



SPARC GAP



**St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club
October, November, December 2006**

Message from our new President

I would like to say a big, big thank-you to our immediate Past-President Peter, W4GTO, and all the SPARC officers of 2006!...We had a very successful year under Peter's guidance, and it has been a fun year! Peter is a tremendous asset to our club, and he tells us he will be retiring and doing a lot of traveling in that beautiful RV we all saw at the 2006 Field Day.

Your new SPARC Officers and Board members for 2007 are: **President:** Leslie Johnson, WA4EEZ-**Vice-President:** Pete Peterson, KB9LXM-**Secretary:** Bob Entwistle, N1XX-**Treasurer:** Ron Hall, KP2N-**Station Trustee:** Dave Trewin, KR4U-**Repeater Trustee:** Emmett West, WA4AKH-**SPARC-GAP Editor:** Veronika Trewin, KC4YAW-**Director:** Bill Zulas, WZ4GW-**Director:** Richard Stephens, KG4BUA and Linda Saunders, KI4RV. Additional **Board members include Past-President:** Peter Goldhammer, W4GTO-**President Emeritus:** Donn Davis, N4KII-**President Emeritus:** Cecil Wagner, KE4EYL. These folks are ready and willing to work hard for SPARC!

Some of our members serving as Committee Chairmen are:

Sunshine Committee: Bob Entwistle, N1XX

Membership Committee: Bill Zulas, WZ4GW

Refreshment Committee: Alan Gilbert, KO4CR

Thanks!!!! If you would like to assist with these committees, please contact these Chairmen.

Our website is being regularly updated, and we all thank Dee, N4GD for the great job he does with it! Please check the site from time to time for new info.

2007 is an important milestone for SPARC-it is our 75th Anniversary as a club, and we will be planning some activities. You will be hearing more about it in the coming weeks and months. I would like to ask that any of our members who have any older pictures, newspaper articles, or memorabilia of any sort pertaining to SPARC's history from 1932 onwards that you would like to share with us, please contact one of the club's officers.

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy 2007! See you at the meetings!

73, Leslie Johnson, WA4EEZ

New Officers from left

Linda Saunders, KI4RV; Ron Hall, KP2N;

Bob Entwistle, N1XX; Richard Stephens, KG4BUA;

Pete Peterson, KB9LXM

and in front the Leader Leslie Johnson, WA4EEZ

Absent from the pic was Bill Zulas, WZ4GW

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Bill Zulas, WZ4GW



The SPARC Club Station, W4GAC



Each month as our members arrive for our monthly meeting they enter the Red Cross Building through our club station door. I thought it may be of interest to our membership to know just what we have in our station and how it all comes together, so here we go. We actually have two HF stations which can be operational at the same time using band pass filters such as the ones we use at Field Day. We call these positions Radio 1 and Radio 2. The main radio, position 1, consists of a Yaesu Ft-920 connected through a Collins 30L-1 linear amplifier, a large swr/wattmeter and a high power MFJ antenna tuner. The amplifier and meter are currently on loan from Scotty N4RI. The tuner is on loan from Ron KP2N. Position 2 consists of a Kenwood TS-450S and a 200 watt MFJ antenna tuner/wattmeter. Each radio is powered by its own power supply.

On the wall next to radio 1 is the antenna switching panel. This allows each radio to be connected to any one of 6 hf antennas, independent of each other. You could have radio 1 on the beam and at the same time have radio 2 on the vertical. We currently have 4 hf antennas but could add 2 more in the future. Our current antennas are a multi band beam on the tower with rotor, a tri band vertical 15-20-30 meters, a 40 meter vertical, and a sloper for 30-40-80 meters.

In front of each radio position, mounted below the table top, are two computer keyboards on pull out drawers. These are connected to our two computers mounted under the table, one for each radio. The computers are used for logging and operating on radio teletype (RTTY) and other more modern soundcard modes such as PSK31. They can also be configured to actually control radio functions based on the software we are using at the time. We can operate all modes and the Yaesu FT-920 can also be used on six meters, an antenna for that band is in the works for 2007.

In addition to hf the station has transceivers for 2 meters, 220 mhz, and 440 mhz along with antennas for these frequency's. The far right side of the antenna panel has switches for the vhf/uhf antennas. These radios have their own power supply located under the table top.

I hope I have provided a little insight of our station for our membership. Please take a few moments to look the station over and feel free to ask any questions that you may have. I, along with Ron KP2N, will be happy to help you.

73 de Dave KR4U



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

Breakfast

Every Saturday, 7:00 am

At the
Four Coins Restaurant



**contact* Mark NP3R 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.

Great Websites for Hams

<http://www.memorydigit.us/>

SPARC website

<http://www.folsoms.net/knots/>

How to tie many useful knots~many with helpful animations!

www.ac6v.com/#INDEX

Thousands of Ham Links

<http://n5xu.ae.utexas.edu/rfsafety/>

Calculate your RF here...you'll want to save this site!!!

<http://bellsouthpwp.net/k/b/kb4vol/flfest.txt>

Lists all upcoming Florida Hamfests & Tailgates

73, Leslie WA4EEZ



Present & Past President of SPARC

Upcoming Events

Chester Tailgate 7AM till ...when everyone leaves

13 Jan (METRO), 10 March (CARS), 12 May Open14 July (SPARC), 2007

Chester Electronic Supply

311 Missouri Ave N Largo, FL 33770 Ph 727-585-4736

Hamfests

| | | | |
|-----|---------|-----------------|--|
| Dec | 9 | Ocala | At Marion Cty Ext. Complex 2232 NE Jacksonville Rd. |
| Jan | 20 | Fort Myers | At Araba Shrine Auditorium 2010 Hanson St. |
| Jan | 27 | Arcadia | At Turner Civic Center 2160 NE Roan St. |
| Feb | 9-10-11 | Orlando | At Central FL Fairgrounds 4603 W. Colonial Dr. |
| Feb | 17 | Sebring | At Agri-Civic Center US 27S & George Ave. |
| Mar | 10 | Murdock | At Charlotte Cty Fairgrounds 2333 El Jobean Road |
| Mar | 31 | New Port Richey | At Gulf Coast ARC 7650 Orchid Lake Rd. |



New Members or Comments

If any Member has found something interesting for the membership online or would like to publish a comment please submit it to kc4yaw@aol.com so that I can include it here in the newsletter.

Birthday wishes etc.

Contest/Operating Event Corner

June 2006 Field Day Category 5A

We placed 14th out of 74 Entries

July 2006 North American QSO Party RTTY (Multi operator)

We placed 1st in Florida and 3rd overall

**Flash W4GAC made a clean sweep on both CW and Phone Portions
of the ARRL Annual November Sweepstakes**

Next W4GAC Contest

ARRL RTTY Roundup January 6/7 2007

THE ART ARBOR FESTIVAL

BY TOM WEDDING...AI4QP

Another Art Arbor Festival has come and gone. The weather was perfect and the turnout was not bad considering all the events that were going on around town that involved arts and crafts. I would like to thank all that helped out this year because without you this would be a difficult task.

Art KG4TGR, Richard KG4BUA, Rich KG4MRH & Tracy KG4MRG, Dee N4GD, Mike N4MAA, Race KF4WRL & Grace KG4CTG, C. Michael KG4PMC, and Walt W1WLJ. If I missed any of you I am sorry, a mind is a terrible thing.

I am looking forward to next year and all your help. For those that don't really know what we do let me give you a quick run down. This all started one year when my Wife Patsy volunteered me to supervise parking for this event. We would take peoples donation at the front gate and send them down to the parking area. This area would fill up and we would not know at the front gate and people would come back to us with a little more attitude than they went down with! I then decided that my fellow hams and their communication skills were just the thing for this job. These volunteers would station them selves in a nice shady spot and radio me at the front gate and let me know when things are full so we can send people to the rear gate. Not a tough job and they could listen to the good music that was being performed at the festival.

Thanks again, you all did a great job!!



Richard KG4BUA

Race KF4WRL

Mike N4MAA

**St. Petersburg Amateur
Radio Club**

P. O. Box 2217
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To



Club Officers for 2006

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Vice President Pete Peterson KB9LXM
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Secretary Bob Entwistle N1XX
rentwistle@tampabay.rr.com

Treasurer Ron Hall KP2N
kp2n@arrl.net

Board Members

Linda Saunders, KI4RV

Richard Stephens, KG4BUA kg4bua@arrl.net

Bill Zulas WZ4GW zulas@sprintmail.com

Repeater Trustee Emmet West WA4AKH
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Club Station Trustee David Trewin KR4U
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Newsletter Editor Veronika Trewin KC4YAW
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