

 www.arrl.org		St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave <i>Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN, Editor</i> <i>Dale Maroushek, NØPEY, Publisher</i>	KØAGF www.stpaulradioclub.org Club Repeaters: 145.310 MHz, 442.450 MHz 114.8 kHz tone PO Box 9375 North St. Paul, MN 55109
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NEWS AND NOTES FOR OCTOBER 2021 – Volume 81, Issue 10

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY OCTOBER 1, 2021

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

Program

The October meeting will be a hybrid meeting. That means there will be an in-person meeting at Cretin-Durham Hall (CDH) and a meeting on Zoom for those unable to attend in person. Zoom details are at the end of the newsletter.

Due to construction on the east (Hamline) side of the campus, park on the west (Albert) side and enter through door 24. Go straight down the hall to the commons at the end on your right. A recorded message at 651-842-1015 on Friday will confirm this.

Tim Duffy, K3LR, from DX Engineering will give a presentation on Antenna Building. For a preview check out his website: <http://www.k3lr.com/>

Program Suggestions

An important part of our member meetings, be they on-line or in-person, is our programs. The board plans the programs and we would like your suggestions of what you would like to see. If you would like to present a program, that's a great idea, too! Please send your suggestions, including potential presenters' contact information if appropriate, to dk@donkelly.biz (or WA6ZMT@arrl.net, if that's easier to remember).

Dale's Details by Dale Maroushek NØPEY

The week following the September meeting was a tough one. Monday the 13th, we hear that Joe Showalter, N0JOL, died suddenly. Next, I get a report from a mutual friend Mike Thompson, KB0RCS that he is back in the hospital after another stroke. He was getting therapy and should be home by the 24th. Then Don Kelly, WA6ZMT, tells me that he has been exposed to Covid and needs to quarantine for about a week. Thursday, I had to get

prepped at the Dentist for a crown and we all know how those go. Finally, Scott Holisky, NOAR, reports that he injured himself painting and could barely walk.

So, the 18th showed the Lake Elmo Ham Fest and the SPRC breakfast, both equal distant in opposite directions, at the same time. I could have picked one or the other, but seeing what happened prior to this, I choose to stay at home and be as safe as possible. Call me chicken if you like, I can take it.

I attended Joe's funeral service on Monday. In case you would like to see the service, The First Baptist Church Cambridge has it on its website, or here is a U tube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33hmGfzdknQ>

It is 110 minutes long; you may want to forward over the songs. Joe's life story is told very well and is an inspiration to all, past and present.

Radio wise, the Wednesday night Friendly Net at 1930 and the 2 Meter Net at 2030 are both doing fine with regular and new check-ins each week. Thanks go out to my assistance net controls, Tim Burd, WD9IGX, and John Hess, N2FGB, and others who fill in when needed. Make a note and "stop on by and say hi".

Autumn is coming in cold and wet. I hope it takes a break and gives us some days to get outdoor antenna work done before the white fungus comes back. I like it when the leaves are off the trees so I can see where the best path is to shoot the wires.

Last month I put out a detailed explanation of what a new volunteer liquid refreshment person would or could do for the Club. I hoped to get someone to show an interest and respond. As usual, I was overwhelmed with silence. Let's try it again. Please go back and read the September article, and see if we can't get some motivation going to find a new chairperson.

We will all see how this Hybrid October meeting goes. The final instructions are published in this GW. I hope to see many of you there and on Zoom.

Ramblings from the VP's Work Bench - Kevin Welna - W5LNA

I thought this month I would talk about my adventure/journey into learning morse code. Why learn this "archaic" form of communication? There are many reasons for my interest. I think it would be cool to be able to talk with someone using a nonverbal form of communication. It's something not everyone can just do (Ya gotta learn it and then practice it). It's part of ham radio heritage. Finally, I think there is something wonderful/romantic and maybe a bit lonely about listening to and possibly responding to that distant CQ call. Being broadcast across the ether and asking if anyone is out there and listening on a late winter evening....Alas I digress...

I have in the past attempted to teach myself this form of communication with what I would call moderate success. I got most of the way through learning the letters, punctuation, and numbers, but it just did not seem to gel in my brain. Then retirement

and summer hit so no time to pursue this interest. Well, I survived my initial retirement and things are starting to settle down (I hope!) so it's back to morse code. Now by this time I had forgotten most of what I had learned so I thought let's try something a bit different!

While online learning is OK for some, it's not for me. I procrastinate and allow other distractions to occupy my attention until the last minute then scramble to get whatever it is, done. This process will not work for learning morse code! Or anything else for that matter. I find that having to meet either in person or via Zoom/Skype is a bit of a motivator for me and helps me to not procrastinate (Of which I am wont to do). I had heard several people talk about their positive experience with CW Ops training, so I thought I would check it\them out.

The price is right. It's free. The class meets twice a week for about an hour, and you must commit to 3-4 practice sessions of 10 -15 minutes each day. That's it! Well, I thought I could manage that, so I signed up and I could not be happier. I am relearning the code and having a good time in the process. So much so that I am signing up for the second course to continue my learning.

The classes are quite laid back and small. Mine has 6 people including the instructor. The instructors are quite good and are very encouraging and supportive. The pace of the class is very doable, and it is delivered in small chunks, so you are never overwhelmed. Questions are encouraged and are answered without condescension. The classes stress accuracy over speed so you do not have to be a 40 wpm (Words Per Minute) speed demon. The program itself is well laid out and very logical in its progression. In two words: It works!!

A little bit about the class and what you will need to acquire. (Did I mention that the classes are free?) You will need a paddle either single or dual, (No straight keys!) some kind of Iambic keyer/code practice oscillator, (The keyer can be either separate or use the one built into your radio if it has one) a computer with camera and an internet connection.

Since I already owned a laptop and I have internet, I only had to buy a key and keyer. I found a bencher dual paddle at a Hamfest a couple years back for \$30 and I use the keyer built into my radio. But a keyer can be had new for as little as \$35 on EBAY. But look around and you may be able to find one for a lot less elsewhere.

Its has now been 3 weeks and I have attended 5 sessions of the class. I am almost back to where I was after trying to learn the code on my own for over 1 a year. I also feel like I have a better grasp on the letters, and I can recognize more of the code instantly. I find that 10-15 minutes 3 times a day works very well for learning the code. Although when it is all coming together and my brain is up for it, I find I will practice a

lot longer. (My decision not a requirement.) It is amazing how fast you will catch on to morse code with a small amount of practice and work.

Another benefit of CW communications is the signal to noise advantage. CW will get through when voice will not. Additionally, you can buy a simple transceiver for as little as \$6 (PIXI). A nice QRP pocket sized single band transceiver can be had for as little and \$60 (QRP Labs). There is a new multiband transceiver in the works from QRP Labs that will be offered for around \$125.

Summer is winding down and pretty soon the white fungus will be upon us. This may be a great time to try something new and to learn a new skill. You have little to lose and much to gain by adding CW/Morse Code to your Ham Radio skills! Why not give it a try? Got more questions? Email me:

kwelna@gmail.com

September Board Meeting Minutes

Kevin: Called the ZOOM meeting to order at 6:12 pm.

Board members present:

Kevin Welna-W5LNA Art Thell-NØIWQ Don Kelly-WA6ZMT

Board members absent:

Lou Michaels, WD8NOV Ben Otto-KEØRFZ, Br. Bob Walsh-WCØJ
Allan Klein, WØNLY

Also present:

Pete Guldán-KDØSQJ Jeff Iverson-WB9DAN John Crabtree
Dale Maroushek-NØPEY Dan, N0KLB Mark-
Dawn, WX0Z Tom Carroll

Kevin noted: Not a quorum. Cannot conduct business but we can discuss items.

Don Kelly: Gave the Treasurer's Report as of today:

General Account	\$7,267
Repeater Account	\$ 882
Education Fund	\$1,287

Dale reported on membership:

Current membership	(2021)	127
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Current paid membership (2021)	87
Membership paid (2022)	23

Field Day discussion led by Kevin

Food was good. Could add some seasonings and appetizers. Griddle was a blessing. Overall participation was excellent.

Kevin proposed a bench project and Don expressed his assent. Kevin is buying 11 sets of the “Pixies” 1/2 –watt CW Xcvr. Kits, xtal-controlled that operate between 7.025 and 7.125 Mhz. (legal Tech. license frequencies). Keying is managed with a straight key.

Mention was made of classroom space that would be needed or whether it could be done as a Zoom class from home.

Some concern was noted regarding the level of interest in our “completed and wired” world. Kevin offered to contact Br. Bob regarding student interest in the project.

Dale: Repeater report: The 2-meter repeater is good.

Pete: (re Field Day)

Would like to see better operating participation by club members.

Next year:

Maybe schedule operators in advance.

Designate smoking areas.

Push the GOTA station.

CW ops did excellent.

Pair new operators with seasoned operators.

He thanked Dale and his crew for their past commitment and work.

Kevin intoned that the griddle was a great help.

CDH station:

Pete noted that the system is working well except for some issue with the amplifier.

SPRC Christmas party:

Kevin/Don: Probably don’t plan on it—bring it up next month.

SPRC Auction:

Pete: Auction is a maybe.

Kevin: Do we do it this year?

Dale: Tentative. Date is January 21-22, 2022.

John C.: How do we manage the auction?

Pete: Suggest we put more, slower items in the silent auction.

Other activities:

Kevin mentioned that MFJ does programs for meetings. Sill provide info. To Don K.

Don K.: Noted that from here through 2022, every meeting is on the first Friday of the month.

7:00 pm: Kevin called for adjournment. Move by Don, second by Art.

September Membership Meeting Minutes

Kevin: Called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Members present: 20-plus.

Kevin: Covered items from the Board Meeting.

Art: Noted the Club Breakfast is the 3rd Saturday of the month at 9:00 at Denny's on University Ave.

Don Kelly: Gave the Treasurer's Report as of today:

General Account	\$7,267
Repeater Account	\$ 882
Education Fund	\$1,287

Report by Bill ACOW, ARRL Dakota Division Director.

Thanked the group for activities including Field Day.

Reported that a new board-level committee has been created for public service.

Reported on the mechanics regarding collecting the license application fee.

He noted that Field Day is an important contribution toward promoting the hobby.

Discussed the contributions that Amateur Radio makes toward managing emergencies and catastrophes.

8:16: Kevin called for adjournment. Moved by Ralph. 2nd by Pete.

Editor's Notes – by Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN

I would like to remind everyone about our St. Paul Radio Club Facebook page. We have over 100 members who are interested in what we are doing. Find the group and ask to join.

Remember, contributions to the *Ground Wave* are always welcome. Send them in a Word document (.docx) or Open Office document (.odt) as an email attachment to jaiverson@juno.com. Deadline is one week before the next meeting.

Officer Contact Information

President	Michaels, Lou WD8NOV	louthephotoguy@gmail.com	612-638-8159
Vice President	Welna, Kevin W5LNA	kwelna@gmail.com	651-354-5515
Past President	Kelly, Don WA6ZMT	dk@donkelly.biz	651-276-4838
Treasurer	Klein, Allan WØNLY	allankmn@cs.com	612-720-1324
Secretary	Thell, Art NØIWQ	thellaj@comcast.net	
Member At-Large	Otto, Ben KEØRFZ	ke0rfz@gmail.com	651-352-9590
Member At-Large	Walsh, Bob WCØJ	brw.fsc@gmail.com	612-201-0818

Zoom Information

Simply click (or copy and paste if that doesn't work) the link below or call in from any phone. If you're not familiar with Zoom and would like to arrange to practice, text Don at 651 276-4838 or email dk@donkelly.biz.

Since they are all the first Friday, I've just scheduled 8 meetings on the first Friday of the next 8 months. The link will be the same for all of them.

SPRC is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: SPRC Monthly Meeting

Time: Oct 1, 2021 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the First Fri, 8 occurrence(s)

Oct 1, 2021 06:00 PM

Nov 5, 2021 06:00 PM

Dec 3, 2021 06:00 PM

Jan 7, 2022 06:00 PM

Feb 4, 2022 06:00 PM

Mar 4, 2022 06:00 PM

Apr 1, 2022 06:00 PM

May 6, 2022 06:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZcoc-uqjpjshNYgigyhldJi19w4O3qkrK_G/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGr_qz8oGNyUth-FRpwqGY-ga-rxiH5dgo1kmxbiGih6Zin_Z7tVZp0sAdPC](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZcoc-uqjpjshNYgigyhldJi19w4O3qkrK_G/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGr_qz8oGNyUth-FRpwqGY-ga-rxiH5dgo1kmxbiGih6Zin_Z7tVZp0sAdPC)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83542281662?pwd=QjhLNGhBZ2RuaUxrMWV4Z3laSWRLZz09>

Meeting ID: 835 4228 1662

Passcode: 440211

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,83542281662#,,,,*440211# US (Houston)

+12532158782,,83542281662#,,,,*440211# US (Tacoma)

Dial +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 835 4228 1662

Passcode: 440211

Find your local number: [https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdYAGIKilf](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdYAGIKilf)

SPRC Calendar

Fri Oct 1	6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. *
Fri Oct 1	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 Oct 2	10AM VE testing. Galilee Lutheran Church. 145 N McCarrons Blvd, Roseville, MN 55113. Reservations required. No walk-ins until further notice. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arri.net or 651-425-0338.
Sat Oct 16	9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling.
Fri Nov 5	6PM SPRC Board meeting, Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School. *
Fri Nov 5	7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. Commons Meeting Room, John R. Albers Center, Cretin-Derham Hall High School.
Sat Nov 6	10AM VE testing. Galilee Lutheran Church. 145 N McCarrons Blvd, Roseville, MN 55113. Reservations required. No walk-ins until further notice. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arri.net or 651-425-0338.
Sat Nov 20	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.