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St. Paul Radio Club Ground Wave

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KØAGF

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

NEWS AND NOTES FOR JANUARY 2018 — Volume 78, Issue 1

Monthly Meeting

January 5, 2018
UST OWS LL54
7:00 pm Socializing
Membership Meeting 7:30 pm

PROGRAM

Project Building, QRP and CW

SPRC member Chuck Stroud (KA8HDE) will tell of rediscovering ham radio after being inactive for 30 years and explain his interest in building radio-related projects. He will share information about kits, QRP clubs, code assistance, and MN-ARTS.

Chuck says he got his Novice ticket in 1979 while in high school in Orrville, Ohio, but just missed passing the Tech/General test with the 13 WPM code test. Teenage life quickly took over—sports, girls, college, then marriage, kids, career, etc., so he never got on the air. The desire to be a ham never left—his dad (AC8IB) reminded him to renew his Novice license and original call (KA8HDE) for 25 years. After moving to Minnesota in 2004 he upgraded to Tech—but still no QSOs. Finally, with encouragement of his wife and a friend at work (NØTYE), he got on the air in August 2009—exactly 30 years from the date that his Novice ticket was issued.

He quickly rediscovered his original interests in amateur radio—electronics and CW, joining the MN QRP Society (now MN Amateur Radio Technical Society—MN-ARTS), relearning CW, building kits, and attending the SPRC Circuit Builders group.

Outside the radio world, he's an Assistant CFO for a local university and teaches business courses part-time.

Building Blocks

Jay Maher NJØM

A few months ago I mentioned that an eBay seller in Virginia had begun offering kits for the SW40+ transceiver originally put out by Dave Benson (K1SWL) of Small Wonder Labs. That 40 meter transceiver was the kit used by the Elmer 101 course back in the 90s and the 30-meter version was revived in 2016 for another excellent learning experience. The eBay seller (fmradio_man) is now offering kits for the 30- and 80-meter versions (quantities may be limited due to some hard to find parts). I've described all of this before but wanted to add that Chuck Adams (K7QO) has excellent write-ups (step-by-step builds, actually) for both the SW40+ and SW30+ transceivers on his website (www.k7qo.com). His website has lots of other interesting material and is well worth a visit. It was a recent visit to his website that made me sit up and take notice—the Nor-Cal 40A is available again!

(Building Blocks, continued on page 2)

Dale's Details

Dale Maroushek, NØPEY

I'm starting with **Happy New Year!** Another year to pay taxes for has passed and the next one begins. Seems kind of repetitive, and gladly so!

Radio-wise, our nets are rolling along very well on Wednesday nights. Both the Friendly Net on 10 meters and our 2 meter net would love to have more check-ins, and more net control volunteers. Shout out if you want to help.

The holiday party last month was another wonderful success—great food and conversations. Not many leftovers there.

Looking forward to Field Day. Some changes will be taking place—the location will be new, possibly in Woodbury or Cottage Grove unless someone comes up with another option. We will need a new chairperson, or a

(Details, continued on page 2)

The OWS building is located on the University of St. Thomas (UST) South Campus.

From I-94, take Cretin Ave south about a mile to Grand Ave. Turn right, then park in the ramp on your left or the surface lot on the right. In general, on-campus parking restrictions are not enforced after 6:00 p.m. on Fridays, but do not park in spots with parking meters unless paying or displaying a handicapped placard.

Enter the building just north of the parking ramp and take the elevator (in the hallway to the right) or stairs to the lower level. LL54 is not far from the stairs.

For detailed maps, see www.stthomas.edu/campusmaps.

OWS: Owens Science Hall

Contact Kim Schumann in Disability Services at 651-962-6315 or kjschumann@stthomas.edu for any accessibility requests.

(Building Blocks, continued from page 1)

One of the resources I described previously was the book *Electronics of Radio* by David Rutledge, part of which followed construction of a 40A transceiver from the NorCal QRP club. Rutledge used the book in an EE class at California Institute of Technology. In fact, engineering students at the University of St. Thomas may have also built the radio in a class where members of the SPRC Circuit Builders group assisted with the construction. That was slightly before my time but Orcy Lyle (WØQT) and others may remember it. The book is excellent but could be a bit daunting for a beginner. Adams also describes the transceiver build as not for beginners. Check it out before jumping in. The kits have been out of production for some time but Chuck and other members of an online QRP group have brought it back for its 25th anniversary in 2018. He has a link to the pcb files on his website and instructions on how to log on to allpcb.com and get a run of them made. Getting 10 copies of the board (100mm x 100mm) including DHL shipping from China cost a grand total of \$5.49. I'm just not sure how they can do that. By the time you read this I should have them in hand and will make the extras available if anyone is interested. This is the board only and you'll need to source parts if you want to build the 40A. All of the related information is on Chuck's website including links to his build videos on YouTube. Note that the grp-tech Yahoo group he lists on his web page is actually at groups.io and not on Yahoo anymore.

December Board Meeting

An email poll of the board determined there were no issues requiring a board meeting in December.



Support the League
www.arrl.org/join

(Details, continued from page 1)

team, one from each club has been mentioned. Ed WBØVHF is doing a different gig this year. SPRC and MARC will work on getting a planning team together for coordination. Again, shout out if you want to help.

Our next big project is the Auction on January 27th, the information is attached. Yes, it conflicts with the St. Cloud event, but dates and venues are hard to get these days. We plan on the full routine, so don't hold back. Come on down and have a fun time. Auctioneers are still needed, or if you can, stand up and sell your own gear. The silent auction will be short, about two hours--so bid often and bid high.

Calling it a night--still lots of Christmas preparations to get done and, with this bitter cold wave moving in, the less time outside the better. The only antenna I want to put up next week is the mag mount on top of the car!

Dale, NØPEY

Membership Meeting and Annual Banquet December 1, 2017

Trying to quiet the many conversations going on at the food table, President John Faughn (KDØCAC) called the University of St. Thomas radio club to order at 7:35 p.m. He asked about UST business and, finding none, the UST meeting closed.

He called the SPRC meeting to order. 37 members and guests introduced themselves, including one potential member who is working on her ham license now.

Treasurer Allan Klein (WØNLY) was absent, but had reported no additional expenses and small amounts of income from membership renewals trickling in since last report.

Secretary Don Kelly (WA6ZMT) was absent due to medical issues—many

expressions of concern from members. The minutes of the November meeting as printed in the December Ground Wave were not discussed, but no one brought up corrections. George Power (KØGCP) took the minutes.

John called for member news "for the good of the club":

Dale Maroushek (NØPEY) brought copies of past newsletters, application forms, DX catalogs, etc., that he wished to distribute. He mentioned that the ARRL sent a note thanking us for the Spectrum Defense Fund contribution from the last auction.

Orcy Lyle (WØQT) stated that there would be no Circuit Builders meeting tomorrow (12/2).

Ed Jacobson (WBØVHF) stated that he would like another chairperson for Field Day to step up, as he has a conflict with a bike ride that he is working.

John Berglund pointed out that the St Cloud Cabin Fever Reliever hamfest has moved its date to January 27, a conflict with the SPRC auction. Turnout will probably be affected.

At 7:40, President John closed the business meeting and the feeding frenzy continued.

At approximately 8:30, the door prize raffle was held with ten items to choose from.

Editor's note:

Folks who were at the banquet heard that I was at the VA Medical Center undergoing tests. I had gone in in the afternoon with symptoms that could be heart trouble. By six o'clock, heart problems had been pretty much ruled out, but they wouldn't release me for four hours and repeat blood work—so I missed all the fun. Tests the next week showed no cause for worry.

Don, WA6ZMT



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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| Fri Jan 5 | 7PM Socializing followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. See Page 1. |
| Sat Jan 6 | 10AM VE testing. Ramsey County Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964 |
| Sat Jan 6 | 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus* |
| Fri Jan 12 | 7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) ** |
| Sat Jan 13 | 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus* |
| Sat Jan 20 | 9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling. |
| Sat Jan 20 | After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus* |
| Sat Jan 27 | 8:30AM – 1PM Saint Paul Radio Club Auction, Roseville Lutheran Church, 1215 Roselawn Ave W, Roseville, MN 55113 |
| Sat Jan 27 | 9-Noon. St. Cloud Amateur Radio Club Cabin Fever Reliever. St Cloud Armory, 1710 Veterans Dr, St Cloud, MN 56303 |
| Fri Feb 2 | 7PM Socializing and Groundhog petting followed by 7:30 PM SPRC Membership meeting. UST classroom OWS LL-54. |
| Sat Feb 3 | 10AM VE testing. Ramsey County Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood. Contact Leon Dill, WØCOE@arrl.net or 651-688-9964 |
| Sat Feb 3 | 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus* |
| Fri Feb 9 | 7PM SPRC Board meeting, OSS 121 UST campus (Alternate location is OSS 415) ** |
| Sat Feb 10 | 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus* |
| Sat Feb 17 | 9AM SPRC Breakfast. Denny's, 1664 University Ave, west of Snelling. |
| Sat Feb 17 | After Breakfast. Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus* |
| Sat Feb 24 | 9AM Circuit Builders. OSS 415 UST Campus* |

*Circuit Builders is each Saturday morning if someone is available to open the lab and there is no conflicting activity. Check the SPRCCB Google Group to confirm that the lab will be open.

** Depending on business to be considered, Board Meetings are sometimes held electronically. Check with an officer or board member to confirm that the meeting will be at UST.