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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
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NEWS AND NOTES FOR OCTOBER 2018 — Volume 78, Issue 10

Monthly Meeting

October 5, 2018

CDH John R Albert Center*

7:00 pm Socializing

Membership Meeting 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

Amateur Radio Satellites

Søren Straarup, AK4WQ/OZ2DAK

Søren will share his experiences working satellites. He listened to Mir and Sputnik 2 back in the days, but did not become active on satellites until recently—he has worked satellites since July 2016.

Søren says, “I do not have a shack at home, my shack is in my car where ever I go. So roving is a good way to have fun.”

His advice? “All it takes is getting started. There are multiple ways, but one common factor: Don't give up when it doesn't work at first...there are multiple factors to handle at once.”

Søren was first licensed in Denmark in 1992 at age 14 as OZ2DAK. After moving to the USA in 2012, he got his US license as AK4WQ.

Radio City Closing

[Excerpts from an open letter from Dan and Maline Fish dated September 11th.]

It's Time to Retire.

It's been a wonderful 36 years for us at Radio City and we have decided to retire and close Radio City. We are so thankful for the many years of support and we have enjoyed working you, our customers. The technical, intelligent and polite conversations plus advice have been invigorating, thus making this decision extremely difficult for us.

We appreciate all the teachers, Elmers, VE examiners, ham and astronomy clubs efforts in growing new ham radio operators and amateur astronomers into our special community.

We will also miss going to and supporting amateur radio and astronomy clubs all over MN and IA at their events. We will greatly miss all the friendships we have been privileged to maintain with many of our customers.

We plan to exit by this year's end or a bit sooner as we empty our shelves of new and used materials.

Please come on by on Saturday October 6th for our good bye party. We will of course have cake and coffee for everybody.

Presidential Ponderings

Don Kelly, WA6ZMT

In case you missed it, we elected officers at the September meeting so I'll serve as President until May, 2020. Details are in the minutes elsewhere in this *Ground Wave*.

The last several years, the *Ground Wave* editor (yeah, that's me) has pestered the President to include some Ponderings each month, so I'll do a bit of that.

Our new meeting place at Cretin-Derham Hall High School is great! We're lucky to have it. Be sure to thank Br. Bob Walsh (WCØJ) for making it happen.

The last vestige of SPRC at our previous meeting place, University of St. Thomas, was on the roof of OSS—the antennas for the repeater and the UST Radio Club HF station. These were removed by about ten SPRC members on Sunday, September 30th. Thanks for turning out so we could keep our commitment to UST to get these out of their way. And thanks to Tom Sturm (NØBGO) for making us welcome at UST for so many years.

One disappointing aspect of the antenna party was that we were mostly the “regulars.” We'll continue the dialogue about sharing the work at Friday's meeting.

73 de Don, WA6ZMT

Time to Renew

Each fall, we renew our membership in SPRC. Please complete a membership application and bring it to the meeting or mail it to the PO Box.

* The Commons meeting room in the John R Albert Center at Cretin-Derham Hall High School, 555 Hamline Ave. S., St. Paul MN 55116. From the intersection of Randolph Avenue and Hamline Avenue S., take Hamline southward for 3 blocks. The parking lot entrance is on the west side of Hamline Ave. opposite Watson St. The Albert Center building is about 400 feet west of the lot entrance—use the double-door entrance on the east side of the building.



Manny Block WØPIG, SK

Born in North Minneapolis in 1925, Manny died on August 3rd.

At age 10 Manny built his first crystal radio set, beginning a lifelong interest in radio. During World War II, he served on carriers USS Antietam and USS Bennington as an aircraft radioman. Upon discharge in 1946 he entered the University of Minnesota, graduating from the electrical engineering program in 1949. Through a 40-year career at Research Associates, Univac and Control Data he contributed to the development of main frame computers, computer systems onboard navy ships, and computer systems for the Apollo mission. Manny had a passion for aviation. In the 1960s he earned a pilot's license then moved on to instruction and volunteer work in the Minnesota Civil Air Patrol, flying search-and-rescue missions and teaching young cadets to fly. Upon retirement from the computer industry he returned to the University, earning a PhD in vocational education at age 82 with a thesis addressing best practices in aviation instruction.

[ed. note. I believe the picture is from when he joined SPRC.]



Support the League
www.arrl.org/join

Membership Meeting September 7, 2018

Meeting was held in our new location: John R Albert Center Commons Room, Cretin-Derham Hall High School in St. Paul, courtesy of Brother Robert (Bob) Walsh (WØJ).

President John Faughn (KDØCAC) called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. We did the round of self introductions and had 35 members, 1 visitor and 1 guest presenter present.

Officer/committee reports included:

President's report – we need to put together a work party to remove the club's antennas and cables from the UST science building. He is trying to work out a suitable date with the UST staff. He also introduced Brother Robert (Bob) Walsh and thanked him for arranging our new meeting space.

VE team – Leon Dill (WØCOE) said they had a successful testing session on September 1st.

Treasurer's report – Allan Klein (WØNLY), via George Power (KØGCP), reported the General Fund balance is \$7460, the Education Fund balance is \$997 and the Repeater Fund balance is \$627.

Membership – Dale Maroushek (NØPEY) said our 2018-2019 count was above 20, with many renewals being turned in at tonight's meeting. At the end of last year (May, 2018) we had a membership count of 150.

Field Day results – Peter Guldán (KDØSQJ) reported that we had fewer points than last year (band conditions were poor), but lots of attendees came out to visit (including a GOTA participant who has now received her General class license). This was again held at the former Tartan Park site under somewhat more primitive conditions. Peter expressed willingness to chair next year.

Old Business:

Election of club officers – since last Spring's attempts at getting new officers did not work out, John tried another election session tonight. New officers: President Don Kelly (WA6ZMT), Vice-President Dale Maroushek, Treasurer Allan Klein (continuing), Secretary George Power.

We are trying to resurrect our club's website – the hosting company was bought out and the contents did not transfer to the new hosting company smoothly. So the site is under construction with Don Kelly and Jay Maher (NJØM) working with Tom Bredemus.

Dale acknowledged Silent Keys Marty Gammel (KAØNAN), Manny Block (WØPIG), and Bill Beaman (KAØIYS).

Dale has taken over the 10-meter "friendly net" with the passing of Marty.

New Business:

Reminder that Bob's (KØIKV) Yard Sale is next Saturday (September 15) and that the St. Paul Radio Club is hosting it. If we can successfully sell the remaining club's inventory in the storage locker, we can close out the locker rental.

Dale was looking for volunteers to help with an antenna removal project on Sunday, September 16, starting around 9:30 AM. Contact him for details.

The business meeting was closed around 7:52 PM, and we took a short break for snacks and raffle ticket sales.

Our program tonight featured Matt Holden (KØBBC). He gave us an update on the activities at the ARRL headquarters, especially the changes coming to the ARES program within ARRL. He then gave us a live demonstration of remote operation of some of the larger rental stations available to us. He described some of the stations available to us, and the costs of using them (rental fees ranging from \$0.09 to \$0.99 per minute). When the apartment/condo dwellers amongst us have no effective antennas to use, these sites provide an alternative. Matt stayed after the presentation to answer questions.

The raffle concluded our meeting, which ended about 9:20 PM.

End Fed Half Wave Antennas Scott Holisky, NØAR

The dipole is the "go to" antenna for most of us. We cut our teeth adjusting them. Then we wondered how to get more bands from the

(End Fed Continued on page 3)

(End Fed, continued from page 2)

wire. It seems the new discovery of feeding a dipole from the end is all the rage. From one wire all the bands, too good to be true? Maybe, or it might be just what you need.

Like the Handbook shows, the ends of a dipole are the high impedance point. This means that you have to do some matching to make your radio see the 50 ohm antenna that it is designed to work into. Enter the magic box that converts that. What's inside? Nothing more than a low loss broadband transformer wound to a 49:1 ratio.

The advantage of feeding the end of the dipole is the different configurations it allows you to run the wire. You only need one support and the wire doesn't have to run in a straight line. No coax hanging in the air either, the antenna can be almost invisible. For portable operation this is a desirable antenna to have in your bag of tricks. For home use, having a wire tossed over that big old Oak tree that works multiple bands is big plus.

The lowest band you can work with a half wave antenna is the length that it is a half wave wire. So a 67 foot wire will work on 40, 20 and up. It will not work on 80 meters since it's half as long as it is needed to be.

I've used the EFHW antenna for years in one form or another. I can say it is a solid performer; after all it's our "go to" dipole.

Drop EFHW into Google and settle back for more information or start here <https://tinyurl.com/ya7d2juq> at my buddy TJ's blog site.

QST has several different manufactured units for sale. Facebook has a group dedicated to making and using EFHW's, YouTube sports several EFHW videos. There are multiple sites that offer how-to on winding your own for whatever power level you run. Winter is almost here and you need a project, here you go.

ARRL president suggests we Rebrand Amateur Radio Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This Week in Amateur Radio recently reported (<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/this-week-in-amateur-radio/e/51325707>) on a speech given by ARRL president, Rick Roderick, K5UR, at the 60th annual West Virginia State ARRL convention held August 25th at WVU Jackson's Mill Conference Center. Here are some things that he had to say:

"Are we even relevant anymore as ham radio operators? Well, let's see: We're world communicators. We provide public service. We help in emergencies and disasters. We help save lives. We talk to the jungles of Africa...to the beaches of the South Pacific. We bounce signals off the moon. We talk to astronauts. We promote technology. We do positive things. So absolutely—we are relevant.

"We've got to accept change and we've got to adapt if we're going to bridge that gap to that next generation. So the question that I have here that I have challenged my colleagues at ARRL with is this: is it time to rebrand ham radio? Maybe we need to rebrand the American Radio Relay League. That's a pretty profound statement."

Of course, I agree with K5UR on this and said so myself (<https://www.kb6nu.com/are-we-amateurs-or-what/>) several years ago. Unfortunately, according to the report, he retreated to the same old ideas that the ARRL has been spouting for years:

"Well I think we ought to get out there and stir things up. That's what I think we ought to do. I think you ought to go back

and rejuvenate your club. Over the next year, get somebody into ham radio. The second thing I want you to do....I want you to help a ham that needs your help. And the third thing I want you to do is—if you're not a member of the American Radio Relay League, you need to join today...because you know that whether you like us or not, we're all you've got; ain't nobody else in Washington DC helping us. I want you to ask yourself this question: don't you think it's time to give something back? Now I believe as a group, if we all did that we'll make a difference in this hobby as we go forward. Be a champion of ham radio. Let's work together and get it done. Thank you very much."

I'd like to challenge K5UR and the ARRL to really stir things up. There are lots of us out here giving back by teaching classes, conducting exam sessions, and helping hams get on the air. That's not the problem.

What we need from the ARRL is real leadership, not just talk. Exhorting the troops is only going to go so far. For most hams, amateur radio is only a hobby, and they do what they can. It's really up to the ARRL to provide the leadership that ties it all together and provide the framework that will allow us all to be successful.

Saying, "Whether you like us or not, we're all you've got; ain't nobody else in Washington DC helping us" doesn't really cut it. You have to show people that you're really making a difference, not just say you are.

When he's not giving the ARRL the benefit of his opinions, Dan blogs about amateur radio, writes exam study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides), and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him your thoughts about the ARRL at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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| Fri Oct 5 | 6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albert Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. * |
| Fri Oct 5 | 7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albert Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. See Page 1. |
| Sat Oct 6 | 10AM VE testing. Ramsey County Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338 |
| Sat Oct 6 | 10AM – 5 PM. Radio City Good-Bye Party. Radio City Store, 2663 County Road I, Mounds View, MN 55112 |
| Sat Oct 20 | 9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling. |
| Fri Nov 2 | 6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albert Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. * |
| Fri Nov 2 | 7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albert Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. |
| Sat Nov 3 | 10AM VE testing. Ramsey County Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338 |
| Sat Nov 17 | 9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling. |

*Circuit Builders is not currently scheduled as we need to arrange a new space. Check the SPRCCB Google Group for updated information.

** 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 CDH.