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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 JANUARY 2020 — Volume 80, Issue 1

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY JANUARY 3, 2020

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 January program will be a test run of our new auction process. It is the hope that the new process will help things go better on auction day and eliminate the bottlenecks. If all goes well and the test ends early we may watch a video or two.

Building Blocks – Jay Maher NJØM

Welcome to winter in Minnesota! It has been a bit of a roller coaster ride – or if you were driving on the morning of Saturday the 28th – more like a bobsled track. The good news is that the days are getting longer and as a bonus we start a new decade any day now.

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.

Shall we have a moment of silence for Yahoo Groups? I hope you got anything you needed off that platform by the middle of December. I pulled down most of what I'd like to have saved. Not every group that I thought would migrate files and messages to groups.io did so. I did quite a bit of tedious manual transfer and then found a software program (PG Offline) that did it automatically. Unfortunately, by that time the mass exodus was happening and transfers became extremely slow. The Experimental Methods in Radio Frequency Design (EMRFD) group was one that decided to just end, even though they had set up a placeholder on groups.io. Roger Hayward, KA7EXM, did archive the messages and files and planned to make them available on his website (the messages are there now -<http://www.ka7exm.net/emrfd/messages.html>). The passing of the EMRFD group and a desire to devote his time to physics prompted Chuck Adams, K7QO, to close down the qrp-tech group on groups.io in mid-December. Fortunately, another user revived it under the name qrp-tech and it remains active. Chuck also took down most of the ham radio content from his personal website (he had a great lab notebook). This all underscores the value of keeping personal copies of information pertaining to your ongoing projects. Priorities change, platforms disappear, and the Internet Wayback Machine doesn't always save us.

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Looking for some good old paper copy inspiration for building? Nuts and Volts magazine has always been builder oriented but in the past few years has been become noticeably more radio related. Ward Silver, NØAX, wrote a series of articles 2016-2018 and many of the current authors seem to be hams (as is the magazine editor). The QRP folks have always been a wellspring of builder knowledge. You can join the QRP Amateur Radio Club International (www.qrparci.org) for 25.00 a year and get their quarterly magazine. The dues for the UK QRP club (www.gqrp.com) are 13.99 GBP through PayPal to get their quarterly sent to the US. That is under 19.00 with current exchange rates (yay Brexit!).

December Board Minutes

The board called itself to order around 6:18 PM in the CDH cafeteria. Board members present: Dale Maroushek (N0PEY), Vice-President; George Power (K0GCP), Secretary, Ben Otto (KE0RFZ), board member-at-large, Br. Bob Walsh (WC0J), board member-at-large. Interested parties present: Jay Maher (NJ0M), John Crabtree (KC0G). President Don Kelly (WA6ZMT) is on a planned absence.

Reports and topics discussed.

Auction

George is working on updating the auction forms, particularly the blue bid ticket so that it can be stapled to the silent auction sheets. We will have an auction “dry-run” as part of our January, 2020 meeting. Dale is updating the auction flyer and will send them out.

Membership

Dale has our 2019-2020 membership at 100+ as of the meeting start. On a personal member’s note, Art (N0IWQ) Thell’s wife has passed.

Programs

There is no specific program for the evening – just socializing.

We are looking for programs for January, February, March, April and May of 2020, and a speaker for the club banquet in April (or May). Program options for consideration: an evening of personal tales of radio history; a presentation by/about the Pavek Museum of Broadcasting; asking Ralph Bierbaum (N0AWN) for a presentation of Hennepin County’s EmComm vehicle (maybe in May); Roger Gawtry; Art Thell on the history of digital transmission hardware; and an update on the Pitcairn Island DX-pedition.

Meeting adjourned at 18:52.

:gp

December Membership Meeting Minutes

Note: Tonight’s meeting is the annual Christmas party, with socializing and eating as

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the “order of the evening.” It was held in the CDH dining hall.

Dining commenced around 7:00 PM.

Dale Maroushek (NØPEY), Vice-President, opened the business meeting at 7:40 PM. (President Don (WA6ZMT) is out of town.)

Quick reports: Finances are in good shape; Membership is 107; the January meeting will include an auction “dry-run,” VE session tomorrow (12/7).

There was no raffle tonight.

Meeting was closed at 7:47 PM.

Socializing and eating continued until 9:00 PM. There were about 38 people present for the party.

Our sincere thanks to all that attended and made the evening fun. The food was great.

Editor’s Notes by Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN

I got into a “discussion” with a fellow ham on Facebook the other day about a rig’s safe maximum power it can run on digital modes. I made the point that I considered a rig’s AM rating to be the conservative maximum, since AM is continuous duty, and most digital modes are close to continuous duty. Granted FT8 (the mode under discussion) is 15 seconds on/15 seconds off, but again I was proposing a conservative approach. That would be 25 watts for most desktop rigs or 1.25 watts on the FT-817 (the rig under discussion). He insisted that since 5 watts was QRP he could run the 817 on FT8 at the full power. We’ll see whose finals last longer. I looked up some more of the guy’s posts and saw that he was asking how to “freeband” the 817 so he could run 5 watts AM on 11 meters. It takes all kinds.

73, Jeff, WB9DAN (jaiverson@juno.com)

Club Volunteers			
Position	Name	Call	Phone
President	Don Kelly	WA6ZMT	651.276.4838
Vice President	Dale Maroushek	NØPEY	651.777.5309
Treasurer	Allan Klein	WØNLY	612.720.1324
Secretary	George Power	KØGCP	651.222.1031
Past President	John Faughn	KDØCAC	651.402.6482
Board of Director	Benjamin Otto	KEØRFZ	651.587.3138
Board of Director	Robert Walsh	WCØJ	612.201.0818
Ground Wave Editor	Jeff Iverson	WB9DAN	763.300.9547

The first seven people listed make up the Board of Directors.
 The board meets at 6 p.m. prior to the monthly meetings.
 The board also acts as the Annual Auction Committee.



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

SPRC Calendar

Fri Jan 3	6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. *
Fri Jan 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 Jan 4	10AM VE testing. Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., St. Paul. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338.
Sat Jan 18	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.
Sat Jan 25	8:30 – NOON SPRC Auction. Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School.
Sat Feb 1	10AM VE testing. Ramsey Cty Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338
Fri Feb 7	6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. *
Fri Feb 7	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School.
Sat Feb 15	9AM - ? St. Cloud Amateur Radio Club Cabin Fever Reliever Hamfest. Eagles Aerie, 730 41 st Ave N. St. Cloud, MN 56303 – Note location change!
Sat Feb 15	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.

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