

 <p>www.arrl.org</p>		<p>St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave</p> <p><i>Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN, Editor</i> <i>Dale Maroushek, NØPEY, Publisher</i></p>	<p>KØAGF www.stpaulradioclub.org Club Repeaters: 145.310 MHz, 442.450 MHz 114.8 kHz tone PO Box 9375 North St. Paul, MN 55109</p>
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**NEWS AND NOTES FOR JUNE 2021 – Volume 81, Issue 6
 SPECIAL FIELD DAY EDITION**

FIELD DAY PLANNING MEETING: MONDAY JUNE 21, 2021

7:00 PM In person at Benson's Airport at 5860 Highway 61 North, White Bear Township MN 55110 or on Zoom
 (Zoom details are at the end of the newsletter)

FIELD DAY SET-UP: FRIDAY JUNE 25, 2021

FIELD DAY OPERATING: SATURDAY JUNE 26, 2021

FIELD DAY OPERATING AND TAKE DOWN: SUNDAY JUNE 27, 2021

Field Day by Pete Guldán KDØSQJ

I've had questions from people who have not yet participated in the ARRL Field Day asking me what it's all about. Tim WD9IGX had a really good explanation on the Wednesday 2 meter net. It is different things to different people depending on Y-O-U. Before we delve into it, I would like to mention some other ways we can remain radio-active as we flip the switch from spring into what will be a busy summer for many of us. There are weekly nets to check into besides the Tuesday Mining Net (8:30PM 147.12+) and the Wednesday SPRC nets. (7:30PM 28.310 USB/8:30PM 145.31- 114.8 tone) Most Saturday mornings have breakfast get-togethers with real in person meetups for those of us who have been vaccinated. There are even hamfests on the schedule. The best source I have found for this information is here.

<http://www.magicrepeater.net/marty.htm> One of the nice things about our hobby is we can bring it with us. In my travels I always have a HT with me. When I have the chance I pull up the repeater book app on my phone and look up the local repeaters near me. I have made some very pleasant QSO's with fellow hams and even checked into some local nets. There's "Hams in the Park", "Parks on the Air" and even "Walmart Parking Lots on the Air" for sat com fans. We can bring a radio with us and use it while we are doing other indoor or outdoor activities. I don't think it will work very well scuba diving, maybe on 2200 meters, that would have to be a mighty long antenna and that

whole drowning thing might make it difficult to fill out QSL cards. If camping or going on a road trip don't forget about 146.52 and 446.0 simplex. Even during our commute to work if we check out our favorite repeaters, we might have a better day on the job. Field Day is the largest on-air event of the year. It is not a contest even though we earn a point score. The full information packet from the league is here. <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2021/2021%20Field%20Day%20Packet.pdf> You can participate by yourself or with a club or both as long as you follow the rules. If you operate your own station, you are still able to indicate your club affiliation when you submit your results. If you use N3FJP Field Day Contest Log (you can try it free) version 6.6 is current and Scott's wife said this is expected to be the final update before the big day.

The Mining and St. Paul clubs are joining forces again at Benson's Airport at 5860 Highway 61 North, White Bear Township MN 55110. One of the things that has consistently set our clubs well ahead of the so-called competition is the large number of people who participate in our efforts. We will have a SSB station and a station for CW. We will have a station for the other digital modes. We will have a VHF+ station and even one for GOTA.(not to be confused with loading up your pet goat and climbing a mountain with your radio. <see August 2019 QST page 59>) Besides, there's no mountains at the airport. We will NOT have the giant steak or pasta feast like years past but thanks to Dale and Kevin if you are there to help and participate we should have something available to keep your belly full. In a way our clubs Field Day operation is kind of like a summer camp for radio hams. There will be space for tent and RV camping. You can even pitch a tent under the wing of your plane if you bring a set of tie-downs we can find a nice grassy spot for you. We appreciate the RV owners who are providing them for the stations and ask that only fully vaccinated people enter them. If you are not and would like to operate a station we will make arrangements to accommodate you in one of the screened tents.

I am still looking for someone to take the role of chairperson for the SSB station. There will be helpers to set up and take down the station. I am mostly looking for someone who can be the organizer of the schedule of operators. If you have questions about this role or anything else regarding Field Day get in contact with me. I plan to be at the June MARC and SPRC breakfast and "Hams in the Park." You can also reach me at kd0sqj@arrl.net or 651-307-8983.

The final planning meeting before Field Day will be at 7PM Monday June 21st both in person at Benson's Airport and on Zoom. I hope to see you there.

73

Pete

KDØSQJ

Field Day Reception Tips

All Field Day sites put the HF stations in close proximity to each other. This often results in interference between stations. Some radios have very good performance with strong off frequency signals, others suffer and the offending signal breaks through and kills reception. As the operator there are a few things you can do to minimize this effect.

The most underutilized setting on any radio seems to be the attenuator. Cranking in attenuation has several desirable effects. Let's say you are on 40 meters CW and the band noise is S-7. First you are unlikely to copy anybody below the noise level. Putting in 10 dB of attenuation will drop your noise floor to S-5 or so. This is still a pretty high noise floor so maybe add some more. The noise will drop and therefore the fatigue factor of listening to that noise will diminish. Also, reducing the noise means that the signal from the other local transmitter will be reduced by the same amount. This might mean the interference suddenly goes away!

The other knob you should be familiar with is the RF Gain. It sets a low point for the AGC circuits. The s-meter moves up, the noise floor drops. You might need to bring up the audio gain but the station will not have the same noise. In an ideal setting you will find that the other station is a much easier copy.

Let's touch AGC settings. Most rigs give you a choice of Fast/Slow/Off. These are the release or "decay" times after the signal goes away. Some radios offer an adjustment on how quickly the attack or beginning of the action takes place. There are even rigs that allow for adjustment of how quickly the slope takes action. The "off" selection is used when you control the RF Gain manually. I generally use a slow setting as it reduces that fatigue factor.

DSP can be a great tool to improve reception. The down side is it can also create some pretty bad sounding audio if you don't have it set properly. Using the rigs controls to keep the signal as free of noise before you process it often results in a much cleaner result. By keeping the attenuation and RF Gain set for the cleanest signal the DSP isn't pushed to the limits of where it goes into distortion.

To sum it up:

- Don't overdrive the transmitters! Watch the ALC settings and reduce the mic gain as needed.

- Do use the attenuation and RF Gain knobs!

- Keep the Noise Blanker off. It may well act on the other close transmitters you can't hear.

Have a fun time and here's to the end of walking away with your "ears ringing" from all the noise!

73 Scott N0AR

Here is a sample list of possible Chairs that will help make Field Day a success. Small jobs that make up the whole, find one you like and sign up for the fun.

FD CHAIR is Pete Gulden, KD0SQJ, high commander of all that happens and submits reports that follow

SITE CHAIR, we have a home Thanks thanks to Pete, at Bensen Airport, White Bear Lake.

PUBLICITY CHAIR, writes and submits news articles to publications

PUBLIC OFFICIAL CHAIR, write invites to public officials to attend

VISITOR CHAIR/ ARRL TABLE CHAIR, provides flyers and brochures for visitors, guides tours of site. I have some stuff, any ARRL officer have new stuff??

KB0EAT FOOD CHAIR, Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon you will have food. Dale, NOPEY, and Kevin, W5LNA, will be making this happen. Others should join in, because I can't do this forever.

GENERATOR/GAS JOCKEY, set them up and keep them running

SETUP Committee, the FD chair needs big helpers here. With the new layout and strategy, we have a plan that starts around 1500 Friday to dark, get as much setup as possible.

NETWORK HARDWARE/SOFTWARE SUPERINTENDENT, with all the IT guys we have, just fine tune the system and keep it running.

CW CO Chair, John Warinsky, K9NJ, will be setting up a schedule.

PHONE CO CHAIR, (your name here) will make that time slots fill up.

VHF/UHF CHAIR, Eric Westgard, NY9D, will run this show.

DIGITAL Chair, It's the popular mode these days, We will have one.

GOTA CHAIR, Ron, K0RJW has this covered, but anyone can help.

QRP/SOLOR CHAIR, who wants to do this, five contacts and you make 100 points?

SATILITE CHAIR, anyone doing this, another easy 100 points??

TAKEDOWN CHAIR, the FD chair needs a bigger helper here. We usually start about 1100 Sunday to take down unused gear and stage it for pick up after shutdown. Usually we are out of the park by 1500.

SAFETY Chair, make sure we have prepared for problems before they exist.

From the President

I hope all the members are doing well. As we roll through June, it is the first day of summer on the 20th. As Rogers and Hammerstein wrote, "June is busting out all over".

So is Field Day 2021, June 25, 26, 27. It is where we meet old friends that we haven't seen in sometime. There will be many other articles and emails about the details for FD. Get involved, we have one of the best equipped and operational setups in the metro area. The food service area will be back and burning meat like the old days. It will be held at Benson Airport, just north of White Bear Lake on Highway 61. I won't be able to attend this year due to other assignments, but as president of the St. Paul Radio Club I wish all of our members a great summer.

73's Lou Michaels WD8NOV

From the VP's work bench

Spring Has Sprung,

Fall Has Fell

Its Now Summer

And Hotter Than.....Ever.....

Hello and Happy Summer!!!!

Well, its summer so the work bench is now idle. I am spending my time prepping for summer camping, fishing, and skeet shooting. To that end, I have been fixing up the RV. Yep, found another leak on its maiden spring outing. Although it does not look too bad, just a leaky coupling under the sink. ... I hope! Boat is de-winterized and working well as are the down riggers. (Knock on wood.) Even with the ammo shortage I seem to be able to find enough shot shells to shoot a couple of rounds a couple times a week. I love being retired!!

I did however finish up my "Go Box" and my "portable" antenna. To be honest, it is portable in the sense of putting it in the back of your car, driving to a location and then operating from either the back of the car or a park bench. I doubt that you would want to carry this further and 50 feet or so. It should be great for Field Day operations, Hams in the Park or Parks on the air\camping. I will be bringing it to Field Day along with the modified surveyor's transit tripod that I turned into a base\stand\support of my Wolf River Coil antenna. Thanks to the 3D printer it is a relatively compact set up. It was also easy to build as no special tools needed other than a hand drill and bits and some wrenches. If you attend field day out at Benson's Airport, please do stop by and take a look. If you are interested in either one, I will be posting articles in the ground wave later this year. Otherwise, I did save all the printer files, and I would be happy to print you up the pieces or give you the files if you wish to make one before the articles are published in the Ground Wave.

I am quite excited for Field Day. This will be my first one! This is all new territory for me. I truly have no idea what I will be doing or what to expect. But it does sound like a

lot of fun, not to mention good food and a chance to make a bunch of contacts. Maybe even a CW contact?? We shall see. I have not practiced in a while, so I am quite rusty. Speaking of that. I signed up for the first training class offered by CW OPS starting this fall. I am hoping that having to meet with others face to face via Zoom will be the motivation I need to FINIALLY focus on and finish learning morse code and to start using it. Anyone else try these guys for learning morse code? Do you have any suggestions on what I should\can do to help make the course a more productive learning experience? Anything I should look out for? Send me an email or shoot me a text I am open to any and all thoughts\suggestions.

Finally, just let me say that if you are planning to attend field day, GREAT!! If not, please reconsider, it is a great way to do an eyeball QSO and put a face on a voice from the ether.

73 for now

Kevin Welna - W5LNA

Dale's Details

Writing this on the 77th anniversary of D-Day to help get us ready for (I don't know what number) ARRL Field Day, June 26/27. As headlined, the Planning meeting is June 21st 7 p.m. at Benson Airport and on ZOOM for those who don't want to take a drive.

My main FD job is providing those attending, either workings or visiting, with something to eat if they want it. My second job is find someone or more than one, that will take over the food job, soon. There is plenty of equipment, both hardware and soft goods, in bins for storage. It would be possible to store the gear at CDH, but to have it ready for a quick setup situation, it would be better to have at the cooks' house.

The Club is happy to pay for all the equipment (mostly found at Goodwill) and food. I use straight billing for non-food items, like plates and cups that hold over from year to year. For food and drink, I use an "inventory in minus inventory out equals what the Club pays for" method. It helps if you are a "shopper" and buy things on sale to keep the costs down. You should have some frozen and refrigerator storage space at home to keep things under control. The Club is a member of the Restaurant Depot, a large provision supply house that has some better pricing on some items, not so much on others. You will get a card to use for anything, anytime. It also helps if you are a member of Sam's Club or COSTCO. Having an RV to use as the portable kitchen also helps. I also average pop costs, water is separate and cheaper. We try to use up as much of any open items by Sunday closing time. Yes, this usually means I get a good supply of pop at home, and eat hot dogs and brats for a few days. Practice and experience makes this easier each year, but we can always find someone to make a grocery run if we need too.

So what are we having? The usual picnic fair to start with, Beef hot dogs, Beef burgers, Pork Brats some with cheese inside. I usually find some frozen hot dishes that I made, Calico Beans or Unstuffed Peppers to put in the crock pots for continual quick serving. I continue to watch Food Network for ideas and we try to have surprises like chicken tenders, pork chops, and shrimp on the Barbie. I would love to have oysters, but I can't find the "r" in June. There will be individually packaged chips, cookies and sweet rolls. That keeps germs at bay. The RV's will have places to wash up if you need too.

For those of a certain age that remember, and to tease the new people, some years ago my sister in law made a selection of desert cakes and bars, then my niece made variety cupcakes for a couple years. Then Don Kelly had a friend do a follow up after my girls gave it up. It was To Die For! Back when we were still at Tartan Park, you may recall large bowls of salad would magically appear at supper time, thanks to a good friend. Lesson learned: If you use a space and leave it better than when you got it, good things happen.

Well, I have to get caught up and log in a couple of months of new members and dues payers. That way everyone will be informed and ready to enjoy FD with SPRC/MARC.

Don't forget the July 10th Tailgater at Galilee Church on Rice Street and Owasso. Study for the month and upgrade before the price goes up!

Board Meeting Minutes 05-07-2021

Lou: Called the ZOOM meeting to order at 6:25 pm.

Board members present:

Lou Michaels, WD8NOV

Kevin Welna-W5LNA

Ben Otto-KEØRFZ

Bob Walsh-WCØJ

Art Thell-N0IWQ

Don Kelly-WA6ZMT

Also present:

Pete Guldán-KDØSQJ

Jay Maher-NJØM

Jeff Iverson-WB9DAN

Dale Maroushek-NØPEY

Mark-

Dan Dawn-

Art: Called for verification of last month's Minutes.

Ben: Noted corrections to last month's minutes:

There are no current frequency conflicts with the repeater.

The CDH Radio Club is not part of the STEM Facility.

Corrections noted and Minutes approved as amended.

Ben: Reported that he and Bob reviewed radio equipment stored at CDH.

He called for volunteers that are needed to move appropriate equipment to a hamfest and to man the hamfest if that is the desire of the Board.

During the discussion, a request was made regarding buying some pieces of equipment. Comment was made that the proceeds are to be donated to the Spectrum Defense Fund.

Kevin: Recommended that we take it to the general membership.

He also questioned what hamfests such as the Magic Repeater or TCFMC events.

Don: Recommended that we wait for the SPRC Auction in the winter.

Bob: Indicated that the wait would work for CDH.

Art: Noted that the major equipment should be pre-listed with the auction advertising.

Ben: Thanked the group for their input.

Bob: Will send a note to the students who signed on to pick up info to study through the summer and he will follow up with them in the fall.

He noted that he has volunteers to set up the club station.

Don: Suggested that we invite the students to the Field Day event.

He also asked who would be the instructors for the club.

Bob: Noted that instructors are not yet assigned.

Dale: Membership report—there are 114 paid members.

Ben: Repeater report—Repeater is working well.

Old business:

Don: Breakfasts (in person) are now on at Denny's at University Ave. and Fry St. is now on for persons with Covid vaccination on the usual 3rd Saturday of the month. This month's event will be on May 15th at 9:00 am.

Field Day:

Event June 26 & 27th at Benson's Airport just north of White Bear Lake.

Dale and Pete: In charge of setting up on Friday June 25.

Don: Coordinate stations

Pete: Coordinate operating slots.

Kevin: Moved to adjourn. Seconded by Don Adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Member Meeting Minutes 05-07-2021

Lou: Called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

Members present: 22-plus.

Allan Klein's financial report:

General fund \$7442

Education fund \$1257

Repeater fund \$852

Pete: Setting up wi-fi network for next weekend's event at Long Lake Regional Park.

Don: DX Engineering program for this meeting is not on.

Pete: Discussed setting something up to move equipment to the SPRC Auction.

Lou: Proposed a club fun event such as a St. Paul Saints game. Much discussion ensued around a July 31 date without any conclusion because of tickets already sold, etc. Mark Linafelter NL7AS will check further.

Don: Moved to adjourn. Seconded by Art. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Tentative Meeting Dates for 2021-22

(SEPTEMBER 10), (OCTOBER 1), (NOVEMBER 5), (DECEMBER 3 in the cafeteria for holiday party), (JANUARY 7), (JANUARY 21-22 auction), (FEBRUARY 4), (MARCH 4), (APRIL 1), (APRIL 23 banquet), (MAY 6)

SPRC Calendar

Sat Jun 19	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's 1664 University Ave. West of Snelling
Sat Jun 19	7AM-Noon TCFM Club Spring Tailgate Swap Meet. West Medicine Lake Community Club. 1705 Forestview Lane N, Plymouth, MN 55441
Jun 25-27	Field Day Weekend. SPRC at Benson Airport.
Sat Jul 10	8AM-Noon 17 th Annual Magic Tailgater. Galilee Lutheran Church. 145 N McCarrons Blvd, Roseville, MN 55113
Sat Jul 10	9:30AM VE testing at Magic Tailgater (above). Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-425-0338.
Sat Jul 17	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's 1664 University Ave. West of Snelling
Sat Aug 21	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's 1664 University Ave. West of Snelling

Here's the link/info.

Don Kelly is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Final Field Day Planning Meeting

Time: Jun 21, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6518421000?pwd=Q1IreHA2cWM4bWVvLy83WTBiN0toUT09>

Meeting ID: 651 842 1000

Passcode: 551040306

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+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 651 842 1000

Passcode: 551040306

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kengzniHc0>

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