



75

SPARC Years



GAP



**St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 2217 St. Petersburg, Fl. 333731  
November 2008**



**President's Letter November 2008**



It will soon be Thanksgiving, time for the Holiday Season ...

Our sunspots will also soon arise...we had gone many, many days with zero sunspots, but now there has been a few new Cycle 24 spots occurring, and there are contacts to be made! Be sure to try out the WARC bands: 12m, 17m and 30m...there is good activity on those bands and they are less crowded! If you get frustrated with the crowded conditions on the other bands, do give the WARC bands a try!

We were notified that the Red Cross has a buyer for the building, so the shoe has dropped...there is an interval of about 90 days for the Red Cross to look into leasing or acquiring another suitable building, and they have requested a summary of our needs as far as provision of a radio room in the new building. we hope to be able to continue our long relationship with the Red Cross!

Hope you were able to attend the Melbourne Hamfest ~ I had to pass it up again this year, but maybe next year!! Don't forget that the Tampa Bay Hamfest is coming up in early December. Connie K4TBZ says she will be getting the tickets to bring to the November meeting. It is always a good chance to meet friends, buy some good "stuff" and have fun...SPARC will probably have 3 or 4 tables this year, since there is a good amount of estate equipment being handled. Be sure and stop by to say hello and look over the equipment- you might find just the item you were looking for!!

I will be stepping down as your president at the November meeting...I just want to thank everyone for all their help and support of this club. I cannot think of any time that I asked for volunteers for one thing or another, that someone didn't step up and say "I'll help!" What a wonderful group you all are, and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as an officer.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday Season!

73, Leslie WA4EEZ



## WA4AKH RETURNS TO THE AIR by Ron Hall KP2N

The SPARC repeater system returned as WA4AKH on July 29, 2008. Following the passing of longtime trustee Emmett West, WA4AKH, in November, 2007, the repeater system had been operating under W4GAC, the SPARC club call.

A new control group, SPARC Repeater Group, was formed and applied for a new FCC license. KJ4DTL was issued on April 28, 2008. Work was started at once to obtain the WA4AKH call via the FCC Vanity call program.



With the 100 percent support of Marjorie West, WA4TVL, the widow of Emmett, a letter from Marjorie was received by the group indicating her wishes to have SPARC apply for Emmett's call in memoriam for all his many years of service. The FCC granted our request to issue the call WA4AKH to the SPARC Repeater Group on July 25, 2008

Plans were made to re-program the Arcom controller on Tuesday, July 29. Also, the group thought it would be fitting to have Marjorie make the first QSO under the new call. Arrangements were made to have Dee, N4GD, at the repeater site and Ron, KP2N, at Marjorie's home. At 10 AM the 220 and 440 repeaters were linked so Marjorie could contact Leslie, WA4EEZ, club president. 10 AM came and went. The repeaters refused to cross link. Dee grabbed his HT and had the first QSO with Marjorie on the 440 machine. Not exactly as planned but, as usual, SPARC pulled it off. Marjorie face lit up when the voice ID of WA4AKH came over her HT. When Marjorie is out driving in her mobile listen for WA4TVL and let her know that thanks to her help WA4AKH is back on the air.



Many thanks to all who helped obtaining WA4AKH for SPARC:

Marjorie West, WA4TVL; Lu Romero, W4LT; Pete Peterson, KB9LXM; Dee Turner, N4GD; Bill Zulas, WZ4GW; Dave Trewin, KR4U; Leslie Johnson, WA4EEZ; Ron Hall, KP2N.

Marjorie West, WA4TVL, making the first contact on the newly licensed WA4AKH repeater.



## Remember When?

This has been taken from a SPARC GAP dated April 1978 and was written by WA4TJG



The City of St. Petersburg discovered if it faced a major disaster it needed volunteer communication. The St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club got behind the project and appointed Woody K4SCL Repeater Trustee. They accepted the free site offered by the City and applied for a license in Aug. 1974.

The license arrived December 20 1974 and it went on the air that night at 8:15. It was given the call sign WR4ALM.

The repeater included a G.E. Progress Line Repeater Station with 80 watts output, W1GAN duplexer and a Phelps Dodge Super Station Master Antenna, which at the time was side mounted at 106' and was located at Old Fire Headquarters 150 = 14th St. N. The equipment was in a standard G. E. cabinet 60"x22"x22", with doors and locks front and back. A loud speaker set on top, a green lamp glows when the filaments are on and a red lamp lights when the transmitter is keyed. Two meters are available checking and monitoring various receiver and transmitter circuits.

The CW station identifier has a computer type memory and circuitry which transmits the repeater call sign in CW every 3 minutes, if the repeater is used during these 3 minutes.

The meeting place for the repeater team was held at a classroom at the Fire Headquarters.

Remote control was accomplished by dedicated Phone lines. The State had to investigate each control operator. This took considerable time and was costly. Each control point required a control encoder and battery with a charger.

Moving day was March 7, 1976. We left Fire Headquarters and moved to our present site at St. Petersburg Times and Independent Publishing Co. at 1301 - 34 St. N. Our Phelps Dodge Super Station Master Antenna and hard-line coaxial feed-line was placed 210' above ground level.

Mrs. Kalabash (extreme interference at Fire Headquarters) was once and for all laid to rest. SUCH JOY...and also we did not disturb our new neighbors on the tower with QRM.

Our repeater cabinet is housed in the little metal building at the base of the tower. The dedicated phone line had to be also moved, which was an added expense.

Our next major move was May 1976 to change our meeting place to the American Red Cross 818- 4th St, N. We enjoyed more room, a kitchen ( before the coffee pot had to be filled at the water spigot outside of the building) and last but not least bathrooms. Who can forget the long drive to the "outhouse" !!!

Nov, 17, 1976 we were able to go from dedicated phone lines to our present control system. This system uses a simple tone encoder and any telephone, which gives the control operators freedom of movement during their watch.

Our latest addition is an extra transmitter strip.

I hope this brings all members up to date on the repeater history. As you all know it takes a lot of loving care, dedicated people, and money to keep it on the air. The repeater is just a machine ...It's the fellowship, consideration, and respect for others that makes SPARC 147.66/06 famous.

### Comment from the Editors:



If anyone can continue to add to this article please email us at [newsletter@sparc-club.org](mailto:newsletter@sparc-club.org)

Do you want to share a story or know of other articles of interest to the members, all would be appreciated.



Silent Key CECIL WAGNER KC4EYI We will miss you!

# Contest/Operating Event Corner

## Upcoming Contests

|                        |            |      |
|------------------------|------------|------|
| ARRL SWEEPSTAKES SSB   | NOV. 15-17 | 2008 |
| ARRL 160 METER CONTEST | DEC. 5-7   | 2008 |
| ARRL 10 METER CONTEST  | DEC. 13-14 | 2008 |

**Congrats** to **Bob N2ESP** who was notified by the ARRL that he placed **First** in the Single Operator, Phone Only, Low Power category for the WCF Section in the 2007 ARRL 10 Meter contest.

2008 ARRL Field Day results have been posted and I am very happy to report that SPARC was first in WCF out of 23 entries and 8th overall out of 82 entries nationwide in class 5A. We can all be proud of our fine effort.

The following Contest Log has been provided by the fine work of Bob N2ESP. The purpose is to provide a running summary of what your Club has been doing in domestic and worldwide operating events, we are showing that SPARC is becoming a force to contend with in contesting. Thanks to all who have participated.

De Dave KR4U

## SPARC Contest Log

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>October, 2008: JARTS (Japanese Amateur Radio Teleprinter Society)</b> |   |
| Call sign:   | W4GAC   |
| Class:   | Multiple Operator, High Power, All Bands, RTTY  |
| Claimed Score:   | <b>547,172</b> (QSO's = 1069; Points = 2581; Multipliers = 148+64)  |
| Operators:   | KP2N, N2ESP, KR4U, N4RI, W4CU, KB9LXM   |
| Comments:  | Total operating time 39 Hrs out of 48.<br>Operating/Logging Software –Writelog<br>Rig: Yaesu FT920 ; Amp Ameritron 811H running 500W<br>Antennas: Tennadyne Log Periodic at 50 Feet; 40M Sloper; 40M Vertical |

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>April, 2008: Florida QSO Party</b> |  |
| Call sign:                            | W4GAC  |
| Class:                                | Florida Multiple Operator, Single Transmitter, Club Station  |
| Claimed Score:                        | <b>323,380</b> (CW QSO's = 573; SSB QSO's = 260; Multipliers = 115)  |
| Operators:                            | KP2N, N2ESP, WB2SUN, KR4U, KU4BT, N4GD, N4RI, W4CU, WA4EEZ, KB9LXM   |
| Comments:                             | Operating/Logging Software –Writelog<br>Rig: Yaesu FT920;<br>Antennas: Tennadyne Log Periodic at 50 Feet; 40M Sloper; 40M Vertical |





| <b>February, 2008; North American QSO Party- RTTY</b> |   |
|---|---|
| Call sign:  | W4GAC   |
| Class:  | Multiple Operator, Multiple Transmitter   |
| Claimed Score:  | <b>91,770</b> (QSO's = 690; Multipliers = 133)  |
| Operators:  | KP2N, N2ESP, VE3XD, KR4U, N4RI, W4CU, KB9LXM  |
| Comments:   | <p>Operating/Logging Software –Writelog</p> <p>Rig: Yaesu FT920 ;</p> <p>Antennas: Tennadyne Log Periodic at 50 Feet; 40M Sloper; 40M Vertical</p> <p>Two 80 Meter radials were added to our 40 Meter 1/4 wave vertical and we used an automatic antenna tuner at the base of the antenna. This combination provided excellent results on 80 meters and several of the</p> <p>higher bands. We operated the entire 12 hours of the event. We had 2 stations on the air at all times using bandpass filters and isolation stubs fabricated from RG8 coaxial cable.</p> |

| <b>February, 2008; CQWW RTTY WPX</b> |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Call sign:                           | VE3XD/W4   |
| Class:                               | Multiple Operator, All Bands, RTTY   |
| Claimed Score:                       | <b>1,829,370</b> (QSO's = 1242)  |
| Operators:                           | KP2N, N2ESP, NP2W, VE3XD, KB9LXM   |
| Comments:                            | <p>Total operating time 28 Hrs out of 48.</p> <p>Operating/Logging Software –Writelog</p> <p>Rig: Yaesu FT920 ;</p> <p>Antennas: Tennadyne Log Periodic at 50 Feet; 40M Sloper; 40M Vertical</p> |

| <b>January, 2008: ARRL RTTY Roundup</b> |  |
|---|--|
| Call sign:                              | W4GAC  |
| Class:                                  | Multiple Operator, All Bands, RTTY   |
| Claimed Score:                          | <b>109,489</b> (Qs = 1033; Mlts = 106)   |
| Operators:                              | N1XX, KP2N, N2ESP, VE3XD, KR4U, N4OJ, N4RI, WA4EEZ, KB9LXM   |
| Comments:                               | <p>Operating/Logging Software –Writelog</p> <p>Rig: Yaesu FT920 ;</p> <p>Antennas: Tennadyne Log Periodic at 50 Feet; 40M Sloper; 40M Vertical</p> |



| <b>November, 2007: ARRL Sweepstakes – SSB</b> |   |
|---|---|
| Call sign:                                    | W4GAC   |
| Class:  | Multiple Operator, Multiple Transmitter   |
| Claimed Score:                                | <b>97,080</b> and a <b>CLEAN SWEEP</b> (all 80 ARRL/RAC sections)   |
| Operators:                                    |   |
| Comments:                                     | Operating/Logging Software –Writelog<br>Rig: 2 Yaesu FT920 ;<br>Antennas: Tennadyne Log Periodic at 50 Feet; 40M Sloper; 40M Vertical |

| <b>November, 2007: ARRL Sweepstakes – CW</b> |  |
|--|--|
| Call sign:                                   | W4GAC  |
| Class:                                       | Multiple Operator, Club Station  |
| Claimed Score:                               | <b>85,280</b> and a <b>CLEAN SWEEP</b> (all 80 ARRL/RAC sections)  |
| Operators:                                   | N1XX, KP2N, KI4SYS, KR4U, N4RI, W4CU   |
| Comments:                                    | Operating/Logging Software –Writelog<br>Rig: Yaesu FT920;<br>Antennas: Tennadyne Log Periodic at 50 Feet; 40M Sloper; 40M Vertical |

| <b>September, 2007; CQWW RTTY</b> |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Call sign:                        | W4GAC   |
| Class:                            | Multiple Operator, All Bands  |
| Claimed Score:                    | <b>666,900</b> (QSO's = 1003)   |
| Operators:                        | KP2N, N2ESP, KI4SNS, KR4U, N4RI, W4CU, WA4EEZ, KB9LXM   |
| Comments:                         | Operating/Logging Software –Writelog<br>Rig: Yaesu FT920 ;<br>Antennas: Tennadyne Log Periodic at 50 Feet; 40M Sloper; 40M Vertical |

| <b>April, 2007: Florida QSO Party</b> |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Call sign:                            | W4GAC  |
| Class:                                | Florida Multiple Operator, Single Transmitter, Club Station  |
| Claimed Score:                        | 278,512 (CW QSO's = 573; SSB QSO's = 260; Multipliers = 115)   |
| Operators:                            | KP2N, N2ESP, WB2SUN, KI4SNS, KR4U, KU4BT, N4GD, N4RI, W4CU, WA4EEZ, KB9LXM   |
| Comments:                             | <b>Won Top Florida Club Station Plaque!</b><br>Operating/Logging Software –Writelog<br>Rig: Yaesu FT920 ;<br>Antennas: Tennadyne Log Periodic at 50 Feet; 40M Sloper; 40M Vertical |

# Upcoming Events

Chester Tailgate 7AM till ...when everyone leaves

**2009**

**Schedule will be posted as soon as it is available.**

Chester Electronic Supply

311 Missouri Ave. N. Largo, FL 33770 Ph 727-585-4736

## SPARC Meetings

First Friday every month, 7:30 pm

and

*\*Testing*: Third Tuesday every month 6:30 pm

at the Red Cross Bldg,

818 Fourth Street North

St. Petersburg

Some Members meet for Breakfast

Every Saturday, 7:00 am

At the

Biff Burger 49th St. & 38th Ave. N. St. Pete

*\*contact* Connie K4TBZ at 727-528-0071



### SPARC Purpose:

1. To further and promote the social benefits and technical advancement of the radio arts.
2. To acquire, organize, establish and maintain facilities for social and emergency communication, both mobile and stationary.
3. To assist and cooperate with authorized agencies in any emergency of local, state or national scope.
4. To further fellowship among radio amateurs, potential radio amateurs and other parties interested in amateur radio.

## ELMERS

| Specialty                 | Name           | Call   | Contact Information |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------|---------------------|
| Digital, CW, and Antennas | Dave Trewin    | KR4U   | trewins@aol.com     |
| PSK                       | Wendy Kincaid  | KB1AF  | kb1af@yahoo.com     |
| RTTY, Repeaters           | Ron Hall       | KP2N   | kp2n@arrl.net       |
| HF, 10-10                 | Leslie Johnson | WA4EEZ | wa4eez@verizon.net  |

Recently Ron, KP2N, and myself had the opportunity to observe the assembly of an Elecraft K3 high performance transceiver. One of our members, Scott N4RI, ordered the kit and after a wait of several months finally received the package. We met at my home to assemble and check out the radio. The design engineers on this project really did a fine job packaging this product, there is no soldering required and the only point to point wiring consists of 3 pre-assembled small coaxial cable assemblies with plugs on each end and speaker wires again with pre-installed connector. Rounding out the wiring are 2 coax cable connectors for the antenna connections, each with its own 2 inch pigtail and pre-installed plug. The assembly of the radio is a purely a mechanical effort securing printed circuit boards and interconnect boards with hardware. All three of us were impressed with the mechanical fit of all the components and the chassis assembly. The unit worked the first time we applied power and the alignment went smooth with very basic test equipment. Our total assembly time was about 15 hours over 2 days.

## Club Officers for 2008

|                         |  |                             |   |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|
| <u>President</u>        | Leslie Johnson WA4EEZ<br><a href="mailto:president@sparc-club.org">president@sparc-club.org</a>          | <u>Net Manager</u>          | Pete Secrist WB2SUN<br><a href="mailto:netmanager@sparc-club.org">netmanager@sparc-club.org</a>                         |
| <u>Vice President</u>   | Pete Peterson KB9LXM<br><a href="mailto:vice-president@sparc-club.org">vice-president@sparc-club.org</a> | <u>Club Station Trustee</u> | David Trewin KR4U<br><a href="mailto:trustee@sparc-club.org">trustee@sparc-club.org</a>                                 |
| <u>Secretary</u>        | Bob Entwistle N1XX<br><a href="mailto:secretary@sparc-club.org">secretary@sparc-club.org</a>             | <u>Web Master</u>           | Dee Turner N4GD<br><a href="mailto:webmaster@sparc-club.org">webmaster@sparc-club.org</a>                               |
| <u>Treasurer</u>        | Ron Hall KP2N<br><a href="mailto:treasurer@sparc-club.org">treasurer@sparc-club.org</a>                  | <u>Newsletter Editors</u>   | Veronika Trewin KC4YAW<br>David Trewin KR4U<br><a href="mailto:newsletter@sparc-club.org">newsletter@sparc-club.org</a> |
| <u>Repeater Trustee</u> | Ron Hall KP2N<br><a href="mailto:trustee@sparc-club.org">trustee@sparc-club.org</a>                      | <u>Past President</u>       | Peter Goldhammer W4GTO<br><a href="mailto:pastpresident@sparc-club.org">pastpresident@sparc-club.org</a>                |

### Board Members

Linda Saunders KI4RV  
Richard Stephens N4BUA [boardmember1@sparc-club.org](mailto:boardmember1@sparc-club.org)  
Bill Zulas WZ4GW [boardmember2@sparc-club.org](mailto:boardmember2@sparc-club.org)