



**St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 2217 St. Petersburg, FL. 333731
December 2008**



President's Letter December 2008

It is my pleasure to take the reins of leadership of the St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club. I want to thank my predecessor, Leslie, WA4EEZ, for her outstanding performance as the SPARC club president during 2007 and 2008. Leslie's work during the past two years has helped insure the future of the St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club and amateur radio, in general, as the great hobby that it is. We all owe to her a debt of gratitude and appreciation. The coming year is going to present SPARC with new challenges that will require the cooperation and support of all of our members. In addition to the normal activities in which SPARC participates, i.e., Lake Maggiore Hamfest, Field Day, and the many operating activities, SPARC will be challenged to move the Radio Station, W4GAC, to a new location. A spirit of cooperation, planning, and a "can do" attitude by all of our members will make this transition take place with the same success that the SPARC has achieved in past projects. Amateur Radio is a hobby that is changing as fast as technology. Keeping up with the new innovations can prove to be very challenging both intellectually and financially. However, the things that bind us together in this hobby never change. In 1928 Paul M. Segal, then 9EEA, composed the Amateur Radio Creed. "An Amateur Radio Operator is: **Considerate**...never knowingly uses the air in such a way to lesson the pleasure of others. **Loyal**...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to their fellow radio amateurs, their local radio club, and to the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio is represented. **Progressive**...with knowledge abreast of science. It is well-built and efficient. Operating practice is above reproach. **Friendly**...slow and patient sending when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are marks of the amateur spirit. **Balanced**...radio is their hobby. They never allow it to interfere with any of the duties they owe to their home, job, church, school, or community. **Patriotic**...their knowledge and their station are always ready for the service of his country and their community." This coming year, 2009, would be a great time for all of us to make the tenants of this creed a part of our individual practice of our hobby. Above all lets all make sure our hobby is "fun."



73, Richard N4BUA



LEARNING CW and IMPROVING CODE SPEED by Dave KR4U

At the last SPARC meeting one of our members, Ray N4EAT, asked if we could get some type of code improvement program going. I learned of an organization through a mutual friend of Leslie WA4EEZ and myself who was visiting our area from Virginia..Karen W4KRN. It is the "Straight Key Century Club" or SKCC for short. They have an excellent website at www.skccgroup.com and I urge anyone interested in code to check it out. After filling out a very basic form you are assigned a member number which is used during various events held by the club. The group holds at least two events per month and I recently took part in one of the sprints..Great fun and you meet lots of good folks. At this time two other SPARC members belong to the group..Doug KI4SNS and Pete WB2SUN. I contacted the public information officer and he sent me an excellent write up which follows. This is an excellent opportunity for folks to get on CW and make contacts at their speed comfort level, one can start out very slowly and go up from there at the same time meet nice operators and most of all...HAVE FUN...de Dave KR4U.

From SKCC



Remember when you had to learn Morse code to get licensed, and the feeling of elation you got when you made your first contact, worked your first DX, or earned your first certificate, all with CW. Or, are you just curious about CW as a mode, and want to see what all the fuss is about. Either way, you may well feel that your code skills need honing so that you don't embarrass yourself attempting a QSO. No doubt, SPARC has a CW op or two that will be happy to elmer you. Dave Trewin, KR4U, is one such operator, and you would be wise to make use of his experience.

Another approach that appeals to many, is to join a CW specialty club. A good example is the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC). The SKCC was formed nearly 3 years ago, by a small group of dedicated brass pounders, and now has a membership of nearly 5,000 ops. Membership is free, you are a member for life, and there are awards, a newsletter, Elmer's, and even contests and sprints for members to enjoy. The SKCC Purpose Statement has just three points:

- To promote the use of Morse code, particularly using straight keys, bugs, or sideswipers (cootie keys).**
- To help, encourage, and elmer new CW operators.**
- To HAVE FUN!**

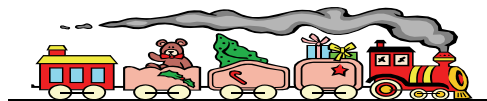
Listen for SKCC activity on, or around, the suggested operating frequencies:

1.820 3.530 3.550 7.055 7.113* 7.120 10.120 14.050 18.080 21.050 24.910 28.050

On the internet, look for our website at www.skccgroup.com. You will find full information there on membership, activities, awards, and scads of other items of interest.

Note: 7.113 is our slow speed, elmered, calling frequency. Call CQ there at a shaky 4 wpm, and you will be answered, and welcomed, at a clean 4 wpm. Your speed is our speed.

Roger(Al) Kepner, W6SQQ
SKCC Public Information Officer



Contest/Operating Event Corner

Upcoming Contests

ARRL 160 METER CONTEST	DEC. 5-7	2008
ARRL 10 METER CONTEST	DEC. 13-14	2008
ARRL RTTY ROUND-UP	JAN. 3-4	2009



SPARC Contest Log as of 11/30/08

November, 2008: ARRL Sweepstakes - SSB	
Call sign:	W4GAC
Class:	Multiple Operator, High Power, All Bands
Claimed Score:	631 QSO's for 101,320 points and a CLEAN SWEEP (all 80 ARRL/RAC sections)
Operators:	KP2N, N2ESP, WB2SUN, KI4SNS, KR4U, N4GD, N4RI, W4CU, WA4EEZ
Comments:	Total operating time 30 Hrs out of 30. Operating/Logging Software –Writelog Rig: Kenwood TS-450S ; Amp AMERITRON 811H running ~600W Antennas: Tennadyne Log Periodic at 50 Feet; 160/80/40M Sloper; 40M Vertical

November, 2008: ARRL Sweepstakes - CW	
Call sign:	W4GAC
Class:	Multiple Operator, High Power, All Bands
Claimed Score:	454 QSO's for 71732 points and almost a clean sweep (79 ARRL/RAC sections)
Operators:	KP2N, KR4U, N4RI, W4CU, N1XX, K4OB, KI4SNS, KB9LXM
Comments:	Total operating time 30 Hrs out of 30. Operating/Logging Software –Writelog Rig: Elecraft K3; Amp AMERITRON 811H running ~600W



Pictures at W4GAC taken by Pat

2008: ARRL Sweepstakes - SSB



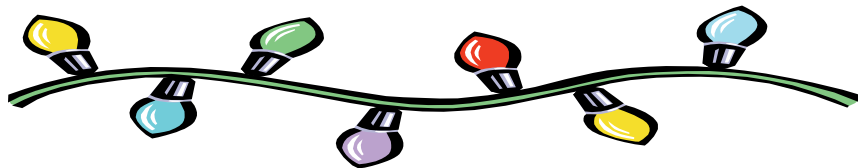
Welcome New SPARC Members



Brad Messick W4BJM
Michael Scott KJ4GND
Dave Hertz K4DGH
James Davidson VE3TPZ/VA3WRD
Florence "Tootie" Larkin WP2ABG

SPARC Officers for 2009

President: Richard Stephens N4BUA
Vice President: Pete Peterson KB9LXM
Secretary: Bob Entwistle N1XX
Treasurer: Ron Hall Sr. KP2N
Board Member: Susan Dillon KD4FEZ
Board Member: Frederick Luneburg KF4FCW
Board Member: Bill Zulas WZ4GW
Past President: Leslie Johnson WA4EEZ
Newsletter Editors: Veronika Trewin KC4YAW
David Trewin KR4U
Repeater Trustee: Ron Hall Sr. KP2N
Club Station Trustee: David Trewin KR4U



Happy Holidays

Photo's taken by Dee N4GD



Leslie WA4EEZ was presented a Plaque, by our new President Richard N4BUA, for outstanding service as our past President.

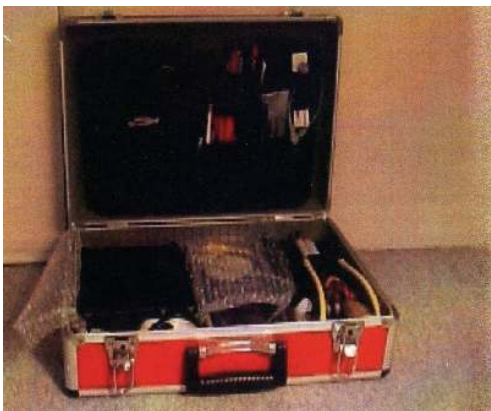
My Old Ham Shack by Ray Vaillancourt N4EAT



My Old Ham shack

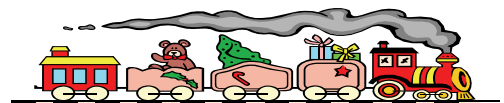
How times do change, push this , turn that, and when the green light flashes say something. If the red light comes on check for a loose connection or a wire not plugged into the right place. Maybe it's the antenna. ...Check it out... Climb the tower...hang on tight and be careful. If the yellow light flashes in sync with the green light and the red light goes out, call for help!

After moving from my home up north to a condo in the south, with all it's antenna restrictions, my ham shack had to go. In order to continue my hobby I turned to QRP radio and I could not be happier.



My Florida Ham shack

73 de Ray N4EAT



Upcoming Events

Chester Tailgate 7AM till ...when everyone leaves

2009

January 10 CARS

March 14 METRO

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
PSK	Wendy Kincaid	KB1AF	kb1af@yahoo.com
RTTY, Repeaters	Ron Hall	KP2N	kp2n@arrl.net
HF, 10-10	Leslie Johnson	WA4EEZ	wa4eez@verizon.net

Happy Holidays!



Photo by Dee N4GD

Club Officers for 2008

President

Richard Stephens N4BUA
president@sparc-club.org

Net Manager

Pete Secrist WB2SUN
netmanager@sparc-club.org

Vice President

Pete Peterson KB9LXM
vice-president@sparc-club.org

Club Station Trustee

David Trewin KR4U
trustee@sparc-club.org

Secretary

Bob Entwistle N1XX
secretary@sparc-club.org

Web Master

Dee Turner N4GD
webmaster@sparc-club.org

Treasurer

Ron Hall KP2N
treasurer@sparc-club.org

Newsletter Editors

Veronika Trewin KC4YAW
David Trewin KR4U
newsletter@sparc-club.org

Repeater Trustee

Ron Hall KP2N
trustee@sparc-club.org

Past President

Leslie Johnson WA4EEZ
pastpresident@sparc-club.org

Board Members

Frederick Luneburg KF4FCW boardmember1@sparc-club.org
Susan Dillon KD4FEZ boardmember3@sparc-club.org

Bill Zulas WZ4GW boardmember2@sparc-club.org