

St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club

July, August, September 2005

Picture-perfect SPARC Field Day 2005

By **PHIL GULICK**
SPARC President

There could not have been a more perfect weekend for the 2005 Field Day and SPARC members and visitors enjoyed it to the fullest on June

25-26.

Clear skies and a temperate breeze (no rain) greeted Field Day participants, unlike past events plagued by heavy rains and lightning. The rains did come, but on the Monday following the festivities.



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The Tower Gang Gets Job Done!

Expert hands chip in to erect SPARC's tower for the 20-meter beam at the Bay Pines Field Day site. It was the fifth straight year SPARC and other clubs have visited Bay Pines for the annual outdoor exercises.

Photo by Chris K8QV

Unfortunately, because of post-op pains, I visited the site for only a few moments Saturday, but it was enough to observe that SPARC members and others had put together one heck of a FD.

Months ago, our FD task force commander, Leslie WA4EEZ, assembled a crew that worked through paperwork and secured the site. Leslie took over and ran the show beautifully. "We had a few problems, sure," Leslie said, "but we had the people to solve them."

Leslie filed the following report that attributes the credit to so many who chipped in right from the git-go!

WEATHER: Hot, humid, typical June weather in these parts, but no rain, no storms, no lightning! Hooray!

SITE ACQUISITION:
David(W4YD).

OFFICIAL MASCOT, SPARC FD 2005: Trixie.

STATIONS/OPERATORS:
20M PHONE—Bob (N2ESP), Mark and Trixie (N9MIU), Leslie (WA4EEZ), Jason (KD4ACG), Bob (KC4SXO), Freddie (KF4FCW), Richard (KG4MRH).

15M/40M CW - Kenny (K4OB), Ron (KP2N). John (KU4BT).

20M CW- Dave (KR4U), John (KU4BT).

HF Phone Utility Station:(40, 15, 80) Jason KD4ACG, Jim KI4CPY, Leslie WQ4EEZ, Mark N9MIU, Troyu KC8QLR (NTS NET).

HF: Peter, W4GTO.

HF Digital Station (PSK-31, Slow-Scan TV) - Jim (N4AAC), Mike (N4MAA).

10M PHONE – Leslie (WA4EEZ),
(Continued on page 3)



The Early Birds wake up the world!

Robert N2ESP (left) logs in the QSO while Ron KP2N makes the contact during the early hours of the 2005 Field Day at the Bay Pines Veterans Hospital in St. Petersburg.

Robert, Ron and dozens of other hams set up their rigs, power generators and antennas on the broad pitch near Boca Ciega Bay and made contacts throughout the U. S. and across the world.

Field Day 2005, like all others before it, is an exercise for hams to demonstrate their ability to set up and operate their rigs under emergency circumstances.

Organizing the log books and schedules

Before the hams begin their long, 24-hour contacts, log books, schedule sheets and notes must be organized. Troy KC8QLR (right) does the job here under the SPARC tent on the Bay Pines Hospital grounds.

Troy is one of the most active SPARC members and contributed greatly to the 2005 Field Day activities.

Other hams set up rigs and antennas at the pavilion near the water while others utilized the middle of the pitch to erect the SPARC 20-meter antenna and several verticals and dipoles.

Each station was assigned a band, mode and frequency for its operation.

Photos by Chris K8QV



Update your membership data: call Phil at 727-392-3481

Field Day Success!

(Continued from page 1)

Roger (K4SHI), Alan (KO4CR).

2M FM – Troy (KC8QLR)--Talk-in and traffic handling (SPARC and METRO repeaters used for Talk-In).

6M PHONE – Paul (KC4YDY).

APRS/ATV Station – Jim (KG4JSZ).

SATELLITE STATION - Ron(KP2N).

TOWER/BEAM SET-UP: Richard (KG4MRH), Mark (NP3R), Bob (KG4SXO), Freddie (KF4FCW), Ron (KP2N), and MANY OTHERS!!

FOOD: Tracy (KG4MRG), Richard (KG4MRH), Peter (W4GTO), Udo (KF4KUL), Pete (WB2SUN) did a fantastic job of feeding the starving FD'ers!!

ENTERTAINMENT: FD Participants were treated to a mini Bluegrass Festival Saturday evening, when Peter (W4GTO) played his banjo and Mike (N4MAA) played his guitar!

PUBLICITY: Channel 28 sent out photographers.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Chris (K8QV), Bob (KC4SXO), Veronika (KC4YAW)...and others.

AIR-CONDITIONED RV/COMFORT STATION: Alan (KO4CR).

OFFICIAL VISIT BY ARRL OFFICIAL: Dee (N4GD), Section Manager.

SAFETY: In addition to our regular safety team, Mark and Trixie went about tying orange warning flags to everything that even LOOKED like it might cause someone to trip or become injured!

SITE INSPECTION POST-FD: Mark (N9MIU), Roger (K4SHI), Leslie (WA4EEZ). Goal was to leave the site looking better than when we started...and mission accomplished!

73,

Leslie, WA4EEZ



Leslie WA4EEZ listens to the mini Bluegrass Festival staged by Peter W4GTO on the banjo and Mike N4MAA on the guitar Saturday night.

Photos by Chris K8QV



Feeding the Field Day goers was just as important as feeding power to the various rigs. From noon on Saturday until 2 p. m. Sunday, plenty of great chow was available. Hams brought dishes on Saturday afternoon and on Saturday evening Udo KF4KUL deep-fried his delicious turkeys. Sunday morning's breakfast is a SPARC tradition at FD and Peter W4GTO, Tracy (KG4MRG), Richard (KG4MRH) and Pete (WB2SUN) did a fantastic job of feeding everyone.

SPARC Picnickers Get A Weather Break



Picnic delights a happy group of hams and guests

Ann WH2E and Al NH2Z (above right) were among SPARC members at the picnic. Al was well enough to make the trip from Hawaii and they enjoyed the visit as they chatted with Bob KC4SXO.

Bill Zulas and Ron KP2N (below right) hang the club banner at the pavilion to welcome club members.

Bill's pet, Rosie, took in the sweet aroma of grilling hot dogs and hamburgers and was a restless witness to a good time by all.



Zulas proves to be a wizard!

Membership chairman Bill Zulas WZ4GW set the date—May 15— and the place—Lake Seminole Park, Shelter No. 2— for the SPARC picnic, the first of two this year.

Zulas hit it right on the nose, the weather was great and a fine group turned out for the affair.

Richard KG4MRH, Tracy KG4MRG and Zulas fired up the grill and everyone chipped in a dish to provide a feast for the picnickers.

Many other members contributed to the success of the picnic.

Photos by Chris K8QV

Swap Meet At the Lake

An all-night rain probably discouraged many hams from attending the annual Lake Maggiore Swap Fest on May 1.

However, the rains let up before the meet opened and the event sponsored by SPARC did attract a few buyers, sellers and browsers during the morning.

Photos by Chris K8QV



Some of the denizens who attended the Swap Meet found a few bargains, met some old friends and even brought the pup along to enjoy the gathering.

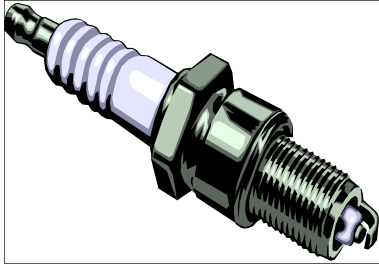


Chester's 2005 Sked

CARS—July 9

SPARC—Sept. 10

Wormhole—Nov. 12



TO:

Mailing
Address
Goes
Here

RETURN ADDRESS

**SPARC GAP
ST. PETERSBURG
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
PO BOX 10183
LARGO, FL 33773**

Inside—SPARC picnic, lake swap meet

DATE LOG - 2005

SPARC meetings - First Friday every month, 7:30 p. m., Red Cross Bldg. 818 4th St. N, St. Petersburg.
SPARC breakfast, every Saturday, 7 a. m. The Egg Platter, 6767 34th St. N.
Testing sessions - Third Tuesday every month, 6:30 p. m., Red Cross Bldg., 818 Fourth St. N., St. Petersburg.
SPARC Web page—www.qsl.net/w4gac/

AREA REPEATERS & WEB SITE

SPARC repeater: Nightly, 6:30 p. m., 147.06+, 224.66-, 444.475+.
Web site: www.qsl.net/W4GAC - Webmaster Dee Turner N4GD
CARS repeater: Wednesdays, 8 p. m., 146.970- PL103.5, 224.940-no pl, 444.150+.
Metro repeater: Mon-Wed-Fri, 7:30 p. m., 147.360+, 127.3.
WCF Section Net: Sun 7:30 p. m., Wed, 9 p. m., 145.430+ & 442.950+(100Hz).

SPARC'S 2005 BOARD

President - Phil Gulick KG4IGX 392-3481
Vice-president - Peter Goldhammer W4GTO 866-7889
Secretary - Tracy Crabtree KG4MRG 327-9136
Treasurer - Susan Dillon KD4FEZ 302-0611
Events Co-ordinator—Ken Hopkins WA9WCP 525-8411
PIO & Newsletter editor, Gulick kg4igx@msn.com
Directors - Bill Zulas WZ4GW 725-4020
Bob Burke KC4SXO 541-2216
Leslie Johnson WA4EEZ 347-7422
President Emeritus—Donn Davis N4KII
Station trustee—Ann Shaver WH2E
Repeaters trustee—Emmett West WA4AKH

Kemp New PIC

Pete Kemp, KZ1Z, has been appointed public information coordinator for the West Central Florida Section by section manager Dee Turner N4GD.

Kemp is a retired teacher/administrator in the public school system and serves as educational advisor to ARRL headquarters. He has held many Connecticut section leadership positions, including section manager and as New England Division assistant director. He was one of the co-authors of the ARRL emergency communication courses and has published many articles in QST, World Radio and 73 magazine.

Kemp has created a CD containing sample press releases for field day, guest invitations and general overlay of what ham radio is all about, directed at the general public. It also contains many graphic symbols pertaining to ham radio, along with audio bites and other information valuable to any PIO.