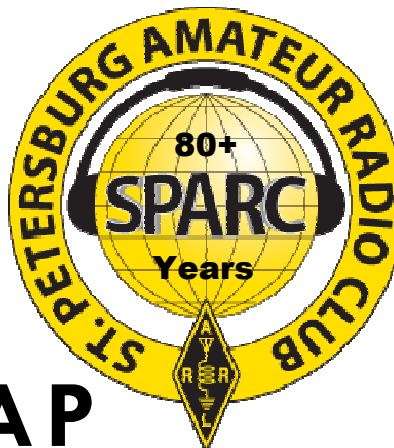


P.O. Box 2217

St. Petersburg,

Fl. 33731

www.sparc-club.org



Repeater Frequencies

147.060 224.660
444.475

WA4AKH Repeaters

W4GAC Club Station

SPARC GAP

April – July 2014



A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It's been a long trip, but SPARC finally has a new home. Our new location contains not only our station equipment, but provides room for meetings and VE Testing. We have a lot of work to do to get the W4GAC-W4TA operational again, but that's part of the fun. We have already operated in our first contest, the Florida QSP Party, from the new shack. Our May and June meetings also introduced our new venue to the membership. Early June found our big log periodic antenna on a temporary mount, and all VE testing will now take place at the new facility. An incredible amount of effort has been put in by a core group of members for the benefit of all club members. Many thanks to our friends at the First Assembly of God Church and the Clearwater Sail and Power Squadron for their hospitality over the past year.

Our March meeting must have set a new attendance record. It was great to welcome all the visitors and new members as well as some faces we haven't seen in a while. I'm not sure whether it was Ron's (KP2N) super hot dogs, or Larry's (AL4B) "Alaskan" baked beans. Thanks also to Bruce (K14HHK) and Mike (N4MAA) for bringing dessert. Thanks to everyone who brought their excess electronics to be recycled in our 50-50 drawing. Kudos to Bernie, WB9BZL for donating a number of Code Practice Oscillator (CPO) kits for members to assemble and become "know code" operators.

During the April meeting, we tried to establish some special interest groups within the club. The most activity was at the *Radio & Computers* group, followed by *Construction* and *Public Service* groups. As our web site expands, we will attempt to provide dedicated resources for each of these groups. We can easily add, delete and change groups as needed.

If you're working on your Worked All States (WAS) certificate, the North American QSO Parties are a quick and fun way to work a lot of states. These contests are held twice a year for CW, SSB and RTTY modes. Contests typically start at 1:00PM local time and end at 1:00AM the next morning. The power limit is 100W, which is a great equalizer of stations. I was only able to work about 7 of the available 10 hours allowed, and easily worked 42 states using RTTY. We hope to be working these contests as a club from our new W4TA station location shortly. Common down and join the fun.

And speaking of contests, our annual field day exercise at the C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center was another roaring success. Antennas went up Friday morning, followed by nap time, then our "July" Friday night meeting. Setup was completed Saturday morning followed by a well-deserved lunch. Then off to the races with our "4A" station. We also put GOTA, 6M, QRP, and satellite stations on the air for extra points. Fortunately, the weather held out, so most of the complaining was about our intense two days of activities and all the aches and pains that resulted from our efforts. Thanks to all that took part in this event.

A funny for this issue: The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

73,

Bob – N2ESP

Work Day at the new Station Home

Earl W4TCE took these photos while participating in the party to fly the Log Periodic Antenna at the Club Site



A Dashing Man of Vision

Researched by Tom Wedding
AI4QP

This young man was born in the late 1700's in Charleston MA. He had a great passion for painting and sculpture. He was a real artist at heart with a keen mind for inventions.

He went to Yale University and studied with Benjamin Silliman, a great man of science, and studied natural philosophy with Benjamin Day. These men also lectured on the new science of electricity. He learned a great deal from them about batteries and constructed several of his own. But, his real passion was art.

He graduated from Yale in 1810 and the following year, he finally got permission from his parents and the funding he needed, to study art abroad. This was a great undertaking back then, you couldn't just hop a plane and go abroad! He studied in London with two American-born masters; Washington Allston and Benjamin West. He studied at the Royal Academy of Arts. His first and only sculpture was a figure of the dying Hercules, which won great acclaim and a gold medal in the Adelphi Society of Arts Competition. After spending all the funds that his parents could spare, he had to return back to the states.

Back in the states, he became quite a portrait painter for many people of fashionable society, one of whom was James Monroe, the 5th President of the United States. He also did a portrait of the inventor Eli Whitney and a famous French soldier and statesman, Marquis de Lafayette. Not a bad clientele! Even with this work, he had a hard time earning a living as an artist. He and thirty other artists founded the National Academy of Design in 1826. He also served as its first president, from 1825-1845. During that time he traveled back to Europe and perfected his artistic technique.

In 1832 he was appointed professor of painting and sculpture at the University of the City of New York (now NYU). All this led to an involvement in quite a few other interests, one being politics. In 1836 he ran for Mayor of New York City, but lost. What ambition! He even tried to get commissioned to paint historical murals for the rotunda of the capital in Washington DC. He ran for Congress in 1854, but lost again.

Painting and art were still his greatest loves but it was just not paying the bills and allowing him to pursue his passion as a serious artist. He had to fall back on his ability as an inventor. He invented a pump for the fire engine and a marble cutting machine to reproduce statues mechanically, but his most successful effort was the telegraph. With help from colleagues and a grant from Congress, on May 24, 1844 the famous message "What hath God wrought" was tapped out over the wire.

In the 1860's he also became Vice-President of the new Metropolitan Museum of Art and a trustee of Vassar College. He was honored by the telegraph industry with a statue in Central Park in New York City.

My hat is off to this dashing man of vision: Samuel Findley Breese Morse 1791-1872.

Pictures of Field day by AI4QP & N4KII



FIELD DAY ! 2014

RAH RAH FIELD DAY.....as Donn would say, it was a great Field Day. The set up went well on Friday and the antennas were put in the air. When folks were arriving Saturday morning they had to adjust the lean on a few antennas due to the weather the night before. The tables and chairs were not there but Bob (N2ESP) made a call and a little mix up got them there shortly. Due to other matters we did not have the Port-a-Potties there but the building to the rear of the site (#37) was left open for us and even if it was a little hike, at least you could cool off in the AC for a short bit. Now if you were with the GOTA group, they were roughing it at their camp site with an RV fully equipped. If they keep this up, next year they could be operating from the Hilton (Ha Ha). Clayton (KJ4RUS) Tom (KI4RVU) and Zultan (KJ4EXM) did a great job getting the GOTA site set up because Debbie (KK4CUN) was keeping an eye on them.

Once 2 PM came everything was up and ready, 2014 Field Day was operational. Our camera man Larry (AL4B) was busy getting all on video and I was trying to photo as much as I could. We won't know how we did in the numbers game until the logs are gone through but Dave and Ron will let us know at one of the upcoming meetings.

Kyle (N4NSS) got his small QRP solar rig set up and made his contacts and Tom (NY4I) got the satellite equipment up and going and made his contacts. All did a great job operating and having fun. When it came time to eat our hats are off to Leslie (WA4EEZ) and Roger (K4SHI) for getting the food. It was great and sure filled us up.

I hope all had a good time, told stories and swapped lies to their hearts content. It takes a lot of effort and support to do Field Day and the SPARC group seems to come together to get it done. Hope to see all next year....RAH RAH FIELD DAY !!

Tom / AI4QP



GOTA Station



Hello all from... Bernie KB3SMQ

My Name is Bernard Perry (Bernie), I tested and was licensed in Maryland working up to Extra class. I am also an ARRL and W5YI VE and a Skywarn Spotter for Pinellas County and the Spotter Network.



After 21 years as an inter-state motor coach operator I retired in July 2011. That's when my wife Sue and I moved to Pinellas Park. I m currently employed by the Pinellas County Sheriff 's Office as a School crossing guard.

I have a very modest station consisting of
Yaesu FT897D with a LDG AT- 897 Plus Tuner, Signalink
USB sound card and Ham Radio Deluxe software.

Chameleon V11 for HF

Diamond X30 for UHF- VHF

Yaesu FT60R HT

Yaesu FT7900R mobile

My main activity on the bands is PSK31 or RTTY on 20-15-10 meter. I enjoy the SPARC monthly meetings they are very informative and most of all I enjoy the friendship with all the members.

SPARC Field Day 2014 By David KR4U Field Day Chairman

Well with the amount of rainfall our area had in the early weeks of June it looked to me like we may have some unwanted moisture at field day. Thankfully I was proven wrong and our weather was great the entire weekend. A great support group did a fine job setting up the antennas on Friday. Our host Dave Johnson, W4YD had requested several items to be done for our group including having the grass cut and sprayed for bugs, that really helped. We started to set up stations Saturday morning but when we arrived there were no tables/chairs or Porta Potties. A request to security sent them off to see what could be done and about 20 minutes later tables/chairs arrived, the last missing items never did appear. Oh well the buildings were open for our use. A great sandwich lunch was provided by Leslie and Roger Johnson, THANKS AGAIN GUYS! Everyone enjoyed the dinner from Sonny's at about 6pm Saturday evening. 71 members and guests signed our roster and it was great to have our "longest away" local member Joe AK4OO from Thonotosassa spend the weekend with us in support of field day, he also enjoyed his paddleboat! I would like to THANK all of our members for the wonderful support, setting up, and operating that you provided for this event, What a GREAT CLUB we have. Listed below are the number of contacts we made and reported to the ARRL.

CW 891
SSB 705
6 Meters 37 SSB
Satellite 3 CW
GOTA 23 SSB
Total Bonus Points 1350



Get your Pin Badge from Tom



Pictures of Field day by AI4QP & N4KII



Upcoming Contests From WA7BNM Contest Calendar

10-10 International SSB Contest 8/2-3	Tampa Amateur Radio Club TARCfest 8/22
North American QSO Party CW 8/2-3	SCC RTTY Championship 8/30-31
SARTG World Wide RTTY Contest 8/16-17	DARC 10 Meter Digital Contest 9/7
North American QSO Party SSB 8/16-17	ARRL September VHF Contest 9/13-15
ARRL Rookie Roundup RTTY Contest 8/17	Saint Petersburg Science Festival 10/18

Contest/Operating /W4GAC Station Activities

Now that field day is over for another year we turn our attention to completing the club station. Our first work party comprised of KP2N, KI4UIP, N2ESP, N4KII and KR4U met at the club on 7-22. We were able to engineer/design a means of getting coax feedline and rotor cable to the beam antenna installed on top of the storage containers. We installed PVC conduit from the lighting arrester box and ran a carrier line from the building to the antenna support tower. The feedline and rotor cable will be suspended from the carrier line to the antenna tower. work was also started on the interconnection of the components for the second station position. Future work sessions will run and connect the beam antenna cables, install a station ground system and finish all other equipment interconnections so both station positions will be operational. It is also planned to install a VHF/UHF antenna for local repeater communications. Hopefully the remaining work will flow smoothly and the station will be up and running soon. We hope many of our members will take the time to use, learn, and enjoy the benefit of having a club station.

73 de David

KR4U, W4GAC Station Trustee.

We are on the Web!

www.sparc-club.org

New hams are different.... by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This is going to be a bit of a ramble, but I need to get some thoughts down about new hams, and maybe get some feedback on these ideas from both new hams and guys that have been around for a while.

Recently, I visited the All Hands Active (AHA) makerspace here in Ann Arbor. Several of the "makers" that use this space have recently gotten their ham licenses—most of them in one of my one-day Tech classes. I was down there trying to get them interested in attending Field Day, and in particular, in operating the GOTA station.

There were four of us sitting around, talking about amateur radio, the projects they were working on, Field Day, and other stuff. In the past, they had also expressed an interest in doing something with WA2HOM, our station at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. While it was a great discussion, it was apparent to me that it was going to be difficult to get them out for Field.

It dawned on me that these new radio amateurs were just not interested in the "old" amateur radio. Sitting in front of shortwave radios and exchanging fake signal reports with other guys sitting in front of shortwave radios is just not their idea of a good time. I think that if you take a step back and try to look at it through their eyes, you'll see where they're coming from.

What are they interested in? Well, one guy is having a blast playing around with RTL SDR dongles. He's also trying to figure out a way to rig up wireless link to light a light at bus stops around his house when a bus is approaching. Another is working on a Hinternet-type project. I helped him out a little bit last summer setting up a wireless node at his house.

This is perhaps one reason why there are so many more licensed radio amateurs these days, but yet there seems to be less activity on the HF bands these days. HF is just not where it's at for these new guys.

One consequence of this is that the old amateur radio clubs don't have much to offer the new guys. In fact, one of them told me that the one time that he attended the local club meeting, he got such a hostile response that he decided not to return.

I'm finding this all quite interesting. I do intend to pursue some kind of joint activities between the All Hands Active maker group and WA2HOM and see where that goes. They may not be interested in working DX on 20m, but they do seem to be interested in the IRLP node that we're in the process of installing there.

I'm not sure where this is all headed, but what I do know is that these folks have a lot of energy and creativity. If we can couple that with our knowledge and experience, then I think that we'll be a good fit for one another. It's going to take open minds all around, though.

I'm really interested in hearing from all of you about this. Have your clubs made contact with the "makers" in your area? Do any of them have ham radio licenses? Are there any interesting ham radio/maker projects going on in your area?

=====

When he's not thinking about the future of amateur radio, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands, teaching amateur radio classes, and building kits. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Comment by David KR4U

In light of the current changing technology I think it is important for amateur radio clubs to address some new advances taking place in order to possibly attract younger people into the hobby. For example in the past few years many new digital sound card modes have come to light in some cases even using i-pad type devices for operation. Several members of our club are looking into remote radio operation utilizing our club station, just one new thing to try which may lead to other advances in the future.

SPARC Meetings

First Friday every month, 7:30 pm

*Testing : Third Tuesday every month 6:30 pm

at DMI

6699 90th Ave. N. Pinellas Park

*contact Mike Scott K4ZPE at 727-492-6454

Some Members meet for Breakfast

Every Saturday, 7:00 am at the

Biff Burger 49th St. & 38th Ave. N. St. Petersburg

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

<u>Specialty</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
Digital, CW, and Antennas	Dave Trewin	KR4U	trewins@aol.com
PSK	Dave Trewin	KR4U	trewins@aol.com
RTTY, Repeaters	Ron Hall	KP2N	kp2n@arrl.net
HF, 10-10	Leslie Johnson	WA4EEZ	wa4eez@verizon.net
Classic Radio Operation	Dick Keller	KF4NS	kf4nsradio@verizon.net
New Ham Elmers	Kyle Jeske	N4NSS	n4nss@arrl.net



See what others have to say about
HamTestOnline™

Welcome To Our New Members

KB9MCI Bryan Field
KK4KRC Ronald Graham
K4YAZ Thomas Copley
Ke4BAH Robert Coates
KJ4RMX Robert Maus

KG4KGC William Hoefer
WA4OAB Robert Flynn
N4ELH Walter Pleasants
K4HN Michael Branda
W5SJ Bill Priakos
Carl Thomfeld

Club Officers for 2014

President Bob Wanek N2ESP

president@sparc-club.org

Vice President Clayton Parrott KJ4RUS

vice-president@sparc-club.org

Secretary Hal Chase W1EES

secretary@sparc-club.org

Treasurer Tom Wedding AI4QP

treasurer@sparc-club.org

Repeater Trustee Ron Hall KP2N

trustee@sparc-club.org

Net Manager Johnnie Popwell W4TSP

netmanager@sparc-club.org

Club Station Trustee

W4GAC

W4TA

David Trewin KR4U Bob Wanek N2ESP

trustee@sparc-club.org

Web Master

Mike Scott K4ZPE

Tom Schaefer NY4I

webmaster@sparc-club.org

Newsletter Editors

Veronika Trewin KC4YAW

David Trewin KR4U

newsletter@sparc-club.org

Past President

Ron Hall KP2N

pastpresident@sparc-club.org

Board Members

John Toth KI4UIP boardmember1@sparc-club.org

Mike Scott K4ZPE boardmember2@sparc-club.org

Tom Schaefer NY4I boardmember3@sparc-club.org