



**St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club**  
**P.O. Box 2217 St. Petersburg, Fl. 333731**  
**January – February 2011**



## **A FEW NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

I hope all our members had a wonderful Christmas and New Year holiday. 2011 should be very active for the membership.

On a sad note SPARC lost two active members who became Silent Keys. Connie Douglas, K4TBZ, and Larry Stewart, KJ4RMY. Larry was a new comer to ham radio and had just earned his General license. He was in the process of learning the code when he was taken from us. Connie was an active member for many years as well as being active in Metro and FCGARC. She was in charge of the SPARC VE program and will be remembered for the homemade cookies she brought to the sessions. Both Larry and Connie will be missed. RIP.

The after holidays party held at Kristina's Café was well attended. Other than some seating problems everyone enjoyed the fellowship. Sam and Dee Turner did a bang up job with the gifts. Too bad Sam had to work that day and could not attend. The staff at Kristina's did a great job and would like us to return.

Photos can be viewed on our web site.

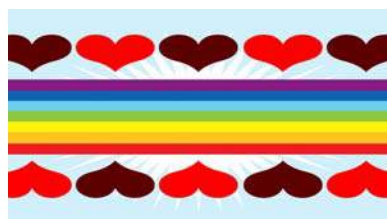
As you read this SPARC will have been paid a visit by 20 home school students under the leadership of Suzanne Butler. SPARC members got to show off our club station W4GAC and introduced these youngsters to ham radio. Hopefully a few may take the plunge and study for their license.

If you have some spare time please sign up to operate during the Festival of States event. W4GAC will be available to those who cannot operate from home.

Contact Dave, KR4U, John, KI4UIP or myself to use the station.

The Lake Maggiore tailgate is just around the corner of May 1. Please talk about it during our nets.

73 Ron Hall KP2N



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

## SPARC AFTER CHRISTMAS PARTY by TOM AI4QP

Wow !!! What a great time had by all at the After Christmas Dinner Party. We had a great turn out and if you missed it you will have to wait till next year. The party was at Kristina's Cafe, 3590 34th St. N. Everyone gathered around 2 PM and I think all were hungry. Kristina's has a very broad variety of food in their menu so I don't think anyone had a problem choosing something to eat. Dee and Sam did a wonderful job getting the gifts for the party. Dee went around with the big gift bag having all dip in to get a gift. He would have looked better in a Santa suit but we won't push it.

You really need to put this on your calendar of things to do. It's a lot of fun and you come away with a full tummy ! It's always good to get together and chat with other hams and their family that we don't always get to see. Emmett's wife Marjorie (WA4TVL) was present and we don't get to see her often. Thanks again to all who came and we hope to see you there next year.

73'S TOM / AI4QP



## Silent Keys

It is with great sorrow to report we have lost but will always remember 2 members this month.

Connie Douglas K4TBZ

Larry Stewart KJ4RMY



Do not stand by my grave and weep  
I am not there, I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow  
I am the diamond glints on snow  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain  
I am the soft refreshing rain.  
When you awake in the morning's hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
of quiet birds in circled flight  
I am the stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry  
I am not there, I did not die.

## Special Event Station Operation by Johnnie W4TSP



2011 marks the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Festival of States. This has been a long-standing festival that the City of St. Petersburg has encouraged communities to support and participate. In recognition of the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Festival of States, the club will be operating over a two-weekend period using the special call signs W4F, K4O, and N4S. The purpose will be to make as many contacts as possible and share the history of the Festival of States.

The club will provide a QSL Cards for each Callsign and for those individuals that work all three call signs there will be a certificate. The club would like to encourage as many operators as possible to participate in the event. We would like to use as many different modes as possible; the limiting factor will be the number of people operating.

The event will start at 0000 UTC February 25, 2011 and run until 2359 March 7, 2011. If you can participate we need you to signup for a day and time that you can operate from home or at the club station. I, W4TSP, will have a signup sheet with date, time, mode and band of operation. The schedule will be broken up into 1-hour increments. You will also be assigned a call sign to use during your time of operation. We want to have at least three stations operating so that all three call signs are available to be worked. We would hope to have at least three stations active each day of the week and hopefully 6 to 9 stations on the weekends. It would be great to have more and remember you can operate from you home station. You will be required to keep a log, hopefully in electronic form, and submit it to me at the conclusion of the event.

So please mark you calendars and sign up for the Festival of States Special Event operation. If you have any questions, contact me, W4TSP, on the 2meter SPARC Net or email the [netmanger@sparc-club.org](mailto:netmanger@sparc-club.org) with your questions.

73,

Johnnie, W4TSP





## TAMPA BAY HAMFEST 2010 by TOM AI4QP

The Tampa Bay Hamfest for this year is over and I think all had a great time. I was down there with Ron ( KP2N ), John ( KI4UIP ) Tom ( NY4I ) and Dave ( KR4U ) and a lot of other SPARC members most of Saturday and Sunday and we had a good time. We did pretty well with selling things that were donated to the club by silent keys and other means. This always helps out greatly with raising money for the club so we can get the things we need to have a great running club station.



I think we were down just a little in vendors for the event but there were plenty there to get what you might need. I saw a lot of people that got the good deals they were looking for or something just as good. There were also the ones that came by and said , I didn't know you guys had one or I would have gotten it from you. We were just glad people got something that they needed. Don ( N4KII ) got his ticket pulled for a G5RV wire antenna so he made out great, and that happened while he was in the Skywarn seminar. Over all everything went pretty well and we can look forward to next year. If you think you still need a few things, the Orlando Hamcation will be coming up in February so get ready for that one. It will be the 11<sup>th</sup> , 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of February. Hope to see you all at the next SPARC meeting.

73's Tom



Below are pic from the ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP



## W4GAC Station Report and Contesting Effort In January

The new multiband dipole antenna worked out very well during the ARRL RTTY Roundup Contest held the first full weekend of January 2011. W4GAC has been involved with this event for many years and we have done very well at putting our club/call in the final result listings. This year we had both of our stations active running about 500 watts at each position. One station was devoted to running for quantity and the second was used to find and work multipliers to increase our score. Since only one signal can be transmitted at a time we used our WriteLog logging program to tie the stations together, this software has the ability to lock out one station if the other station is transmitting and vice/versa. Our equipment worked very well and we covered the entire 24 hours of the contest. Our team consisted of KP2N, VE3XD, N2ESP, KR4U, W4CU, N4RI, WA4EEZ, NY4I, W4TSP and N4NHO. This was a first time effort for Johnnie W4TSP and Ed N4NHO in RTTY contesting, their training and operation went very well. Our final result was 1026 contacts and 106 multipliers for a score of 108,968. WELL DONE!

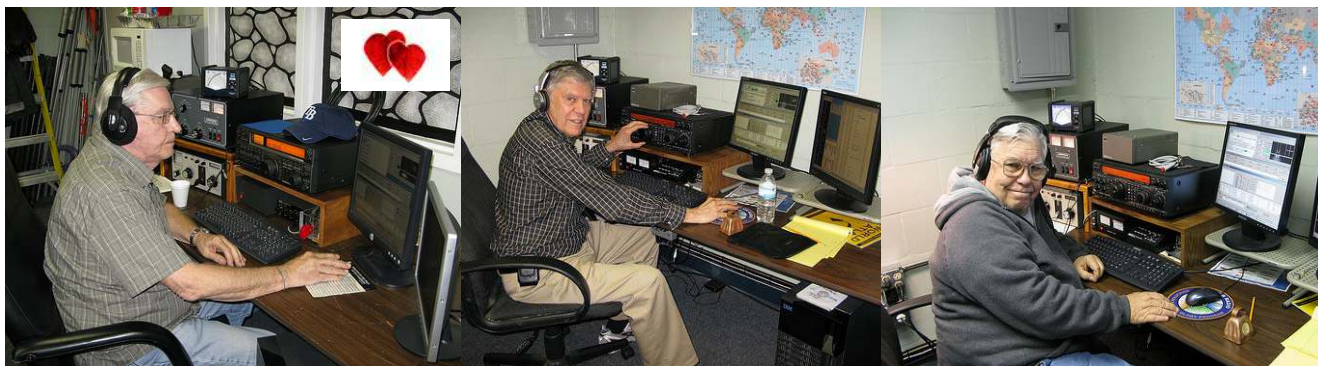
In other station news, we completed the triplexer project build and gave it an initial test with very favorable results. We will do a final tune up of the unit and put it through an on the air test very soon. Ron and I brought up the four linear amplifiers we obtained from the last silent key donation and checked them out. There were three Heath SB-200 series and one Heath SB-220 in the group. It was the wish of the donator that some of the equipment be given to active hams who could put it to good use so the 200 series units were given to deserving individuals. We are going to retain the SB-220 for our use at W4GAC, it has one minor component that needs replacement.

Our station engineer John KI4UIP and Ron KP2N have ordered and received the required materials to build the base for our rooftop tower installation. We will be working on this project in February and hope to have our multiband beam up and operating very soon..that will be a great asset to the W4GAC station.

I am very grateful to be part of such a great club and I want to THANK all the folks who helped make it possible for us to have such a wonderful operating club station.

73 de Dave KR4U W4GAC Trustee

pic from the ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP





## Upcoming Contests

PODXS 070 CLUB VALENTINE SPRINT FEB. 11-12 PSK31

CQ WW RTTY WPX FEB. 12-13

SKCC WEEKEND SPRINT FEB. 13

NAQP RTTY FEB. 26-27



## Contest/Operating Event Corner

A couple of antenna photos from the W4GAC antenna party 12/17/2010 taken by Ron KP2N



John, KI4UIP, George, W1AAG, Donn, N4KII, Bob, N2ESP



Dave, KR4U, trying to find the correct flat



John, KI4UIP, and Bob, N2ESP, installing the center mast.



John, KI4UIP, securing the Eastern leg of the all band dipole.

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## 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*

*Some Members meet for Breakfast*

*Every Saturday, 7:00 am at the*

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

*\*contact Pete WB2SUN at 727-343-4183*



### 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
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New Ham Elmers	Ed Kline	N4NHO	n4nho@yahoo.com
	Kyle Jeske	N4NSS	n4nss@arrl.net



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## Welcome To Our New Members

Dave Bates W2HLI

Richard Krueger / KJ4QWG

James Swink

Suzanne Swink KJ4ZXF She just recently past her test and got her license.  
Congratulations Suzanne.



## Club Officers for 2011

President Ron Hall KP2N

[president@sparc-club.org](mailto:president@sparc-club.org)

Vice President Tom Schaefer NY4I

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Secretary Bob Entwistle N1XX

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Treasurer Tom Wedding AI4QP

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Repeater Trustee Ron Hall KP2N

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Net Manager Johnnie Popwell W4TSP

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Club Station Trustee David Trewin KR4U

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David Trewin KR4U

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Past President Grace Harris KG4CTG

[pastpresident@sparc-club.org](mailto:pastpresident@sparc-club.org)

### Board Members

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John Toth KI4UIP [boardmember3@sparc-club.org](mailto:boardmember3@sparc-club.org)