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St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

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KØAGF

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

NEWS AND NOTES FOR APRIL 2014 — Volume 74, Issue 4

Monthly Meeting

April 4, 2014

UST OWS LL54

7:00 pm Socializing

Membership Meeting 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

HF Receivers Uses and Technology 1930-2000

John Crabtree, KCØG

You can't work 'em if you can't hear 'em.

Hams have always been obsessed with receivers. We will hear how user needs, uses and technology drove the development of the superhet receiver from 1930 to 2000

John, a St Paul Radio Club member, grew up in the UK, with a life-long interest in radio and its technology, but has never held a "G" call. He has been licensed since he moved to Minnesota in 1997.

FCC TO REINSTATE MORSE CODE TEST

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved Report and Order 14-987af which reinstates the Morse Code test for General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees. Not only will new applicants be required to take the test, General Class licensees who have never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 13-wpm code test. Similarly, Amateur Extra class licensees that never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 21-wpm test. Those amateurs that fail to pass the test will face revocation of their operating privileges. Materials for administering the examinations will be distributed to Volunteer Examiner Coordinators by the end of April, so that they can begin the testing on May 1, 2014.

"It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test," admits Dotty Dasher, the FCC's director of examinations. "We now realize that being able to send and receive Morse Code is an essential skill for radio amateurs. As they say, it really does get through when other modes can't."

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Presidential Ponderings

THINGS PAST

Dan Anderson gave us a snapshot of current ARES activities in Minnesota. Like many forms of preparation in our lives, we prepare for events that we hope will never happen, but the skills we develop will help us anytime.

THINGS PRESENT

Computers and radios. I've been having an ongoing discussion (well, maybe a friendly argument) with a friend in another radio club. We disagree about the apparent takeover of radio by computers. Of course, our discussions occur over the consumption of beverages and food, so they can't be too loud or raucous, and we will probably never really change the other's opinion, but it is fun.

I'm in favor of the merger (integration, takeover, whatever) of computers and radio, and I am concerned that his electronic development slowed after the spark-gap radios went out of style. He concedes that computers do have some limited purposes, primarily with Logbook of the World, etc., but using computers to actually run a radio is heretical. I concede that his old-timer skills (he actually builds radios, etc.) may not

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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 kjschumann@stthomas.edu for any accessibility requests.

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"This isn't going to be one of those silly multiple-choice type tests," noted Dasher. "We're going to be sending five-character random code groups, just like we did in the old days. And, applicants will have to prove that they can send, too, using a poorly adjusted straight key."

Technician Class licensees will not be required to take a Morse Code test, nor will a test be required for new applicants. "We discussed it," said Dasher, "but decided that since most Techs can't even figure out how to program their HTs, requiring them to learn Morse Code seemed like cruel and unusual punishment."

When asked what other actions we might see from the FCC, Dasher hinted that, in the future, applicants taking the written exam may be required to draw circuit diagrams, such as Colpitts oscillators and diode ring mixers, once again. "We're beginning to think that if an applicant passes an amateur radio license exam it should mean that he or she actually knows something," she said.

For further information, contact James X. Shorts, Assistant Liaison to the Deputy Chief of Public Relations for the FCC at (202) 555-1212 or jim.shorts@fcc.gov. For more news and information about the FCC, please visit www.fcc.gov.

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Thanks for this April 1st column to Dan, KB6NU, the author of the "No-Nonsense" amateur radio study guides and a leading amateur radio blogger. You can find his study guides by going to his blog at www.kb6nu.com. You can contact Dan by e-mail at cwgeek@kb6nu.com, or, after you pass the test, by CW. Look for him at the bottom of just about any HF band.



Support the
League

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"need" a computer, but that using a computer to "drive" his computer really enhances his ability to communicate with more of the world out there.

The real discussion is which aspect of amateur radio is most interesting to each of us. His EE degree has led him to an interest in building and testing equipment, and the enjoyment of using homebuilt gear to do his casual DXing. And, he does work with gear which is more modern than a spark-gap – he even uses a computer to model circuits.

This multiplicity of choices is what drives amateur radio, both in the past and the present. Our club tries to support those choices in our presentations at the general meetings. A glance at our last year or so of meetings shows a range of offerings in many areas: MS-TRAM operations; MN ARES activities; 5 band DXCC operations; History of Receivers; Surface mount soldering techniques; Alternative Power; Buying and selling radio equipment; Antenna Modeling and Propagation.

If there are areas you would like to know more about, let me know.

THINGS FUTURE

Events coming up include the Club Banquet on April 26th, with Jeff Lonto as the speaker, and Club elections on May 2nd. Offices open for election 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.

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

One of the first Public Service events coming up is the 2014 Ironman Bike

Ride. I've worked it and it reminds me to get ready for the Summer season. The 48th annual Ironman bike ride is on Sunday April 27th. This year the ride will be along the St. Croix River valley on the Minnesota side. The base of operation will be at the Washington County Fair Grounds at 12300 N 40th St, Lake Elmo, MN 55042. For more information on the ride go to www.ironmanbikeride.org or contact Jason Lind, kb0i-
oa@aol.com, 612-532-3994.

George, KØGCP

Dale's Details

There is an old adage pertaining to antenna construction. It states that if antennas are installed when the temperature and other weather conditions are less than desirable, the antenna works better. Planning on that, for the past two winter onsets, I have failed to get my new OCF 160 wire in the air, replace the VHF stack on the kitchen roof, and repair the tower verticals. Therefore, I decree that these jobs must be done this spring before the heat becomes unbearable.

Why the motivation you ask? The latest issue of the National Contest Journal has the Glen Johnson (WØGJ) story about his relocation and antenna field construction adventure that took him and his friends only 52 weeks. My reclamation will be nowhere near his, but with good planning and some other helpers, it will be done.

The Banquet is next month, the 26th, if you haven't marked your calendars yet. You probably read about the speaker, Jeff Lonto, and he does sound interesting. The menu will be the same and has been fabulous every year we have had it. Location is in the new building with indoor, cheap parking underneath. Yes, the price

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had to go up, but what price hasn't. Actually, the cost has risen slowly over the years and the Club picked up the increase. This year the price took a rather large jump, so we had to go to \$12.50 per person. Note that the Club still pays a higher *percentage* than previous years. The usual raffle items will make many happy and attendees are the first to hear who the new Ham of the Year is!

Field Day and the Club Picnic on June 28-29 are only 3 months away. Teaming with Mining Club has been a dream over the years. It is the **Big** event of the summer. We need to blend the new members in with the old standbys. Learning opportunities abound in all aspects, and management positions are ready to be filled. Watch for a list of chair positions and other historic data next month.

A short blurb about June 7th activities happening at the Mining campus in Maplewood. Off Conway, you will have the Twinsland Tailgate Swapfest. Buy Sell Trade your Ham gear in the parking lot. Up by the main building, come and visit the Everything Under the Sun Sale. It is free to park and shop, we have plenty of food including Mini donuts, and it is the fund raiser for Mining ARC. By the way, you can join MARC for \$8 and participate with their activities too.

We might get this out before Midwinter Madness like we did last year, and we will run the membership promotion again. Call it the March Madness SPRC Membership Special. Fill out a new application, attach the \$20 dues payment for one or a family and hand it in at the Midwinter Madness table, send it in by mail or bring it to the April 4th meeting. You will be a SPRC member paid in full until August 31st 2015, and be able to attend TWO Banquets and Picnics, plus any other Club activities that occur during that time.

Best deal in town!

Dale, NØPEY

Membership Meeting March 7, 2014

Members and guests enjoyed snacks and visiting during the pre-meeting social time. No UST Radio Club representative spoke up, so the March meeting of the St. Paul Radio Club was called to order by President George Power (KØGCP) at 7:36 PM. 21 members and six guests introduced themselves.

Secretary's Report: The February 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, but says we're solvent.

Membership: Dale Maroushek (NØPEY) reported that we have 110 paid-up members.

Circuit Builders: Orcy Lyle (WØQT) announced that the lab will be open on March 8.

Public Service/Emergency Communications: Ralph Bierbaum (NØAWN) is recruiting heavily for the MS150, needing 100 hams with radios (4000 riders are expected). Register at www.ms-scream.org. There will be lots of other opportunities for service this summer.

VE Exams: Leon Dill (WØCOE) announced that VE exams were last Saturday with 9 testing—all passed. The next will be on April 5th at the Roseville location.

Old Business:

Auction: Based on the auction final results, we sent a \$500 check to ARRL for the Spectrum Defense Fund. We also made a donation to the church for the use of their space.

Banquet: Date is Saturday, 4/26. Speaker is Jeff Lonto. Menu is "Grotto" (beef tips and chicken, etc.). Price is \$12.50 per person.

New Business:

ARRL Convention: July 18-19 in Hartford Connecticut.

Eau Claire Auction: Tomorrow, 3/8.

Midwinter Madness Hamfest: Saturday, March 29. We will have a table and need volunteers to staff it.

HF In the Park: Dale told us about this gathering on the second Saturday of each month starting at noon at Long Lake Regional Park in New Brighton. Coordinated by Chuck Howard, KØ-ORK@arrl.net.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

After a break to enjoy more refreshments, Dan Anderson (KDØASX), MN ARES SEC presented a great program on MN ARES structure and activities. See www.minnesotaares.org or email Dan at kd0asx@arrl.net.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Kelly, WA6ZMT

Board Meeting March 7, 2014

A brief informal meeting of the St. Paul Radio Club Board of Directors was held after the monthly meeting. All agreed that there was no need for a meeting on March 14.

New Magic Repeater

The NØSBU/R 443.050 repeater is on the air thanks to Terry (NØGOI) who installed a Motorola 1225 repeater at the NØSBU location.

It has 60 watts going to the antenna which should give a good punch in the metro, but coverage may be limited as the antenna is at 20'.

FACEBOOK USER?

Look for our group:

"St. Paul Radio Club"

SPRC Banquet 2014

It's time to get your reservation in for the 2014 SPRC Banquet. Reservation forms are attached to this month's Ground Wave.

The Banquet will be Saturday, April 26th, in the Rogge-Leyden Room of the Anderson Student Center on the UST campus. Doors will open at 5:00 and dinner will be served at 6:00 PM. The club subsidizes part of the cost of this event so even though ticket prices have increased slightly (\$12.50 per person), this is still a great deal on a night out.

Don't pass up this fun night of good food and conversation, topped off with a presentation by Jeff R. Lonto. We'll also have some nice door prizes and the Ham of the Year Award.

Jeff is a local author and media/culture historian who will speak on Twin Cities Broadcasting in the Analog Age. Many of our members know him from his books which include "Chronicles from the Analog Age—Random Slices of Life, Culture and Media from the Old Millennium", and "Fiasco at 1280—The Rise and Hard Fall of a Twin Cities Radio Station." This promises to be a great program, so be sure to make it.

VEs are Appreciated Leon Dill, WØCOE

Fellow Examiners,

Here's an email I received from a new ham who passed his Technician and General exams at the last session. He was not only well prepared, but also very appreciative. Of course, the exams could not happen without all the selfless sharing of your time each month. A hearty THANK YOU to all of you for being volunteers. I know you're not in this for the glory. So, please take a moment, reach around, and pat yourselves on the back for me!

Dear Leon;

Just seven days ago, I was in your ARRL VE testing session at Roseville, seated at the threshold of an Amateur License. I would not hold the current call sign KDØZLI were it not for the opportunity provided by you and your fellow VEs. Your gift of time and dedication serves the hobby well. And with an encouraging, professional attitude, you have joined in welcoming yet another group of aspirants to achieve their long held goals. For that, you have my sincere thanks! Please share this message with all who serve as you did.

73's, Dennis N., KDØZLI

P.S. "Extra" is next....

General Class Finishing Strong

The Club's "Upgrade to General" class is nearing completion, with only two more sessions to go.

"The class has been well attended" said Allan Klein (WØNLY) "even on nights of horrible weather." Teachers so far have included Klein, John Faughn, Ralph Bierbaum, Jay Maher, Clarence Netwall and Jeff Iversen. The last two classes will be taught by Scott Holisky and Don Kelly.

One student, Paul Lender, has just been issued the call of ADØHQ. He attended the first few sessions, and decided to try the exam before finishing the course. He sat for the Tech exam, and passed it. Then, the same morning, he took the General exam, and passed that too. He then took the Extra, and passed that! All three in one day! "That was really remarkable" said Klein, "but I wish he would have waited until the end of the course so that we could claim more credit for his accomplishment. Clearly, he did it all on his own."

HF in the Park

The second Saturday in the months April through October starting at noon. Long Lake Regional Park, 1500 Old Hwy 8, New Brighton MN (Just north of the I35W/I694 junction).

Come on over and set up your radio gear, HF, VHF, Satellite, or whatever and enjoy the company of like-minded friends. Check out their ideas and set ups, and operating styles. This is not a contest just a place for hams and those interested in Amateur Radio to get together and share the hobby.

We will meet at the main pavilion. Follow the main entrance road west until you cross the rail road tracks then take the next right up to the parking area where we will be set up. There are bathrooms but there will be no power hook ups. There are many trees and open areas or for antenna placement, along with open areas available to set up a table to work from.

For more information contact Chuck H via the web: k0ork@ARRL.net.

Talk in 146.670 114.8pl.

This space is NOT intentionally left blank. It's available for your input to the Ground Wave—and you haven't submitted anything to fill it!

Ham Radio Starter Kit

Radio City is offering a Ham Radio Starter Kit for \$69.95.

The package includes a TDXone Q8 2m/440 HT, Technician Class manual and FCC Part 97 Rule Book.

The HT is 4.5 watts (nominal) VHF and 4 watts UHF, has 128 channel memories, dual band display, CTCSS/DCS, FM broadcast band receiver, LED flashlight, VOX, IP65 water resistant.

Radio City is at 2663 County Rd I, Mounds View MN 55112. 763 786-4475. www.radioinc.com.



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 Apr 4	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See page1.
Sat Apr 5	9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arri.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Apr 5	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Apr 11	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415)
Sat Apr 12	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Apr 12	Noon HF in the Park, Long Lake Regional Park, 1500 Old Hwy 8, New Brighton. Chuck H KØORK@arri.net
Sat Apr 19	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Apr 19	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Apr 19	9 AM – 1 PM Brainerd ARC Hamfest, National Guard Armory, Brainerd, MN
Sat Apr 26	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Apr 26	9AM – 5PM Northern Lights Radio Society Aurora 2014. First Lutheran Church, White Bear Lake
Sat Apr 26	6 PM SPRC Annual Banquet, Rogge-Leyden Rm, Anderson Student Center, UST campus, doors open at 5:00
Fri May 2	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54.
Sat May 3	9AM VE testing. Roseville City Hall. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arri.net 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*

*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.