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St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

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KØAGF

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NEWS AND NOTES FOR OCTOBER 2017 — Volume 77, Issue 10

Monthly Meeting

October 6, 2017

UST OWS LL54

7:00 pm Socializing

Membership Meeting 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

League Update and VHF Contesting

Matt Holden (KØBBC) will bring us up to date on what's happening at ARRL and share some knowledge on getting started in VHF contest roving.

Matt is currently the ARRL Dakota Division Vice Director and is a candidate for 2018 Director. He's also President of the Bloomington Amateur Radio Association, Director and DX Donation Manager for the Twin Cities DX Association, and a member of the Bloomington Communications Group, Minnesota Wireless Association and Northern Lights Radio Society.

Matt has been involved in a number of DXpeditions and contesting operations—take a peek at QRZ.com.

**General License Class
Starts Thursday
See Page Two**



Support the
League

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In September, in a remote presentation via Skype, Tim Duffy (K3LR) treated us to a program on contesting.



Photo by WX0Z

Photo courtesy of Dawn Holmberg, WX0Z

Presidential Ponderings

Dang! Time flies--another article needed. I can talk with someone, or with a group, about a lot of things that interest me for a long time, but coming up with something by myself without any feedback is a different matter.

I got a phone call from a Dick Kachelmeyer (formerly NØBLV)—he got my info from the SPRC website. Dick is no longer active in ham radio and is downsizing. He had about three grocery bags of books and some ham gear.

(Ponderings, Continued on page 2)

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

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.

(Ponderings, Continued from page 1)

His Icom IC-R71A receiver had a hum and suspected power supply issue when he last turned it on. Well, new or used, I like to open things up and take a look under the hood. Using magnifying lenses and extra light, I found some old repairs. It looked like the flash from magic smoke was not cleaned up from the repair (I like to clean up any repairs, including removing any flux, etc.). I removed the board involved and found a broken jumper that may have been missed when the repair was done. The repair was replacing two adjacent transistors. They were marked the same, but the service manual had two different part numbers; as it turns out, one of those was supposed to be an NPN and the other a PNP. Not the same.

These receivers also had the issue of volatile memory relying on a button battery. When the battery dies, the info is lost and radio will hardly do anything, necessitating a new battery and then reprogramming. A better option is an aftermarket board with non-volatile memory, but they cost about \$120, so we'll leave that to the new owner.

Another receiver, a Heathkit HR1680, powered up—I didn't test further. A Yeasu FC-901 tuner looked very good. Also a Yeasu YD844A desk mic also looked good.

Most of Dick's donations sold at the tail gate at Bob's (KØIKV) for \$211. I'll bring the remainder of the books to the next meeting for members to take home .

Well at least that stuff is not sitting in the back and passenger seats of my pickup. Whoopee. ;)

A slight drizzle before the tailgate at Bob's may have made for fewer sellers, but it was still a good event. George (NØSBU) donated a Yeasu FT-857 mount kit and a nice Alinco HT, so we had five items for the drawing at 11:00 a.m.

73 de John, KDØCAC

General License Class Starts Thursday

Want to increase your radio knowledge and bragging rights?

Come join this study class sponsored by the Maple Grove Radio Club—a service oriented club serving the Northwest suburbs.

When: 6:45 - 9:15 pm Thursdays starting October 5th. Class usually runs ten weeks.

Where: Maple Grove Fire Station #2, 13450 Maple Knoll Way—Corner of Elm Creek Blvd and Maple Knoll Way (Upper entrance).

Cost: \$10 registration fee due first night of class. You will also need to purchase the Gordon West text book for about \$25.

Details will be emailed to you after you register for the class.

To Register or get answers to your questions:

Email registration@mnyarc.org

Please include your name, address, and phone contact information as well as your email address.

The General Class License exam will be offered on the last night of class for an additional \$15 fee.

UST Tobacco-Free

UST's St. Paul and Minneapolis campuses are tobacco free.

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

Membership Meeting September 8, 2017

Tom Sturm (NØBGO) called the UST radio club to order at 7:30 p.m. He brought the good news that the new department head is interested in working the computer club and radio club as a joint effort, especially the Circuit Builders portion. Tom has secured the lab space for the Circuit Builders for this year. With no other business, he adjourned the UST club meeting.

Past-president George Power (KØGCP) called the SPRC to order while waiting for President John Faughn (KDØCAC). We did the self-introductions of 36 members and a guest, Lucinda Moody (AD8WF). Lucinda is the new Handi-Hams program manager, replacing the retired Pat Tice (WAØTDA). She is looking forward to working with the SPRC in developing the Handi-Hams program.

Business meeting reports:

Treasurer's report: Allan Klein WØNLY, reported the following: Education fund \$982, Repeater \$602, and the General fund \$6,933 (not including the influx of renewing memberships that Dale received tonight).

Good of the Club:

George said that we are still looking for a volunteer to assume the Vice-

(Membership Meeting, Continued on page 3)



Your email Bounced

Well, maybe yours didn't—but some of them do. If you haven't been receiving email every month from SPRC, make sure that we have your correct email address. Send it to: NOPEY at comcast.net

(Membership Meeting, Continued from page 2)

Presidency of the club.

Ed Jacobson (WBØVHF) reported that our Mining/SPRC field day total was 5,444 points, and that CW did very well while phone did not do quite so well. The goal is to have fun, of course. We enjoyed the spartan version of the park (formerly known as Tartan Park). If you have information on a suitable location for Field Day (a location where we can run 24 hours/day), please contact Ed at WBØVHF@ARRL.NET.

Allan Klein asked about possible club participation in a youth-oriented program called Creativity Festival, to be held at the U of M in January. His main concern is that it might be difficult to come up with radio-related topics for 8 - 10 year old children sufficient to hold their interest for a 55 minute session. There was a lack of interest in taking on this program, expressed by the membership.

Program:

We had Tim Duffy (K3LR), from DX Engineering, give us a presentation of getting started in contesting. The presentation was entirely by Skype. His main points included: Contesting is fun; it improves your skills; and it uses our amateur allocated radio spectrum (use it or lose it). A good source of information on upcoming DX contests is WA7NM's website, www.hornucopia.com/contestcal. After the formal presentation, Tim had a Q&A session.

Scott ran the raffle and George adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Board Meeting September 15, 2017

President John called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. in room OSS 111

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Faughn (KDØCAC) President
George Power (KØGCP) Past Pres.
Allan Klein (WØNLY) Treasurer
Don Kelly (WA6ZMT) Secretary
Orcy Lyle (WØQT) Member at Large

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND OTHER INTERESTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

Finance: Allan reported that the bank balances are substantially the same as reported at the membership meeting.

Recruiting New Members: Briefly discussed the Creativity Festival that had been discussed at the membership meeting. All concurred that the target audience is too young.

Perhaps there would be interest in an activity for older kids coordinated by the Science Museum of Minnesota.

Programs: Orcy will contact Matt Holden (KØBBC), the ARRL Dakota Division Vice Director to see if he is interested in presenting at the October meeting. For future programs, Orcy will contact Chuck Stroud; George will talk to Mike Ostland and maybe Peter Zidek.

Ground Wave: Deadline 9/22/2017.

UST/SPRC Partnership: Orcy will contact Prof. Jarvis, the UST Computer Science Club Faculty Advisor regarding creating interest in projects under the auspices of the UST Radio Club. Some interest has been expressed by Engineering Department faculty.

(There was discussion of where the UST Radio Club HF Transceiver is. Perhaps in Prof. Jarvis' office.)

Donation: John reported that Dick Kachelmeyer (formerly NØBLV) has donated a number of items to the

club. John will test the equipment with the possibility that we will sell it at the Lake Elmo tailgate.

Field Day 2018: Potential locations for Field Day were discussed. It's desirable to have a location where we can remain overnight. Wentworth Park was discussed (Jay Bellows is on the West St. Paul Planning Council and Allan knows someone on the City Council). Fairgrounds are a possibility. Don asked if anyone knew if the National Guard or other area in Arden Hills would be a possibility.

Adjourned: 8:36 p.m.

HAM? HAM radio? ham radio? Amateur Radio? amateur radio!

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the ARRL PR mailing list, we've been discussing the proper way to refer to amateur radio. What brought this up was an email from one list subscriber, Richard (WB6NAH) who was (rightfully) proud of the work that his club—the Skagit Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Club—was doing. He noted that they were even featured in the police department's emergency preparedness brochure. The brochure refers to "HAM radio" and "HAM radio operators."

Referring to amateur radio in this way just drives me crazy. "Ham radio" is just a nickname for amateur radio, and "HAM" is certainly not an acronym for anything. I congratulated Richard on getting his club included in the brochure, but noted, "...it's not HAM radio! It's either 'amateur radio' or 'ham radio' (ham is not an acronym). I hate to be nitpicky about this, but as a professional writer, this usage just drives me crazy." He replied, "I agree on Amateur Radio, that was the city's call."

That kicked off the discussion.

(HAM continued on page 4)

FACEBOOK USER?

Look for our group:

“St. Paul Radio Club”

(HAM, Continued from page 3)

One ham replied to me privately, "Thank you...I am continually trying to explain that it is not an acronym or abbreviation."

Another replied to the list:

"The most correct term is "amateur radio" or alternatively "ham radio," both written in normal case. If using "ham radio," it is a best practice to first write "amateur (ham) radio" in the first non-header/non-title occurrence.

"Some will write "Amateur Radio" in proper noun format (first letters in caps) and while this may be acceptable to many and in certain venues, anyone using a style handbook will say it is incorrect. Less correct is to write "Ham Radio" in proper noun format as this is a slang term, albeit a popular one. Of course either term may be written as proper nouns when part of a title or name of an organization.

"Least correct is to write "HAM" in all caps; as stated by others, ham is not an abbreviation or acronym. Writing it as "HAM" is completely wrong, will drive many people bonk-

ers, and should be avoided at all costs."

Ward, NØAX, offered this explanation:

"To clarify where the capitalization originated, there is a long-standing ARRL Board Directive, decades old, stipulating that the words "Amateur Radio" be capitalized in ARRL publications and documents. Most non-amateur publications return it to the lower-case style that is used for non-proper nouns."

One guy got a little miffed that we were wasting our time discussing this at all:

"You know, I've been reading this thread and I think people are getting too hung up on very minor details. The bottom line they got PR. So something wasn't spelled right or capitalized, so what. The message got out and IMHO that's the bottom line. Let's not waste any more bandwidth on this."

I agreed that it was great that they were included in the brochure, and that we were probably beating this topic to death, but I don't think these are minor details. I said that PR pro-

fessionals pride themselves on getting the details right. So should amateur radio PR people.

I'll give the final word to Dan, AI4GK. He wrote:

"I don't think that standardizing what we call ourselves qualifies as getting hung up on minor details. If we don't have a standardized way of referring to us, how can we expect a public, who already is confused, to understand who we are?"

I don't think that you can argue with this. Let's avoid confusion by using "amateur radio" when writing about our hobby/service. I'd even urge the ARRL to rethink their use of "Amateur Radio." Sometimes, it may be OK to use "ham radio," but it's just not correct to use "HAM radio" or just "HAM."

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. When he's not picking nits about the name of our hobby, he teaches ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

[Ed. Note: Odds are really good that the only SPRC member that really cares about this is the Ground Wave editor.]

Fri Oct 6	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See Page 1.
Sat Oct 7	10AM VE testing. Ramsey County Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Oct 7	No Circuit Builders today*
Sat Oct 7	Sellers 7AM, Buyers 8AM-NOON TCFM Club Tailgate Swapfest, West Medicine Lake Community Center, 1705 Forestview Lane, Plymouth MN. http://tcfmc.org/Calendar/2017/10/swap-fest/
Fri Oct 13	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) **
Sat Oct 14	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Oct 21	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Oct 21	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Oct 28	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Nov 3	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54.
Sat Nov 4	10AM VE testing. Ramsey County Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964
Sat Nov 4	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Fri Nov 10	7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) **
Sat Nov 11	9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Nov 18	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Midway Perkins on University Ave east of Snelling.
Sat Nov 18	After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus*
Sat Nov 25	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.

** 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.