audio set up, we will make this a money maker for the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund.

Auctioneers seem to slip away this time of year; Tom, Mike and Brian are all unavailable that day. We will have me, Ralph and probably Rolf from cheese land, with new talent from Don and Allan. Don, as our interim Secretary, and Allan, our veteran Treasurer, should get some special Thanks for their hard work. Sellers are welcome to step up and work their own sale also. And let’s not forget President George, the Grand Master of the Auction.

The changes to the rules this year are simple. Small change in the bidding increments and we extended the 10% commission to the total sale

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price rather than stopping at \$10 maximum. It all goes to a great cause so be generous with your bids and bring tons to sell!

We have arranged for some Friday night set up time, probably after 1900, for large sellers. I don't have exact details right now, but, if you plan to bring more than a handful to sell, contact me in early January and I will explain the arrangements.

The flyer and rules are attached, as is the Club application. Last month's email breakout of who is, was or isn't a current member inspired many to renew lagging memberships. As stated, the email list will be shortened yearly, so if you have not been a member since 2009, its toss up time, in or out?

A couple Mining Club contests coming up in Jan/Feb that we love to play on, the CQ 160M cw/ssb. Operators that like to work in the dark are always welcome, and this is a blast of a contest be it good or bad band conditions. If the Q's aren't coming in hot, sit back and enjoy the food I bring out for the nights. Watch for future info from Ed, WBØVHF.

Looks like the end of the page, so Happy New Year again!
Dale, NØPEY

Membership Meeting December 6, 2013

Following our 7:00 social time and a brief UST Radio Club meeting, the December meeting of the St. Paul Radio Club was called to order by President George Power (KØGCP) at 7:41 PM. The members and guests introduced themselves (First name, call, QTH).

29 Members signed in
3 Guests signed in

Secretary's Report: The November minutes were approved as printed in the Ground Wave.

Treasurer's Report: Details are available from Treasurer Allan Klein

(WØNLY) at allankmn@cs.com.
Allan was not present.

Education: A General class will be held for eight Thursday nights beginning on January 30 at Highland Park Jr. High School. Allan is looking for instructors and students.

Circuit Builders: Don Kelly (WA6ZMT) announced that the circuit builders will be working on an antenna project. Members may contact Orcy to order materials.

Public Service/Emergency Communications: Ralph Bierbaum (NØAWN) is still looking for help for the MS150 ride on June 6 - 8.

VE Exams: VE exams will be on December 14th at the Roseville location.

Announcements: President George announced that Joe Clysdale died on Wednesday. Visitation will be Wednesday and Mass on Thursday. An obituary is available in the Pioneer Press.

Old Business:

Membership: Dale Maroushek (NØPEY) reported that we now have 92 paid members.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

After a break to enjoy more refreshments and buy raffle tickets, Pat Wintheiser presented a program Antenna Analysis, using his NEC2 Antenna Analyzer. Information is available at www.nec2go.com.

Board Meeting December 13, 2013

As there was no business requiring a physical meeting, no board meeting was held on December 13th. Emails were exchanged discussing potential upcoming programs, auction issues, potential candidates for the Vice President position, and the inventory of club property.

Book Review

Digital State: The Story of Minnesota's Computer Industry

Thomas J. Misa, University of Minnesota Press, 2013

Reviewed by Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN

Anyone who worked for one of the Minnesota computer firms such as Engineering Research Associates, Univac, Control Data, Cray Research, Honeywell, or IBM Rochester from after World War II into the 1980s will find Misa's book fascinating. Much of it is based on archives, manuscripts, and oral histories housed at the Charles Babbage Institute at the University of Minnesota, some of which were not declassified until well into the 1990s. He makes a point that the classification of government contracts allowed few people to realize just how large Minnesota's computer industry really was.

SPRC members will find the following quote interesting:

"Two young veterans of the Goldberg and Demon projects took charge of the engineering of Atlas (at ERA). John L. 'Jack' Hill and Frank Mullaney were fellow ham radio enthusiasts, as it turned out, who met before the war at the St. Paul Radio Club."

The author makes several comments throughout the book of how being a ham operator added to the credibility of being a technician or engineer in the computer field.

So whether you worked directly for a Minnesota computer company, or one of the dozens of suppliers, or are just interested in the topic you will find Misa's book a good read.

FACEBOOK USER?

Look for our group:

"St. Paul Radio Club"



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

Fri Jan 3	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See page 1.
Sat Jan 4	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Jan 4	9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arri.net or 651-688-9964
Fri Jan 10	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415)
Sat Jan 11	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Jan 18	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Jan 18	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Jan 25	8:30-1:00 SPRC Annual Auction. Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. 401 Concord St., St. Paul MN 55107
Sat Feb 1	9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arri.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Feb 1	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Feb 7	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54.
Sat Feb 8	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Feb 14	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415)
Sat Feb 15	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Feb 15	Cabin Fever Reliever Hamfest, St Cloud Armory, St. Cloud, MN
Sat Feb 22	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.