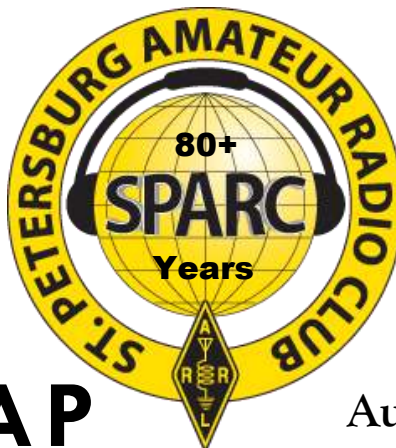


P.O. Box 2217

St. Petersburg,

Fl. 33731

www.sparc-club.org



Repeater Frequencies

147.060 224.660 444.475

WA4AKH Repeaters

W4GAC Club Station

W4TA Contest Group

SPARC GAP

August — November 2014



A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy Holidays and a healthy New Year!

Thanks for electing me President for another year. Now that we have settled into our new station location, I plan to concentrate on improving membership involvement in club activities. Suggestions are encouraged and welcome. Maintaining a large membership, three repeaters, daily nets, a newsletter, web site, Hamfest and two HF stations comes with lots of behind the scenes tasks. Like most volunteer organizations, 80% of the work is done by 10% of the members. It's time to recruit additional "10%ers" to help distribute the load more evenly. We are constantly looking for new net controllers to fill vacant

positions as well as substitute for the steadfast group of individuals that gives of their time one or more nights a week. Can't make it to the meetings... perhaps you could be the talk-in station for mobile stations. Tired of the same old meeting snacks? We have a position for you. Never finished writing that great American novel? It's still fun to publish articles in the SPARC Gap. Use your imagination. SPARC's needs are no different than any other organization to which you have belonged. We're open for suggestions and volunteers. As an example, Larry, AL4B and Ron, KK4KRC had an idea they wanted to pursue. Due to their initiative, club members enjoyed good food and fellowship at our first pot luck get together. Thanks guys. Now let's figure out other fun activities we can do as a group.

The station team has been busy completing the station grounding system, reinstalling the VHF/UHF antennas and reworking the rotator for the big log periodic antenna. We're looking forward to participating in the ARRL Centennial celebration as a W1AW/4 station. We also participated in the two November Sweepstakes contests. The 2014 Field Day results are in, and W4TA / W4GAC placed in the top 20 in our category. Nice effort everyone.

Repeater trustee Ron, KP2N along with Dee, N4GD and John, KI4UIP spearheaded the upgrade of our 2 meter repeater. A "new" all solid-state GE MSTR II VHF repeater has replaced the tube based GE Master Pro that has served us for many years. Thanks to all involved for keeping this highly used club resource on the air.

The new SPARC web site is constantly being updated, so be sure to visit it often. And remember that dues are due. We're also looking for a more comfortable location for our after the holidays party.

Finally, we note the passing of amateurs George Baustert, W3BL and Robert Kremkau, WD4FAL. RIP OM.

73,

Bob - N2ESP

P.S. A funny for this issue: A programmer's wife says: "Run to the store, and pick up a loaf of bread. If they have eggs, get a dozen." The programmer comes home with 12 loaves of bread.

SPARC-FEST 2014 Pictures by AI4QP Tom



SPARC-FEST 2014

The November 2014 SPARC-FEST was a great success. The weather was just perfect. It was nice and cool in the morning and warmed up just fine when the Sun came up. The crew got there early to set things up and there were people in line waiting for the gate to open. You just knew it was going to be a good day. Mike (K4ZPE) brought his shelter to set up and got things ready for the SPARC VE team to test a few folks.

I got the food table set up and people were looking for coffee before Dave (KR4U) could get there with the brew. I know we don't start till 8:00 but I think some folks were set up and ready by 7:00. It's a good thing when they are up and at-em and ready to go.

Ron (KP2N) got the Burnt Offering Grill up and going and the SPARC Dogs aroma was floating through the air. Ron did a great job on the grill as usually had a hard time staying out of the Donuts, but who's counting.

The turn out was great and John (KI4UIP) said he counted about 35 vendors so I hope all had a good day. Dave said the SPARC table did well. The food table did good to and I think it was around 11:00 when Ron said the last SPARC-Dogs and Burgers were gone. JOHN (KI4UIP) brought his grill for Ron to use and he got spoiled on that.

We had no problems with the site this year thanks to Dee (N4GD) for getting all the proper paper work we needed to be there. Thanks again for taking the time to do that. I took a few pictures and so did Larry (AL4B) so I hope Veronika will have plenty to choose from for the SPARC-GAP. Take care and hope to see you next year.

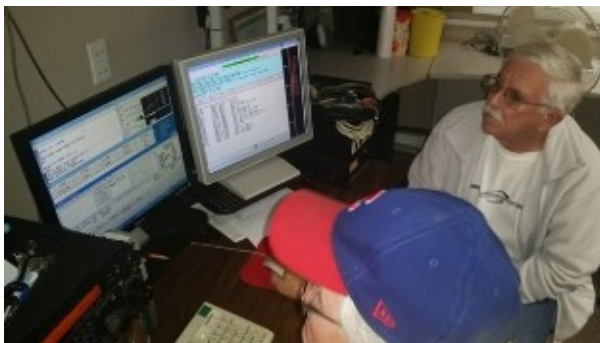
AI4QP / Tom

Happy Holidays



Order your SPARC Badge from Tom AI4QP

Pictures of Sweepstakes - W1AW/4 by Bob N2ESP



Sweepstakes at W4TA by Bob N2ESP

The weekends preceding and following SPARCFest host the ARRL Sweepstakes. The oldest domestic contest, the object of this contest is to work at least one station in each of the 83 ARRL/RAC sections in North America. Working all 83 sections is known as a "Sweep." Our CW team manned the station for the first weekend with the Phone crew taking over for the third weekend.

The information exchanged between stations is one of the most complex in any contest. Based on an ARRL Radiogram header, stations must exchange a serial number, precedence (station category abbreviation), Call Sign, Check (last two digits of the year you were licensed), and your ARRL/RAC section. Because we need to work stations close in as well as DX, the station engineering team erected a temporary 40M dipole antenna.

The CW effort was one section shy of a full sweep, as the lone station in the Northwest Territory eluded the best efforts of W4TA. The Phone guys were able to contact all 83 sections for the clean sweep. The station equipment worked as planned and everyone that participated enjoyed themselves.



ARRL Centennial QSO Party Event

As Some of you may know the centennial QSO party started on January 1, 2014, and it concludes December 31, 2014. Each of the 50 States and several U.S. Territories have been on the air for one week using CW,SSB and digital modes. Two States have been on each week therefore each State had a chance for two weeks of operation total for the year. This event was announced at several club meetings prior to the November schedule for Florida operations. On November 19, 20 and 21 our station W4GAC became W1AW/4 for a total of 12 hours of operation, four hours each day. Each shift for a band was two hours long. We started on 10 meters then switched to 20 meters on the first day, the two following days we were on 15 and 17 meters two hours each band. We used RTTY mode running approximately 400 to 500 watts to our beam antenna and logged 611 QSO's, that's a little over 50 QSO's per hour. At times the rate claimed to over 100 Q's per hour. It sure was fun to be the sought after station like the folks on the DXPeditions experience. The club members that participated are Ron KP2N, Bob N2ESP, Dee N4GD, Scotty N4RI, Leslie WA4EEZ and Dave KR4U. We all had a great time and our station worked really well. After our club effort I decided to register my call so KR4U became W1AW/4 and I worked 15 meters from home on PSK31, I made a whooping 38 QSO's but as you know psk is not the quickest mode for sure, any way I had some fun. This was a very nice opportunity for SPARC to take part in such a special ARRL event.

73 de David KR4U, W4GAC Station Trustee



St. Petersburg Science Festival 2014 by N2ESP Bob

For the second year in a row, SPARC participated in the St. Petersburg Science Festival. Held on the waterfront at Poynter Park on the campus of USFSP, the team from SPARC provided a hands-on demonstration of ham radio capabilities.

This year we demonstrated the use of SSB voice and PSK digital modes. Morse code practice oscillators had kids sending their names to nearby parents. A large display easel provided fair goers with information about the world of amateur radio. We took down the contact information of visitors that were interested in learning more about our hobby. With luck, a few of these folks will join our ranks.

The following club members participated in and/or donated equipment used in the science fest:

K4SHI-Roger; KI4UIP-John; KJ4EXM-Zoltan; KK4JMP-Coy; KR4U-David; N2ESP-Bob; N4GD-Dee; N4KII-Donn; N4NSS-Kyle; KM4BRQ-Tom; Hal-W1EES; Leslie-WA4EEZ; and Phyllis Minton.



Upcoming Events/Contests from WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Tampa Bay Hamfest 12/12-13 Plant City

ARRL 10 Meter Contest 12/13-14

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party
12/20 to 1/4

ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW 12/21

ARRL Straight Key Night 1/1

ARRL RTTY Roundup 1/3-4

NAQP CW 1/10-11

NAQP SSB 1/17-18

Contest/Operating /W4GAC Station Activities

2014 ARRL Field Day Results

It always takes several months to compile but the December issue of QST finally had the results for 2014. There were 150 entries for class 4A and SPARC was number 19 from the top, so we made it into the top 20...RAH RAH.

Once again Thank You to all the dedicated members who took on the many jobs necessary for an event like field day, it was a great success along with perfect weather. 2014 marks the eighth year I have acted as your field day chairman and I think its time for me to retire and provide assistance to a new chairman. It has been a very rewarding and challenging experience for me and I have always been very excited to report the results to the club membership, we always had fun even when the rain and winds visited our site. Thank You for this opportunity.

73 de David KR4U...Rah Rah Field Day!

We are on the Web!

www.sparc-club.org



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



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Welcome To Our New Members

KM9Q Scott Bernard

KB2LUG Edward OBrien, Jr

WD8U Robert Stelmock

KM4DFT Terence McNally, Jr

K4CME Douglas Music

N4HYK Dock Edwards, Jr

WT2TT Thomas Hickey

KM4CPF Clifton Michaelson

K0TAK Thomas Kirchhoefer

K4WFM Frank Moore

Club Officers for 2015

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vice-president@sparc-club.org

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