



SPARC GAP



**St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club
July, August, September 2006**

Field Day 2006 as great as ever- by David KR4U

The SPARC Field Day at Bay Pines was a great success again this year. We operated as a 5A group with possible dedicated stations on 10 and 160 meters in addition to one dedicated station on 20 meters and 2 multiband stations one on SSB and one on CW. Aside from 2 small technical problems all of our equipment worked perfectly. We used vertical antennas for 10 meters, 20 CW and multiband CW. A multiband tuned dipole was used on SSB and the 160 meter station also used a

dipole. Ten meter conditions were poor and stations heard on 160 did not appear to be in Field Day.

We had 52 people sign our Guest Book and several guests operated stations on both SSB and CW. The stations operating on bands that were open were manned around the clock, it was great to see such spirit. Ron KP2N made 2 Amateur Satellite Contacts and Paul KD4YDY again provided his excellent 6 meter package to add to our QSO count.

This year our Saturday evening meal was purchased

from Sonny's Restaurant and I think we all enjoyed it very much.

Again thanks to Peter W4GTO for providing excellent made to order breakfasts on Sunday morning.

I think we keep improving each year and we have already done a bit of brainstorming on what to do different next time. I would like to thank David W4YD for securing our great Bay Pines site and Thank all who participated to make it such an enjoyable weekend.

73 de Dave KR4U

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See more Pic's at the website





Field Day Diary 2006 from John KU4BT

I started to get excited about Field Day on Thursday. Friday at work, I just couldn't keep from thinking about it. I went shopping that night for food stuffs and pulled my Field Day boxes out of storage.

I woke up early Saturday morning. I started with a big Breakfast of grilled catfish, two eggs, tomatoes and toast. Then I packed the ice chest and loaded all of the gear into the truck.

After arriving at the site, my first task was to meet Peter at the gate and bring him and his XXXL vehicle back to the site. Peter gave me the signs he made and I drove around and put them up.

By this time, the tower work has already started. It was about 10 am. Down at the pavilion, Dave had already erected the 20 - 15 vertical and I helped Dave and Ron erect our 33 foot 40 - 80 vertical. It had a smart box at the base that tuned it when we switched bands.

This year, all of the stations and antennas went up with little difficulty. Pre panning had prevented poor performance. Everyone was ready to roll before 2 P.M. and Murphy was relegated to the side lines. For lunch, we had subs from Williams sandwich shop. They hit the spot.

Kenny (K4OB) came out a little before kickoff dressed all in white with a fishing pole. He said he hadn't operated since last year. I said; "Here, sit down and start." He did and I got to rest up. When Kenny left, I operated for a while until Blake (N4GI) showed up. I finished off a couple of Qs and then turned it over to him. I went down and hung out with the VHF contingent. Dinner was Barbeque ribs and chicken. Blake left around dark and I started operating the night shift. Ron would relieve me when I had to take a break.

One thing we were not prepared for was the pavilion had no lights this year. Peter (W4GTO) had some floods in his XXXL vehicle, so he saved the day. Sometime after sunrise, Kenney showed up again and I rested until Peter cooked bacon and eggs for everyone on site. It really hit the spot after a hard nights operating. I resumed operating and Ron and I kept the FT920 hopping and Ken and Dave worked the Ten Tec.

Eventually the end came and we were working nothing but dups.

We shut down a little early because a storm front looked to be moving in. I wanted to get that 33 foot pole on the ground. Tear down went even quicker than set up and I was on the road. I made it home dodging the rain drops. I unloaded everything in the bed of the truck and left everything else alone. I decided to rest before finishing. It was 5:30 PM. I had been up for over 36 hours. I became unconscious. Field Day was over for me.

Other thoughts: Ron worked two satellites. David (W4YD) worked extremely hard at the 160 setup, but it proved ineffective despite the great effort extended. Blackie (W4TA) came out and worked some CW for us along with Tony (N2TS). It was a real joy to see these old timers operating and having a good time.

Field Day dress code: Anything with a call sign, no color coordination needed.

Field Day traditions: Very strong coffee. This kept me going in the wee hours while on 80 meters.

After Field Day bath. Start with a general hose down. Bathe once using dish detergent, bathe again using soap. Rinse and repeat as needed.

After Field Day laundry: Wash everything as soon as possible, or burn it later.

This year we decided to set up the phone station to be 75 meter enabled. This paid off big time with a two hour pile up late night run of epic proportions. 40 was the best band, 20 and 80 were great. 10 was fickle and we got a band opening on 6 for a while.

Thanks to everybody 73's John KU4BT.



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

Breakfast

Every Saturday, 7:00 am

At the

Four Coins Restaurant



**contact Mark NP3R 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.

Origin of Hi Hi- From ac6v.com

"hi hi" is the Morse equivalent of a laugh as in Morse it sounds like someone chuckling ("hehhehhehheh hehheh"). That is ditditdit-dit dit dit --- or dot dot dot dot dot dot. You really have to listen to it sent in Morse to appreciate its laugh like sound. It is most commonly used in CW (Morse Code), but has carried over to voice as well. Many CW expressions have carried over to voice -- such as 73 (Best Regards) and 88 (love and Kisses), etc. The origin probably dates back before radio to the telegraph days. And since Hams used Morse long before voice became practical-- the sound of the Morse characters HI HI was used to resemble a laugh sound. In some sense it is equivalent of a smiley. It's onomatopoeic -- that is the naming of a thing or action by a vocal imitation of the sound associated with it (as buzz, hiss) The definitive answer might be

found in the "Dodge's The Telegraph Instructor Manual" circa 1850 to 1900. However, I have never been able to find a copy of this document. Wish I could as it would help to see the transitions from telegraph to radio usage. So that is my best guess -- based on what old time telegraphers have told me. Ed Note: Another use of HI HI is sending a greeting to a fellow Ham when vehicles pass -- four short horn beeps followed by two short horn beeps. Since many Hams have Ham License plates -- a fellow Ham is easily spotted as well as seeing the mobile antennas.



Upcoming Events

Chester Tailgate 7AM till ...when everyone leaves

9 Sept (Wormhole), 11 Nov (METRO) 2006

Chester Electronic Supply

311 Missouri Ave N

Largo, FL 33770

Ph 727-585-4736



We are on the Web!
www.qsl.net/w4gac



SPARC Upcoming Programs:

July 7, 2006 Neil W4NHL APRS

Sept 1, 2006 Geoff, N1GY Building Simple Amateur Gear

New Members? Special Interests? Comments?

Need to fill this space with your input

Contest Corner



Congratulations to all who took part in that contest.

Also, those who helped transform the club station into a contest winner.

The plaque and FQP letter will be displayed on the W4GAC wall of fame.

Be sure to look it over at the next SPARC function.

Next contest:

NAQP RTTY

July 15/16

12 hour M/S

**St. Petersburg Amateur
Radio Club**

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To



Club Officers for 2006



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