



75
SPARC
Years



GAP



**St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 2217 St. Petersburg, FL. 333731
November – December 2009 January 2010**

From Our President

Happy New Year!



It is an honor for me to be your president this year. As most of you probably know, I entered into the hobby for the major appliances. I happily accepted a refrigerator, a range, and a washing machine after passing each test.

These material rewards have been nice additions to my family's home. The intangible benefits I personally have received over the years as a member of SPARC are numerous. The greatest pleasure, no doubt, coming from be-friending many of you.

It has been over a decade since my husband persuaded me to become a ham. My technical knowledge is pretty much as it was ten years ago—weak. My social circle strengthened delightfully.

With the capable officers and board members serving, my ignorance should not hamper the club over much. Their knowledge and my high regard for SPARC will see us through quite nicely, I believe.

May this new year enrich each of our lives and our hobby abundantly.

73,

Grace, KG4CTG
SPARC President

We are on the Web!
www.sparc-club.org

Field Day from the Old Timer's view



By Ron Hall, KP2N

Part 3

If you remember in the last column I mentioned The Toledo Mobile Radio Association. In 1957 I failed to miss the December meeting and was elected president. Just like the first day on the job I wanted to have TMRA well known to the Toledo (Ohio) area. For the 1958 TMRA Field Day I decided to do the publicity. Again we would setup at Johnny Karo's farm near Temperance, MI. Would have no problem getting an article in the Toledo Blade newspaper. Frank Bean, W8UKX, was a printer there and a member of TMRA. I had an idea how to get us on TV.

WSPD, TV channel 13, ran a program Sunday evenings called the GASCO camera. It's format is similar to CBS 60 Minutes and showed activities around the Toledo area. The moderator was Jim Ublehart, a long time WSPD news anchor. Back in the 30's my father played in the WSPD band. Back in those days all programs were live including the music.

Needless to say my father knew Jim real well and arranged for me to meet him in his office at the TV station.

So on the appointed day I met Jim and showed him our Field Day plans. I went into the purpose of the exercise and how ham radio gets through when there is a disaster such as a hurricane or major flood. Jim was sold and said he would put me in touch with Charlie Byers, the GASCO photographer, to set a time and location for the shoot. TMRA is going big time.

Time was set for 2 PM Field Day. I would be there to show how the stations were setup and contacts made. I had written a script to give Charlie so he could use it as a guide when editing the film. Back in those days everything was photographed in 16 mm black and white film. Field Day morning I got to the farm early so as not to miss Charlie.

This was about the time things went bad to worse for me. Somehow a wire antenna got wrapped around a tree branch in this old elm tree. All sorts of tugging and pulling could not free it up. I told the guys no problem as I had a pair of pole climber spikes in my car and I would climb the tree and free everything up. It was about 20 feet from the base of the tree to the first branch. I had no trouble getting that far. The climbing spikes worked to perfection. Only took a couple of minutes to free up the antenna wire and allow the rope to hang free so it could be pulled down after the exercise.

Disaster struck on the trip down the tree trunk. The spikes would not hold and I found myself coming feet first and the inside of my arms getting skinned from the rough bark. I landed and felt a lot of pain in the lower back. After awhile the pain eased but no way could I set for an operating position. The membership there decided I need to go to a emergency room and be checked out. While this is going on Charlie Byers pulls up, camera in hand. He came over and introduced himself and I handed him the script and one of our gang showed him around. My high school buddy Willard Shears, W8HYE, put me in the back seat of his 55 Chevy and we proceeded to Riverside Hospital.

It was determined that I had fractured a vertebra and would require a body cast. The bad part was I couldn't return to Field Day and had to remain in the hospital until the swelling went down before the cast was installed. I ended up in a 4 person ward with a TV about a mile away. Come Sunday evening the GASCO report aired and there was the Field Day footage. I missed it.

Sometime after I got home from the hospital I contacted Jim to see if we could have a copy of the film to show at a club meeting. He agreed and I picked up the film and made arrangements to have a 16 mm projector for the next meeting. The night of the meeting we had a full house to see the film. When we started the projector the picture on the screen was reversed. Faces were black and hair was white. As a money saving item all GASCO film is developed as a negative and when shown through a film chain at the TV station it is reversed to show the positive. Bummer.

Think one of the members was going to try to have a positive made of the film but we lost track of it. Those members who viewed the telecast said the film was real good. I decided then and there to let someone else handle publicity for next years event. Later found out that pole spikes are very different than the spikes used by lumberjacks. Tree spikes are about 3 times longer than the pole version. The body cast came off in about 2 months and I have never suffered and additional discomfort from the accident. Lucky I guess.

Next time I'll get into some of the Field Day operations while employed at Heathkit.

Ron KP2N

Pictures of W4GAC Station in progress at Salvation Army



W4GAC Station News

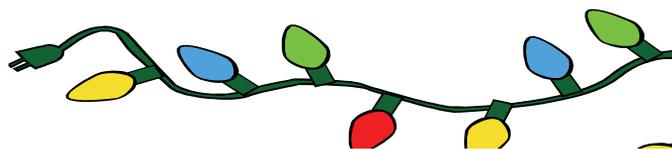
The rebuild of our club station at our new facility is one step closer to completion. We still have quite a bit of work ahead of us with the antenna installations and switching network for our two operating positions. Last week Florida Electric installed a 50 Amp service panel and two quad 120 volt outlet boxes, one for each operating position. They also placed two 208 volt boxes adjacent to the 120 volt units for expansion. Ron, KP2N and myself helped the contractor complete the job. The city inspector arrived the next day and signed off the work permit. This week Ron and I installed 208 volt circuit breakers and outlets to complete the entire installation, the electrical work is done!! We also installed the six foot ground buss bars removed from the station at the Red Cross, one under each station table along with power strips for the equipment. The next step will be to install our antenna switching panel and install the lightning arrestor box on the outside of the building adjacent to our room with a feed through to the inside of the room. We will also locate a feed through for grounding just above floor level. In order to get the station on multiple bands right away we are going to install a Cushcraft R-7000 vertical antenna on loan to us from SPARC member Tom, W4CU. This will get us started back on the air until we can complete our tower and beam/dipole installation. I hope this brings our membership up to speed as to where we are at this time. Ron and I are looking forward to having the station operational again and hope our members will be interested in taking part in some of the many events that take place through out the year. Plans are taking shape to have the station open so members can learn about different modes of operation and become familiar with the club equipment.

73 de Dave KR4U SPARC Station Trustee.

After Holiday Dinner at Kristina's Cafe



Thanks go to Freddy for making the arrangements for the dinner and Sam for the lovely treats that we received. We all appreciated the time and effort Sam XYL of Dee made to choose the gifts. We had a wonderful time visiting and enjoying the company of all members that attended. By the smiling faces that were captured on camera I think we all had fun. Also thanks to Dee N4GD for taking these great pictures.



After Holiday Dinner at Kristina's Cafe



Ham Shack of Tom Wedding AI4QP



“ A PICTURE SAY'S IT ALL”

I saw this picture the other day and the thought of a picture say's it all came to mind. A good title for this one was “A MAN AND HIS HOBBIES”. You might recognize “BENNY” the California Raisin, from back in the 70's. A cute little character that was used to promote just about everything. Somehow the little guy ended up on my two meter radio and I thought it made a cute picture.

I surely enjoy my radio hobby and I love to go bowling. I have been bowling since I was a teenager in the 60's and I first got the Radio Bug in the 70's. I first started out in radio in CB. I think most of us ham operators did. I was fascinated with the idea of talking person to person across the airways without wire. Amazing thought! My uncle was the one who introduced me to this. He came down from Maryland for a visit and one night after dinner he went out to his car to listen on his mobile radio (an old Johnson model) and I followed him out to see what he was doing. Well I thought that was really cool, calling out over the air being know as the Maryland Traveler and some people coming back to him to talk. I was hooked! I spent quite a few years as a “CB”er, off and on. I knew there were people out there called hams and they were the Elite group of Amateur Radio. I knew you had to study and take classes to get a license to become a Ham. This seemed like entirely too much work just to have fun on the radio and I was having that on CB. Well-----finally after years of putting up with all the nonsense that was coming across the airways on CB I said there must be something better! Helloooo-----studying the books, licensed Amateur Radio Operator here I come! I kind of broke away from the old ways and got my first License in May of 2000. Since that time I also talked a few of my old buddies to do the same. I have never regretted taking the time and effort to do so and I am so thankful I did! What a great hobby! Like I said, I look at the picture and it say's it all!

Tom AI4QP

Contest/Operating Event Corner

Upcoming Contests

10-10 INTERNATIONAL WINTER CONTEST SSB	FEB. 6/7
MEXICO INTERNATIONAL RTTY CONTEST	FEB. 6/7
CQ WW WPX RTTY	FEB. 13/14
FISTS WINTER SPRINT	FEB. 13
ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST CW	FEB. 20/21
SKCC SPRINT	FEB. 24
NAQP RTTY	FEB. 27/28

ARRL SWEEPSTAKES SSB Nov. 2009



W4GAC worked all 80 ARRL SECTIONS for a Clean Sweep

Congratulations



Upcoming Events

2010

ORLANDO HAMCATION

Feb. 12 thru 14

at

Central Florida Fairgrounds

4603 West Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida 32808

SPARC Meetings

First Friday every month, 7:30 pm

and

**Testing: Third Wednesday every month 6:30 pm*

at the Salvation Army

3800 Ninth Avenue North

St. Petersburg

Some Members meet for Breakfast

Every Saturday, 7:00 am

At the

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

**contact Connie K4TBZ 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.

ELMERS

Specialty	Name	Call	Contact Information
Digital, CW, and Antennas	Dave Trewin	KR4U	trewins@aol.com
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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 Members

We are proud to announce and welcome 3 new members.

Edwin Kline N4NHO

Bill Ricard KJ4PHB

Larry Stewart KJ4RMY

New SPARC Officers being sworn in



New And Past President. Thank you to both of you for serving!

Club Officers for 2010

President

Grace Harris KG4CTG
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Vice President

Tom Villanova KI4RVU
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Tom Wedding AI4QP

boardmember2@sparc-club.org