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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 MARCH 2017 — Volume 77, Issue 3

Monthly Meeting

March 3, 2017

UST OWS LL54

7:00 pm Socializing

Membership Meeting 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

The DMR System

Trygve Svärd, KDØPNQ

The presentation will explain how to set up and use a Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) to reach the entire world with a \$100 investment. The DMR system allows 2 independent communications on each frequency and, with the many repeaters in the Twin Cities area, enables us to communicate locally as well as world wide. A lot of website information will be shared for individual education and to provide a better understanding of the many features of the DMR system – including local small wifi-type repeaters to connect DMR radios to the world.

Trygve Svärd is a Swedish born electronics engineer with years of world experience from 30 years with Honeywell. Now retired, Mr Svärd enjoys helping others with his knowledge and volunteers with the Hennepin County Sheriff's department where he has helped with their many radio systems. His interest in amateur radio started when he was a young school kid in Sweden. Now he is doing his best to make sure that the DMR network becomes the best ever in Minnesota.

Midwinter Madness March 25, 0800-1300

As in previous years, SPRC will have a table at the Midwinter Madness Hobby Electronics Show at the Buffalo, Minnesota, Civic Center. We chat with prospective members and folks from other clubs. We need members to help staff the table so no one is stuck there too long. Please plan on sitting at our table to rest a bit during your visit.



Support the
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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!

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 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

Dale's Details Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

It goes "Time flies when you're having fun!" It has been fun, but also a very large task to update my shack to accommodate the Fusion repeater. I'm almost done, but I keep finding more things to go though and file, donate, or dispose of. It is amazing how much hobby stuff a person can accumulate in 25 years. And that's just the Ham years --I've found stuff from my high school days in the 60s, too.

Long story short (when have I written anything short?), plan one was to put the repeater on the floor in the south corner, behind the operating table. Access was to crawl under the radio table (not too hard, but why?) Plan two was to put it on top of the bookcase on the north end until I did some measurements--not a chance there. Plan three was to bring it up into the second level of the table on the south end. Easy to work on, open to humans both front and back, easy access to power, antenna and Internet connection.

(Details, Continued on page 2)

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.

(Details, Continued from page 1)

Plan one and two were easy, move this and that and we are in. Sorry, no go. As with anything "Done right the first time," plan three involved moving everything in the shack west by only eight inches! For some shacks that's nothing, but my shack is an 11 by 13 foot room with lots of gear. So it was a "where to start" problem; I had to become a project manager and figure the starting steps to the end results-- with options if things didn't conform to the plan. Naturally, Murphy had to stop by--but didn't interfere much.

I don't recall the actual date that we had the crew over to install the antenna on the tower, but I think last spring is about right. I wasn't motivated to attack the shack update so I let it go while we enjoyed the summer and fall. Once I retired in November and completed a few Honey Do's to keep the XYL happy, I formulated my plan and started the project.

First attack was the west computer side. Some of it made it to the Auction, and more made it to the trash. Old floppy disks and papers are gone now. I added a new shelf system to ensure future accumulation of important papers, i.e. crap. Next I cleared the remaining crap from the computer desk and table, boxed it up for the move with half going away for good. The desk is an old metal model with the typewriter lift station where you kept your IBM Selectric hidden from view. It has a nice stock of printer papers in it now that used to be stored everywhere else where they couldn't be found. So this tub weighs in at about 250 pounds empty with enough crap in it to go 350 pounds. It has to move 8 inches to the right, west. I bring in the car jack, but wait, I created a problem when I moved it here by placing it on top of the plastic mats. The room is carpeted, so I placed the desk on boards rather than destroy the carpet with

the desk's round feet.

So now I have to jack up side A and pull/push/cut the plastic mat from under the desk, and repeat the process under side B. Then remove the whole mat which has become brittle and breaks up when removed. Next step is to get the desk up on sliders to move it 8 inches over which was not as hard as I thought it would be, but still a complicated move. One of the other goals was to lower the monitor's location, which was accomplished by lowering the desk feet by an inch and the superstructure that supports the monitor by 1.5 inches. Now I don't have to look UP when I view the monitor.

In the meantime, a table has been set up in the next bedroom and all the radio gear was walked over to there for a waiting period. Again, we are on the road to "Do it Right the First Time," so I installed new batteries in the four UPS backups and relocated the power supply hutch to the south end under the table. The printers had to go back to their old location because it just didn't work in the plan. When this is completed all the connections will be changed to Anderson Plugs to stay current [Ed. that's only a pun if you want it to be].

Next, once the table was clear, I lowered the second deck by 1.5 or more inches to again make everything at eye level, but the monitor is still a bit high. With the wonderful help of plastic tubular shelving systems, it is easy to adjust heights for the next shelving levels, just cut them to length. The table is now easily slid over to the new position on its original plastic sliders. The shelves are installed, and equipment laid in to adjust height and room for more stuff. Then I re-laid the plastic carpet covers so the chairs will roll around, this time on top of the weighted structures.

I wish I had taken before and after

pictures, but I will have completion pictures next month. Now that the shack is nearly done, I need to add some more antennas to the field. That means reshooting the OCF Dipole for 160M up over the trees again. Put up a vertical Butternut HF6V at 15 feet with radials to capture the low angle DX. Then rebuild the UHF/VHF roof top tower with all the beams and verticals that will fit on it. Someplace in here, I need to work on installing mobile rigs in my minivan and the RV.

It will be a busy spring and summer. So back to work on the main shack. See you at the meeting!

Dale, NØPEY

SARA Tech Classes

The Stillwater Amateur Radio Association will be hosting a Technician License Class again this spring.

Classes will be held from 6 - 8 pm, on the following dates:

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
April 6, 13, 20

VE Session on April 27

All class sessions will be at the Stillwater Public Library, Room 230
224 Third Street North
Stillwater, Minnesota 55082-4806
(Parking is free)

The student text is the Ham Radio License Manual 3rd Edition. Students may purchase them online or at Radio City in Mounds View.

The class is free. Students will need to purchase the manual for \$29.95 and the testing fee is \$15.00

There is a VE session scheduled on April 27th, which is one week after the last class session. The VE session will be held at Boutwells Landing in Stillwater.

For info, call Bob Jensen (WØGAF) 612 802-2269 or Dave Glas (WØOXB) 651 436-3334



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

- Fri Mar 3 7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See Page 1.
- Sat Mar 4 10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
- Sat Mar 4 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
- Fri Mar 10 7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) **
- Sat Mar 11 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
- Sat Mar 11 8AM – 2PM Eau Claire ARC 30th Annual Equipment Auction, Saving Grace Lutheran Church, 2124 East Ridge Center, Eau Claire, WI
- Sat Mar 18 9AM SPRC Breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
- Sat Mar 18 After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
- Sat Mar 25 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
- Sat Mar 25 8AM – 1PM 35th Annual Midwinter Madness Hobby Electronics Show, Buffalo Civic Center, Buffalo, MN
- Sat Apr 1 10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
- Fri Apr 7 7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54.
- Sat Apr 8 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
- Fri Apr 14 7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) **
- Sat Apr 15 9AM SPRC Breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
- Sat Apr 15 After Breakfast. Circuit Builders and Orcy Lyle Tax Clinic. OSS 415 UST Campus*
- Sat Apr 22 9AM – 5:30PM Northern Lights Radio Society Aurora 2017. First Lutheran Church, 4000 Linden St. White Bear Lake, MN 55110
- Sat Apr 22 9AM – 1PM Brainerd ARC Hamfest, Brainerd National Guard Armory, 1115 Wright St. Brainerd, MN
- Sat Apr 22 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
- Sat Apr 29 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
- Sat Apr 29 8AM-1PM Twin Cities FM Club Tailgate Hamfest, West Medicine Lake Community Club, 1705 Forestview Lane N., Plymouth, MN

*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.