

P.O. Box 2217
St. Petersburg,
Fl. 333731



SPARC CALLS:
WA4AKH REPEATERS
W4GAC CLUB STATION
W4TA CONTEST GROUP

SPARC GAP

April - June 2013

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT



This has been an extraordinarily active quarter for SPARC

The relocation committee has met with City and Chamber of Commerce officials, and is trying to identify and secure a new station location. Thanks also to those SPARC members that took the initiative to contact potential host organizations as we continue to look for a permanent station location in St. Pete.

The W4GAC-W4TA equipment was systematically dismantled and placed in storage by: W1AAG, KP2N, N2ESP, KJ4RUS, KR4U, KI4UIP, N4KII, and W4CU.

A big debt of gratitude to those that participated in our antenna party to remove the antennas installed on the Salvation Army building. In addition to those mentioned above were KJ4EXM, N4NSS, AL4B, W4NHQ, KI4TWQ and W1EES. Much of the equipment that was surplus to our needs was sold at TARC FEST, helping to fatten our treasury, and was less that had to be moved.

While the search for a permanent station location continues, the station equipment has been stored and a small station set up at the Clearwater Sail and Power Squadron on Cleveland Street. Many thanks to Tom, W4CU, for coordination between the two organizations. I had the pleasure of addressing the membership of Squadron at their May meeting. I felt it was important that they had a good feeling about their new tenant. The CSPS members were impressed with all that we as SPARC accomplish and welcomed us aboard. Oh, did I forget to mention that the May meeting was their Ice Cream Social.

Since the last edition, the DXers had the opportunity to work 9U4U in Burundi, J5NAR in Guinea-Bissau, XT2TT in Burkina-Faso; H44KW in the Solomon Islands, TK5K on Clipperton Island. The SPARC Contest Group worked the North American RTTY QSO Party in their first contest as W4TA, which is also last contest to take place from the present station location. This was their best effort to date, with a claimed score of 168,532. Thanks "Ben."

Our gratitude goes to the family of silent key Rick Rutan, K4BNE, who donated Rick's station equipment to SPARC. Dee, N4GD; Dave, KR4U; and Bob, N2ESP dismantled the station. Please check WWW.BUYSELLNET.NET for a list of available equipment.

According to their radio ad, Motel 6 does not take reservations by telegraph. Their announcer you are "dot-dot-dot" "dash-dash-dash" "dot-dash-dot-dot." In the latest Burger King commercial, the drive in order taker with the headphones is mis-identified as a "Ham Radio Operator." It appears the hobby is gaining publicity.

The antenna used by the 2M and 440 repeaters was found to be working poorly, and was replaced by Ron, KP2N; Clayton, KJ4RUS; Donn, N4KII; Kyle, N4NSS; John, KI4UIP and Bob, N2ESP. Ron would appreciate signal reports from outlying areas.

We have had some fun and informative programs during our monthly meetings this year. If you have any ideas for future topics, please contact Clayton, KJ4RUS or myself. Our spring picnic was cancelled due to lack of interest. Please let us know when and where you would like to reschedule.

73, Bob - N2ESP

P.S. A funny for this issue: I went to a Ray's game and wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

Amateur Radio Web Cast's submitted by AK4OO Joe

I would like to bring Three web cast to every ones attention:

1. Ham Nation: <http://twit.tv/show/ham-nation>
It was this web-cast that pushed me to get my ham ticket.
The show features K9EID Bob Heil, WB6NOA Gordon West,
W5JDX George Thomas and a host of other great hams. With over 100 web-
cast and a live web-cast every Wednesday at 9:00 pm est with a chat room
(possible pre-show 8:30) <http://live.twit.tv/>
they have after the show nets on 80 -40- and 20 meters.
2. Amateur Logic. tv <http://www.amateurlogic.tv>
Host: W5JDX George Thomas, N5ZNO Thomas Martin and
VK2PB Peter Berrett
53+ episodes
3. Ham radio now <http://arvideonews.com/hrn/>
Host: KN4AQ Gary Pearce and AC4ZO Jeff Wittich
81 + episodes

There You have it My three web casts picks about and for Amateur Radio.
73 AK4OO Joe
also note: free giveaway contest

SPARC Meetings..... Note New Location

First Assembly of God

6380 62nd Ave. N. Pinellas Park

"Electricity originates inside clouds. There, it forms into lightning, which is attracted to the Earth by golfers. After entering the ground, the electricity hardens into coal, which, when dug up by power companies and burned in big ovens called 'generators,' turns back into electricity...where it is transformed by TV sets into commercials for beer, which passes through the consumers and back into the ground, thus completing what is known as a "circuit".....Dave Barry

Submitted by Bob Wanek

Pictures of the May Meeting

Rick from Ham Radio Deluxe gave a great presentation of the Software HRD he represents. We want to thank him for spending the time with us and answering questions.



Ralph's Hobbies and Amateur Radio Supply

Invites you to come to the areas only
Amateur Radio Equipment Retail Store
at

5208 66th Street N., #D

St Petersburg Fl 33709

Monday- Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM

727-547-8607

Thanks 73 Ralph KI4SMI

Some Q signals never made it to the official ARRL list.

Here are some that may be useful in appropriate situations. As with all Q signals, each can be a statement or a question, depending on whether a question mark is added.

QBA - My antenna is BIG!

QBA? - How big is your antenna?

QBO - Don't sit next to that guy in the meeting.

QBO? - Buddy, can you spare some soap?

QBS - It's getting deep in here.

QBS? - Did I tell you about the one that got away?

QCW - I am going to whistle Morse Code on FM (or SSB)

QCW? - Why are you whistling Morse?

QDR - Damn Right the frequency is busy! (In response to QRL?)

QDR? - Do you have a Receiver? (In response to QRL?)

QET - Phone home.

QET? - Has anyone called me from another planet?

QFH - This frequency is MINE! - go elsewhere.

QFH? - Is this frequency hogged?

QHI - I am jumping in quick to say hi, then going QRT.

QHI? - Are you leaving after only one transmission?

QKB? - How many knobs does your radio have?

QKB n - My radio has "n" knobs.

QKN? - How many of them do you know how to use?

QKN n - I think I know how to use "n" of them.

QLF - I am sending with my left foot.

QLF? - Are you sending with your left foot?

QOF Yes, I am an Old Fart.

QOF? Are you an old Fart?

QOK - Your last transmission was Okie Dokie.

QOK? - Was my last transmission OK?

QRC - Warning, rag chewer on frequency.

QRC? - Are you a rag chewer?

QRW - Means Qrp - Really Weak

QRW? - Qrp, you are Really Weak?

QWC - I have to go to the bathroom

QWC? - Do you have to go to the bathroom?

QZZ - I fell asleep at the mike.

QZZ? - Is that a 60Hz hum, or are you snoring?

List by KA0SEY, K7ITL and K3HRN

Submitted by Bob Wanek

We are on the Web!

www.sparc-club.org

Upcoming Events/Contests

ARRL FIELD DAY JUNE 22-23

Contests From The WA7BNM Contest Calendar

10-10 Spirit of 76 Sprint July 1-7

DL-DX RTTY Contest July 6-7

070 Club PSK31 Firecracker Sprint July 6-7

SKCC Weekend Sprint July 13-14

NAQP RTTY July 20-21

W4GAC Station Activities by David KR4U W4GAC Trustee

As of May 31, 2013 our club officially ended any connection with The Salvation Army in Saint Petersburg. All of our station equipment and the other items we had in the radio room have been moved to The Clearwater Sail and Power Squadron. This was a huge task requiring many hours of working and planning. I would like to express my heartfelt THANKS to everyone who participated to make it happen.

We have a very nice radio room in our new location and it does not require us to store less used items, we have a separate storage area located upstairs in the facility. The radio room is located on the ground floor. Our next task will be to install a multiband vertical on the flat roof of the building and run the necessary feedlines and install a station ground. This effort will be started as soon as possible. This antenna will serve two stations one for W4GAC and the other for the power squadron club of which Tom W4CU is the coach. In addition our multiband dipole may also be installed. This setup will at least allow W4GAC to be active with one station on many bands. This installation will remain until any other possible locations in Saint Petersburg have been found and/or approved for a permanent home. Should this not happen after a reasonable time we can continue the station installation and install all of our remaining equipment and antennas as a permanent home.

Since we now have a SPARC Contest Group under the call W4TA I would like to explain how W4GAC/W4TA will be utilized. As you know we participate in several major contest events each year. In these contests we will use W4TA under which Bob N2ESP is the trustee. The only exception to this contest plan occurs when it is desired to participate in any Ten-Ten activities, for such events W4GAC will be used. I have just renewed our 10-10 number for another three years. If any SPARC members are active in the 10-10 program and would like to use the station please contact WA4EEZ, N2ESP or myself. W4GAC will also be used for any special event activities or non contest events.

I hope this information brings our membership up to speed on what has been happening with our club station activities, until next time.

73 de David KR4U, Station Trustee

Of Interest Submitted by Bob Wanek

"Electricity originates inside clouds. There, it forms into lightning, which is attracted to the Earth by golfers. After entering the ground, the electricity hardens into coal, which, when dug up by power companies and burned in big ovens called 'generators,' turns back into electricity...where it is transformed by TV sets into commercials for beer, which passes through the consumers and back into the ground, thus completing what is known as a "circuit".....Dave Barry

Congrats

David, KR4U received this (first place) Certificate as Top Dog in the Valentine Sprint on PSK. He also received this great box of Chocolates. Veronika KC4YAW really enjoyed them and hopes he will participate and win again next year.



SPARC Meetings..... Note New Location

First Friday every month, 7:30 pm

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

at First Assembly of God

6380 62nd Ave. N. Pinellas Park

**contact Mike Scott K4ZPE at 727-492-6454*

Some Members meet for Breakfast

Every Saturday, 7:00 am at

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

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

<u>Specialty</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
Digital, CW, and Antennas	Dave Trewin	KR4U	trewins@aol.com
PSK	Dave Trewin	KR4U	trewins@aol.com
RTTY, Repeaters	Ron Hall	KP2N	kp2n@arrl.net
HF, 10-10	Leslie Johnson	WA4EEZ	wa4eez@verizon.net
Classic Radio Operation	Dick Keller	KF4NS	kf4nsradio@verizon.net
New Ham Elmers	Kyle Jeske	N4NSS	n4nss@arrl.net



Welcome To Our New Members

Don Hennessey KB1WJL

Edward O'Brien Jr. KB2LUG

John Cerny Jr. KK4KQZ

Mark Duryee KK4LTQ

Steven Oliphant N2KBD

David (Tim) Travis N4GLH

Walt Corey W1WLJ

William Rubin W6CBJ

Club Officers for 2013

President Bob Wanek N2ESP

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Net Manager

Johnnie Popwell W4TSP

netmanager@sparc-club.org

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Club Stations Trustee

W4GAC

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