

SPARC GAP

St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club

June, July, August 2004

FD 2004 - Breakfast with Herbie!



By PHIL GULICK
Editor

Two clubs on the spacious Bay Pines Veterans Memorial Hospital grounds made for a wide-open, friendly Field Day 2004, killing that old adage of "the more the merrier."

The Metro Club, with headquarters and repeater only a few hundred feet from the FD grounds, and the older St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club (SPARC) co-operated in setting up rigs and antennae across the grassy flats and on the shores of Upper Boca Ciega Bay. That made for great propagation and ease of assembly for the wide-ranging antenna farm.

"We had more rigs and antennae than I can recall in the past," said SPARC president Donn Davis. "However many clubs join us here for field day, we always seem to have a great time playing radio." Metro has hosted the event for six years.

The weather was absolutely beautiful with

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First broadcastingthen breakfast!

Dave KR4U and Ken K4OB (above) discuss setting up the 15-meter CW rig for FD 2004 at Bay Pines.

Herb WE4HC again served up fine breakfast on Sunday morning.

The Metro and St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club (SPARC) combined talents once again for their FD on the open grounds of the veterans' hospital, very near upper Boca Ciega Bay, perfect propagation conditions.

Photos by Phil KG4IGX





Intensely focused on QSOs

Ron KP2N (left) and Bob N2ESP (right) were quick to get on the air after SPARC hams set up the tents and their particular antennae at FD 2004 at the Bay Pines Memorial Veterans Hospital in St. Petersburg.

They worked 20 and 40-meters while others worked the inverted V for MARS, 2, 6 and 10 meters.

A cooling breeze broke the heavy heat both days and a short shower hit early Saturday morning.

Paired for work on the rig and logger

Leslie WA4EEZ and Dee N4GD teamed to work the SPARC 20-meter rig and log in the QSOs from around the country and world.

There were more rigs, antennae and operators than most could recall at a Bay Pines' Field Day, although only two clubs—Metro and SPARC—occupied the spacious grounds.

The weather was hot and mostly clear and all enjoyed a happy FD.

Photos by Phil KG4IGX





Busy going up, busy going on!



The SPARC team gets busy setting up the tower and 20-meter beam. It has been a staple of Field Days for many years, with Donn N4KII the prime mover when it comes to transporting and erecting the tower. It also provides operators with a great platform for their rigs.

Paul KC4YDY established his base station for 2 and 6 meters under the SPARC tent and immediately went to work. Ron KP2N, Bob N2ESP, Leslie WA4EEZ worked QSOs day and night ... a delightful FD for all!

Photos by Dee N4GD and Phil KG4IGX

Herbie's breakfast highlights FD 2004

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only a short rain early Saturday morning, quite opposite the downpours of last year. It was hot, but a cooling zephyr breezed through the SPARC tents and Metro's shady pavilion near the water. They were ideal venues for operators and their rigs, with a wide variety of bands and modes used. Both clubs used the W4BHP (Bay Pines Hospital) for their QSO call signs and contacts were made all over the world.

Donn N4KII, Jim KG4JSZ, Freddie KF4FCW, Richard KG4MRH, Dee N4GD and others helped erect the SPARC 20-meter tower and beam, for years the mainstay of SPARC Field Days, compliments of N4KII. Ken K4OB brought his Yaesu 1000MK5 and quickly got CW going, joined later by John KU4BT. It was like watching artists at work as these experts played the key.

Ron KP2N, Bob N2ESP, Leslie WA4EEZ, Mark NP3R and Dee N4GD, among others, worked SPARC rigs under the tent. Paul KC4YDY worked 2 and 6 meters while Michael Sr. KI4BSQ, his XYL, Lorraine, and infant son, Michael Jr., visited for the fun and an education.

Metro's setup

Under the Metro pavilion, always a hotbed of CW operators, Dave KR4U joined Ken K4OB working CW 15-meters. Other operators included George W3BL, Natalie N4QGL and Dan KG4LEF.

Inverted Vs, Windoms, verticals and a G5RV helped operators get their rigs quickly and efficiently on line.

Finally, and not incidentally, Breakfast with Herbie WE4HC on Sunday offered that special ambiance for everyone. Scrambled eggs, sausage, grits and good coffee attracted everyone to Herb's outdoor kitchen. Simple fare, yes, but plentiful and right on the spot for all-night operators, early and late risers and the occasional guest surprised by the aroma walking in to savor the culinary delights.

Udo KF4KUL offered his delightfully delicious roasted turkey for the evening meal.

"As far as I'm concerned, a Field Day like this can be held here every year from now on," said George W3BL, Metro president.

Yes, I think most of us would delight in many more Breakfasts with Herbie.



Chester's, Again!

SPARC hosted the tailgate party at Chester's in Largo last March. Dee N4GD got there early and set up the tailgate and had the coffee ready. I counted at least 40 people there shopping for many good bargains. I picked up a heavy spring for my 10-meter whip mounted on my truck. A good thing about these tailgate parties is that you never know what you will find. Some found great bargains, other went away empty-handed. Better luck next time. Chester's hosted another tailgate party in July.

Story and photo by Tom KG4HGP

Try our English sister club for QSOs

**To: Peter W4GTO
SPARC
St. Petersburg, FL**

Hi, Peter and all at SPARC. In answer to your last e-mail, our club GLARES has a Web site which is under construction at www.glares.org.uk. Our club secretary is Nancy Bone G7UUR and her e-mail address is nancy-bone2001@yahoo.co.uk. Our club holds two callsigns which are GX4EUZ and GX6GLR.

As to QSO schedule, our club meets every Wednesday from 19:30 to 21:30. However, we do

have members who would like to make contact but propagation is very bad at this time.

Have you or any of your club members got EQSO or IRLP links for the PC as you can always get through via the internet links? Some say it is not proper radio, but it works.

Finally we went to Blackpool for the annual radio rally and we'll let you know how it went.

Regards, Jim G7TFX and all at GLARES.



Lake Maggiore swap meet and fun at FD 2004



The annual Lake Maggiore Swap Meet went off well last May with good attendance.

Many hams brought used and new equipment that may have been gathering dust or maybe updated with newer gear.

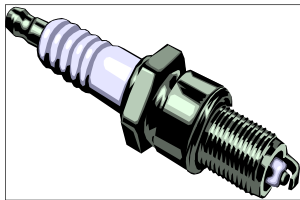
Great bargains were available as the hams browsed through the market.

Dee N4GD and others set up the meet, cleared some garbage and got the site ready early for the hams.

Peter WB2SUN and Mark NP3R enjoy a playful moment during FD 2004 at Bay Pines.

It was a fun getaway for many hams who enjoyed the camaraderie and chow.

Photos by Ron KP2N



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Here

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DATE LOG - 2004

SPARC meetings - First Friday every month, 7:30 p. m., 818 4th St. N, St. Petersburg
Testing sessions - Fourth Monday every month, Gulfport Senior Center.
Training classes—TBA
TARC Fest, 7801 N. 22nd St., Tampa, Aug. 28
Chester's, 311 Missouri Ave. N., Largo, Sept. 11

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 2004 BOARD

President - Donn Davis N4KII	527-9636
Vice-president - Dee Turner N4GD	548-7474
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Phil Gulick KG4IGX	392-3481

Vanity calls fee now going up

The FCC has announced that the new amateur radio vanity call sign regulatory fee of \$20.80 for the 10-year license term will go into effect August 6. Applicants for amateur vanity call signs will continue to pay the \$16.30 fee per vanity call sign application received by FCC until the new fee goes into effect. The FCC says it expects to collect close to \$162,000 from 7,800 amateur radio vanity call sign applicants during fiscal year 2004. See the FCC's annual Report and Order (Docket MD 04-73) on the Web at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-146A1.doc for details on their assessment and collection of regulatory fees for 2004.