



# SPARC GAP

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS AND INFORMATION

January 2000

## The president's key (board) By Donn davis, n4kii

Greetings Hamsters:

It is my pleasure being president again after 12 years. I would like to thank Cecil and the board for carefully guiding the club in the past year. I will now expose my HIDDEN agenda.

Number one on my list is to make SPARC a friendly and fun place to belong. New members and visitors need more than a token hello and the introverts need that welcome hand. We need to maintain friendly relations with the other clubs and non-members. In times of emergency we will all need each other. Lets keep the business meeting short and the rag chewing long.

Number two is working on W4GAC (the club station) and making it as simple and

useful as possible. It is very important to have the station available to support the Red Cross in time of emergency, but I would like any excuse to get people inside to play radio. We will be open for the ARRL 10-meter contest Dec 11-12.

Number three is to keep the repeaters going with slow, but steady refinements.

Number four is to get 10 people to each do one job well and not one person doing 10 jobs well enough to cover the crisis.

Lets have FUN and play with our radios, talk to each other and talking up ham radio to all those potential hams.

73  
Donn N4KII

## Welcome to wcf country — the west central florida section of the arrl

On January 15, 2000 nine counties will move from the Southern Florida Section to the new West Central Florida Section. These counties are Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas, Polk and Sarasota. ARRL members voted overwhelmingly (920 to 86) to create the West Central Florida Section last summer. In October the ARRL Board of Directors voted to authorize the creation of the new section. In early November the ARRL appointed Dave Armbrust, AE4MR of Sarasota to serve as our first section

manager. Dave has appointed all cabinet positions as of this writing.

There are many appointments available. See the article on page two for more information!

For more information contact Dave at [ae4mr@arrl.org](mailto:ae4mr@arrl.org) or you can call him at 941-923-1688. Dave's appointment runs from January 15, 2000 through December 31, 2000. You can also visit the WCF Section Web page at <http://www.wcfarrl.org>

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- Next SPARC Meeting, January 7, 2000
- Please renew your dues!
- Check-in to the SPARC net every night at 6:30 P.M.
- SPARC After Holiday Party, Sunday January 16, 3:00 P.M. at the Four Coins Restaurant.

## Help wanted: net controls for sparc DAILY net

The St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club sponsors a nightly net every day of the year at 6:30 P.M. To keep this rigorous schedule more net control stations are needed! Unfortunately when there are not enough net controls, our net manager Freddie, KF4FCW, ends up doing more nets that he should have to!

Running the net is a great way to learn about several areas of amateur radio including how to handle formal written traffic, and how to operate a controller net.

Running a net like the SPARC net is a great way to get comfortable running a net because you never know when an emergency might arise and you might need to run a controlled net.

What better way to meet more hams! The best reason to do a net? IT'S FUN!

If you want to sign up for net, whether its once a week or every other week or once a month even please contact Freddie, KF4FCW (email: kf4fcw@ij.net)

## JOIN THE ARRL FIELD ORGANIZATION!



Want to have some serious fun? Try something different? Make new friends? All while giving something back to Amateur Radio and going above the call in supporting *your* League? Join the ARRL Field Organization, the family of official League volunteers with traditions stemming back to the earliest days of Amateur Radio. The League is volunteer-based, and the Field Organization serves as its backbone

The country is divided into administrative *sections*, 71 in all. Most sections are whole states, but a few of the larger states are divided into two, or even more, as is the case with Florida, Texas and California. If you're a contester, these sections will be familiar to you. The membership in each section elects a *Section Manager (SM)* (see list of SMs) once every two years. He or she is responsible for managing the Field Organization programs in the section. The SM is not involved in League policy-making (although he or she may have a strong voice in such matters)—this is a function reserved for the division director. The SM's main job is to recruit, through several subordinate program managers or coordinators, League volunteers to staff eight crucial program areas: emergency communications, message traffic, volunteer monitoring, RFI problem-solving, support of affiliated clubs, government liaison, encouragement of technical activities, and dissemination of on-the-air bulletins.

**Here's where you come in!** Sign up for an official ARRL appointment! There's a place for everybody: New ham or veteran, young or old, Novice or Extra, athlete, couch potato, or tech weenie. Here are the ARRL field appointments that are available: Official Emergency Station, Official Relay Station, Technical Specialist, Public Information Officer, Local Government Liaison, Official Observer, and Official Bulletin Station. There is no limit to the number of appointments that can be made.

For more information contact one of the following people: Dave Armbrust, AE4MR, West Central Florida Section Manager at 941-923-1688 or in email ae4mr@arrl.org; Paul Toth, K2SEC, West Central Florida Assistant Section Manager at 727-415-1657 or in email at k2sec@arrl.net.

You can get more information about each ARRL Field Appointment at: <http://www.arrl.org/field/org/> and more specific information about the West Central Florida Section Programs at <http://www.wcfarrl.org>.

**SPARC REPEATERS: 147.060 — 224.660 — 444.475 WA4AKH/R**

### St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club Officers and Board of Directors for 2000:

President:	Donn Davis N4KII	527-9636	n4kii@ij.net
Vice President:	Dee Turner N2MNC	548-7474	n2mnc@arrl.org
Secretary:	Grace Harris KG4CTG	894-1447	
Treasurer:	Susan Dillon KD4FEZ	302-0611	sbdillon@aol.com
Past President:	Cecil Wagner KE4EYI	394-9019	beachaxss@aol.com
Board members:	Ken Dale N2KD	321-9635	eladnek@ij.net
	Mark Farr N9MIU	895-9210	n9miu@ij.net
	Freddie Luneburg KF4FCW	321-4670	kf4fcw@ij.net (Also Net Manager)
W4GAC Trustee:	Ann Shaver WH2E	867-2100	ashaver@hawaiiancondos.com
Repeater Trustee:	Emmett West WA4AKH	526-3460	wests@ij.net

Note all Phone numbers are area code 727

# ULS Registration 101-- It Doesn't Get Any Simpler Than This

By Rick Lindquist, N1RL,  
with assistance from Bart Jahnke, W9JJ

The FCC says only a small minority of the Amateur Radio population has registered in the FCC's Universal Licensing System, which was deployed for the Amateur Service on August 16, 1999. If you're unregistered because you're not sure how to register, here's a ULS primer for those registering on-line.

In response to requests from the amateur community for simplified, yet detailed, steps to register for the ULS, the ARRL offers the following procedure for individual Amateur Radio licensees:

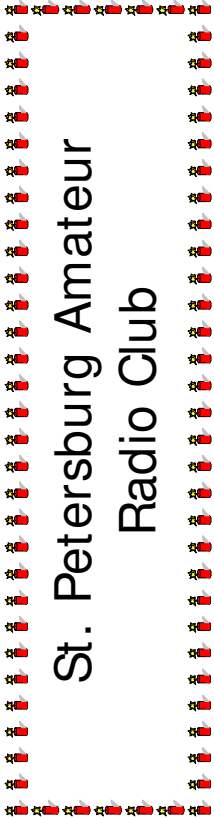
1. Start *Netscape Communicator* ver 4.5 or later. (Other browsers may work, but the ULS supports only *Netscape*. It's available free at <http://www.netscape.com> -click "Browsers"). The FCC indicates that the following browsers have been tested and are presently compatible with ULS: *Netscape Communicator* vers 4.7, 4.61, 4.51 and 4.5. (Note: Your computer must be equipped with a 32-bit operating system such as Windows 95, Windows 98 or Windows NT).
2. Go to the Universal Licensing System home page, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>
3. Click "TIN/Call Sgn Registration" on the main ULS screen.
4. On the next screen, check "Register Now" and click "Continue".
5. On the next screen, check "An Individual" and click "Continue".
6. You should now be at the Form 606 screen, identified in tiny print on the upper left. Complete *only* the "Licensee Information" part of the form—the top part. You do not need to complete "Contact Information." (That's designed for those who deal with the FCC via a communications law firm or other third party.)
7. The "Taxpayer Identification Number" or "TIN" is your Social Security Number. Enter your SSN without any hyphens or spaces (ie, 123456789).
8. Complete your name and address information. First name, middle initial, last name, and any "Suffix" such as "Sr", "Jr", or "II", as appropriate. You may provide a PO Box address, a street address, or both. You must include a ZIP code. The system will detect if the ZIP code does not match the state provided.
9. Form 606 still requires you to put *something* in the telephone number field, even though the FCC has said that a telephone number is not now required of amateurs and that it will not make telephone numbers public. If you do not wish to give the FCC your telephone number, you can fill this field with zeros or with your area code plus 555-1212. A fax number is not required. The FCC does not require an e-mail address, so if you prefer not to provide it, leave that field blank.
10. Once you've provided all the "Licensee Information" scroll down to the bottom of the screen.
11. At the bottom of the screen you must pick a password of at least five characters. We recommend that you do *not* use your call sign for this. Enter your new password in the "New Password" field. The characters you type will be displayed as asterisks (\*) on the screen, so type carefully.
12. Verify the password you've selected by entering it again in the "Verify Password" field. Again, the characters you type will be displayed as asterisks (\*) on the screen.
13. Type in a personal identifier in the next field. The FCC suggests using your mother's maiden name, but any word or name you prefer will suffice, provided it fits the field.
14. If you click "Notice to Individuals" it will tell you that everything but your Social Security Number will be available for public inspection. The FCC has told the ARRL that it will not make telephone numbers or e-mail addresses public. We have no reason to date to believe that this has not been the case.
15. Once you're happy with your choices, click "Submit".
16. If you leave out anything or make an error, the ULS will list "Error(s)" when you attempt to submit the form. If this happens, go back and correct the errors identified and click "Submit" again.
17. Once you have the form correctly completed, you'll be asked to submit your call sign(s). Click "Enter Call Sgns" and follow the directions. If you are not yet licensed (you don't have a call sign yet) you can click "Continue" without entering a call sign. If you have no call sign yet, skip over the next item.
18. You should now be on the screen that requests you to enter your call sign(s). Enter your individual Amateur Radio call sign in the first space provided. If you are a club station trustee, you may enter your club station call signs, but this is not necessary. The FCC requires a separate registration and an Assigned TIN for club stations.
19. Once your call sign(s) are entered, click "Submit" at the bottom of the form.

You now should be registered in the ULS. Your screen should display a form that shows your "Licensee Information" (name, address, etc) as well as Licensee ID Number, personal identifier and password. It's a good idea to print this screen and keep a copy in your files for safekeeping (primarily in case you forget your password).

That's it! You're done! You're now registered in the Universal Licensing System. ULS registration is required before amateurs can transact business (ie, file applications, renewals, vanity call sign requests, address changes, etc) with the FCC.

# January 2000

St. Petersburg Amateur  
Radio Club



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>SPARC NET EVERY NIGHT ON 147.06 6:30 P.M.</b>	Metro RA Net Every Mon/Wed/Fri 147.36 (127.3) 7:30 P.M.	Pinellas ARES/ACS Net every Tuesday 145.17/442.8 (156.7) 7:30 P.M.	Clearwater ARS Net every Wednesday 146.97 (103.5) 8:00 PM			1 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b>
2	3	4	5	6	7 <b>SPARC MEETING 7:30 PM</b>	8
9	10 Metro Meeting, VE Testing at Salvation Army in Clearwater 7:00 PM	11	12	13 Clearwater ARS Meeting 7:30 PM Clearwater ARC	14	15 WCF DAY ONE Sarasota Hamfest Robards Arena TI: 146.91-
16 Sarasota Hamfest	17	18	19	20	21	22 Brooksville Hamfest TI 146.715
23 Pinellas Park Boys & Girls Club Hamfest TI: 147.06+	24 VE Testing at Gulfport Senior Center 6:30 PM	25	26	27	28	29 Arcadia Hamfest TI: 147.075+
30	31		February Meeting Friday February 4th		Upcoming: Lake Magorrie Hamfest—May 7th Contact N2MNC	

## OPEN Local Repeater Guide

### 2 Meters:

145.110- Clearwater, KC4HU  
 145.170- 156.7 Largo, Pinellas ARES/ACS—Linked  
 145.230- 146.2 Dunedin, K4LK—Linked  
 145.290- St. Petersburg, K9BSL, QCWA  
 145.310- Palm Harbor, N4LMN  
 145.410- 131.8 Tampa, WA4SWC  
 146.640- Holiday, N9EE  
 146.730- Sarasota, WB4NJV, SE.RC.  
 146.820- Bradenton, K4GG, Manatee ARC  
 146.850- Seminole, W4ORM, Wormhole Society  
 146.970- 103.5 Largo, WB4BZF, Clearwater ARS—Linked  
 147.030+ 156.7 Largo, WD4SCD  
 147.060+ St. Petersburg, WA4AKH, SPARC  
 147.105+ Tampa, N4TP, Tampa ARC/ARS  
 147.360+ 127.3 St. Petersburg, W4MRA, Metro RA.

### 1.35 meters (220)

224.220- Largo, KO4CR  
 224.380- 131.8 St. Petersburg, K4LK—Linked  
 224.660- St. Petersburg, WA4AKH, SPARC  
 224.940- Clearwater, WB4BZF, CARS—Linked  
 70 cm (440)  
 442.150+ 103.5 Clearwater, KR4YL  
 442.400+ 156.7 Clearwater, Pinellas ARES/ACS—Linked  
 442.800+ 156.7 S. Pasadena, Pinellas ARES/ACS—Linked  
 443.400+ 156.7 Clearwater, Pinellas ARES/ACS—Linked  
 444.150+ 131.8 Dunedin, WB4BZF, Clearwater ARS—Linked  
 444.475+ St. Petersburg, WA4AKH, SPARC  
 444.575+ 131.8 Largo, KA9RIX—Linked  
 444.725+ 131.8 St. Petersburg, KA9RIX—Linked

For more complete repeater listings visit the Florida Repeater Council Web Page: <http://home1.gte.net/k4lk/frc>

**Editor's Notes:** When Donn, N4KIL mentioned at the December SPARC meeting that he wanted to get a new sletter out before the first of year and knowing that Pete Stephens, KD4ETS has been very busy he was looking for someone else to put a new sletter together. Unfortunately there were no takers. After a few moments of seeing that no one was interested I figured with the experience of putting together the Clearwater ARS new sletter for the last two years, that I could put together a new sletter for SPARC! I have no interest in replacing Pete as editor. I am honored to act as fill in for this edition of the SPARC GAP. I hope everyone has a great holiday season, and make sure you make a New Year's Resolution to see what you can do to help the club! In Donn's column on page one he has some simple requests. For example: take time to do a club net, volunteer to help with the club station, or bring refreshments to the meeting. As someone who has stood in another club's president's shoes I know there are plenty of things to do.

73 de KR4YL

Paul Knupke, Jr. (kr4yl@arrl.org)

## SOLAR MAXIMUM COULD ZAP POWER GRIDS

From Newsline 1164, December 3rd, 1999

By Bill Burnett, KT4SB

According to a report on the program This Week in Amateur Radio that in turn quotes other published news reports, starting in the year 2000, space storms, radiation showers and their affects on power grids are all expected during the upcoming maximum, which is expected to last about three years. And, according to administrators at the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, the United States is especially vulnerable because of its increasing dependence on satellites.

National Ocenaographic and Atmospheric Administration officials say that these storms act to alter the Earth's magnetic field. Because of this, they may send strong enough electrical impulses that could overwhelm vulnerable power grids. One of the strongest impacts occurred during the last solar cycle in 1989. That's when the entire Province of Quebec in Canada went dark because a geomagnetic storm caused a power grid overload.

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To prepare for the possibility of a more widespread problem, NOAA scientists are using state-of-the-art scales designed to depict the severity and impact of upcoming solar storms on public safety and vital services.

And while amateur radio operators await the solar maximum hoping for improved conditions on all High Frequency and V-H-F band conditions others are at work in another important area. They are getting their emergency communications equipment and back-up power systems ready – just in case.

## NTS (TRAFFIC) NETS on hf

Here is a list of Traffic nets in the state of Florida on HF. This list is provided by Chet Carruth, AB4XK, Section Traffic Manager for the West Central Florida Section. For more information contact him at [ab4xk@arrl.net](mailto:ab4xk@arrl.net)

EST/EDT (LOCAL TIME) TIME	NET	Frequency (kHz)	MODE
0655 Daily	Florida Phone Traffic Net	3940	SSB
0730 Saturday	ARRL Information Net	3940	SSB
0900 Mon-Sat	Northern Florida ARESNet	3950 or 7275	SSB
1200 Daily	Florida Mid Day Traffic Net	7242	SSB
1345 Daily	4th Region Net	7243	SSB
1430 Mon-Fri	Eastern Area Net	7240	SSB
1430 Sat-Sun	Eastern Area Net	7050	CW
1530 Daily	4th Region Net	7243	SSB
1630 Daily	Florida Public Operations Net	3908	SSB
1700 Daily	Tropical Phone Traffic Net	3940 or 7243	SSB
1730 Daily	Florida Medium Sped Ne	3651 or 7051	CW
1730 Daily	Eastern Area Net	3670 or 7050	CW
1800 Daily	Florida Amateur Sdeband Net	3940	SSB
1830 Daily (Winter)	Northern Florida Phone Net	3950	SSB
1900 Daily	QFN—All Florida CW Traffic Net	3651 or 7051	CW
1930 Daily (Summer)	Northern Florida Phone Net	3950	SSB
1945 Daily	4th Region Net	3567	CW
2000 Daily	QFNS—All Florida Slow CW Net	3715	CW
2030 Daily	Region Net 5	3650 or 7052	CW
2130 Daily	4th Region Net	3567	CW
2200 Daily	QFN—All Florida CW Traffic Net	3651	CW
2230 Daily	Region Net 5	3650	CW
2230 Daily	Florida Amateur Sdeband Net	3940	SSB

TWO FREQUENCIES LISTED MEANS EITHER NORMAL/ ALTERNATE OR WINTER/ SUMMER

## THE NUMBERS ARE IN

From the W5YI Report:

Over one sixth of all United States ham radio operators reside in a single state. According to the latest statistics published by Fred Maia in this W-5-Y-I Report, California now plays host 103,365 of the nations 676,737 licensed radio amateurs. But that's not all. California is also the home of the largest concentration of code-free Technician class hams to be found anywhere in the continental United States or its possessions. That number is 37,157 with another 20,172 holding the 5 word per minute Technician Plus ticket. And would you believe that California also has a larger number of Novice class operators than it has Extra class? The number of Novices stands at 10, 019 while the Extra class is only 8,826. 13,649 Advanced class operators round out the states total.

Not surprisingly, the place with the second largest ham radio population is Texas. Some 40,915 people hold licenses in the Lone Star State. And again the most popular license is the code free Technician class with 12,391 holders of that ticket. That's followed by 7790 Technician Plus holders, 6,960 Advanced class, 6,581 Generals, 4,994 Extras and 2,199 Novice licensees.

Third place goes to Florida with its 39,941 hams, followed by New York with 32,820 license holders and Ohio with 30,063. The lowest ham radio population in the 48 contiguous states turns out to be Delaware with only 1,389 but even that's quite a bit compared with the District of Columbia. There only 414 citizens hold licenses of which 101 are General class.

The smallest ham population in a United States administered territory is the U-S Virgin Islands with a ham radio population of 301. And for those of you wondering about the far North-West, the state of Alaska is holding its own with 3,169 hams.



Membership Application

**St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club**

Purpose: Change of Address:  New:  Renewal:  Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an ARRL Member? Y/ N      ARES/ACS? Y/ N      Skywarn Spotter? Y/ N

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Which activities are you interested in helping with?

Membership       Hospitality       Publicity       Repeater       Field Day  
 Education       Newsletter       Net Control       Hamfest       TVI/RFI

Membership dues are \$15.00 (single) and \$20.00 (family) per year.  
Please make checks payable to "SPARC" and mail to: P.O. Box 4026 , St. Petersburg, FL 33731-4026

SPARC meets the first Friday of each month at 7:30 PM, St. Petersburg Red Cross, located at 818 4th St. N. St. Petersburg, FL.

Membership Information:  
Dee Turner, N2MNC, 727-548-7474  
Email: n2mnc@arrl.net

SPARC club sponsors three repeater: 147.060+ , 224.660- , 444.475+ and a HF Club Station.

## West Central Florida Section To Start With a BANG!

By Paul Toth, K2SEC  
k2sec@arrl.net  
Assistant Section Manager  
ARRL West Central Florida Section

The new West Central Florida Section of the ARRL will officially begin operations at Midnight on January 15, 2000 with a nine day, on the air Special Event to celebrate the new Section. Billed as **WCF-First Contact**, the multi-band event will give Amateur Radio operators worldwide the opportunity to make their first contact with stations in the 71st Section.

Dave Armbrust, AE4MR, the Section Manager of the West Central Florida Section, said the event would get underway at the stroke of Midnight. "This is our way of sharing our enthusiasm and excitement with the rest of the Amateur Radio community. Amateur Radio is all about communicating with fellow Hams in other parts of the US and other countries. We invite the rest of the Amateur Radio community to join us in the celebration."

All Amateur Radio operators making contact with the **WCF-First Contact** stations will be eligible to receive a special **WCF-First Con**  
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# SPARC GAP

ST. PETERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
P.O. Box 4026  
St. Petersburg, FL 33731-4026

NEXT SPARC MEETING FRIDAY JANUARY 7, 2000  
St. Petersburg America Red Cross  
818 4th Street North

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## West Central Florida Section To Start With a BANG—Continued from page 7

*fact* certificate. The certificate will contain an endorsement for each county contacted during the nine day event. There will also be a special endorsement for stations sending a message to Section Manager Armbrust via the ARRL's National Traffic System (NTS).

The event will feature one or more *WCF-First Contact* stations operating each of the first nine days of the new Section's existence. First day operations on January 15, 2000 will be in Armbrust's home county, Sarasota. The Special Event station will operate part of the day from the Sarasota Hamfest grounds.

The tentative schedule for WCF First Contact:

Sunday	January 16	Hillsborough Co.
Monday	January 17	Hardee Co.
Tuesday	January 18	Charlotte Co.
Wednesday	January 19	DeSoto Co.
Thursday	January 20	Manatee Co.
Friday	January 21	Highlands Co.
Saturday	January 22	Polk Co.
Sunday	January 23	Pinellas Co.

The St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club (SPARC) has been asked to host part of the *WCF-First Contact* operations on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the W4GAC station. This will give SPARC members the opportunity to be on both end of the thousands of QSOs (on air contacts) that are expected to be made during the nine day event. Hours of operation for WCF-First Contact at W4GAC are still being finalized, according to SPARC President Donn Davis, N4KIL.

Hams wishing to make First Contact with the West Central Florida Section stations during the event will be able to do so on or around 7.271 MHz, 14.271 MHz, 21.371 MHz and 28.371 MHz. A number of local VHF and UHF repeaters will also be used during the event for contacts within the Section.

For more information about *WCF-First Contact*, visit the West Central Florida Section Web page at <http://www.wcfarrl.org/>