



75

SPARC
Years

GAP



**St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 2217 St. Petersburg, FL. 333731
Special Field Day Edition**



ARRL FIELD DAY June 28 - June 29 2008

It was a blast...and folks, there was NO rain~doesn't get any better!

We had excellent participation from members and friends...George W1AAG brought Seminole Mayor Jimmy Johnson out to see us, and we all enjoyed talking with him..

Also we had a surprise visit from Dan Street, K1TO, the President of the Florida Contest Group, and his friend Gus, VO1MP. Welcomed also was Scott, N4RI and Tom, W4CU who joined us for FD this year and helped our CW efforts. I understand the scores are a good bit higher this year. Bob, N2ESP was the manager of the SSB stations and it was great to see so many grabbing those mikes. A big thank you goes also to Roger, K4SHI who provided the lunch on Saturday.

Once again, Dr. Dave W4YD assisted us in getting the use of the beautiful site, and then brought us all a delicious breakfast to boot!! Alan, KO4CR provided his RV for our use again this year and the cool air was much appreciated by the many who stopped in to cool off!

To all those who helped set up and tear down, a huge THANK YOU!! This was hot work this year, and Donn, N4KII, Freddie, KC4FCW, led the charge...To everyone who helped, a hearty "well done!" Don't forget, Donn has donated the trailer to SPARC now, and Dave KR4U Freddie KC4FCW and Roger K4SHI have been making some improvements to it as we go along.

Whether FD was for making contacts on the air, testing new antennas and rigs, or just chewing the fat with friends, there was something for everyone and a great time of fellowship among our local hams. To all who took the time to stop by and say hello, it is much appreciated!!

On a very sad note, we have lost one of our FD champions John, KU4BT. He passed away on Saturday evening while on his way out to the FD site. John had always been very involved with our FD efforts as well as the regular contests at W4GAC. His Thursday night nets on 2m were always popular and great discussions usually resulted. It was not unusual for his nets to last over an hour and he always reminded us of the great sacrifices made by our military. When various net participants shared their memories we all were blessed to hear them. I will truly miss his wit and knowledge. Godspeed, John...

73, Leslie WA4EEZ

This is Field Day in the true sense. Quote by Donn N4KII

Roger K4SHI



Paul KC4YDY

Scotty N4RI



SPARC Field Day 2008, Bay Pines Florida by Dave KR4U

I would like to dedicate our field day effort this year to the memory of John Stark, KU4BT. He was a valued member of our club, served on our VE team for many years, and was also a dedicated member of the SPARC contest group participating in as many events as his work schedule would allow. John will be sadly missed by all.

First off I want to thank all of our members who helped me pull this event together and all the folks who came out to our site to operate. We sure had some excellent support! As Leslie mentioned earlier, we had some non-members who came out to assist us in the setup and teardown of our antennas...thank you all.

Our luck held up again this year (we must be doing something right) as far as the weather was concerned. There were a few rumblings late Saturday afternoon but that was it...NO RAIN! We operated as 5A again with 2 SSB and 2 CW stations on 24 hours and 1 10 meter utility station for SSB and PSK31. We used the same antenna setup as last year with one addition. One SSB and the 10 meter station used verticals, the other SSB station used a multiband inverted V. The CW stations used verticals and a 15 meter half-square constructed by Tom, W4CU. Prior to field day, Tom had set this antenna up at home and had it tuned very well. Its performance was outstanding when 15 meters was open and many solid QSO's were logged. Speaking of logging we setup 5 laptop computers using our "Writelog Software". This was done prior to field day to make sure all would run smoothly, each computer was assigned to a station dependent on the bands being used. All power used for the stations and computers was provided by generators and deep cycle marine batteries. Our equipment worked perfectly for the entire 24 hours and goes to show what results from good preparation ahead of time.

On the VHF side we were fortunate again this year to have Paul, KC4YDY and his 2 and 6 meter stand alone station in operation. He did an excellent job and had some good six meter openings. 84 contacts were logged on six meters.

I had the pleasure of turning my key over to Dan Street, K1TO the President of "The Florida Contest Group" and his friend Gus Samuelson, VO1MP visiting from Canada. They each made numerous contacts on 20 CW using the Ten-Tec Jupiter. I think they really enjoyed themselves at our field day.

A milestone was met Saturday night when Pete, WB2SUN made his first CW contact during a SPARC field day event. He used his own set of keyer paddles and I had the pleasure of logging his contact into Writelog to add to our total. We all very proud of his accomplishment and hope that he will continue his pursuit of CW excellence. GREAT JOB Pete!

Well that's about it for my report on field day 2008. I hope everyone had as much enjoyment as I had and looking forward to the next one. Again thanks to everyone involved...it was GREAT!

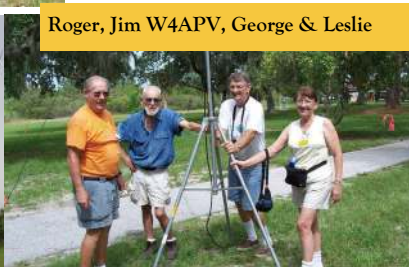
73 de Dave KR4U

Silent Key

John Stark KU4BT We will miss you!



The Site and Setting Up



2008 W4TA Field Day Wrap by Ron Hall KP2N

The annual SPARC ARRL Field Day exercise turned out to be our best effort to date. With the 2007 effort still clearly in our minds several ideas were formulated and put into action by a large percentage of the membership.

Bob, N2ESP, took over the task of leading the SSB effort. The end result was a marked increase in the number of contacts. Our VHF guru Paul, KC4YDY, got off to a slow start due to the location of his 6M antenna. Moving the antenna away from the 75/20M dipole did the trick. The end result was 20 more contacts than last year.

Leslie, WA4EEZ, rounded up 4 PSK31 contacts on 10M. When her and Alan, KO4CR, tried 10M SSB they were not getting good results. With the help of Kenny, K4OB, and Pete, KB9LXM, it was discovered that the hand microphone on Leslie's Icom 706 was defective. Pete pulled the microphone from his 706 and low and behold 10M contacts started to roll in.

Down on the CW site we had the welcome addition of Scotty, N4RI, and Tom, W4CU. Tom furnished a 15M half square antenna that really did the job. W4TA was loud in 6 and 7 land. The 40M vertical was improved with the addition of more radials. On could set on a frequency all night and run stations.

Dave, KR4U, did a super effort on 20M and 80M early Sunday morning. Vertical antennas over salt water equal good signals. Also helping out pounding brass was Kenny, K4OB, Pete, WB2SUN, and Bob, N1XX, and special guests

Gus, VO1HP, and Dan, K1TO. Dan is president of the Florida Contest Group and brought Gus over from Madeira Beach. Each took their turn on 20M and entered many contacts to the log. For educational purposes Tom gave a demo of how to tie Field Day knots. Roger, K4SHI, loaned us his Honda generator that used only 3 gallons of gas for 24 hours. Both CW stations ran on deep cycle batteries.

Here is the final tally.

<u>2007</u>	<u>Band/Mode</u>	<u>2008</u>	This should put us way up in the 5A standings. Great effort by the SPARC crew.
65	80 CW	60	
193	40 CW	334	Thanks to all who helped out in one form or another. Also to those who came out and signed the guest
395	20 CW	464	book. Last but not least there was no rain or lightning for the second year. Murphy stayed away.
38	15 CW	248	
0	10 PSK	4	73 Ron KP2N
0	80 SSB	91	
132	40 SSB	79	
199	20 SSB	168	
0	15 SSB	47	
0	10 SSB	18	
64	6 SSB	84	
1117	Total contacts	1597	
1803	Total points	2707	

Calling CQ Field Day



Bob N2ESP

Bruce K14HHK

Michael K14QDL



Pete KB9LXM

Dr. Dave W4YD

Paul KC4YDY



Leslie WA4EEZ

Roger K4SHI



Dr. Dave W4YD



Tom W4CU

Scotty N4RI creating competition

Dave KR4U



Bob N1XX & Grace KG4CGT

Gus VO1MP

Dan K1TO, Gus VO1MP, Dave KR4U

Scotty N4RI



Ron KP2N

Peter WB2SUN first CW contact

Ken K4OB

Bob N1XX



Tom with Granddaughters Olivia & Sadie



Tamara (Leslie's daughter) & friend Donnie



Leslie, Mayor Jimmy Johnson & Friend Virginia



Dave KR4U & Jeff WB2GDZ



Chuck W4NHQ, Barbara KI4OEC
stopped by on the way home from Hospital



Gus, Dan, Terry, Ron, Tom & Scotty operating CW

A BIG THANK YOU

to all who have sent pictures:
George W1AAG, Ron KP2N,
Roger K4SHI, Leslie WA4EEZ,
Alan KO4CR, Dr. Dave W4YD,
Peter WB2SUN & Pat.



That's all Folks!!!!

Club Officers for 2008

<u>President</u>	Leslie Johnson WA4EEZ president@sparc-club.org	<u>Net Manager</u>	Pete Secrist WB2SUN netmanager@sparc-club.org
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