



**St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 2217 St. Petersburg, FL. 333731
September – October 2010**



From Our President

Here it is November!

The end of 2010 is fast approaching. The holiday season is upon us. It is a good time for us to pause and reflect upon our hobby. We have much for which to be thankful.

1. Hurricane season is almost over, and we haven't had to survive a terrible storm.
 2. We have a comfortable room within which we may hold our meetings.
 3. There are individuals willing to serve the club's diverse needs.
 4. There is good-fellowship to be had at the press of a button.
 5. SPARC has a nice club-station at the Salvation Army.
 6. Elmers are on call to help us when we are befuddled.
 7. A smorgasbord of modern equipment is available.
 8. Field-Day out at Bay Pines, Lake Maggiore.
 9. SPARC's Web-site, the GAP
 10. Contests, Hamfests,
 11. Brief Sumo reports
- 73, Grace KG4CTG

We are on the Web!
www.sparc-club.org

Happy Holidays!

Welcome To Our New Members

Hal Chase W1EEF
Beverly Carter

Robert Jones KJ4YBG
James & Suzanne Swink

“HT Night” is a hit with SPARC



Photo's taken by Tom AI4QP

The program for the October SPARC meeting featured bring in your battery powered portable VHF/UHF transceiver and get it checked out. The event featured units of all ages and manufacture. Everyone who showed with a working HT was given a raffle ticket featuring a \$ 25 gift certificate from ARRL.

There were two checkout stations. At one end of the meeting room was Dee Turner and his Marconi service monitor and at the other end was Ron Hall with his IFR 1100S station. Each HT was checked for RF power output, modulation and frequency.

The oldest HT was an old Icom IC-2AT and the newest was an Alinco

Dual Band just out of the box. There were units on 144, 220, and 440 MHz. KC4SXO brought his Yaesu FT-817ND which covered the HF bands plus 6 M and 144/440 MHz. Some brought more than one unit.

During hurricane season it is always a good idea to have a working HT in case the repeater system goes down. With a positive response received from the members HT night will be run next year, maybe in September.

Ron, KP2N, and Dee, N4GD

Lightning Protection for your Gear

Here is a link

<http://www.protectiongroup.com/knowledgebase>

to a company that does a lot of lightning protection. This link will take you to their white papers and tech notes. Most of the articles are several pages long. There is a very good article about protecting a Ham Radio Station. You can pick and choose the articles you want to read or link to the individual articles.

73, Johnnie D. Popwell Sr. W4TSP

MY HF IS TOO BIG FOR MY MOBILE BY TOM AI4QP

I know a lot of you have said at one time or another that there is no room for a HF rig in your mobile. With the new radios of today this is not as big a problem as it used to be, if you have the means to purchase a new radio. They are much smaller today and even have removable fronts to help out. Well I am writing this to help a little with the older rigs. Now if you have family or a companion that travels with you this might not help but I did not say that I had a cure-all.

I have a 718 ICOM HF rig that was my first HF radio. When I got my current rig, that gave me a radio I could put in my mobile. Like a lot of folks, I could not find a suitable place to put this rig, and if I did, I could not reach it. It is not a good idea to try and adjust your radio while you drive anyway so please get in your mind it might be best to set things before you set out and pull off to make any changes you think you need. The newer radios are a little easier to deal with but I am talking about the older radios. What I did was make a wedged platform to set my rig on and put it on the floor on the passenger side of the car. Now this takes less than 3 minutes. You can keep the unit in your trunk or in the house when not in use. This really makes it easy for me. My 2 meter rig was small enough to find a spot in the car for permanent installation but the HF rig was another situation.

The pictures will show you the radio with a mobile tuner on top and if you don't have a multiple band antenna, you can use a switch like I did to use two antennas that I have mounted at the rear of the vehicle. This will not work for everybody but I bet it will get you thinking of maybe some other ways that might work for you.

Thanks for your time and keep the AirWays hot...be Radioactive!!



Upcoming Contests

ARRL SWEEPSTAKES CW NOV. 6-8
SKCC WEEKEND SPRINT NOV. 14
ARRL SWEEPSTAKES SSB NOV. 20-22
CQ WORLDWIDE DX CW NOV. 27-28
ARRL 160 METER CONTEST DEC. 3-5
ARRL10 METER CONTEST DEC. 11-12
SARTG NEW YEAR RTTY CONTEST JAN. 1
ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP JAN. 8-9

Contest/Operating Event Corner

Field Day Results 2010

1st place in WCF

1st place as 5A in FL, GA, NC, SC and TN

4th place in the 4 call area (8 States)

10th place out of 72 nation wide

We as a Club can be extremely proud of this years results from all of our efforts in the ARRL Field Day event.

73 de Dave KR4U, Field Day Chairman

Tom Schaefer NY4I Station



ICOM 775 DSP (CW, SSB and RTTY)
ICOM 756 Pro II (PSK31)
ICOM 821H (2m and 70cm for repeaters and hopefully more satellite work).
microHam microKeyer II

UP above in the glass:

ICOM 738 (HF)
ICOM 271A (2m all mode)

Clearly, Tom has never met a piece of ICOM gear he didn't like.

Also in the pictures, a W2IHY box to connect the Heil PR40 mic for SSB and the Dell computer running Ham Radio Deluxe along with a small monitor just for DX spots.



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 Connie K4TBZ 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.

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

Welcome to our new Volunteers for:

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

New Officers for 2011 ?

Happy Holidays!

Club Officers for 2010

President Grace Harris KG4CTG

president@sparc-club.org

Vice President Tom Villanova KI4RVU

vice-president@sparc-club.org

Secretary Bob Entwistle N1XX

secretary@sparc-club.org

Treasurer 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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Web Master Dee Turner N4GD

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Newsletter Editors Veronika Trewin KC4YAW

David Trewin KR4U

newsletter@sparc-club.org

Past President Richard Stephens N4BUA

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Board Members

Bob Douglas AG4DY boardmember1@sparc-club.org

Susan Dillon KD4FEZ boardmember3@sparc-club.org

Tom Wedding AI4QP boardmember2@sparc-club.org