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St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN, Editor
Dale Maroushek, NØPEY, Publisher

KØAGF

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

NEWS AND NOTES FOR MAY 2019 — Volume 79, Issue 5

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY MAY 3, 2019.

6:00 PM Board Meeting (all are welcome to attend)

7:00 PM Fellowship and Refreshments

7:30 PM Short Business Meeting with Program following.

Program

Our May program will feature SPRC member Randy Gawtry, KØCBH, speaking on "Amateur Radio - 120 years Later: advances in Amateur Radio from the beginning to today and beyond."

Randy's credentials include more than 50 years of field and laboratory experience in data and voice communications, signal processing and instrumentation covering the frequency ranges of <1 Hz to laser light. This work encompasses physiological, subterranean, underwater, fresh and saltwater surface, terrestrial, fixed structure, aeronautical, and space environments. Clients include a multitude of industries, medical companies, commercial entities, government administrations and all branches of the U.S. military and many government operations which shall remain unnamed. His education includes a B. of Physics and three years of Electrical Engineering graduate work at the University of Minnesota as well as MBA from the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. Past employers include North American Rockwell Corporation, Cubic Corporation and Electronic Design Company. He has been president of Timewave Technology Inc. since its inception in 1984 and also has been an owner of HRD Software, LLC. since its inception in 2012. The latter two companies both design, manufacture and sell products to the amateur radio market worldwide. He is an author and co-author of several papers in the fields of instrumentation, communications and biology. He holds an Amateur Extra Class license and has been an amateur radio operator for 59 years.

All meetings are in the Commons meeting room in the John R Albers 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 Albers Center building is about 400 feet west of the lot entrance—use the double-door entrance on the east side of the building.

2019 SPRC Banquet – Jay Maher, NJØM

Another SPRC Banquet back at UST. According to our President, it was the 37th Annual Banquet but we'll have to wait for the fact checkers on that one. Huge salad and fruit tray, roasted veggies and delicious pork loin and chicken. Chocolate cake for dessert. The only quibble is that someone got carrot slivers on Leon's asparagus. We had 34 people registered and I think everyone went home pleasantly stuffed. You should be on

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the list next time.

Ralph Fedor, KØIR, filled us in on the history of Pitcairn Island. He'll be heading there in October for a DXpedition but made his presentation nearly radio free to the relief of our long-suffering spouses. The only "sunspot" mentioned was a Transit of Venus which played a role in the discovery of the island. Pitcairn Island is not an easy destination. Ralph will take multiple flights and a boat trip in October. To hear the story of those sailors in the 1700's turned back by Cape Horn and deciding to go back east around the world for a year at sea kind of boggles the mind. Think about that the next time you spend an hour waiting on the tarmac.

We had some nice prizes – many inspired by Ralph (NØAWN) Bierbaum's useful talk last month about Emergency Preparedness at a personal or family level. Dan Meyer, NØKFB, took home the canned ham – cherished artwork or maybe just a week's worth of sandwiches.

Our Member of the Year Award for 2018 went to Br. Robert Walsh, WCØJ, who made possible our new meeting space at Cretin Derham Hall after we lost our spot at UST last year. The CDH Commons Room has turned out to be perfect for meetings and worked well for the Auction (esp. since Br. Bob found some handy storage space in the Residence). The SPRC gets the use of the space rent free in exchange for work Br. Bob does for CDH. He tells me he was just in the right place at the right time, but he is a generous spirit. If that wasn't enough, Brother Bob makes the coffee that keeps you awake at each meeting. Congratulations Br. Bob, and thanks!

Dale's Details by Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

A short look back at April and we have to say it was one of the strangest months ever weather wise. We went to extremes on everything, rain, snow, hot, cold, wind, dry and just plain weird! The old saying "either in like a lion and out like a lamb or vice versa" seemed to go double. It came in and out like both a lion one day and a lamb the next! I don't think the meteorologists had it near correct fifty per cent of the month.

The club received an estate that was shown and some of it sold at the meeting. The remainder will be offered at the May meeting in the auction format. I will attach a list. Ham's in the park almost repeated the snow day from last year, but that didn't stop a few hardy souls from going out and having a radio day. It has my interest now and I have it on my May calendar.

The VE's were busy again with a couple new ones and some upgrades. The Sun Ray Library seems like a better place and Leon will be arranging more usage in the future. Watch for more information.

Then we had the annual Banquet, back at UST, just because they have the best deal for us. Full audio visual room, formal tables with the best food to top it off. Everything was delicious, I know, I tasted it all twice!

So what happened there? Remember that old saying "Ham radio spoken here". It sure was, at every table conversations continued through dinner with all kinds of radio talk. Then Ralph Fedor, KØIR, returned for another program this year. And since our banquet includes non-ham guests and wives, Ralph's program did not highlight radio, but was the best history lesson on how Pitcairn Island got to be what it is today. Marvelous story with many surprises and even a "you don't want to know" answer. Long story short, Ralph leaves in October for a two week DX-pedition and will be on the air on every band and mode possible. The Club is making a donation to the event, and if you want

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to add to the contribution, send or bring your offering to the meeting, than a final check will be sent to them.

The door prizes were plentiful with our Ralph N0AWN, adding some whistles and can openers that he touted at last month's program. Did you know there is a formal whistle code?

Finally the Ham of the Year Award was presented to our CDH benefactor Bob Walsh, WC0J. Many thanks for keeping the club under a roof somewhere, and getting our storage space secured. Years ago, Bob was also instrumental in getting the Auction moved to the Church on the west side. He is continuing to build his station at his residence, and I'm sure when he asks for help the members will be ready to assist. Thanks again Bob.

I have nothing new on FD, but we continue to look for a site. I'll pass on any pertinent developments as they arise.

Dale N0PEY

Bulbs and other offenders by Scott Holisky N0AR

I have been very cautious about bringing anything into the house that may create more HF interference. Everything that plugs in get the RFI test with my little portable shortwave radio. If the new device spitting out garbage on the bands it gets tamed by the use of ferrite cores or returned for a more compatible unit.

My garage door opener blew one of the "rough service" bulbs, so I thought a led bulb would be a good replacement. In fact I took out the other 60 watt bulb and put a led in there too. Nice white light, you could actually see in the garage! Backed out of the garage and the door wouldn't close. Finally got out with the remote and down it went. The xyl had the same issue, it opened fine but wouldn't close. Modern led bulbs are generally pretty quiet on HF. Sure if you get right up to them they spit out hash, after all their power supply is being switched on and off. You guessed it the led bulb was interfering with the opener and covering up the remote signal. Oh and these little openers work between 300 and 400 MHz. A different manufactures bulb solved the problem. Guess I'm going to have to expand the testing parameters.

There is a lot of good information on the internet on how to tame RFI. One of the best sites I've found is from Jim Brown K9YC. His article on A Ham's Guide to RFI, Ferrites, Baluns, and Audio Interfacing is a must read.

You can find it here: <https://tinyurl.com/22q2hx>

One of the big offenders are solar panel control systems. There are switching devices that improve the efficiency of the panels. Many of these are not filtered and radiate a huge amount of RFI that can be heard for blocks away on the average ham setup. The cure for eliminating the interference isn't that expensive or difficult to implement. The issue is it takes a few bucks away from the profits. Last year I was at a hotel on the Western shores of Costa Rica. A three hour trip over the mountains and through the jungle to an island. When we arrived the entire place was covered with solar panels. They were an experimental site for using solar power. It was an impressive installation and looked as sound as anything you'd expect to see here. Good solid connections and very neat.

Near the hotel my portable shortwave radio was absolutely saturated with RFI. The only place that it worked was at least a hundred yards away from the panels. Did I mention

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how good HF propagation is standing waist deep in saltwater?

Editor's Notes by Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN

I want to thank all those who expressed their thoughts and prayers leading up to the death of our son Blake. Special thanks to those who attended the funeral.

Concerning the anniversary of the banquet, I found a ticket stub in my club memorabilia for the 47th Annual Banquet on May 20, 1978. It was held at the Fox and Hounds Supper Club at 35E and Larpenter. Ralph Andrea was President. If 1978 was the 47th, that means they began in 1931, the year of the club's founding. Had they been held continuously, 2019 would have been the 88th anniversary (but I wonder if maybe a few years were missed).

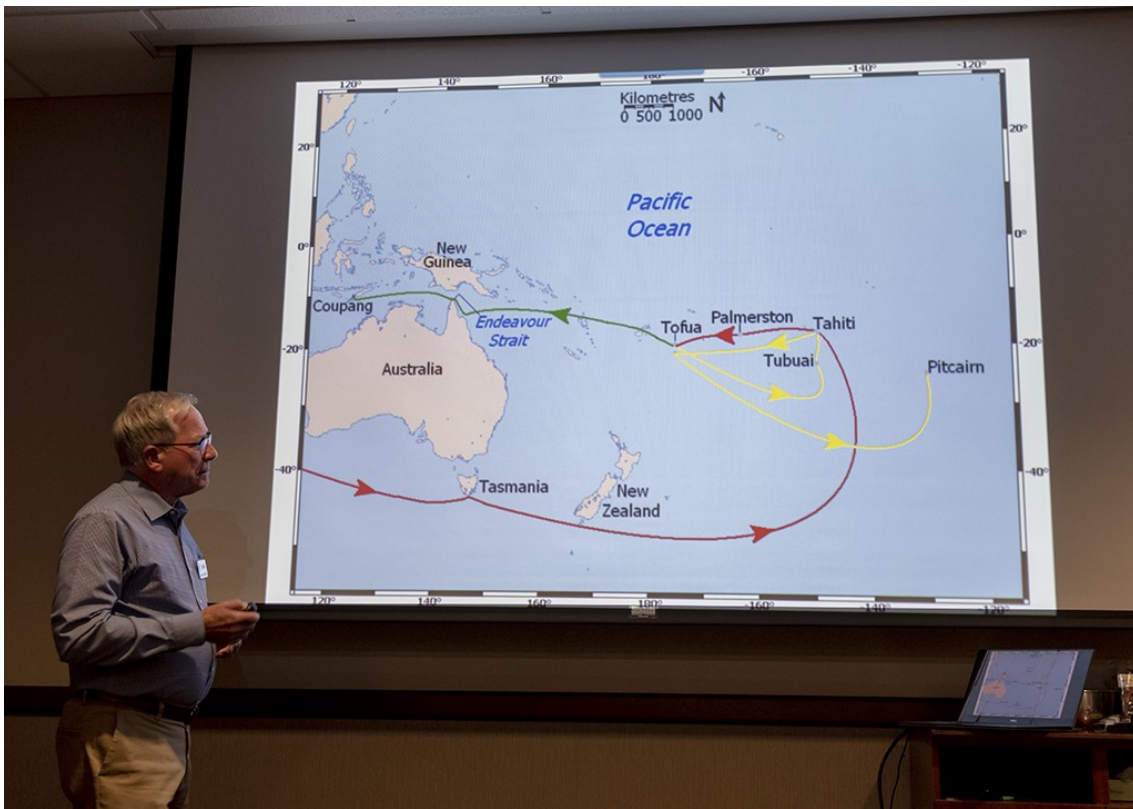
73, Jeff, WB9DAN (WB9DAN@GMAIL.COM)

The following are photos from the banquet, as many as will fit, courtesy of Dawn Holmberg:











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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

SPRC Calendar

Fri May 3	6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. *
Fri May 3	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. See Page 1.
Sat May 4	10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338
Sat May 18	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.
Sat Jun 1	8AM - ? Twin City FM Club SpringTailgate Swapfest. West Medicine Lake Community Club, 1705 Forest View Lane, Plymouth, MN
Sat Jun 1	10AM VE testing. Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., St. Paul. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338. NOTE LOCATION CHANGE
Sat Jun 15	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.
Jun 22-23	Field Day Weekend

* Depending on business to be considered, Board Meetings are sometimes held electronically. Check with a Board member beforehand to confirm a meeting.