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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 APRIL 2020 — Volume 80, Issue 4

NEXT (ON-LINE) MEETING: FRIDAY APRIL 3, 2020

- 6:00 PM Board Meeting (all are welcome to watch)
- 7:00 PM Fellowship and (your own) Refreshments
- 7:30 PM Short Business Meeting with Program Following

Program

Our April program will feature Matt Holden KAØBBC, Dakota Division Director of the American Radio Relay League. He will provide an ARRL update and a little entertainment. Matt is also Director, Association of Emergency Radio Organizations, President, Bloomington Amateur Radio Association, and Deputy Director, Bloomington AUXCOMM, but still managed to find time for a DXpedition to V4 St. Kitts and Nevis.

Dale will send a link and instructions on how to participate in the on-line meeting. Please follow carefully.

Banquet Postponed!

The Annual SPRC Banquet, originally scheduled for Saturday, April 25th has been postponed due to corona virus precautions. Updates will be forthcoming.

Stuff to Keep Busy — by Scott Holisky NØAR

If you haven't been on the HF bands lately, you are missing out on one of the biggest non-contest gatherings I have ever seen. We all have extra time and it is apparent that there are a lot of us spending it on the bands; both here and stations all across the world. The mode of choice seems to be FT8 with FT4 showing a huge increase in activity. There are some hold outs that still spend time calling CQ and fishing for a contact on CW or SSB. You can even hear activity on VHF that wasn't there a month ago.

You may think that band conditions are the pits. Well maybe so by the solar flux and sunspot numbers. If you look at the stations that have been spotted by the automated receive stations that report reception, the picture looks a whole lot less grim. Propagation modeling programs might show there is no chance of working the area you are interested in. The report from the monitor stations can show a whole different picture of what is open. Here's a couple of spotting sites on the internet that you should check out.

<http://www.reversebeacon.net/index.php>

The reverse beacon site is a must visit. You can check activity on individual bands,

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modes and locations of who is calling CQ at the moment. If you call "CQ" or "test" a monitor station that receives you will publish your call-sign along with a signal report and the frequency. Check it out. A nice feature is you can add filters so for example you only see North American stations on 20 meters in the CW mode.

<https://www.pskreporter.info/pskmap.html>

The pskreporter site has a menu that lets you customize the bands and call-sign of any station heard along with a timestamp of the activity. Try it out, put my call in and see if I've been heard and when. Menus allow you to build filters and find the activity you are interested in.

Don't forget the Club has two repeaters in operation. A lot of days and nights the usage is almost non-existent. It's free to give a call and let other know you're listening.

On a personal note, this month marks 50 years since I made my first novice contact with a station in Iowa. I'm still having a hard time wrapping my head around that, but what a ride!

March Board Minutes— by George Power WØGCP, Secretary

Vice-President Dale Maroushek (NOPEY) called the board to order around 6:18 PM. Board members present: George Power (KØGCP), Secretary; Allan Klein (WØONLY), Treasurer; John Faughn (KDØCAC), former President; Ben Otto (KEØRFZ), board member-at-large, Br. Bob Walsh (WCØJ), board member-at-large. Excused: Don Kelly (WA6ZMT) President. Interested parties present: John Crabtree (KCØG), Jay Maher (NJØM).

Reports and topics discussed.

President

Don is/will be away during the March, April and May meetings.

Vice-President

Dale reported that he has lined up programs for the March, April and May meetings. The June meeting will be coordinated with the Mining Club for Field Day preparations.

Secretary

George said the February meeting minutes were posted in the Ground Wave. He also has emailed the revised club applications for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 years to the board.

Treasurer

Allan reported that the funds are in good shape and the auction bills have been paid. He send our check to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund.

Membership

Dale has our 2019-2020 membership at 136 as of the meeting start.

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Banquet

The banquet is scheduled for April 25, depending on the speaker availability (we are still looking for a speaker). We will use Big Ten caterers (contact is Molly Skinner). Pricing to our members will remain at \$12.50 per person. Big Ten needs a \$300 deposit, with final payment due 2 weeks prior to the banquet. The board approved the expense so that Allan can write the checks.

Lake Elmo Swapfest, September 19th, 8247 27th St. N., Lake Elmo, MN 55042

John Crabtree has arranged with Matt Holden (ARRL) so the swapfest is a ARRL sanctioned event, which gets us a listing in QST and ARRL door prizes. As the supporting club, we will need to set up 2 – 3 tables, and provide the snacks (coffee, water, donuts, etc.). John is the chairperson and is looking for volunteers.

School radio station

Br. Bob asked for assistance in setting up a school radio station for CDH. He will need help in setting up a 8' tower after the school's roof is repaired in July. The club will have its own callsign (Bob will work with Leon Dill (WØCOE) on getting the school's club callsign. The school club will use our FT-1000 radio.

Club webpage

Dale will work with George on correcting some entries on our webpage (on the Magic Repeater site).

Club Equipment Inventory

Ben has volunteered to update our inventory of club-owned equipment. George, Allan and Bob will help Ben complete the inventory.

Member of the Year award

The board discussed several candidates and has selected our MotY. The award will be presented at the club banquet on April 25th.

We adjourned at 7:15 PM.

March Meeting Minutes— by George Power WØGCP, Secretary

Vice-President Dale (NOPEY) called the business meeting to order at 7:30 PM. He led a round of introductions.

Items carried forward from board meeting:

The treasury is in good shape. A check to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund for \$1700 has been mailed.

The programs for rest of year are set.

Our membership is a 136 for the 2019-2020 membership year.

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May is the month for electing new officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer).

If members are interested in “wearables”, i.e. club apparel (shirts, hats, jackets, etc.) with the club logo embroidered on it, contact hamthreads.com. They have our club logo in their files and give a 15% discount for all items ordered with the club logo.

We are looking for members to staff the club’s table at Midwinter Madness. Allan (WONLY) will be sending in a check to cover the table expenses. If several members attend, one can cover the table (handing out our brochures, etc.) while other scout the tables for bargains.

Jay (NJ0M) talked about the banquet. There will be two entrees (chicken and beef) available. The board is still trying to obtain a speaker.

Br. Bob (WC0J) talked about setting up a school radio station, and we will probably staff a table at the school’s student fair in the Fall.

The business meeting was concluded at 7:48 PM.

Our program was Randy Gawtry (K0CBH) from TimeWave Technology, in St. Paul. Randy spoke about the digital modes used in Amateur Radio. Where they came from, and his opinions on where we are going.

After the program, we had the usual raffle, and the socializing went on until Brother Bob had to close up the room at 9:15 PM.

Editor’s Notes — by Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN

Been staying home like we are supposed to. Pretty much what I have been doing for the last 14 years anyway, but the “should” followed by the “must” makes it different somehow. Got out for a picture-taking walk the other day, which was nice. I have two cameras with partially used film that I am trying to finish off so I can develop them. Besides those partially exposed rolls I have 12 new (old stock) rolls of film to use up. Two weeks ago I developed a roll of film I found in a drawer and estimate it was shot 15 years ago. It turned out fine. Had pictures of folks from a family reunion that we still haven’t figured out who they are. Old film, properly stored (refrigerated), will last several years.

My photographic avocation goes back 55 years or so, about 5 years more than ham radio. I have shot color and black and white film, but so far have only developed monochrome. I am thinking of giving color film developing a try if I can pull everything together. Turns out it is not more complicated than monochrome, workflow wise. The only difference is the need to maintain the chemicals at 102 degrees, but there are devices that make that easier.

I have a digital SLR camera, and I like it, but it is an entry-level model and does not equal the quality of a 35mm negative. It has to do with sensor size and technical issues I won’t go into. Besides, I guess the chemist in me enjoys the developing process. As I have mentioned before, I don’t have a darkroom set up, but I have decent film scanner

that lets me bring my negatives into the digital world where I can work on them with Lightroom and Photoshop.

As to ham radio, I have set up my spare rig as a listening post next to my recliner. The antenna is a 30 foot wire run behind the furniture. It actually picks up pretty well. In the living room I can not only monitor ham radio activity, but shortwave stations. WCCO comes in real well too.

Most of my on-air activity is on FT8, but I would like to see some of us locally get together on 80 meters. I have never been able to hear the club's "Friendly Net" on 10 meters. A 10 meter ground wave only goes about 10 miles, and I am about 20 miles away from the core group. A 80 meter ground wave goes about 40 miles and you have NVIS propagation after that. If you are interested in getting on 80 SSB, send me an email: jaiverson@juno.com.

A word about using the free program CHIRP to program Yaesu radios: John Kruk, Yaesu USA sales manager says "The most important thing is to NOT use CHIRP in any of our radios. CHIRP has caused damage beyond repair to our radios and should not be used at all." I know a lot of you will say that you have used it and it works fine, but do you really want to risk it?

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

Remember that Ground Wave want-ads are free to members. Please send them 2 weeks prior to the meeting so that we can work out the wording, layout, etc.

**Send your ads to
jaiverson@juno.com**



**Look for our group:
"St. Paul Radio
Club"**



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

SPRC Calendar

Fri Apr 3 6PM SPRC Virtual Board meeting. See Page 1.

Fri Apr 3 7PM Virtual Socializing followed by 7:30 PM Virtual SPRC Membership meeting. See Page 1.

All other in-person events, including VE Testing, are on hold until further notice. See our Facebook group for the latest updates.