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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 DECEMBER 2015 — Volume 75, Issue 12

Holiday Party December 4th

7:00 pm, UST OWS LL54

The holiday party will be a three-pronged event—potluck munching, a “gift” exchange and a brief program.

Come hungry and bring something yummy to share—the club will supply a meat and cheese tray, as well as coffee and soda.

Bring a sealed bag of radio-related stuff that you want to part with, and take one home from someone else in the bag-swap event. You may bring more than one bag to let others play along with the rest. See *Dale's Details* for details.

Learn how to organize a Special Event. Orcy (WØQT) will tell us how she has organized successful events so that others may take a shot at leading something. The Club is happy to provide guidance and money to anyone who is willing to put the effort into turning their idea into a successful event.

Presidential Ponderings

Arrgggg!!! Programs! The October survey gave us 15 suggestions (with only two overlaps), but that represents 15 out of the 29 members attending the meeting. Of the 15 suggestions, several have been done in the last two years. That leaves 14 members from the October meeting, plus all who did not attend the October meeting, with unspoken hopes for future programs of interest. How do we keep those silent members interested in the programs that we hope to present? If YOU want a program in an area that interests you (and probably other members), speak up and let the board know. So far, the silence has been deafening.

On the home front, one advantage (or disadvantage, depending on your view) of selling our house and moving to an apartment is that everything one has accumulated is now underfoot. No longer do I have a separate garage and a basement to hide my “stuff” (those items that were purchased on a whim, used a bit, and then positioned out of sight to collect dust). It is all underfoot now, and visible, which leads to bursts of “cleaning out” areas. You

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Dale's Details

Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

Field Day scores are published in the December QST, and we came in second under 2A MN this year. I understand that the Blue Lake Brothers (NØAT) used only nine CW ops to score their 9,038 points. So, no award certificate this year. With Tartan Park closing, SPRC and MARC will need a new FD site for 2016. If you know of a suitable site around town, let us know so we can check it out.

I covered the general activities for the December meeting last month, so I'll clarify the bag swap this month. If you want to participate in the swap, put your “radio related” items in a paper grocery bag (double for heavier stuff) or small box, fold over the top and seal it with tape (staples can tear skin). You may bring more than one bag, but you only take back one. After all the donors get their choice, the extras will be available to the members that did not bring or do not have stuff to bring. In our small room with limited table space, the bags will be stacked along the wall and picked up near the end of the meeting. After all the bags are picked up, you may buy/sell/trade/

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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, then park in the ramp on your left or the surface lot on the right. In general, on-campus parking restrictions are not en-

forced 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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get to benefit from this activity -- someone will take home a true treasure picked at the SPRC's December Christmas party. All I will say is that it is radio related.

Other stuff, presumably of more value, will work its way into the club's auction on January 30th, probably on the Silent Auction side of the room.

I would like to give public thanks to our Webmaster, Tom Bredemus, KCØINP, for deciphering our scribbles and cryptic notes, to keep the club's website current. The board is trying to keep the site as up to date as possible, so that members and potential members have timely information on the club's activities. Rather than having to send email blasts out to members when something changes, I hope that the members will check the website for up-to-date news.

Don't forget to bring your appetites (and exchange gifts) on December 4.

George, KØGCP

Chaska Tech Class Starts January 13

SMARTS (Southwest Metro Amateur Radio Transmitting Society) is offering a Technician license class at the Chaska Community Center on 10 Wednesday evenings starting January 13, 2016. Details are at www.smartsonline.org/getting-started/classes.



WANTED 5.25" Floppies

I am restoring an old dual-floppy computer (Zenith Z-100) and am looking for a few more 5.25" floppy disks. If you have any you are willing to pass on or sell for cheap, please let me know. I plan on being at the December meeting. Jeff, WB9DAN

wb9dan@gmail.com

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swap your new treasures with the other members. Take what you get home or dispose of it off campus; we don't want to leave a mess anywhere.

Leon Dill (WØCOE), our VE Coordinator, stopped by the Board meeting and did a short presentation of the VE team's activities last season. I'll include his sheets with the email GW; Don may work something into the GW proper. Leon observed that since moving to the Maplewood Library and starting at 1000 this year, there has been an increase in candidates coming in.

Thanksgiving is next Thursday, a week away. Our attendance will only be 12 this year, so we are cutting down the work and buying one of the dinner deals from Hy-Vee. I'll still make a second turkey for spare parts and mash our own potatoes, but the menu will be limited. We will also be doing an Easter Buffet next year too. No food preparation or clean up, just eat and have fun.

With MARC boxed up, I'm going to miss the winter contests, especially the 160M ones. Anyone have an alternate idea or location? I was thinking about doing one here, but I can't afford the divorce. How about 160M mobile or ice shack? Other Club involvement?

Y'all have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Use your time off to gather the gear you want to sell at the Auction on Jan. 30th. Still looking for other volunteers to lend a hand to the Auction Operation Team. See you next year.

Dale, NØPEY

FACEBOOK USER?

Look for our group:

"St. Paul Radio Club"

Ray Voss Reaches 100

As of the November SPRC VE session, Ray (KGØDK) has served at 100 sessions as a Volunteer Examiner. Thanks, Ray.

See the stats on our VE sessions for the 2014-15 SPRC "season" in the attachment included with this Ground Wave

If it were not for our VEs, we would not have any new hams. If you're interested in becoming a Volunteer Examiner, contact our VE Coordinator, Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651 688-9964.

Kudos for VE Examiners

Jim Asp (NØAIS) sent an email to say that his son, Anders, appreciated the help of our November VEs:

My 25yr old son and I went to be examined (he took the Technician and I took the Extra). Unfortunately, he failed his test by a few questions. It was a last minute thing for him and he wasn't really prepared. He plans to take it again next month. I have no doubt that he will pass next time.

Anyway, they gave him a lot of encouragement to not give up and offered some advice on study guides and sources for help if he wanted to follow up. Really a professional group!

Membership Meeting November 6, 2015

There was no business for the UST Radio Club.

George Power (KØGCP) called the SPRC Membership Meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Everyone was invited to introduce themselves by first name, call sign, city and interest areas. 41 members and no guests were present.

Secretary's Report: With both the September and October Ground Waves published and distributed, and having heard of no corrections,

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the General Meeting minutes for both meetings were accepted as published.

Treasurer's Report: Allan Klein (WØNLY) reported (in absentia) that current balances are \$4,672 in the General Fund, \$1,197 in the Repeater Fund, and \$922 in the Education Fund. Dale Maroushek (NØPEY) reported that an additional \$540 is available for deposit in the General Fund from new and renewing memberships.

Committee Reports:

Membership—Dale Maroushek reported that we have 97 members for the current year.

Circuit Builders—Orcy Lyle (WØQT) reported that there will be no CB session tomorrow due to a conflict with the MN-ARTS (Minnesota Amateur Radio Technical Society) Build-A-Thon..

Repeater—Joe Zwirn (WØXL) discussed the noise problem with the repeater—we are sometimes hearing interference from a local broadcasting station (we receive on the harmonic frequencies). He did some roof work, repairing several connections and ground connections, and the noise problem has ceased (at least for now). Further work (on the water leakage problem) is dependent on UST fixing the leaks in the roof.

Public Service/EmComm—Ralph Biernbaum (NØAWN) reported nothing new for now.

VE Exams—Leon Dill (WØCOE) reported six were tested on 10/3 and that more than seven are scheduled for tomorrow's session (11/7).

Upcoming Events:

For the December 4th meeting, we have the Holiday Party, a White Elephant Exchange, and Orcy talking about "How to plan and run a Special Event".

In January, we have our auction (1/30/2016).

Old Business:

Mining Club—Ed Jacobson (WBØVHF) summarized the situation with the Mining Club move. They have boxed up the equipment and are waiting for a response from 3M management regarding a place for storage and future operations. They are/will be looking for help with the actual move.

Field Day—Ed also gave us an overview on the joint clubs' efforts: 4th place in the Dakota Division, 2nd place in the 2A category, and approximately 6,500 points.

New Business:

Dale mentioned that Paul Thompson has a box of old Q-cards and certificates representing some of the club's history.

Dale presented a banner which he received from the ARRL, recognizing SPRC as a Special Services Club.

Survey results. George listed the Quick Survey results from the October meeting. 10/2/2015 Survey question: "What do you want to see covered in future programs, and who do you know who can present the program?"

The Art of Volunteer Examiners
Tracking down RFI and noise control/mitigation

Power supplies.

Antenna tuners - how they work and what they can/can't do.

Something about broadcasting.

How the MS-SCRAM people support various MS-Society events.

Go-Boxes (Go-Kits)

History of the SPRC.

ARES - what it is and how to get involved.

Grounding systems

Another series of 5 minutes "show & tell"

Working satellites.

The board will be working on getting presenters for some (if not all) of these topics.

The Business meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m., followed by a break.

Clarence Netwal (K9ELX) shared some of what he learned on his two visits to Bletchley Park, the center for British codebreakers in WW II. He highlighted the changes in the Park as it has been developed into a tourist destination, with some of the exhibits revised to appeal to an audience less versed in the Bletchley code breaking history. He walked us through the decoding process, starting with the wireless intercepts of German traffic, through the production of a final decoded message. He covered hardware, including the Turing Bombe, the various versions of the Enigma machine and the Lorenz computer.

Clarence also shared some of his links to the Enigma history with us to be printed in the Ground Wave with his permission.

The meeting closed with the raffle and ended at 9:05 p.m.

Board Meeting November 13, 2015

George called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. in room OSS 105

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Power (KØGCP) President
John Faughn (KDØCAC) Vice Pres.
Don Kelly (WA6ZMT) Secretary (by telephone)

Dale Maroushek (NØPEY) Past Pres.
Orcy Lyle (WØQT) Member at Large

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Allan Klein (WØNLY) Treasurer
Mike Thompson (AEØMT) Member at Large

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND OTHER INTERESTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jay Maher (NJØM)
Leon Dill (WØCOE), VE Coordinator

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Leon Dill discussed the state of the SPRC VE program—he will provide some written materials to be included in the Ground Wave.

The board discussed the policy of offering free first-year SPRC membership for first-time hams and suggested to Leon that all VE session attendees be given membership applications.

Christmas Meeting: Jay will order the deli platter for 50. George will bring an extra table. Dale will establish rules for a sealed-bag swap with voluntary swapping. There will be no raffle.

Auction: The church is confirmed. Friday evening 6-8; Saturday 8am-1pm. Don will review the Access program—the only anticipated change is the date. Dale will try to identify the member he has talked to that may have taught Access.

Programs: George will contact potential presenters on the possible programs list and see what dates

they're available. Jay will offer his VGA-output oscilloscope for Manny Block's program.

Mentors: George will call potential mentors. Currently, Brian refers people to mentors.

Education: Allan is contacted occasionally by people looking for clas-

ses. It was suggested he refer them to magicrepeater.com

Website: 2016 banquet date/program will be announced on website.

Ground Wave: Deadline 11/20.

Adjourned: 8:18 p.m.

Clarence's Useful Links

Enigma Reference

http://www.matematiksider.dk/enigma_eng.html

google "Bletchley Park", or any of the subjects

<http://perimeterinstitute.ca/videos/alan-turing-and-enigma-machine>

This is a video lecture, skip the first 15 minutes (its a promotion for the institute). This place also has some other interesting lectures.

Enigma Simulators

<http://www.lysator.liu.se/~koma/turingbombe/>

https://people.physik.hu-berlin.de/~palloks/js/enigma/index_en.html

<http://enigma.louisedade.co.uk/>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.franklinheath.enigmasim&hl=en>

Fri Dec 4	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting and Holiday Party. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See page 1.
Sat Dec 5	10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Dec 5	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Dec 11	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) **
Sat Dec 12	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Dec 19	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Dec 19	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Dec 26	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Jan 2	10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Jan 2	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Jan 8	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54.
Sat Jan 9	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Jan 15	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) **
Sat Jan 16	9AM SPRC breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Jan 16	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Jan 23	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Jan 30	8:30AM – 1:00PM SPRC Auction. Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 401 Concord St., St. Paul, MN 55107

*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.

** Depending on business to be considered, Board Meetings are sometimes held electronically. Check with an officer or board member to confirm that the meeting will be at UST.