

THE SPARC GAP

St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club

The President's KEY-board

Happy *Brrrrrr* New Year!!!

From Cecil Wagner, KE4EYI

1999 SPARC President

The New Year is here, along with all the anticipation of great things to come. Now is a great time to resolve to support your local Amateur Radio Clubs. Support can be in the form of membership dues or donations both monetary and time. The



monetary donation is obvious; however, the donation of time may need some explanation. Clubs require money and volunteers to function. Some members have the luxury of available time in their day to assist the club leadership with the many activities required to help keep the club running smoothly. Emmett West, WA4AKH, is a shining example of this spirit! Emmett spends a great deal of his time for SPARC. He manages to keep the SPARC repeaters running as well as can be expected considering the financial resources available. Thanks Emmett! So please, if you can help out with time or money, please do so. Lets make

1999 the year that every club member helped our Club in some additional way!

Other Notes of Interest

Thanks go out to Ann and Al Shaver for their help with the fall edition of the SPARC GAP newsletter. It is so important to keep the GAP going! By the way, keep your eyes open for articles written by Ann in ham radio magazines in the next few months! I would like to thank the 1998 SPARC Officers and Board members for their help in the past year. Being an elected board member is not easy. Trying to please everyone is sometimes not possible. The best we can do is listen to the members of the club and make our decisions as best we can. Also, getting board members together for a meeting, as an example, almost always requires someone to adjust their schedule. Thank you.

The SPARC Board has chosen Cedric Harris, KF4ZCG (Richard's, KF4WRL, son) to have use of the W4GAC station Kenwood TS530S HF transceiver for two months! During this time, Cedric will be able to listen and even practice copying Morse code directly from HF! After the two months, the radio will be returned to W4GAC for another two-month issue to a deserving Ham.

The American Red Cross is always looking for volunteers. If you can spare some time for your community, please call Dina Bates at 898-3111 to see how you can help.

The Lake Seminole picnic was a great success! About 20 picnickers were there to enjoy the food, fellowship, and sports activities. Pitching of horse-

shoes, bocce balls, and stories were enjoyed by all. Look in this edition of The SPARC GAP for several pictures from this event. Thanks to all who helped make the picnic a success!

Please join me in thanking one of our newest SPARC members Pete Stephens, KD4ETS, for his help in two areas. The SPARC web page is back in business, and, the SPARC GAP is being completed thanks, in a big part, to the efforts of Pete! Thanks Pete!

Please stay in touch with your 1999 club officers and board members! Judith and I wish all an exciting and prosperous 1999. 73's

AFTER HOLIDAYS PARTY

Don't miss one of our most exciting events - The 4th Annual After Holidays Party. This year the event will be held on Sunday, January 17th (2:30 PM) at the Four Coins Restaurant. Just order right off the menu. Please let us know if you plan to attend. Nonmembers are always welcome. This is a great opportunity to introduce prospective hams or prospective new members to our group. We always have a great time of fellowship at this event. RSVP via the SPARC nightly net to the net controllers, via email to sparc@tampabay.rr.com or give Cecil Wagner, KE4EYI or Judith a call at 394-9019. Most special menu requests can be accommodated. Just let us know so we can pass it on the restaurant. Don't wait until the last minute to let us know. There will be mystery prizes given. See you there!

1999 DUES

The time has come to pay our dues again. Many members have already done so at the last few meetings and via mail. But with the holidays occupying much of our time, many have forgotten to send in their dues for the New Year. Please take a moment to take care of this. We value every member. See the application on the back of the newsletter for details. Membership questions can be addressed to the club treasurer Donn Davis, N4KII.



CLUB OFFICERS

President:

Cecil Wagner KE4EYI, Phone 394-9019

Vice-President: *Dee Turner N2MNC*

Secretary: *Rick Rutan K4BNE*

Treasurer: *Donn Davis N4KII*

Board Members:

Mark Farr N9MIU

Freddie Lunenburg KF4FCW

Nick Nickels KM4MJ

OTHER CONTACTS

Repeater Trustee:

Emmitt West WA4AKH

Club Station W4GAC Trustee:

Ann Shaver WH2E

Webmaster: *Pete Stephens KD4ETS*

Net Manager:

Freddie Lunenburg KF4FCW

Newsletter: *Ann Shaver WH2E*

Al Shaver NH2Z

Pete Stephens KD4ETS

UPCOMING EVENTS

There are a number of exciting events coming up. Of course, the SPARC After Holidays Party

on January 17 is going to be a good time for all. But there are other great amateur radio events coming up as well.

Boys and Girls Club Hamfest

Also on January 17 is the Boys and Girls Club Hamfest in Pinellas Park. This event will be open start-

ing at 8:00AM. This will give you plenty of time to get to the SPARC Party in the afternoon. At the Hamfest there will be many dealers with new and used equipment. Also, there will be an exam session (register from 9:30AM to 10:00AM). Admis-

sion cost is a \$2.00 donation to the Boys and Girls Club. Location is the Boys and Girls Club facility at 7790 61st N. in Pinellas Park. For dealer information or any other questions, see the SPARC web site or call Jean, KC4KZU at 525-5178. Talk in is on the SPARC 2m repeater (147.060).

Tropical Hamboree

The 1999 Tropical Hamboree and Computer show will be held February 6-7 in Miami at the Dade County Fair Expo Center. The ARRL and The Dade Radio Club of Miami co-sponsor this event. This is the big one! There will be a variety of special speakers and programs. The ARRL South Florida Section will hold it's meeting on Saturday. This event is sure to bring thou-

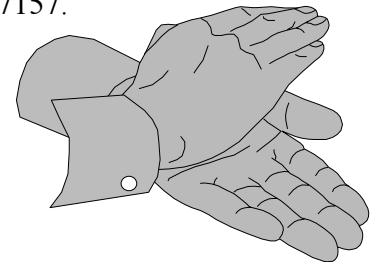


sands of hams and attract a wide array dealers and exhibitors. Exam sessions will be offered. Tickets are \$5.00 advance and \$7.00 at the door. Hotel and dealer information can be obtained at <http://www.hamboree.org>.

Zephyrhills Phinney Fest

March 7, 1999 is the date for this year's Phinney Fest, sponsored by the Zephyrhills Area Amateur Radio Club. The fest will be held at the Zephyrhills Lions Club on 5827 Dean Dairy Road in Zephyrhills. Hours are 8:00AM to 2:00PM; admission is \$4.00. Talk-in is available on 147.135. For more information, visit the SPARC web site or call Ernie KD4VRV at (813) 783-8389 or Jeri KF4QOZ at (813) 788-5419.

If you require additional information on the listed events, or you have an event you would like listed in the next issue, contact Pete Stephens KD4ETS at 397-7157.



Thanks to Cecil, KE4EYI and Donn, N4KII for the great photos from the SPARC picnic!

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Orlando HamCation

On February 12-15 is the Orlando HamCation. This is a big event sponsored by the Orlando Amateur Radio Club. The event will be held at the Central Florida Fairgrounds. Hours are Friday 5:00PM to 9:00PM, Saturday 9:00AM to 5:00PM and Sunday 9:00AM to 3:00PM. There will be many dealers and many tailgaters. Cost is \$7.00 in advance, \$9.00 at the door. There will be a variety of special programs, and exam sessions will be of-



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SPARC ON THE WEB

SPARC has a new web site. If you haven't had the chance, point your browser to <http://home.tampabay.rr.com/sparc> and have fun! On the SPARC home page you will find upcoming event, various club information and a lot of amateur radio related links. This can be a valuable resource and it was designed to be flexible. If you would like to suggest an improvement, all comments are welcome. This is YOUR web site – enjoy!

How is a web site created? First, you need a way to create pages. In the case of the SPARC home page, I used Microsoft FrontPage. It is like



a fancy word processor for web pages. You design the pages and Microsoft FrontPage converts them to a specific type of code called HTML. You can actually create web pages by directly creating HTML code in your text editor or word processor, but this can be cryptic and time consuming. A program such as FrontPage allows you to concentrate on the creative aspects of web design and not get caught up in the details of the specific HTML code.

Next, you will need a place to host (or publish) your web site. Most of the time, your ISP (Internet Service Provider) gives you space to place your personal web site on one of their host computers. Check with your ISP for details. Each one seems to do it different. Some ISPs are easier than others when it comes to web publishing. Keep in mind that most ISPs only allow you to set up personal web pages or non-commercial web sites if you have a personal account with your ISP. If you want to set up a web site and sell something, you will probably need to set up a commercial account (more money) with your ISP. Since

SPARC is not selling anything, then it was OK to set it up on my ISP's host (in this case it is Road Runner from Time Warner). Once you get the pages the way you like it on your PC, you transfer the files to your ISP host where they will be on-line for anyone with Internet access to see. And it is super easy to change your pages.

I hope everyone enjoys the new web site. Keep in mind that the web site is always under construction. Send your comments or suggestions to the new spark email address: sparc@tampabay.rr.com.

73s — Pete Stephens KD4ETS

REPEATER REPAIRS

Due to the lightning strike last year, our repeaters have gone through some changes. All three repeaters (2m, 220Mhz & 440MHz) were effected by the mishap. Our repeater engineering committee was able to use spare parts to get the 2m and 440Mhz machines back up and running. Then the committee was faced with the task of repairing the damaged units. At the time of this writing, the malfunctioning parts have been sent out of state for repairs and should be back to us by the end of January. The 2m and 440Mhz machines are operational at this time, but various advanced functions (such as auto-patch) may not work until all the repairs are complete. Thanks to everyone for their patience in this matter. And a warm thank you to all those that have pulled together to make it all work! If you have any questions you can direct them to sparc@tampabay.rr.com or you can contact Emmitt West, WA4AKH repeater trustee.

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• The next meeting will be held on •
• Friday, February 5th 1999 •
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AMERICAN RED CROSS

A special thanks is in order to our local chapter of the American Red Cross. The Tampa Bay chapter provides assistance through four programs: 1. Disaster Services – assisting people in times of crises 2. Armed Forces Emergency Services – linking military personnel to their families 3. Health & Safety Services – educating the community on first aid, CPR, water safety,

NET CONTROLLERS

Being a net controller is a rewarding experience. You get to know quite a few local hams and you get to participate in traffic handling for the NTS (National Traffic Systems). Hats off to all that have volunteered over the years to serve in this vital club function. The SPARC net is held nightly. If you are able to act as net controller one night per week, then please contact Freddy KF4FCW at 321-4670 or catch him on the net. Currently, there are several nights available to willing hams. If you have never been a net controller, this is your chance. Don't miss out on the fun!

**Join the SPARC Net at
6:30 PM everyday
147.060 repeater**



HIV/AIDS, & sports safety 4. Community Volunteer Services – helping make our community a better place

These vital community functions are often taken for granted; but nothing could happen without volunteers. The American Red Cross is looking for anyone who can help out. You could volunteer in a variety of facets that include: being involved in directly delivering the service of The American Red Cross, helping out with training and instruction, and administrative work is always available. No matter what your talents, a volunteer function can be found to fit you. And of course, monetary help is always appreciated.

Need more information? The St.Petersburg Branch has two upcoming volunteer orientation sessions. The first will be held January 15 at 10:00AM and the next will be January 28 at 7:00PM. Please call ahead to reserve a seat. All questions can be addressed to Dina Bates at 898-3111.



ITEMS FOR SALE

We would love to publish any items you have for sale. THE SPARC GAP is here for you. If you would like to have your ad placed, please provide the details to Pete Stephens KD4ETS at 397-7157, or email sparc@tampabay.rr.com. Your items will also be listed on the SPARC web site for maximum visibility. This service is open to all except commercial dealers.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Use this form for new memberships and renewals

NAME: _____ CALL: _____

STREET: _____ CLASS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ ARRL Member? Y/N ARES/RACES? Y/N

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____ CALL: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Membership dues are \$15.00 single member, \$20.00 family per year

Which of the following activities could you help with?

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Repeater Engineering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field Day | <input type="checkbox"/> Instruction | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunshine | <input type="checkbox"/> Club Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Net Control | <input type="checkbox"/> Hamfest | <input type="checkbox"/> TVI |

St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 4026
St. Petersburg, FL 33407-4026

The club meets on the first Friday of
each month at 7:30 PM at Red Cross
Headquarters at 818 4th St. N.,
St. Petersburg, Florida