



OPEN MIC

A NEWSLETTER OF THE
RUNESTONE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, W0ALX

APRIL 2016

W0ALX RARC, 15125 160th Ave, Villard, Minnesota 56385-2350

www.w0alx.org

Alexandria Rpt: 146.790-

442.025+ (88.5)

Sauk Centre Rpt: 147.255+

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

8AM COFFEE/BREAKFAST AT BRASS LANTERN, ALEXANDRIA

10AM RUNESTONE ARC MONTHLY CLUB MEETING
GLENWOOD STATE BANK, ALEXANDRIA

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE *SHORTENED* MEETING WILL
BE THE FIRST OF SEVERAL PLANNED SPECIAL EVENTS
CELEBRATING THE RARC'S 80TH BIRTHDAY. WE'LL MEET AT
FILMORE PARK IN ALEXANDRIA AND OPERATE W0ALX ON 20
METERS FOR AN HOUR OR SO. PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS
ACTIVITY.**

PRESIDENTIAL SPLATTER...

NATIONAL PARKS ON THE AIR

In parallel with the National Park Services Centennial in 2016, ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio (sometimes called ham radio) has organized a year-long event, National Parks on the Air (NPOTA), to help NPS celebrate its Centennial. Amateur Radio operators will be drawing worldwide attention to all NPS units by bringing in portable radio gear and making two-way radio contacts, without the need for traditional communications infrastructure, such as the internet or cell phones. This activity provides the public with a real-time virtual visit to NPS units in a way no other group can offer. It is also the 125th Anniversary (2016) of Minnesota State Parks.

On Saturday April 2, 2016, 5 amateur radio operators journeyed to Maplewood State Park near Pelican Rapids, MN. to activate the North Country Scenic Trail (TR04) as part of the National Parks On The Air program. They operated K0ARF as a special event honoring the Minnesota State Parks 125th anniversary (2016). The group consisted of Scott Hall (N0UV) and Chris Schultz (KC0YFX) - St. Cloud, Mike Disher (N0MY) - Burtrum, Bill Klundt (KG0DX) - Sauk

Centre, and Wayne Johanson (WA0EBZ) - Osakis. It was a very cold and windy day, 19 degrees with 25-30 MPH winds. Park Ranger Don Delgreco allowed us to use a small heated building adjacent to the trail for our operation. By 11:30 AM we had two stations on the air, one on 20 meters using a mono-band vertical antenna, the other on 40 meters using a windom antenna. It was non stop action from the 1st CQ NPOTA (National Parks On The Air). We logged 250 contacts in 4 ½ hours of operation talking with stations in 45 States and 3 Canadian Provinces. We talked Park Ranger Don into sitting down and making a few radio contacts.

The North Country Scenic Trail (TR04) runs across seven states from North Dakota to New York. When completed the trail will be the longest continuous hiking trail in the United States. It runs through Maplewood State Park making it a perfect place to activate for NPOTA. Thanks to the Maplewood State Park for allowing us to set up and operate an Amateur Radio Station within the park, especially Park Ranger Don Delgreco for his wonderful hospitality. It was truly an honor to internationally recognize the 125th birthday of the Minnesota State Park Service and the 100th birthday of the United States National Park Service.



Scott N0UV and Ranger Don



f: Scott N0UV and Chris KC0YFX
b: Bill KG0DX and Wayne WA0EBZ

[RUNESTONE ARC MEETING MINUTES MARCH 19](#)

Members present: Dick N0CE, George N0RCL, John W0JAR, Norm W7ISD, Bill KG0DX, Alden N0MIC, Wayne WB0KUG and Roger KD0UTA

In the absence of the President Wayne, Vice President Norm W7ISD called the meeting to order at 10am.

Motion to approve last meeting minutes by WB0KUG, seconded by W0JAR, passed.

Treasure reported beginning balance of \$3357.72, dues income of \$225, insurance expenses of \$121.10 leaving an ending balance of \$3461.62. Motion to approve by WB0KUG, seconded by KD0UTA, passed.

Technical report by WB0KUG indicated that all repeaters are functioning properly.

SuperLink discussion: 1) overall direction-no progress, 2) no plan for controller change, 3) issues around programming repeater, 4) W7ISD, WB0KUG and N0CE will meet and work out details. N0CE

made the point that the interface cable between the laptop and repeater must be of the FTDI USB to Serial Prolific 2303 type.

KG0DX brought to the groups attention that he and WA0EBZ would be participating with members of the K0ARF Radio Club in activating the North Country National Scenic Trail on April 2 from the Minnesota Maplewood State Park near Pelican Rapids.

Field Day 2016 was discussed. WB0KUG moved that the location be Brophy Park, KG0DX seconded, passed. No other arrangements were made.

N0CE remarked that it may be possible to use his property for one of our mini-activities commemorating the RARC 80th birthday. He'll check into details.

W0JAR commented that he would be returning our VE testing materials directly to ARRL.

Motion by N0RCL to adjourn, seconded by WB0KUG, passed.

The program was directed by Andy KC0SAL and focused on the software he uses in his business to "modify" photographs for excellence. Interesting material for the amateur photographer.

DID YOU KNOW that Winston Churchill loved paraprosookians, figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is ... surprising or unexpected. Read on...

1. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
2. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
3. They begin the evening news with "Good evening," then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

2016 MONDAY NITE NET CONTROLS

January	Tom KD0MOM
February	Jim KB0INZ
March	Bill KG0DX
April	Mike W0MKE
May	Roger KD0UTA
June	
July	George N0RCL
August	
September	Jim NN0Q
October	George N0RCL
November	
December	

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 2: 8am Breakfast Truckers Inn, Sauk Centre

Apr 11,18,25: 7pm W0ALX 2 Meter Net, NC W0MKE

Apr 16: 8am Breakfast, Brass Lantern, Alexandria

Apr 16: 10am Runestone Monthly Club Mtg, Glenwood State Bank, Alexandria; followed by W0ALX Special Event at Filmore Park

Apr 16: 9am Brainerd Hamfest, Armory

May 2,9,16,23,30: 7pm W0ALX 2 Meter Net, NC KD0UTA

May 7: 8am Breakfast Truckers Inn, Sauk Centre

May 7: Superior Hamfest

May 21: 8am Breakfast, Brass Lantern, Alexandria

May 21: 10am Runestone Monthly Club Mtg, Glenwood State Bank, Alexandria

2016 OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

Wayne WA0EBZ PRESIDENT

Norm W7ISD VICE-PRESIDENT

John W0JAR TREASURE

Bill KG0DX SECRETARY

Wayne WB0KUG TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Jim KB0INZ TRUSTEE

John W0JAR DIRECTOR (2017)

Mike W0MKE DIRECTOR (2018)

Norm W7ISD DIRECTOR (2019)

Andy KC0SAL PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

DO NOT MISS THE RUNESTONE CLUB PROGRAM ON APRIL 16.....

Roger KD0UTA will treat us to a discussion regarding DTMF tones.....