



75
SPARC
Years



GAP



**St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 2217 St. Petersburg, Fl. 333731
August-September-October 2009**



From Our President

We are on the Web!

www.sparc-club.org

By time this is published we will have enjoyed another great SPARC Annual Picnic and will be looking forward to electing a new slate of club officers. As I will not be continuing as president of the club this probably will be my last communication to you in this format. My thanks to all of you for your support of the club in this past year. There are many of the membership that have always made your time and resources available to make all of our activities great successes which have advanced our hobby, Amateur Radio. Our club officers have all pitched in to help our club operate smoothly. Again, my thanks to you all. However, I would like to recognize two of our members who have gone way above anything that was asked of them. These two hams are involved in nearly every aspect of the St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club. Ron Hall, KP2N, our club treasurer and repeater trustee, and Dave Trewin, KR4U, our club station trustee, have willingly picked up the yoke of responsibility for many of the activities in which the club has been involved. Both of these hams have spent many hours improving our station at the Red Cross and are now preparing to move the station to the Salvation Army. They have headed up our efforts at Lake Maggorie, the Tampa Bay Hamfest, our tail gate presence at Chester's enabling the club to sell surplus equipment at these functions, and insuring that the club would have the resources to make the upgrades needed to install our station at the Salvation Army. My personal thanks to Ron and Dave. You have made my year as club president easy.

Our special relationship with the Salvation Army presents a unique opportunity for public service. SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) is a voluntary network of amateur radio operators who assist during emergency conditions with local, regional, and international communications associated with the health and welfare mission of the Salvation Army. More information about SATERN can be found at <http://satern.org/>. I recommend that each of you review this website consider if you might be able to serve our community in this area.

Again my thanks to all of you for your support during 2009. 2010 looks to be another year of exciting ham radio opportunities. Stay involved and you will be sure not to miss out on the fun.

73, Richard, N4BUA
SPARC President



Field Day from the Old Timer's view



By Ron Hall, KP2N



Part 2

Field Day always brings out the best and sometimes the worse in operating skill and participation. We like to try out new equipment and antenna designs.

Back in 1955 a new radio club was formed in my hometown of Toledo, Ohio. The Toledo Mobile Radio Association (TMRA) was the brainchild of Maynard "Red" Nelson, W8HHF. Since I was operating 160 meter AM mobile at the time I became a charter member. We held meeting a various locations including Red's garage. It was during one of these meetings that the club decided we would like to hold our first Field Day.

One of our members was Johnny Kero. (Forgot his call). He owned a farm justNorth of Toledo across the Michigan state line near Temperance. He had a wooded area with lots of tall trees, perfect location for our first time. Red was rather a good organizer so we voted him to be head man. I was given the task of setting up the 160 and 80 meter CW site. Other members were elected for the other bands and Johnny Kero said he would do the meals, country style.

The Field Day weekend arrived after much waiting and the TMRA headed to the "farm" as we called it. Setup went rather smooth for our first time and I had my site ready to go by Field Day start. Oh my, this was going to be great.

Toward evening Bob Campbell, our 40 meter guru, came forward with a copy of QST that showed how one club made a 20 meter "beer can" vertical. If they can do it, why not us? Johnny Kero had all the soldering irons that were heated with a blowtorch. Back in 1955 beer came in steel cans and our group had plenty of material. So work was started on soldering beer cans end to end to form a 16 foot vertical. Everyone got a chance to show off their soldering skills bonding the cans together. Since the material was steel acid core solder was used. We figured that it would be OK for the duration of Field Day.

A workshop area was setup and members were asked to contribute empty cans. The blowtorch was fired up and two large sized soldering irons heated up. The first 5 feet went together rather well with a well soldered joint around each can. As a member vacated the work site another took his place. The second 5 feet looked good, but not the perfect workmanship that went into the first 5 feet. But, what the heck, were half way there.

About this time it was dark and Johnny Kero and his wife were serving dinner. Fried chicken, home made potato salad, and corn on the cob that was picked fresh that day. Later that evening we enjoyed home made apple pie and ice cream. After dinner we had more empty cans than we needed to complete the vertical. Soldering started up again and the remaining 6 feet attached.

It was done, a perfect 16 foot steel vertical.

Bob and other members had laid out the radials before hand and now it was just a matter of erecting the vertical in the dark. Some nylon parachute cord was secured about the 12' level and all systems were go for launch. The vertical was about at the 40 degree level when we heard a "snap" and the top 4 feet came to earth. Inspecting the vertical one of the joints at the 13 foot level let loose. Closer inspection showed not much solder flowed between the two cans. In fact the joint looked like it had been put together with a putty knife.

Since it was well after dark it was decided to erect the vertical the next morning. I settled in operating 160 and 80 meters for the rest of the evening.

The next morning after a wonderful country breakfast, most members just wanted to nap or work their site until the end of Field Day. I stayed with 80 meter CW until noon when activity was low and I had worked anything I could hear.

The 20 meter beer can special never yielded a QSO. It was later learned that the steel had started to rust so Johnny took it to the landfill. Next year no one mentioned about building another.

73 Ron KP2N

Pictures of W4GAC Station in progress at Salvation Army



W4GAC Station News

As many of you may have observed our new radio room has really taken shape. We formed a crew consisting of Leslie WA4EEZ, Roger K4SHI, Veronika KC4YAW, Ron KP2N and myself. We cleaned and painted the room, installed a large office cabinet for equipment storage, and moved our 2 drawer file from the Red Cross. All of our operating station equipment manuals along with existing SPARC history documents are contained in this file. The room air conditioner has been completely overhauled by former SPARC member Udo, KF4KUL, and works much more efficiently now. Thank You Udo for such an excellent job. During the month of December we plan to disassemble our current station and move everything to our new shack, it was our goal to have our new home ready for the move. So far so good! There will be some additional electrical work to be performed in early 2010 to properly support all of our equipment. Several of our current antennas will be installed on the roof of the building. When this move is complete we should have an excellent club station and I hope we can encourage more of our members to put it to use. Please remember that we are here to help you get started with new activities such as RTTY, CW, PSK, DXing or contesting. Try something new!

de Dave KR4U, W4GAC Trustee

We published an article in our newsletter earlier this year about CQ Magazine accepting eQSL confirmations for their awards. Our QSL manager Leslie, WA4EEZ, completed an account application for W4GAC and received e-mail back on October 10 stating our application has been approved. Good Work Les and Thank You. As a reminder to our members if you are working towards any CQ awards you can make an application to eQSL, upload your logs and use the service for immediate QSO confirmation. Our next project on this subject will be ARRL LoTW for W4GAC.

de Dave KR4U

Field Day 2009 Results

Well the Field Day results are finally in and our SPARC group sure made a great showing. Below are the scores of our great effort. Thanks to all who participated in operating and all the help and moral support.

We finished 9th out of 73 entries nation wide.

Finished 3rd in the 4 Call Area.

The Best is the Last

First Place in Florida 5A

de Dave, KR4U (Field Day Chairman)



Silent Key WENDY KINKAID KB1AF



Wendy Kincaid, KB1AF

has sadly passed on. We will miss her greatly. She was very active in the Club and elmered people in the operations of PSK.

Picture below is of Wendy and her family Liz, Gordon and Sharon



Contest/Operating Event Corner

Upcoming Contests

ARRL SWEEPSTAKES CW	NOV. 7-9
SKCC WEEKEND SPRINT CW	NOV. 8
ARRL SWEEPSTAKES SSB	NOV. 21-23
SKCC SPRINT CW	NOV. 25
ARRL 160 M CONTEST	DEC. 4-6
ARRL10 M CONTEST	DEC 12-13
ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP	JAN. 2-3

SPARC Contest Log as of 09/27/09 by Bob N2ESP

September, 2009; CQWW RTTY	
Callsign:	W4GAC
Class:	Multi Operator, two transmitter (M2), high power
Claimed Score:	882,238 (QSOs = 1257)
Operators:	KP2N, N2ESP, KR4U, N4RI, W4CU, WA4EEZ
Comments:	Total operating time 48 Hours out of 48. Operating/Logging Software – Networked Writelog Rigs: Yaesu FT-920; Amp Ameritron AL-811H running ~500W run station ICOM 775DSP, ~150W multiplier station Antennas: Tennadyne Log Periodic at 50 Feet; 40M Sloper; 40/80M Vertical Our last contest from this QTH.



CQWW RTTY Contest

September 2009

**Photo's taken by N2ESP
And WB2SUN**





Ham Shack of Steve Goodusky KB4USB

www.qsl.net/kb4usb/



I am a net controller on Monday nights at 6:30pm on the SPARC Net. I am a Skywarn Storm Spotter (PIN791) assisting the National Weather Service in Ruskin, FL via the Pinellas County Auxiliary Communications Service Repeater 145.170. I am also active on the NI4CE Repeater System 145.290 and work the Florida Repeater Systems from Jacksonville to Fort Myers.

I enjoy working 60/40/20/17/10 and 2 meters. I work the 40 meter band at night during the week. The 20 meter bands Maritime Mobile Net(14.300) on Saturday and Sunday mornings and afternoons. The 60 meter band the 17 meter band and the 10 meter band when conditions allow.

My station consists of a Kenwood TS-530s into a Swan 1200X amplifier(600 watts) for 60/40/20 meters. Antenna is a 40 meter 1/2 wave inverted Vee (North/South) at 20ft and a 20 meter 1/2 wave inverted Vee (East/West) at 15ft. The amp is off for 60 meters... A Kenwood TS-450s into a D & A Maverick amplifier(600 watts) for 10 meters and a D & A Raider amplifier(400 watts) for 17/15 meters. Antenna is a 5/8 ground plane at 40ft. I use a Heathkit DX-60 into a D & A Hornet amplifier(150 watts) for 40/20/15/10 meters CW. I use a Kenwood TS-700SP into a Swan VHF-150 amplifier(150 watts) for 2 meters with a 5 element yagi beam at 18ft.

Upcoming Events

Chester Tailgate no longer active

2009

TAMPA BAY HAMFEST

December 5 - 6

at

Manatee Civic and Convention Center

SPARC Meetings

First Friday every month, 7:30 pm

and

**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

Specialty	Name	Call	Contact Information
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	Dave Keller	KF4NS	kf4nsradio@verizon.net

Happy Holidays!



Club Officers for 2009

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