



75

SPARC
Years



GAP



St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 2217 St. Petersburg, FL. 333731
May- June 2010



From Our President

Hello everyone,



Summer is almost here, which means Field-day is just around the corner. The location at the Bay Pines, VA is very nice, I think. While it's true that no one is likely to stumble across us at this location, those of us who do make it out there have a lovely area in which to operate.

This is an excellent opportunity for us to acquaint others to the hobby. Perhaps, you know a youth in your neighborhood that would appreciate your showing an interest in him by sharing our exercise in emergency preparedness with him. (him could be her)

The club provides refreshments; and, a meal is an opportunity to share not only tasty food, but good fellowship with those present.

Since this is a twenty-four hour event, running midday Saturday through midday Sunday, it's usually possible to find a time to drop by. I hope you will find a moment to attend. I intend to do just that.

73,
Grace, KG4CTG



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

Field Day from the Old Timer's view



By Ron Hall, KP2N

Part 5

Sometime in the mid 60's some of the hams working in the Heath engineering department began looking for an RFI free site to hold our annual Field Day operation. We wanted to be free from power line and other electronic devices that had plagued us in the past. At the suggestion of Dar Evans, K8ADS, we looked at a campground used by the Boy Scouts call Mud Lake.

Mud Lake was located in Cass County near the city of Dowagiac. The Heath plant was located in Berrien County so most of the operators had to drive a good distance to get there. A telephone call to the county parks commission together with a formal written request got us permission to use the site. A work detail would go out a week early to scout site locations and to fog the area for insects.

There was an old wooden building at the site that the CW boys claimed. The location was just beyond the far end of the clearing. The rest of the modes were scattered along the edges of the clearing in tents or pop up campers. The generator was housed in the rear of the Heath truck, which parked in the center of the clearing, and the AC lines were routed to the various setups. One year to grab the bonus time by setting up after the 2 PM start. We met outside the park area and formed a caravan into the park to arrive at 2 PM. I was in charge of the 40 SSB site and had a quarter wave ground plane with elevated radials installed and in operation in 20 minutes. For the most part the fast setup worked well. The only trouble was with the stations we worked after 2 PM Sunday. Most of them told us Field Day ended at 2 PM and what were we doing still operating. I think we only tried this setup once.

Heath produced the single band SSB transceiver that was introduced at the Dayton Hamvention. Kits started shipping sometime in late summer. All our SSB on 75, 40, and 20 meters were these rigs. What a perfect Field Day rig. Not many controls but full VOX operation. A stranger coming in to operate could get use to all the controls in minutes. The CW guys had two SB-101's that worked well from the out building. It was never the CW location but just simply "the out building".

One year our service manager, Chet Palmer, volunteered to do all the meals. He carefully prepared the menu with a lot of help from the hams at Heath. He had to make sure he brought everything need to cook the food as there were no stores near Mud Lake. Between his car and the Heath panel truck all necessary items were stored. Saturday evening dinner was great with home made apple pie for desert. Chet had one of those big coffee pots that is suspended over the fire just like in the old western movies. There was coffee the full 24 hours and plenty of items to make a late evening sandwich. He even came up with popcorn that was a big hit inside the operating positions.

One of the operators, think from the Blossomland club, came to the Field Day in a brand new Ford pickup. I don't think it had 250 miles on it. Can't remember his name so lets call him Bob. Bob worked in the VHF tent, mostly 6 and 2 meters. Chet announced at dinner that he was going to have a big breakfast spread with eggs, bacon, pancakes, and fresh fruit. Sounds great. About 6 AM Chet makes the rounds to all the locations announcing that he forgot to pack his very large frying pan. He was asking if by chance someone had one with them. Leaving the operating positions no frying pan could be found. Here was a breakfast fit for a king and no way to cook it.



At 7 AM Chet visited the operating sites again saying the problem was solved and breakfast was back on schedule. Asked what was used to replace the very large frying pan he said "Oh, there is this new Ford F-150 pickup parked near his cooking area and it has very large hubcaps". "Those hubcaps are working out very well and I hope you all enjoy the breakfast". Just then the flap on the VHF tent flew open and there was Bob dashing to his new truck. After the color returned to Bob's face he found that all 4 hubcaps were still in place and the very large frying pan had again appeared and was doing its job. Chet and his helpers had big grins which resulted in loud laughter. I don't think Bob took his eye off his truck for the rest of Field Day.

My last year as a Heath employee was 1970. I left in the fall to operate my own two-way radio sales and service business. As a member of the Blossomland club I did join in with the Heath group at Field Day as time permitted. I have included a photo from 1967 that shows the Heath truck and most of the Field Day gang. That's me bottom row second from the left. The photo was taken by a professional photographer hired by Heath. Next time I'll describe how Field Day was operated from the Virgin Islands.

73 Ron KP2N



Top Row:

Jerry Tolsma; John Lieshman; Jim Linke; Dick Kingdom; Earl Harris; Doyle Strandlund
W8GPB K8XX W8XX K7QNZ W8OT W9NJD

Bottom Row:

Ray Nelson; Ron Hall; Chas Gilmore; Mike Krieger; Dar Evans
KP2N W8IAI WA8UOC K8ADS

Grounding and Lighting protection by Johnnie W4TSP

Here are a couple of URL's that I ran across while looking for some items at DX Engineering.

These Whitepapers are about grounding and lighting protection; something that all of us must deal with here in Florida.

I got permission from Alex Dolgosh - K8EUR, General Manager DX Engineering for us to list the links in our news letter and on our website.

DX Engineering Whitepapers

Selecting and Installing Lightning Protection Devices (933K pdf)

<http://www.dxengineering.com/pdf/Installing%20Lightning%20Protection.pdf>



An informative 3 part article on lightning protection published in ARRL's QST Magazine

Lightning Protection for the Amateur Station by Ron Block, KB2UYT

Part 1

Lightning protection can be a serious issue for amateurs. In part one, the author leads us through the process of developing a protection plan.

<http://www.dxengineering.com/pdf/Lightning%20Protection%20P1.pdf>

Part 2

In part two the author discusses the characteristics of lightning and the hazard it presents to the amateur, and presents a method of preparing a schematic of a protection plan. This installment also shows us how to design a protective installation and what type of protection is needed.

<http://www.dxengineering.com/pdf/Lightning%20Protection%20P2.pdf>

Part 3

In part three the author shows how to develop a good external ground system to complete your station's protection.

<http://www.dxengineering.com/pdf/Lightning%20Protection%20P3.pdf>

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Contest/Operating Event Corner

DRCG Long Distance Contest, RTTY 6/12–6/13

ARRL June VHF QSO Party 6/12–6/14

SKCC Weekend Sprint, CW 6/13

SKCC Sprint , CW 6/23

ARRL Field Day 6/26 - 6/27



Pictures of W4GAC Station in use during FQP



KG4PMC - WA4EEZ - WB2SUN

KR4U- K4OB

KR4U-W4CU



NP2MZ Phyllis visitor St. John Virgin Island - KP2N

KP2N making contacts with ZZZZ lol

N2ESP-W4TSP

W4GAC Station News

The rebuild of our club station has moved along very well since my last report. Station one is complete and performed very well during our first operating event at the Salvation Army location, the Florida QSO Party. This is the annual event that W4GAC has always enjoyed taking part in. We added a new cw/voice keyer which allows pre-programmed messages to be recorded for ease of operation, it worked very well. The second position called station two is almost finished. This week I repaired a power supply and assembled ground wiring and coax inter connect cables. Ron is installing an extended 220 vac line cable on the amplifier to facilitate connection to our new outlets. Johnnie, W4TSP, supplied us with a couple of computers of which we need one to set up logging software for station two...THANKS Johnnie. With the completion of these tasks the station should be operational and our next phase can start to take shape, installation of more antennas. At the present time additional antennas are in the planning stage.

73 de Dave KR4U and Ron KP2N

Congratulations

NEW HAMS TESTED SUCCESSFUL AT THE MAY 2, 2010 LAKE MAGGIORE HAMFEST.

GERT & MARIA VAN LOO OF THE NETHERLANDS

Gert Van Loo, PA2LO holding the equivalent of a Novice and Advanced license in his home country. He commented that his license limited him to only 400 wts. output.

Gert and his wife Maria travel to the USA and have friends in Crystal River, Fl. Having made plans to take his American tests at the recent Gainesville hamfest, he and his wife were stranded in the airport overseas during the first volcanic eruption (Iceland) for a week.

So they contacted the local SPARC ARRL coordinator Connie K4TBZ by email and found they would be in the area during the local SPARC Lake Maggiore hamfest.

Gert took his technician ~~general~~ extra exams and passed all, very nicely. His new American call sign is AJ4YX was issued on May 8, 2010.

Maria succeeded in becoming a ham for the first time. She passed her technician and general exams. Her new American callsign is KJ4UUS and was issued May 8, 2010.

Next year when they are in the area, she will take her extra class exam. Congratulations to both.

As coordinator of the team I would like to thank the VE team for their support in making this a great event Connie K4TBZ.

The SPARC group is a great group of hams.



Upcoming Events

Please be patient next Newsletter will have pic's of Lake Maggiore and the tour of WTSP Transmitter



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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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.



John Hamilton KE4NVN

Tom Schaefer NY4I

Ken Larrison K4OB

Start early if you want to become proficient in CW ... shown in photo is KR4U Dave at his station and 2 year old granddaughter Katie at the key. When she comes to see Grandpa she runs immediately to the shack and wants to play with the key.



Club Officers for 2010

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