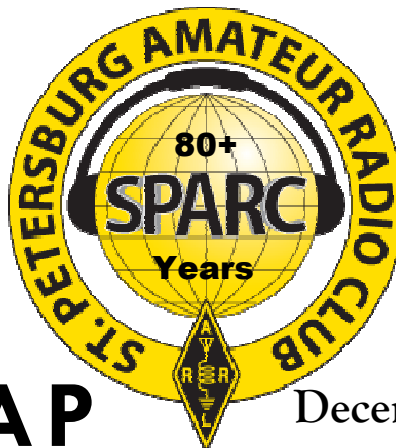


P.O. Box 2217

St. Petersburg,

Fl. 33731

[www.sparc-club.org](http://www.sparc-club.org)



Repeater Frequencies

147.060 224.660 444.475

WA4AKH Repeaters

W4GAC Club Station

W4TA Contest Group

# SPARC GAP

December 2014— March 2015



## A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Our Happy New Year started out with the W4TA testers participating in the ARRL RTTY Roundup with field day style antennas. Despite the less than optimal antennas and low power, the team made over 1,000 QSOs and racked up over 115,000 points...Nice effort.

The after the holidays party was well attended. The new location provided our own room with much more space. Our "SPARCPlug" Award was given to Kyle, N4NSS for his Elmering efforts during the year. Thanks to Sam, N4SLT and Dee, N4GD for helping with the North Pole connection.

Due to the efforts of Donn N4KII and John, KI4UIP, our new tower arrived for the holidays. The station engineers are working out the installation details. Soon our signal will be better than ever. Thumbs up guys.

Our February meeting was standing room only. Home brewed projects presented included a repurposed switch box, a QRP transmitter, a 2M quad antenna, a 5 Farad super capacitor power supply and a prototype multi-transmitter VHF network.

Opening our station on Saturday mornings enabled a few club members to work K1N, Navassa Island, the second most wanted DXCC entity. It's your station, take advantage of it. It was fun to visit the Navassa expedition web site and see how many club members were in the K1N log.

Our repeater team has been busy updating the antenna system and tweaking the electronics. It's this behind the scenes effort that keeps WA4AKH reliably on the air. Thanks guys. A special note of appreciation to Dee, N4GD for all his work as our ARRL Section Manager. Dee has retired after 10 years of stellar service to the West Central Florida Section. Dee will remain active as our Assistant Section Manager, helping to maintain continuity in the West Central Florida section. Thanks Dee.

73,

Bob - N2ESP



- P.S. A funny for this issue: It's hard to explain puns to kleptomaniacs because they always take things literally.

## Net Control Operator Pictures by AI4QP Tom

Johnnie W4TSP Net Manager presented the Net Control Operators with an Appreciation Certificate at the meeting. We thank all of them for their dedication and great job each and everyone does.



Tom AI4QP , Tom KI4RVU , Larry AL4B, Bob KC4SXO, Dee N4GD, Leslie WA4EEZ, Rick KK4WTE and Ron KK4KRC.

Not in Picture Bill WZ4GW , Mike K4ZPE, Steve K1USB and Linda KI4RV.

## Twitter Article from previous Newsletter by Dan KB6NU

Twitter: another tool in the ham radio toolbox

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

It all starts innocently enough. You get a computer to do your logging, and before you know it, you're working digital modes. Then, you snake an Ethernet cable down to the shack or connect to your wireless router. Pretty soon, you can't do without having a browser window open to one of the DX clusters or ReverseBeacon.Net or QRZ.Com or all three simultaneously.

Well, now's there another Internet service that I can't do without down in the shack: Twitter! I get on Twitter all the time now when I'm in the shack, and I love it. It's truly enhanced my amateur radio experience.

One of the ways it's done this is by bringing me all kinds of interesting technical information. I not only follow @hackaday and @DIYEngineering, and @EDN.Com, but a bunch of hams who are doing fun things. I hate to list some, for fear of leaving some out, but I will give a shout out to @NT7S, @AA7EE, @mightyohm, @caulktel, @LA3ZA. There's even @HiramPMaxim (the P stands for "parody"). If you go to my blog at KB6NU.Com and search for "From my Twitter feed," you'll find links to some of the most interesting Tweets that have found their way to me.

I'm also following a couple of amateur radio retailers. Today for example, @DXEngineering is offering \$55 off the RigExpert AA-54 Antenna Analyzer.

I also use it to get information about weather conditions and band conditions. For example, I follow @edvielmetti, who is KD8OQG. He's always tweeting about local severe weather. A Tweet from him gets me to turn on my 2m radio to monitor the local SkyWarn net.

As far as band conditions go, I throw out a Tweet, asking about band conditions, and in seconds, I'll get reports from my followers here in the U.S. and around the world. I try to do my part as well. When I fire up the rig, I'll Tweet out a report of how the bands seem to me.

While all of this is great, it's really all about the people. I currently have more 2,200 followers and I follow more than 900. I would never have met some of these hams if it wasn't for Twitter, and I have since worked several of them on the air after first meeting them on Twitter. Last May, we had a "Tweetup" at the Dayton Hamvention. There were at least 20 of us there. How cool is that?

Twitter isn't for everyone, but I'd encourage you to give it a try. I'm having a lot of fun on Twitter, and I think you will, too. If you do set up a Twitter account, please follow me, @kb6nu. If you mention that you read this column, I'll be sure to follow you back.





## Pictures of SPARC Meeting by Tom AI4QP

At the March meeting Net Manager Johnnie W4TSP also recognized all the people who keep our repeaters in working condition. Pictured below with their Certificate of appreciation are Clayton KJ4RUS, Donn N4KKII, John KI4UIP, Dee N4GD, Kyle N4NSS Ron KP2N Bob N2ESP





## Contest Winners ... Congrats!

It does not take BIG GUNS to win in a Contest...LITTLE PISTOLS can do it!



## Orlando Hamcation by Tom AI4QP

The Orlando Hamcation for this year was a good one. The weather was great and the turnout looked to be a good one also. I got there about 8:50 AM and as I pulled into the parking lot I heard our repeater ID. I guess the condition was just right and I hit the sweet spot but that lets you know the guys are doing a good job at the repeater site. I got inside the main building and it was busy as a bee hive. I went over and dropped in my ticket and went to look at the Stepper Antenna booth and talk with the guys there. I have a ham friend that lives in Washington State where the Stepper folks come from so he asked me to say hello for him, one of the men is the President of his DX club. Their booth was real busy and they had a new antenna analyzer to show off and it is about the size of a credit card so that makes it easy handling.

I think all the Factory reps were there for our industry. There was plenty to look at. I was looking for a 220 rig and ended up getting a Jetstream 220 radio for a good sale price so I was happy. I then made my stop to get all the connectors and things that you are always running out of this is the place to get them.

I then went to meet with the Milwaukee Florida Group that runs a net every morning on 14.290 between 7 & 9 AM. Their little get together at the hamfest is great because they always have coffee and donuts. What could be better. After that it was time to gather for our group picture at the food court. We had to wait a little bit to get a spot but we made it. The picture is on our club web site. After that everyone kind of went their way. If you have never made this hamfest, it is the one to make. You can see just about everything you have heard about in radio and wish you had endless pockets to get. I hope all got the bargains that they were looking for and filled their trunks up for the trip back home. Hope all had a good time and will look to see you there next year.

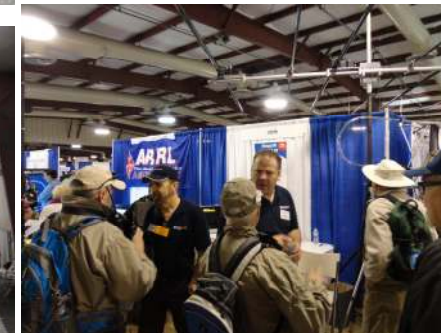
AI4QP Tom



Order your SPARC Badge from Tom AI4QP



# Orlando Hamcation



## Upcoming Events/Contests from WA7BNM Contest Calendar

### EVENTS:

Tampa Amateur Radio Club (TARC) Program night March 16

Discussion: Fueling our Future with Solar Energy.

TARCFest April 18 8am to 1pm.

QCWA QSO Party 03/14-15

North American Sprint RTTY 03/15

BARTG HF RTTY Contest 03/21-23

SKCC Sprint 03/25

CQ WW WPX Contest SSB 03/28-29

APRIL State QSO Parties MO MS MT GA MI ND FL

## Contest/Operating /W4GAC Station Activities

### Field Day 2015

We will be doing the ARRL Field Day event at our club location. The club station itself will not be used, equipment will be setup in the lounge and/or patio area along with our usual field day antennas, batteries/generators, and the stand alone GOTA station. The class of operation will still be "A" but the number of stations is still to be determined. Tom Schaefer, NY4I will be the new FD Chairman replacing me after eight years. I will provide him any assistance that I can and I think this change from Bay Pines will be a very enjoyable club activity and a new challenge. I would like to again thank all the members that supported my efforts and made the SPARC FD event fun for all.

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

We are on the Web!

[www.sparc-club.org](http://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

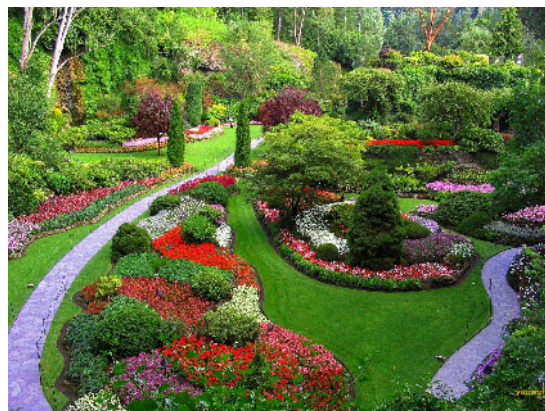


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## Welcome To Our New Members

W4LLL Linton L Lester III

KM4GFQ Charles C Snellgrove



## Club Officers for 2015

President Bob Wanek N2ESP

[president@sparc-club.org](mailto:president@sparc-club.org)

Vice President Clayton Parrott KJ4RUS

[vice-president@sparc-club.org](mailto:vice-president@sparc-club.org)

Secretary Ron Graham KK4RC

[secretary@sparc-club.org](mailto:secretary@sparc-club.org)

Treasurer Tom Wedding AI4QP

[treasurer@sparc-club.org](mailto:treasurer@sparc-club.org)

Repeater Trustee Ron Hall KP2N

[trustee@sparc-club.org](mailto:trustee@sparc-club.org)

Net Manager Johnnie Popwell W4TSP

[netmanager@sparc-club.org](mailto:netmanager@sparc-club.org)

Club Station Trustee

W4GAC

W4TA

David Trewin KR4U Bob Wanek N2ESP

[trustee@sparc-club.org](mailto:trustee@sparc-club.org)

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Tom Schaefer NY4I

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Tom Schaefer NY4I [boardmember3@sparc-club.org](mailto:boardmember3@sparc-club.org)