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Fl. 33731  
www.sparc-club.org



SPARC CALLS:  
WA4AKH REPEATERS  
W4GAC CLUB STATION  
W4TA CONTEST GROUP

# SPARC GAP

## July - August 2013

FROM OUR PRESIDENT—Bob Wanek N2ESP



What I believe to be our best Field day ever went off without a hitch this year. Boy did we all look spiffy in our new SPARC T-shirts. We downsized the station size from 5A to 4A to reduce the workload. Things got started early with most of the antenna work was done on Friday. The balance of the equipment was setup on Saturday. Our GOTA station made it easy for newcomers to experience Ham Radio for the first time. I know one grandchild that made more contacts than I did... FANTASTIC. A great article in the *Tampa Bay Times*, TV and radio interviews made this our best publicized Field Day to date. The weather held out, only a few minor equipment failures, and lots of hard work by a cast of 10's made this one for the books. We logged 1,408 QSOs and uncounted laughs. Thanks to everyone that contributed to our success, with special appreciation to our host David, W4YD, and the Bay Pines VA Healthcare Team.

The Relocation Committee is continuing to investigate potential station locations. Kudos to Coy, KK4JMP, for his untiring efforts in working with local, state and national government agencies.

The W4GAC / W4TA station equipment is slowly being assembled to provide a temporary operation location. Many thanks to W4CU, KP2N, KR4U, KI4UIP, W4TSP, W1AAG, KJ4RUS, N4KII, N2ESP. Our June Executive Board meeting was held at the station to give board members and visitors the opportunity to see the new location.

The Skywarn folks were busy reporting the activity of Tropical Storm Andrea to the National Weather Service. The entire county was affected by this storm. Fortunately, damage was minimal. The net activated again at the end of June and into July for tornado activity. I even got to report my first *two* funnel clouds!

In the radio community, we are known by our voices or our "fists." Those interested in knowing more about SPARC turn to QRZ.COM or our web site. We are adding "biographies" to our three QRZ.com pages and a new Awards and Achievements page along with subtle improvements to our web site. Thanks to Tom, NY4I; Dee, N4GD; Dave, KR4U and Ron, KP2N for continued support of the site. And you will notice an updated membership application form when you next pay your dues thanks to Tom, AI4QP.

As with most equipment, maintenance is always an issue, and our repeater system is no different. Last month we updated our antennas. This month SPARC invested in a spectrum analyzer / tracking generator to insure our repeaters and other equipment is within FCC specifications and operating properly. A kilohertz of prevention goes a long way.

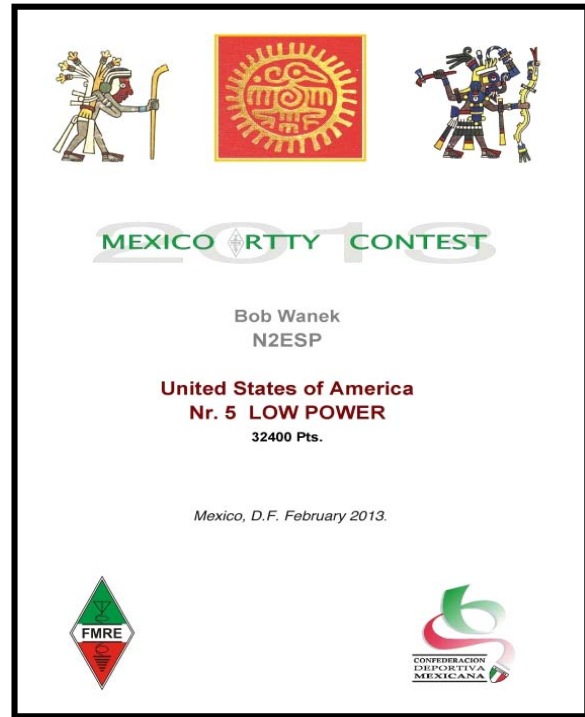
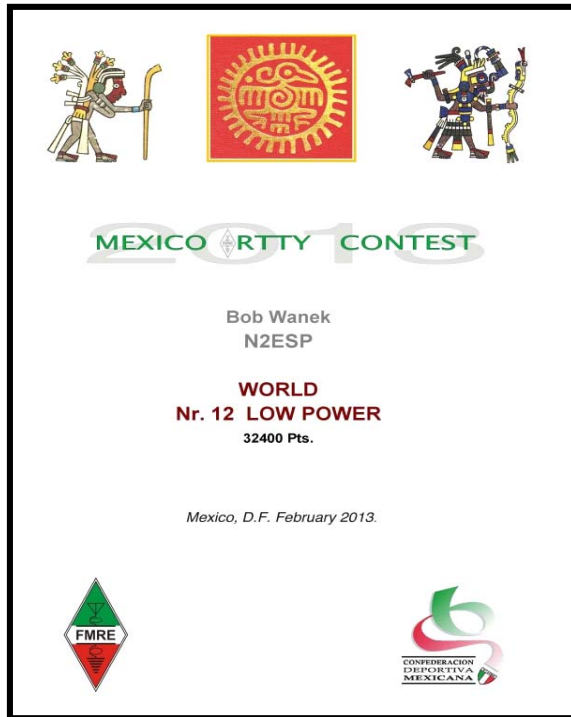
Technical Query....Is it OK to operate AM after noon?

Finally, our condolences go to the family of C. Michael Ritchey, KG4PMC, long time SPARC member and Sunday night net controller. RIP.

73, Bob - N2ESP

## Congrats to Bob N2ESP

Enter an obscure enough contest, and you can win not one but two awards



## Congrats to Leslie WA4EEZ and David KR4U

To Leslie WA4EEZ for working and confirming all 3077 US Counties to get her USA-CA Award

To David for getting his 300 Country DX Century Club Award... Bet the remaining ones will be really tough to get.





# Pictures of Field Day 2013



## RAH...RAH...Field Day by TOM AI4QP

The 2013 Field Day Event for the SPARC club got off to a great start. On Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, a gathering of Hams met behind Bay Pines VA Hospital to have a little antenna party. It's that time of the year we all look forward to. A chance to come together and set up communication stations for practice in an emergency situation when alternative power might be needed to operate. We are very lucky to have a group of men and women that can come together and get this done with a combined effort. I can't thank this group of folks enough for their set up and tear down skills that make this event happen.

The weather Gods smiled on us this year and gave us some great conditions. We had a good show of folks come and some elected officials, to make the turn out great. I think our count was in the mid 60's. I think we only had some minor difficulties with equipment and running out of fuel for generators which was a quick fix. Things ran pretty smooth. Everyone really looked good in their Field Day shirts to.

It came time for lunch and Roger and Leslie showed up with the Sub sandwiches. We can't thank them enough for doing this. When it was dinner time they showed up with a great spread from Sonny's Bar-B-Q. It was hot and filling, plus finger licking good ! Leslie also had a little help from her family bringing Watermelon and other goodies for all to chow down on. Her grandson Luke Allen who really liked to talk on the radio was a big help at the GOTA station He is only 10 years old but joined in like a trooper. Clayton and his group did a great job with the GOTA set up.

We had a lot of contacts including some satellite and solar QRP contacts for some extra points. Dr. Johnson showed up Sunday morning with Donuts and our thanks go out to him for all he did to get us set up at Bay Pines. He got us tables and chairs to use and had the area mowed and sprayed for pests. We had the use of port-a potties and the use of the rest rooms in building #37. Many thanks again.

Bob and Johnnie did a great job in getting the media out to get our event out to the public. We were on a couple TV news spots and a good article in the Sunday Paper. Around 11 AM Sunday, Ron had the Burnt offering Grill Fired up for Hot Dogs that went down well. It wasn't long after that that things started to wind down and the group was breaking down after another Field Day. A great job by all and we hope to see all of you next year...RAH...RAH...FIELD DAY !!!

TOM / AI4QP

We are on the Web!  
[www.sparc-club.org](http://www.sparc-club.org)



# Pictures from Field Day

Thank you to all our Photographers. You ALL did take great Pictures. We also want to thank David W4YD- for arranging such a great site for us and to David KR4U for being Field Day Chairman ( Great Job!)





## SPARC 2013 ARRL Field Day Final Report.

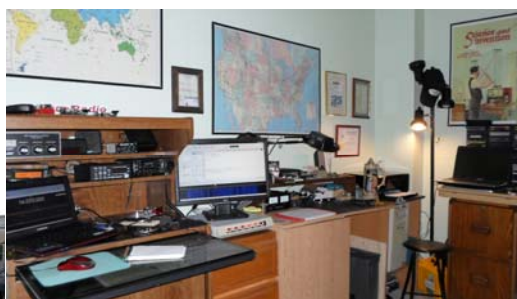
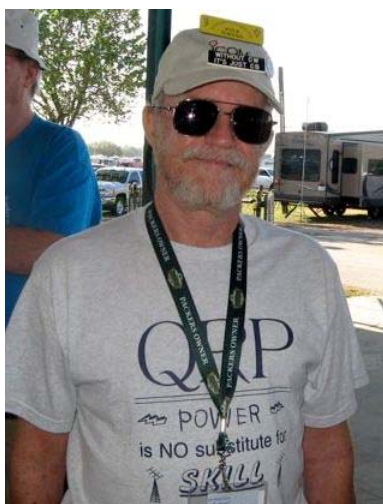
I am happy to report that all of our information has been submitted to the ARRL and I would like to thank Dee, N4GD for his assistance in this effort. I think we all can agree that it was a very enjoyable event and we all had fun.. WITH NO RAIN. Our final numbers were as follows: SSB QSO's 450, CW QSO's 958, Satellite QSO's 3, and GOTA QSO's 42. We claimed 1530 bonus points for a final score of 4732 points in class 4A. As each field day passes we learn new things that could be improved upon for the next year. This year was no exception and at the July SPARC meeting we had a good discussion on improvements we can make. Again I would like to THANK all members that took part and helped in all areas to make this a great event.

73 de David KR4U, Field Day Chairman.

## Meet Member Kyle N4NSS

I got my license in 1966 - WA9USD. Building kits and putting parts together to make gadgets is what I like to do. You can find me using CW, SSB, PSK-31, and other modes. I also like to backpack into some of Florida's wilderness areas and preserves. I play radio away from the home by going to parks. Yes, there are some real nice ones near the Tampa Bay area. Nice setup in the Rav-4 with second battery, antennas vary from W5GI to Verticals. Away from the vehicle I backpack with my converted baby carrier holding my FT-817DG and whatever goes with it to make up a station in the ruff. Please read the whole story on QRZ.

I have converted a microwave cart for my operating position. I had the hardware from a computer desk so I installed a sliding shelf into the cart. This is my new station/workbench. Now all I need is antennas....hmmmm?



## Upcoming Events/Contests

Tampa Amateur Radio Club TARCfest 8/24

### Contest Information from WA7BNM Contest Calendar:

TARA Grid Dip PSK31 Contest 8/3

10-10 Summer SSB Contest 8/3-8/4

NAQP RTTY July 20-21

NAQP CW Contest 8/3-8/4

SARTG World Wide RTTY Contest 8/17-8/18

NAQP SSB Contest 8/17-8/18

SKCC CW Sprint Contest 8/28

## W4GAC Station Activities by David KR4U W4GAC Trustee

The SPARC Contest Group participated in our first event from the Clearwater location the weekend of July 20/21, the North American QSO Party RTTY contest. For a while it looked like we may not be able to complete the necessary tasks in time to work this event. Due to a concentrated effort by KP2N, N2ESP, KI4UIP, N4KII, W4CU and KR4U we were able to make it happen. This group managed to install a Cushcraft R7 multiband vertical and a 80/40 meter dipole along with the necessary cables and provisions for station grounding. The R7 vertical was chosen to provide multiband operation and also to provide a good antenna for the Sail and Power Squadron to use for their club station under the guidance of Tom W4CU. After the antenna work was completed we connected our club radios and interfaced each with its own computer and installed the necessary contest logging software.. WriteLog. The final interconnect cables were installed and the stations checked out just two hours before the start of the contest so we cut it pretty close.. but we made it. This event lasts 12 hours from 2PM Saturday to 2AM Sunday and all of our equipment worked very well. Two stations were on at the same time using the vertical on 20-15 and 10 meters through our tri-plexer. The team consisted of KP2N, N2ESP, W4TSP, N4RI, W4CU, WA4EEZ, NY4I, and KR4U. We had several visitors from the squadron and they found it quite interesting to watch the group in action. Our final numbers were:559 QSO's, 141 multipliers for a final score of 78,819. Everyone enjoyed working the event and we hope more club members will take part in the future.. no experience necessary we will provide expert training.

73 de David KR4U, W4GAC Station Trustee.

## Of Interest Submitted by Bob Wanek

I found some additional field day points we may be eligible for....Hi Hi

<u>NICKNAME</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>
OSCAR MEYER Bonus	100 points	Operators eat nothing but bologna sandwiches for the duration of the contest
HOSTAGE Multiplier	2x score multiplier	All QSOs are made while blindfolded
FRUIT OF THE LOOM Bonus	150 points	Primary operator wears nothing but t-shirt and boxers
I JUST LEARNED TO TYPE Bonus	50 points	Logging operator uses one finger on the computer keyboard
NOW WE'RE COOKING Multiplier	2x score multiplier	CW Operators must roast a small chicken on the charcoal grill while making 10 QSOs
STAY OFF MY YARD Bonus	250 points	Yell at the neighbor kids while making a SSB transmission
THE AUSTRALIAN CRAWL Multiplier	4x score multiplier	All on-air operators must simultaneously drink a pint of Foster's
MONKEY SEE, MONKEY DO Bonus	100 points	One operator per transmitter must climb a tree and hold onto the station's feedline for 2.5 hrs
THE DIGITAL INSPECTION, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN Multiplier	3x score multiplier	PSK31 /JT65 operators must live type all QSOs – NO MACROS
AND IT'S DEEP TOO! Bonus	50 points	Teach a class on building a camp-site latrine

**P.S. I started a new weight loss program; I call it *Automatic Gain Control*. The goal is to reduce my "bandwidth".**

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 Thanks 73 Ralph KI4SMI



For Badges as shown see  
Tom AI4QP



## SPARC Meetings..... Note New Location

*First Friday every month, 7:30 pm*

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

*at First Assembly of God*

*6380 62nd Ave. N. Pinellas Park*

*\*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
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RTTY, Repeaters	Ron Hall	KP2N	kp2n@arrl.net
HF, 10-10, USA-CA	Leslie Johnson	WA4EEZ	wa4eez@verizon.net
Classic Radio Operation	Dick Keller	KF4NS	kf4nsradio@verizon.net
New Ham Elmers	Kyle Jeske	N4NSS	n4nss@arrl.net



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# Welcome To Our New Members

Paul J Traci KK4SEF

James C Ragatz KK4NZL

James C Monaghan AG4CI

Alden Stenberg KJ4OGQ

## Club Officers for 2013

President

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W4TA

David Trewin KR4U

Bob Wanek N2ESP

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