

SPARC GAP

St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club

October, November, December



"We will find this who did it, we'll smoke them out of their holes, we'll get them running and we'll bring them to justice."

President George W. Bush



Old\New Board Poised For 2002

By Phil Gulick
KG4IGX

Only five people ran for election at SPARC's annual elections meeting at the Red Cross Headquarters in St. Petersburg Nov. 2, 2001.

And, they weren't the top guns, either. An elections nominating committee of Ann and Al Shaver, WH2E & NH2Z, was selected by the board at the October meeting to poll members to see if anyone wanted to replace one or all of

the 2000 slate of officers. None did, so the top officers retained their posts by default and the November elections were anticlimactic. However, three new board members were elected by balloting from the floor. Norm Martin AG4BI, membership chairman; Mark Farr N9MIU and Bill Zulas KG4HPM, topped balloting and became new board members.

As for the real honchos, Donn Davis N4KII began is his

(Continued on page 4)



Davis



Turner

2002 SPARC Officers

President - Donn Davis N4KII 527-9636
Vice-president - Dee Turner N2MNC 548-7474
Secretary - Grace Harris KG4CTG 894-1447
Treasurer - Susan Dillon KD4FEZ 302-0611
Board - Mark Farr N9MIU 895-9201; Norm Martin AG4BI 712-8964; Bill Zulas KG4HPM 725-4020.
Non-board members:
PIO & Newsletter Editor
Phil Gulick KG4IGX 392-3481
Special Events Coordinator
Ken Hopkins WA9WCP 525-8411



Norm Martin AG4BI



Susan Dillon KD4FEZ



Mark Farr N9MIU



Grace Harris KG4CTG

A. R. E. S. Looking for A few good Hams

By Paul Knupke Jr.
N4PK

Asst. E.C. Pinellas County A.R.E.S.

The Pinellas County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (often called A.R.E.S.) continues to look for hams interested in providing communication in public service during times of disaster. A.R.E.S. is sponsored nationally by the ARRL. In Florida, A.R.E.S. groups are organized by county. The goal of A.R.E.S. is to recruit and train hams so they are prepared to provide communications during an emergency. A.R.E.S. is not a club, but a service organization with no dues.

Pinellas County A.R.E.S. supports several organizations

DATE LOG - 2001

SPARC meeting - First Friday every month, 7:30 p. m. Red Cross Headquarters, 818 Fourth St. N.

Testing sessions - Fourth Monday every month, Gulfport Senior Center.

Next class session: Jan. 9, 6:30 p. m. Red Cross Headquarters.

SPARC REPEATERS, WEB SITE, OTHER

REPEATERS

SPARC repeaters: 147.06+, 224.66-, 444.475+.

Web site: www.qsl.net/W4GAC - Webmaster Dee Turner N2MNC

Metro repeater: 147.360+127.3. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 7:30 p.m. Radio room open 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays thru Fridays. Phone 398-6661X4383.

CARS repeaters: 146.970-, 224.940-, 444.150+, 444.450+.

Egypt Temple Amateur Radio Assn. repeater K4FEZ, Tampa: 147.345+ .

WCF Section Net - Sundays 7:30 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 9 p.m. at 145.430+ & 442.950+(100Hz) sub-audible tone required).

TAMPA BAY HAMFEST

Dec. 1-2, 2001. Manatee Civic & Convention Center. One Haben Blvd. at US301

Admission: \$6 advance, \$7 at door. Free parking. Indoor tables \$20 each.

Tailgate \$10 per space.

Talk-In: 145.430 & 442.950

locally including the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. In a disaster or emergency, A.R.E.S. coordinates hams stationed at locations such as the American Red Cross facilities in Clearwater and St. Petersburg, as well as Red Cross-staffed shelters.

In Pinellas County the A.R.E.S. group meets once a week on the air. The on-air meeting (The Pinellas County Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Net) is

held on Tuesday at 7:30 p. m. on the W4ACS repeater on 145.170-, requiring a 156.7 Hz sub-audible tone. The net is typically around 30 minutes in length. The net's objective is to provide hams in Pinellas County with training and information that will better prepare them to provide emergency communication. All hams are welcome to check in and participate.

Each A.R.E.S. group is lead by an

Emergency Coordinator (EC). The E.C. is appointed by the ARRL Section Manager. The current EC for Pinellas County is Dan Hawthorne, AI4ET. Dan has several assistant Emergency Coordinators (AEC) who are assigned various tasks.

We have been quite fortunate in Pinellas County that we have escaped major disaster for quite a

(Continued on page 6)

Annual feed fest a success

SPARC's annual picnic at Lake Seminole Park was another rousing success.

Dee Turner N2MNC and Mark Farr N9MIU manned the BBQ pits and provided hamburgers, hot dogs and Polish sausage.

Radio talk, war stories and general chit-chat were the order of a perfect day.



Bocce ball, anyone?

Barbara Gulick (right) rolls a shot during an impromptu bocce ball match that also involved Cookie Copes KE4BUH, Grace Harris KG4CTG and Judith Ross. The game is a regular attraction at the picnic and sometimes even the men get involved!

No wimp boat this year!

Phil Gulick's KG4IGX electric-powered PT-109 failed miserably at last year's outing due to mechanical difficulties.

However, on its second voyage on the lake, PT-109 was a huge success, as witnessed by the onlookers.

Gulick turned control over to Nick Martin NICKS for his enjoyment. After several minutes of cruising, Martin allowed PT-109 to plow into the side of a sailboat manned by a member of the St. Petersburg Radio Control Boat Club at their outing at the adjacent shelter.

No damage was done, but a few feathers (and sails!) were ruffled.

Photos by Mark Farr N9MIU



Ken Dale K2KD

I'm sorry to be bringing bad news, but my Dad, Ken Dale K2KD, died on July 1 while on vacation in New York, attending his grandson's graduation. I know he was an active member of SPARC and spoke very highly of its members and the organization.

Ken Dale was buried at Bay Pine Veterans National Cemetery last July.

Chances are, life was very different for you 20 years ago. Not so for Ken Dale, K2KD. Twenty years ago, Ken was a member of SPARC, running CW at speeds greater than 20 wpm. Mark Farr N9MIU and John Stark KU4BT recently commemorated this consistency,



SPARC member and news letter editor Phil Gulick KG4IGX recently presented former St. Petersburg American Red Cross branch manager Helen Hilton with a few pieces of personal family history. Phil's mother had been a volunteer for the American Red Cross (ARC) back in the 1940s and had given several service pins and a photo of herself, in Red Cross volunteer uniform, to her son. Now, many years later, Phil decided to give these treasures to the local Red Cross branch office. Helen said that the items could be added to the collection of other historical items now in the display case in the hallway. So, the next time you are in the Red Cross office at 818 4th Street N., take a few moments to look at the historical items on display in the hallway near Henderson Hall. Thanks Phil for helping to continue the warm relationship that SPARC has with our friends here at the St. Petersburg branch of the ARC.

Photo and text by Cecil Wagner

KE4EYI

Hans Schmitz KF4EYX

Hans passed away March 17, 2001 and his wife Mary proceeded him in death in February 2001.

Hans will be remembered by the SPARC members as an NCS on the net. I can still hear him saying "I'm known as Hans" when conducting the net. Hans and his XYL Mary loved to listen to the net.

I guess I knew Hans better than most of the club members. Hans was one of my most reliable net control operators when I was net manager. During those QSO's I learned much about Hans.

He was born in Germany in 1922, was bilingual and never owned or drove a vehicle. Hans was born with one eye and could not pass the driving test. For transportation he and Mary took a bus or rode bicycles. Hans worked for the City of St. Petersburg, Park Department and retired after 25 years.

Hans and Mary had no children, only each other, and their pets.

I feel it was an honor to have known both of them. I'm sure they will be missed.

Carl, N4AAV

3 new directors, events mgr. named

(Continued from page 1)
sixth year as club president. "If they can put up with me for this long, perhaps we can manage to get through another year without disaster," Davis said.

Dee Turner N2MNC retained his post as vice president, moving

into his fourth year as Davis' sidekick. Grace Harris KG4CTG, remains the club secretary into her third year and Susan Dillon KD4FEZ retains her job as club treasurer entering her fifth year.

Turner named Ken

Hopkins WA9WCP as special events coordinator, a new, non-board position.

Cecil Wagner KE4EYI swore in the officers. So, now, SPARC is poised to plunge into 2002 with a mix of grizzled veterans and young blood to help retain the enthusiasm, dynamics and camaraderie that distinguishes SPARC from many other outfits.

Hopkins Something special

By **KEN HOPKINS
WA9WCP**

Well, I guess that's me. Thanks to SPARC for their confidence in appointing me to this new position. I will be looking to the club membership for ideas as to which events require our communications services and who the proper contacts are. I can be reached at hopken@mindspring.com. I welcome your suggestions.

I have some old fashioned ideas about public service; I think all hams incur an obligation for public service when they accept their license.

Hams' response on Web site

The November QST article detailing the ham radio response after the September 11 terrorist attacks has been added to the PR Department Web page as a .PDF file.

You can view it at www.arrl.org/pio. It also appears in the "News and Views" section of the Field and Educational Activities Department Web page at www.arrl.org/



Ken Hopkins WA9WCP

The wonderful privileges we enjoy come with a price and that price is public service. Not only do we give back to the community with our public service activities, but also we train ourselves to be better communicators in time of need.

Between hurricanes and terrorism, we have plenty of things to prepare for. Not only was Paws on Parade a fun day, but also an excellent opportunity to dust off our HT's, recharge our batteries, and dig out that old speaker mike.

FandES/field/
pubservice.html#nandv.

While we do not normally offer QST articles on the Web for mass distribution, we received a lot of requests to make this article available for educational and promotional purposes.

Spread the good word
about ham radio!

73
Jen Hagy, NI TDY
ARRL HQ

Hamfest 2002 set

By **Paul Knupke Jr.
N4PK**

The Tampa Bay Hamfest 2001 is Dec. 1-2 at the Manatee County Civic Center in Palmetto. Located just across the Sunshine Skyway, the Manatee Civic Center is a short drive from St. Petersburg. The hours are Saturday from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. and Sunday from 9 a. m. to 2 p. m. The outside tailgate flea market opens one hour earlier both days.

The Tampa Bay Hamfest is host to the 2001 ARRL Southeastern Division Convention. It will feature dealers and manufacturers, indoor and outdoor flea markets, numerous forums and seminars, and three amateur radio exam sessions.

ARRL President Jim Haynie W5JBP will attend and will speak at the ARRL forum on Saturday at 1 p. m. Ed Hare W1RFI from ARRL headquarters will present several interesting technical presentations including, "How to Select a Radio", "How to Troubleshoot Electronics and Radio Problems", "RFI Fundamentals", and his always popular

Antenna Building Demonstration.

Weather aficionados have the opportunity to attend Skywarn Severe Weather Spotter basic and advanced courses. Both courses will be offered on both days. In addition, there will be forums on QRP, HF Digital modes like PSK-31, amateur satellites, emergency communications and traffic handling.

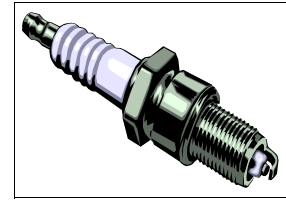
Cecil KE4EYI has tickets and they are also available at the door.

Special Event station WX4TBW will operate all day Saturday from communication trailers in front of the Civic Center. If you wish to operate this station please stop by the communication trailer and volunteer.

Three amateur radio exam sessions will be offered, two on Saturday (9:30-11:30 a. m. and 3-5 p. m.) and one on Sunday (9:30-11:30 a. m.). Talk-in will be held on the 145.430- and 442.950+ repeater system.

If you have questions about the hamfest please send email to info@fgarc.org or visit the Tampa Bay Hamfest web page at www.fgarc.org. You will find the full forum schedule on the web page.

**SPARC GAP
ST. PETERSBURG
AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB
PO BOX 4026
ST. PETERSBURG,
FL 33731
33731-4026**



Mailing
Address
Goes
Here

SPARC meetings are the first Friday of every month at the Red Cross Headquarters, 818 Fourth St. N. at 7:30 p. m.

In This Issue...

Who's your new board? Club picnic a treat for everyone!

Be on call for any disaster

(Continued from page 2)
number of years. Unfortunately, many people (including hams) are complacent. Often in emergencies hams "come out of the woodwork" and volunteer. While volunteers are always welcome, the downside is that on-the-spot training often takes place, a distraction.

Weekly nets are specifically



designed to provide a place where hams can receive training and information on a regular basis from their homes. By keeping in touch with A.R.E.S. you will be much better prepared to be effective as a

communicator during an emergency.

Hams interested in providing emergency communications are encouraged to register with Pinellas County A.R.E.S. To do so please contact Dan Johnson, W4BNC (insman@gate.net).

**Pinellas ARES
Contact Information:
Dan Hawthorne,
AI4ET (Pinellas Co.
E.C.) at 586-0497 or
ai4et@arrl.net
Webpage: www.qsl.net/pinellasares**

Newsletter
Editor
Phil Gulick
KG4IGX



*Thanks for
the fun, folks*

Since taking over as your newsletter editor, I have discovered that it's more a joy than a chore.

There has been great cooperation from members and the board in helping me provide an informational and hopefully, entertaining newsletter.

I look forward to the new year and further service to SPARC.
73 & Happy Holidays!