



75
SPARC
Years



GAP



St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 2217 St. Petersburg, Fl. 333731
March-April 2009

We are on the Web!

www.sparc-club.org



From Our President Richard N4BUA

I get a lot of email. Most of it goes right to the trash can, but occasionally I will get something that is interesting. A recent email listed some things that are disappearing from our culture; things that we may never see again. Things that topped the list were items like the 8 track tape player, manual typewriters, dial telephones, and skate keys. I am sure we can all come up with our own list of things that are becoming rare and may not be seen again soon. One item on the list was Ham Radio. I am sure that if we each would think about it we would say that we are not really surprised to find Ham Radio on the list. If we were to look around our own club meetings we would notice that we are as a group turning gray, well not the ladies, but we men are getting to be a little long in the tooth. It would seem that we are not doing too good of a job of attracting the younger set to our hobby. It is easy to understand why that is happening. Communications technology is advancing at a breath taking pace. 3G (3rd generation) technology is in the marketplace with 4G just over the horizon. Access to these technologies is readily available and relatively cheap and doesn't require that added task of having to study and pass a test to use.

How will Ham Radio complete with these new technologies and attract youth to our hobby?

Well, the answer is easy. Ham Radio cannot compete and I think that we should not try to make it compete. It is my opinion that we must make the uniqueness of Ham Radio the drawing card. Community Service, Emergency Communications, Experimenting, Contesting, the thrill of grabbing that rare DX are the things that keep all of us interested in the hobby and we can use these same things to attract others into the hobby. Each of us knows a young person who would make a great ham, but just needs to be lead in the right direction. I would challenge each of us to become an Elmer to a young person you know. Show them what makes you a ham and what keeps you interested in the hobby.

The Florida QSO Party took place on April 25th and 26th. Poor band conditions and QRM held the score to last years level, but we expect to be in the running for the Top Club again this year. Thanks for a great job to all who participated. The contest crew also took on the task of tagging the SPARC equipment stored in the Red Cross' garage in preparation for the garage sale conducted by the Red Cross.

Field Day is upon us before we know it. June 27th and 28th are the dates to mark on your calendar. We expect to be at Bay Pines again this year. Start you preparations now and beat the last minute panic.

73, Richard, N4BUA
SPARC President

TBRA History

In December 1967 a group of technically oriented Amateurs was quite active on 146.94 simplex in the Tampa Area. Nine of this group met to form the nucleus of what later became known as the Tampa Bay Repeater Association; W4APV Jim Eberwine, K4RMU Jim Hinchee, WA4HAA Ken Kopp (KØPP), WB4COT Bob Hines WA4JYD Paul Bick, K4LMI Jack Howell, WA4UIB Ed Boardman, WA4RLG Jeff Harrow, and WB4IES Rick Jarman.

Based on the information they received about a VHF repeater in the Northeastern part of the United States, this group set to work constructing the 2nd licensed VHF repeater in the State of Florida. From donated parts and the insides of a 1953 vintage Pre-progress Line unit, they built an 18 watt 2 meter repeater licensed in 1967 as WB4HAE. This repeater was single sited at the corner of Hillsborough Avenue and Dale Mabry with a 100 foot tower. Through a donation of 150 feet of 7/8 inch hardline by Harold Johnson W4ZCB it was possible to mount a receiver antenna at 80 feet and a transmitter antenna at 40 feet.

The first elected officers of this new organization were; President Walt Terrie WA4FBI, Treasurer John Twigg WA4OUM, Corresponding Secretary Eddie Boardman WA4UIB, and Recording Secretary Jeff Harrow WA4RLG.

In January 1968 winds in excess of 60 miles per hour associated with a passing hurricane destroyed the tower and with it the hopes of a single site repeater.

With a budding membership of 10, new sites were selected and members set to work constructing a new repeater. WB4COT built the receiver, WA4HAA the transmitter, W4APV and K4LMI the IDer, WB4IES the control package and K4RMU the telephone interface.

WB4HAE returned to the air in mid 1968 with the transmitter atop the medical building, #1 Davis Island and the receiver in 12 story Delo Hall, University of Tampa. Many wee hours of the morning were spent by members in WB4HAA's garage to keep the repeater on the air.

The first issue of QSP came out in November 1970. Editor Walt Terrie WA4FBI explained his choice of QSP as the title of the club's newsletter as such: One of the international Q signals, "QSP" means essentially, "Please relay this message" with a little literary license, this signal can be reworded "PLEASE REPEAT". It lists the officers as President Ken Kopp WA4HAA, Vice President Stormy Bishop K4NOC, Treasurer Larry Estes WA4HDJ and Secretary Jim Olivenbaum K4MZR.

1970 has WA4HAA as President with 38 and WA4FBI serving as Trustee and the Tampa Bay Repeater Association became a reality and was chartered with the State of Florida as a non-profit organization. Also this year TBRA participated in it's first public service activity, a 25 mile hike for Development through Tampa of 14 hours duration. It was for participation in this activity the organization received its first plaque of appreciation.

In January 1972 Jim Hinchee K4RMU was elected President of TBRA and K4NPF Bob Guentner as Trustee, the 3rd person to become Trustee for 16/76. This administration greatly broadened the public service participation aspect of TBRA. A power amplifier was also added to the Tampa Repeater this year loaned by W4ZCB. WB4HAE came off the air in the summer of 1972 for a total rebuilding and TBRA was requested to remove their receiver from Delo Hall. A new receiver site was obtained atop the 15 story Bayshore Presbyterian Towers.. Within six weeks a totally rebuilt two rach repeater was back on the air. This year QSP ran its first photo and WA4ZYU Richard Beatie assumed editorship of QSP.

In January 1973 WA4AGX Dick Shilson became President of TBRA with a membership of 100. It was the year autopatch was added to 146.16/76 repeater and TBRA weekly on-the-air-nets were initiated. QSP chores were assumed by Jim La Follette WB4WBL and K4RMU became the Trustee.

In 1974, Ray Kreigbaum WB4SIZ, after two years, secured permission to use the First Financial Towers for a repeater site. Ray also introduced the need for a repeater in Largo. Howard Matthews K4TIY became editor of QSP.

In January 1975 Jack Hartley K4WSB became the President of TBRA. During his administration the membership rolls more than doubled. The early part of this year the WB4HAE transmitter was moved from Davis Island to the Baptist Manor in order to provide better metropolitan coverage.

In January 1975 WB4HAE was re-licensed as WR4AAH and in early spring of the same year the receiver was moved from the Bayshore Presbyterian Towers to be single sited at the Baptist Manor utilizing a duplexer loaned to TBRA by members of the WTVT repeater organization. This single-siting was largely accomplished through the efforts of Bill Dudley WA4IBW and Ken Kaae WA6WOJ.

During the period 1975-1976 TBRA alternated its monthly meetings between Tampa and Clearwater.

During a meeting in early 1975 in Clearwater, a number of members made monetary contributions towards the establishment of a VHF repeater for use in Pinellas County. Upon this show of interest Larry Williams WB4YCQ and Fred Brunjes K4KIK constructed a Prog-line mobile telephone and with a loaned power supply from W4JVQ Cal Freidrich, WR4AKV went on the air on 146.37/97. Shortly thereafter, WA4IBM Bill and WB4YCQ Larry located a used G.E. Prog-line repeater, retuned it to 2 meters and purchased it for TBRA. The first location for WR4AKV was atop Mease Manor in Dunedin. It was later moved to the Southeast Bank Building in Largo. The first Trustee for this repeater was Mort Broad W4FR and Larry WB4YCQ took over as the second trustee in March 1975.

In 1976 with K4WSB still president TBRA had its First Annual Installation Banquet held at the First Financial Towers. Wally Provost K4KNW (now N4BZ) became editor of QSP. In May 1976 WA4IBM Bill Dudley became Trustee of the Largo 37/97 machine. WB4QVL Herb Shoun (KJ4H) Terri Provost K4KNX and N4BZ broadcast a ten week novice course on 16/76.

In January 1977 John Allen K8GHE became President of TBRA. He obtained a permanent meeting place at the Marine Corps Training Center. TBRA policies were written by N4BZ, WA4LQO, W4JVQ, WB4GDF and WB4FGQ. WA4CCX Al Geiger took over Trustee of WR4AAH 16/76. TBRA participated in the Gasparilla Festivities for the first time. Al Yorkunas W4OPG designed TBRA logo, T-bra mascot and newsletter heading giving us a whole new look.

In 1978 Bob Shireling WB4GDF became President. The Tampa Repeater became the Official Hillsborough County Emergency repeater. K4KNX, W4HZY Helen de Grandcourt and K8GHE's XYL Sandi published a TBRA Cookbook. TBRA bought a new duplexer and returned the borrowed one to the WTVT group. TBRA worked with the Hillsborough County Hospital Association in a disaster exercise involving a jumbo jet crash and tornado involving over 400 victims under TBRA's Emergency Director Mike Barnes WA7SKG. They also took on a portable repeater project with WA4KLW Bernie Glassen as Trustee on 146.19/79, WA4KLW/R Portable. Then with donations of over 50 TBRA members (known as Plank Owners) the East Bay Repeater WB4YRW/R on 147.705/105 became a reality with Mike McIntosh WB4YRW as Trustee. This year a Thursday Nite Nostalgia Net was instituted starring Frank Sgannon K4GT. TBRA also sponsored a "Santa Claus Net" with Shelly Shalett W9TDQ providing the jolly greetings.



M A S C O T

The letters of TBRA don't spell much like anything in Webster unless of course, we insert a hyphen after the T. Now we've got a two syllable unmentionable for T-shirted YLs. Or to be a little more practical, a possible mascot the T-bra.

The Animal Atlas by E.L. Jordan ignores the T-bra, but look how aptly his closest cousin, the Z-bra suits us T-BRAS.

It gallops in herds. Is strong, alert, well fed, thoroughly at home in their environment. Extremely conspicuous or almost invisible, depending upon conditions. Head to body length under 7 feet and weight under 775 pounds. Specimens are remarkably similar but no two individuals are alike regarding bands. Both inquisitive and shy. Defends self vigorously. Stubbornly resists all attempts at domestication, but readily adapts to captivity. Has a tail like any respectable repeater.

The Tampa Bay Repeater Association is strongly committed to Public Service.. Over the past ten years we have shown that the only limitation to the capacity of 2 meter FM to aid in public service events is the imagination of the organizers. Public events with a large number of participants are an excellent way of raising money for charity. Two meter FM has proven itself as a necessary adjunct to such events for crowd control, traffic, parking, and in particular for the safety of the participants if the activity takes place on the public highway. Some of the events TBRA has been involved in are Horse Walks, walkathons, bikathons, bicycle races, telethons, parades, camporees and foot races. Special Public Service includes the Gasparilla Parade and Invasion, Special Olympics, Powder Puff Derby, Hillsborough County Hospital ass. disaster drill, ARRL Simulated Emergency Test, Schlitz-Lite Marathon, Clearwater Tornado, Innisbrook Major-League Allstar Softball Game and the Miss Tampa Pageant.

This TBRA HISTORY was written by John Allen K8GHE and edited by Wally Provost N4BZ. Artwork was contributed by Don Saff KB4KF, layout and typing were done by Terri Provost K4KNX. Printing was donated by Ed Conroy KA4DIA.

Your Historical Committee

K8GHE	WB4FGQ	KA4DIA
KB4KF	K4KNX	N4BZ

Contest/Operating Event Corner

Possible Upcoming Contests/Events

CQWW WPX CW CONTEST

May 30–31

ANARTS WW RTTY

June 13-14

KIDS DAY SSB

June 20

SPARC Contest Log as of 04/26/09

April, 2009: Florida QSO Party	
Call sign:	W4GAC
Class:	Florida Multiple Operator, Single Transmitter, Club Station
Claimed Score:	309,518 (CW QSOs = 480; SSB QSOs = 319; Multipliers = xxx)
Operators:	N1XX, KP2N, N2ESP, WB2SUN, K4OB, KG4PMC, KI4RVU, KR4U, N4GD, N4RI, W4CU, W4NHQ, WA4EEZ, AG5I,
Comments:	Operating/Logging Software –Writelog Rig: Yaesu FT-920 ; Antennas: Tennadyne Log Periodic at 50 Feet; 80/40M Dipole; 40M Vertical

February, 2009: North American QSO Party - RTTY	
Call sign:	W4GAC
Class:	Multiple Operator
Claimed Score:	831 QSOs and 144 multipliers for a total of 119,664 points
Operators:	KP2N, N2ESP, VE3XD, KR4U, N4RI, W4CU,WA4EEZ
Comments:	Total operating time 12 Hours out of 12. Operating/Logging Software – Writelog Rigs: Yaesu FT-920 at 100W; 15M & 40M station Yaesu FT-920; at 100W; 20M & 80M station Antennas: Tennadyne Log Periodic at 50 Feet; 80/40M Dipole; 40/80M Vertical; 15M half square.



FIELD DAY PRIMER

Next month on June 27/28 is the annual ARRL field day event. Our SPARC group is awaiting final confirmation on the Bay Pines location we have been so fortunate to have for several years. At this time we are planning to have at least 4 stations operational for the entire 24 hours. A possible 5th position is under consideration based on current band/mode conditions. Antennas this year will be similar to last years setup, at least 3 verticals and an all band inverted v supported by an aluminum tower donated by Blackie, W4TA. This tower will be easily assembled on site and will reduce our setup time. The call used will again be W4TA from "Blackie".

I would like to encourage all SPARC members to come out, bring friends, and operate. This is a real fun event and seasoned operators are always willing to sit with you and get you started. During the Florida QSO Party last weekend C Michael, KG4PMC and Tom, KI4RVU operated for the first time in a contest and really enjoyed themselves. I will have final details put together for the June meeting. We are working hard to make this one of the most enjoyable events of the year for SPARC.

73 de Dave KR4U

Florida QSO Party April 2009
Photo's taken by N2ESP & N4GD



Ham Shack of ??????????

This could have featured your shack!
Send us a picture and a few words about
yourself and your shack.

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

Upcoming Events

Chester Tailgate 7AM till ...when everyone leaves

2009

May 9 (Open)

July 11 SPARC

September 12 Wormhole

November 7 CARS

Chester Electronic Supply

311 Missouri Ave. N. Largo, FL 33770 Ph 727-585-4736

SPARC Meetings

First Friday every month, 7:30 pm

and

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

at the Red Cross Bldg,

818 Fourth Street 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

Specialty	Name	Call	Contact Information
Digital, CW, and Antennas	Dave Trewin	KR4U	trewins@aol.com
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RTTY, Repeaters	Ron Hall	KP2N	kp2n@arrl.net
HF, 10-10	Leslie Johnson	WA4EEZ	wa4eez@verizon.net

Welcome New SPARC Members

Could be your friends...

Help Wanted

NET CONTROL OPERATOR FOR SPARC NIGHTLY NET

PREREQUISITES

SPARC member (paid in full)

Valid Amateur Radio License

Reliable 2-Meter Radio

OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE TO NET MANAGER

CURRENT OPENING

Thursday Evenings 6:30PM

CONTACT

Pete e-mail <wb2sun@tampabay.rr.com>

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

Photos from April Meeting by KB9LXM — Program by N1GY



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