



**St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 2217 St. Petersburg, Fl. 333731  
May — August 2011**



## **A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

There has been a lot of activity in SPARC for the last few months. Lake Maggiore was held on a Saturday this year and as a result there were more hams attending the event than ever. Tailgate sales were brisk plus, as a bonus, we had perfect weather.

After wrapping up Lake Maggiore the contest crew started into the Florida QSO Party event from club station W4GAC. The two day event ended with over 330,000 points for the effort. This should put SPARC in the running for the Top Club plaque. The membership really came through for both events and we can be proud of our efforts.

While we are speaking about members I would like to recognize two gentlemen who have donated equipment to aid SPARC. Mike, K4ZPA, has given us a new Brother printer/copier that has been installed in the club station. This gives us a place to copy papers for the VE sessions plus printout items from the computer.

Clayton, KJ4RUS, has donated four office type chairs to be used in the club station. This is a most welcome gift as mine and other backs can attest to. They got a good workout during the just concluded NAQP RTTY contest run from W4GAC. This 12 hour contest was run Saturday, July 16, 2011, and we finished with over 103,000 points. This may give us 4th place among the M2 division according to early claimed scores.

For the September meeting program HT Night will be run again. There will be two stations setup to check your HT out. Since September is right in the middle of hurricane season a working HT could be an asset. Special prize drawing for all who bring in a working HT

SPARC has some interesting programs lined up for our monthly meetings. If you know of an in-active or a new comer to our area invite them to come on down and check us out.

Keep an eye on weather patterns and be prepared for emergencies.

73 de Ron KP2N

We are on the Web!  
[www.sparc-club.org](http://www.sparc-club.org)

## Field Day Report 2011 by Dave KR4U

Upon our Saturday morning arrival at our field day site at Bay Pines Hospital we were greeted by several pleasant improvements. There were several stacks of comfortable chairs, additional lined trash containers and 2 portable restrooms. Our shelter was clean and the permanent tables had been recently painted. The sign at the main entrance announced our activity. Thank You to the staff and our SPARC member Dr. David W4YD for such a great effort.

During our planning stage a major change was made to put all radio operation into the shelter instead of two separate areas. This turned out to be a good decision as all comments were favorable. It provided less of a bug problem and a cooler operating setting. The tower and beam antenna were installed at approximately the same location as other years, one long coax feed line ran to the shelter and connected to our tri-plexer. Three radios on 10 15 and 20 meters could then use the beam at the same time. This was another change we tried at FD this year. The vertical antennas and the half-square for the CW stations were erected in the same locations as last year. Around lunch time, when setup was just about complete, we were treated to great sandwiches provided by Leslie WA4EEZ and Roger K4SHI, what a welcome break for the group after such hard work. Thank You from the group.

At the designated start time of 2pm all of our stations were ready to go. The band conditions were not great but we had a steady supply of stations to work. The CW stations were working well but we had a one way interference problem between 15 CW and 15 SSB. CW was getting into the SSB station so we will need to make some changes for next year. We had one other interaction situation between 10 and 20 SSB so that's a second problem to be addressed for next field day. Ron and I have some ideas to try out at W4GAC to eliminate these issues. Our tri-plexer worked very well with 3 stations using the beam located in the former SSB location. Paul KC4YDY had the six meter station running well and Tom NY4I was looking for contacts via the satellite station. He managed five contacts in all one CW and 4 SSB, great job. Clayton KJ4RUS had the GOTA station up and running and had several customers as the day went on, a great success and a fine effort, thanks for your planning and all the good sign printing.

The Saturday evening dinner went very well as in past field days and I think everyone had a good time. All stations worked through the night pulling in the QSO's. On Sunday morning we had a nice treat and a not so nice treatment. First the good news A great pancake and sausage breakfast cooked by our President Ron KP2N which everyone enjoyed, thanks for a great effort Ron. Our not so good visitor was the rain showers. Overall SPARC has been very lucky for the past few field days but it was bound to catch up with us, it did this year. The wet conditions caused us to shut down before the 2 pm stop time but overall I think everyone had a good time and we did quite well with our contacts along with some bonus points we did not have last year, another grand effort by the entire SPARC group. My sincere thanks to all who made this event a total success and lots of fun.

73 de David KR4U, Field Day Chairman.

# Pictures of the GOTO Station



CLAYTON, KJ4RUS  
SET UP THE GOTA STATION  
GREAT JOB WELL DONE!



O  
U  
R

NEXT



Generation  
Of  
Hams



## Field Day Disgrace

[Steven Reed \(KW4H\)](#) on June 28, 2011 [View comments about this article!](#)

As an amateur radio instructor and a licensed ham for over 35 years, I'm always excited to see potential new hams (and some recent Tech class graduates!) find their way to the GOTA and other stations at our club's annual field day. It's fun to share that "first contact" with a new (or potential) ham, and see the amazed look on their face when they realize that they really CAN talk with a kind soul across the miles without the need for the Internet or a postage stamp.

On the last day of field day 2011, one of our Tech class graduates arrived and was given the opportunity to make his first contact ~ a phone exchange on 20 meters. We helped him dial up someone calling "CQ Field Day" and coached him on what to say for a successful field day exchange. What happened next was one of the most horrifying experiences I've ever had in ham radio ~ I witnessed a new ham being mocked and verbally abused on the air. The ham we made contact with went out of his way to be rude, condescending, and downright abusive in his over-the-air communication with someone who identified himself as being not only new to ham radio, but on his first contact. The other ham then refused to identify himself in any other mode except Morse Code, and mocked the new ham for not knowing Code. He then berated him for being in the "General Class band" without proper authorization, and we had to step in and inform this clown that a control operator with Extra Class privileges was sitting next to him. In addition to all of this, instead of providing proper field day exchange protocol, this ham would only say he was a "44 Double D".

Following this embarrassing and outrageous over the air exchange, several members of our club had to spend some time explaining to the newcomer that what he just experienced was not the norm in Ham Radio. Hopefully, he will remain interested in the hobby and not think we are a bunch of kooks.

I've never written an article for eHam, but I think this incident deserves some publicity. Our hobby is always in dire need of young hams, and I personally witnessed a 22 year old young man being verbally abused and mocked on the air by one of our own. I won't release the callsign of the other ham involved in this incident, but if it were in my hands he would have permanently lost his license today.

Fortunately, most hams are kind and courteous towards newcomers and recognize the importance of encouraging young people to be involved in ham radio. Most hams will go out of their way to be helpful and wouldn't even think of mocking someone who was new and inexperienced.

If you run across a new ham, please be kind and courteous. Let's keep our hobby alive and moving forward.

Steve Reed, KW4H, Fauquier Amateur Radio Association Warrenton, VA

**This is the Operators Call Sign KZ8O (ex ND8V).**  
A well known LID, form 14.272-14.275 and 14.313.

## Upcoming Contests

TARA GRID DIP CONTEST AUG 6

1010 SUMMER SSB AUG 6/7

SKCC WEEKEND SPRINT AUG 14

SARTG RTTY AUG 20/21

NAQP SSB AUG 20/21

ARRL ROOKIE ROUNDUP RTTY AUG 21

## Contest/Operating /W4GAC Station Activities

SPARC is very fortunate to have such a fine club station and be able to operate in many events during the year. We have worked hard to make our station both comfortable and competitive. I encourage any of our club members to take part in events, we will be happy to work with you and get you on the air.

During the weekend of April 30/May 1 we took part in the Florida QSO Party and we all had a great time and put W4GAC in many logs. 13 operators took part N4RI, W4CU, N4GD, W4TSP, N4NHO, N2ESP, K4OB, NY4I, W4NHQ, WA4EEZ, K8TYS, KR4U and KP2N. This event takes place in two 10 hour periods and we covered the entire 20 hours with our crew. This year running low power we made 571 CW QSO's and 202 SSB QSO's for a total score of 330,624 points. Last year we ran in the high power category making 542 CW and 203 SSB contacts for a total of 159,770 points. The only antenna we had last year was the multiband vertical, this year we had our beam big difference and we got a 2X multiplier for our score using low power.

The next event we covered was the North American QSO Party (NAQP) on the weekend of July 16/17. This was a RTTY contest running 12 hours and we operated the entire time in class M2, which means multi operator and two transmitters on the air at the same time. Our team consisted of KP2N, KR4U, WA4EEZ, N2ESP, W4TSP, N4RI, W4CU and N4NHO. We used our tri-plexer during mostly daylight hours running 15 and 20 meters on the beam and it worked very well but it was getting quite warm due to the 100% duty cycle of rtty. When we went to the lower bands I opened it up and found the 20 meter coil had started to melt the form from the wire getting too hot. So now back to the drawing board to build coils with larger gauge wire that will be able to handle rtty operation. We made 708 QSO's with 146 multipliers for a total score of 103,368 points. Everyone had a good time and again we did a good job of getting W4GAC in the logs of many stations.

73 de David KR4U

Pictures taken by KP2N & KR4U/ W4GAC Station Activities



NAQP  
RTTY  
CONTEST



OPERATORS  
HAVING A  
GREAT TIME!



## SPARC Meetings

*First Friday every month, 7:30 pm*

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

*at the Salvation Army*

*3800 Ninth Avenue North St. Petersburg*

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

*Some Members meet for Breakfast*

*Every Saturday, 7:00 am at the*

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

### 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>
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RTTY, Repeaters	Ron Hall	KP2N	kp2n@arrl.net
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Classic Radio Operation	Dick Keller	KF4NS	kf4nsradio@verizon.net
New Ham Elmers	Ed Kline	N4NHO	n4nho@yahoo.com
	Kyle Jeske	N4NSS	n4nss@arrl.net



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## Welcome To Our New Members

John Schatmeyer	KK4AXF	Mike Fletcher	NI4M
Thomas Maciejczyk	KK4ANV	Graham Green	K2AXZ
Joy Franson	KK4AMT	Lucas Prescott	KK4BTK
Marc Matheson	KD6KR	Victoria Prescott	KK4BXU
Charles Wells	W4OQM		

## Club Officers for 2011

President Ron Hall KP2N

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Vice President Tom Schaefer NY4I

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