



St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 2217 St. Petersburg, Fl. 333731

SPARC CALLS: WA4AKH REPEATERS/ W4GAC CLUB STATION/ W4TA CONTEST GROUP

January — March 2013



A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The holidays are over as is the SPARC after holiday party. We had a great attendance at the party; every one left with a full stomach and a lovely parting gift thanks to Dee, N4GD and Sam, N4SLT. If you're still having trouble figuring out your new radio toy, check out our list of Elmers found elsewhere in this issue.

The Salvation Army has requested that SPARC vacate the current station location by May 31, 2013, as they are experiencing rapid growth. A relocation committee has been formed and is formulating plans for the removal, storage and hopeful relocation of the club assets. Anyone with knowledge of a suitable new station is asked to contact me or any committee member. We anticipate being able to continue testing and holding monthly meetings in the classroom until the end of the year.

The callsign W4TA has been used by SPARC for a number of years at field day, and it was Blackie's wish that the club continue to use W4TA in his memory. The paperwork was sent in to the FCC, and on February 12th, we were granted the use of W4TA for the SPARC Contest Group. New one-by-two call signs are rare in the fourth call district, and this one is coveted by CW operators for being so short. KP2N, KR4U KI4UIP, N2ESP and W4CU removed the antennas and radio equipment from the former W4TA QTH. Check the classified page of our web site for a list of equipment for sale.

The Skywarn group has had a few activations in December for severe weather in our area. Tune your 2 meter radio to 145.17MHz whenever your weather radio activates to listen to their activities. You do have a weather radio, don't you?

Since the last edition, the DXers have had fun working ZL9HR on Campbell Island, 5TOSP in Mauritania, E51E on Aitutaki Island and 5X8C in Uganda, while the contesters worked numerous RTTY stations, trying to duplicate their first place WCF win of last year in the ARRL RTTY Round Up.

The 220MHz repeater enclosure and wiring has been reworked, tested and reinstalled. Many thanks to Ron, KP2N; Dee, N4GD; and John KI4UIP for their expertise in keeping us on the air.

As the Northeast froze with record snow fall, the Orlando Hamfest provided many SPARC members with "Chamber of Commerce" weather and the opportunity to shop for "radio stuff." Look elsewhere in this issue for the traditional photo of the SPARC attendees.

And take a look at this commercial to see what Kraft Foods is doing to promote ham radio and Velveeta:

<http://vimeo.com/54892553>

The Classified Ad page on the SPARC web site is looking empty, now that the big Onan generator has found a new home. If you have radio stuff to sell, this page really works.

Finally, we note the passing of SPARC members Ken Jacobsen, KB4MZW, and Rick Rutan, K4BNE. RIP OM.

73, Bob - N2ESP.....P.S. A funny for this issue: A backward poet writes inverse.

Orlando Hamcation 2013 by Tom / AI4QP

The weather was just beautiful in Orlando for the Hamcation. You couldn't ask for a better day. (other than a buy one get one free sale). I started out early by going by and picking up Pete (WB2SUN) and we got under way. It was a good drive and we caught a few of the SPARC members on the air as we drove. We got there about 20 minutes before they opened the door and we were up at the front door waiting and Bob (KC4SXO) was just behind us. The door opened and it was like the flood gates were opened, we all flowed in. My first stop was the basket to drop my winning ticket in and they should be calling any day now to tell me my prize is on the way ! (or not) I then stopped at the MFJ booth Picked up a meter and the best tote bag for the event. I moved around to the different venders and enjoyed looking at all the wonders of Radio. I went by the Yaesu booth and picked up another nice free hat sense they wouldn't give me a nice FT-5000 with out a lot of currency exchange which was just not there.

I looked through the rest of the main building and then I had to head for the Lakeside pavilion where the Milwaukee- Florida group was getting together for a visit over coffee and donuts. (who could miss that). It was a good gathering and we had fun chatting and being thankful we weren't in the Northeast Blizzard Nemo.

After that it was time to meet up with all the SPARC members who made the trip to Orlando and have a group photo taken. We gathered at the food court as usual and got the job done and might have had a few folks in the group who just liked getting their picture taken.

It was a great trip and if you have not been before, you missed out. Meeting folks that you don't get to see except at one of these functions is about as much fun as going. Hope to see you there next year.

AI4QP Tom



Pictures of the After Christmas Dinner



Meet your Club Member and Friend...W1AAG George Hartmann

General Class

License WB1AAG in 1976

Equipment

IC 756 PRO 6/HF

IC 746 2/6/HF

IC 2410 2/70cm

IC 7000 Mobile in Van. AH-4/SGC

Antenna HF/6/2/70cm.

Antennas

Multi-Band Spider HF

10/15/17/20/40 Meters - VHF / UHF

Diamond Tri Band 50/144/440 MHZ .

The Condo Association permitted me to put my antennas on my Air conditioning compressor at 32 FT mounted on the roof and I do work DX stations as well as state side.

Modes

I like SSB, PSK, RTTY



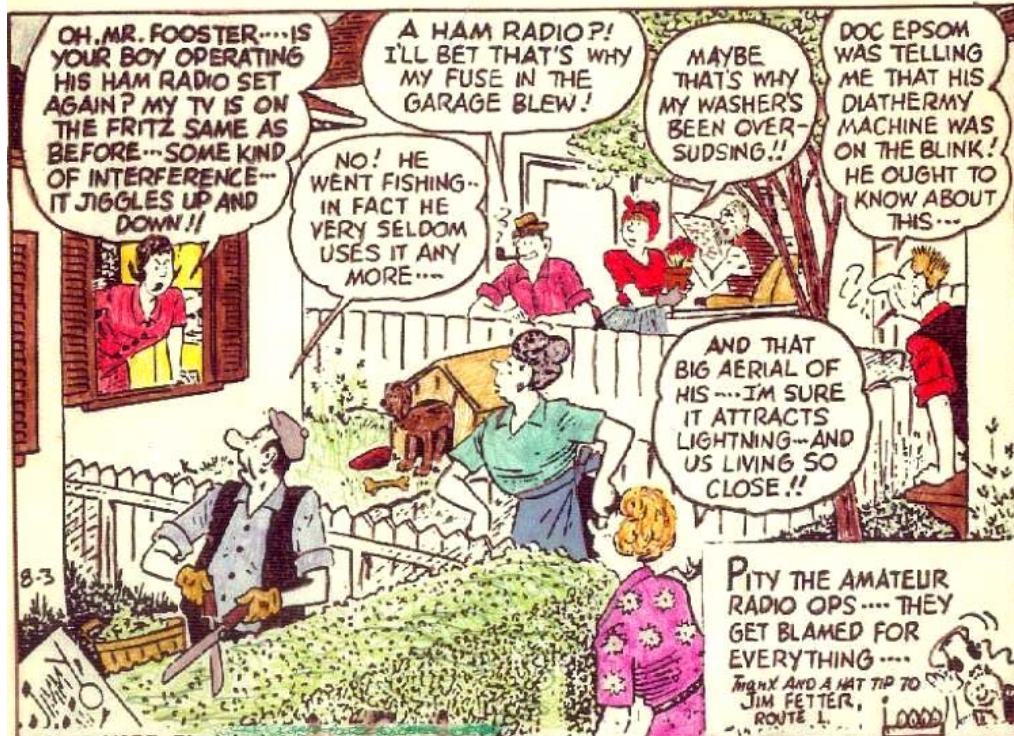
I like to help set up on field day and see all the equipment up and working, also operating the same.

George is also a Member of the South-central Connecticut Amateur Radio Association (SACRA).

Saint Petersburg Amateur Radio Club. (SPARC)

The Glorious Society of the Wormhole (W4ORM)

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME :- :-:- by Hatlo



Cartoon by Hatlo

Submitted by

Bob N2ESP

Pictures taken at Meeting

Net Control Operator Appreciation Certificates



Net Control Operator that were present at the meeting were (left to right)

Donn N4KIL, C. Michael KG4PMC, Tom AI4QP, Tom KI4RVU, Bob KC4SXO, Leslie WA4EEZ, Ron KP2N



Plaque of Appreciation was given to Past Presidents Ron KP2N (above) and Richard N4BUA (not present)
by Bob our current President



David KR4U accepted the First Place Certificate for W4GAC in the RTTY Roundup for Florida



Johnnie W4TSP (Net Manager) giving a report at meeting

**Official Unit Conversion Chart for Engineers
submitted by Johnnie W4TSP**

1. Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter = Eskimo Pi
2. 2,000 pounds of Chinese soup = Won ton
3. 1 millionth of a mouthwash = 1 microscope
4. Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement = 1 bananosecond
5. Weight one evangelist carries with God = 1 billigram
6. Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour = Knotfurlong
7. 16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone = 1 Rod Serling
8. Half of a large intestine = 1 semicolon
9. 1,000,000 aches = 1 megahurtz
10. Basic unit of laryngitis = 1 hoarsepower
11. Shortest distance between two jokes = A straight line
12. 453.6 graham crackers = 1 pound cake
13. 1 million-million microphones = 1 megaphone
14. 2 million bicycles = 2 megacycles
15. 365.25 days = 1 unicycle
16. 2,000 mockingbirds = 2 kilomockingbirds
17. 52 cards = 1 decacards
18. 1 kilogram of falling figs = 1 FigNewton
19. 1,000 milliliters of wet socks = 1 literhosen
20. 1 millionth of a fish = 1 microfiche
21. 1 trillion pins = 1 terrapin
22. 10 rations = 1 decoration
23. 100 rations = 1 C-ration
24. 2 monograms = 1 diagram
25. 4 nickels = 2 paradigms
26. 2.4 statute miles of intravenous surgical tubing at Yale University Hospital = 1 IV League
27. 2 Hafniums = 1 Holmium

We are on the Web!

www.sparc-club.org

Upcoming Events/Contests

TARC Fest 4/20/2013 8AM

Contests From The WA7BNM Contest Calendar

ARRL International DX SSB 3/2, 3/3/2013

EA PSK63 Digital Contest 3/9, 3/10/2013

BARTG HF RTTY Contest 3/16, 3/18/2013

PODXS 070 Club PSK31 Flavors Contest 4/6/2013

TARA Skirmish Digital Contest 4/20/2013

Florida QSO Party 4/27, 4/28/2013

W4GAC Station Activities

By David KR4U W4GAC Trustee

On February 12, 2013 the call W4TA became effective assigned to the recently formed "SPARC Contest Group". Our club has used this call, with the permission of its owner Blackie Blackburn, for many field day events. With the passing of Blackie and special arrangements in place, Ron KP2N submitted the required paperwork to have W4TA assigned to the SPARC club. The Trustee for the call is Bob N2ESP. The contest group used our new call last weekend February 23 and 24 when we took part in the North American QSO Party RTTY at the club station W4GAC. This was a 12 hour event from 1PM Saturday to 1AM Sunday and we covered it with 2 shifts of 4 operators day and night. We made 926 QSO's, 182 multipliers for a total score of 168,532 points. Our class was M/2 which indicates multioperator 2 transmitters on the air at the same time. This was accomplished using our tri-plexer and beam. Our score was the best to date for SPARC. Thanks to the operators who made it happen, KP2N KR4U N2ESP N4RI VE3XD W4CU W4TSP and WA4EEZ. All of our equipment worked perfectly. This was our last team effort from our current W4GAC location. Sadly at this time we will begin to disassemble and pack up all of our equipment at W4GAC. A great deal of effort, by several club members, is under way to locate and secure a new location for our station..THANKS GUYS.

73 de David KR4U

Of Interest

Electronic QSLs, a New Twist by Bob Wanek N2ESP

Are most of your cards sitting in a shoe box collecting dust? Running out of wall space in the shack to display QSL cards? The solution is as close as your local big box electronics store. I received an “electronic picture frame” from Santa. My unit has a 7” LCD screen with a resolution of 480 x 234, which is just perfect for the standard QSL card. Using the optical scanner that is part of my multi-function printer, I made a .JPG file for each card. By copying these files onto a USB memory stick and plugging the stick into the picture frame, I now have a never ending slide show of cards from stations I have worked. If you don’t have a scanner or a frame, DX Engineering offers a scanner and electronic frame combination for less than \$90. See <http://www.dxengineering.com/parts/dxe-qsl-kit>

Congrats

Bob, N2ESP, was notified that he won first place in the Single Operator Phone Only, Low Power, West Central Florida section in the 2011 ARRL 10 meter contest. This is the third consecutive year Bob has captured this category, a three-peat! A copy of Bob’s new certificate is shown.



Ralph’s Hobbies and Amateur Radio Supply

Invites you to come to the areas only
Amateur Radio Equipment Retail Store
at

5208 66th Street N., #D

St Petersburg Fl 33709

Monday- Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM

727-547-8607

Thanks 73 Ralph KI4SMI

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

**contact Mike Scott K4ZPE at 727-492-6454*

Some Members meet for Breakfast

Every Saturday, 7:00 am at

Biff Burger 49th St. & 38th Ave. N. St. Petersburg

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
New Ham Elmers	Kyle Jeske	N4NSS	n4nss@arrl.net



Welcome To Our New Members

Felax Chow KI4TWQ

Alfie Shary KK4MYO

Dock Edwards N4HYK

Jack Satterfield W4GRJ

Kenton Mattingly

Club Officers for 2013

President Bob Wanek N2ESP

president@sparc-club.org

Net Manager Johnnie Popwell W4TSP

netmanager@sparc-club.org

Vice President Clayton Parrott KJ4RUS

vice-president@sparc-club.org

Club Station Trustee David Trewin KR4U

trustee@sparc-club.org

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Web Master Dee Turner N4GD

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David Trewin KR4U

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Repeater Trustee Ron Hall KP2N

trustee@sparc-club.org

Past President Ron Hall KP2N

pastpresident@sparc-club.org

Board Members

John Toth KI4UIP boardmember1@sparc-club.org

Mike Scott K4ZPE boardmember2@sparc-club.org

Steve Hampshire KK4CUM boardmember3@sparc-club.org