



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



Greetings from your President

Hello and welcome to SPARC. I am Ron Hall, KP2N, and your newly elected President for the next year. First, I would like to pay tribute to Grace Harris, KG4CTG, your outgoing President, for the wonderful job she did running the organization when no one came forward. She now becomes the newest member of the SPARC Past President's club and part of my Board of Directors. Good job Grace!

On a sad note long time member Bob Scott, W4DZR, became a silent key. Bob was also a volunteer at The Salvation Army on Tuesday's and Thursday's and I would often run into him when the club station was under construction. RIP Bob.

The club has many events coming up such as the Tampa Bay Hamfest, Christmas and New Year's holidays, and our Post Christmas party in January. Check the SPARC web page calendar for more information. Our first board meeting is Saturday, December 11th, at the home of Dave and Veronika Trewin, KR4U and KC4YAW. Start time is 1 PM. Please RSVP to either me or Dave.

Our new Vice-President, Tom Schaefer, NY4I, has many ideas for programs and he will have more information later on. Tom is in the computer business and keeps W4GAC networked and updated. If you have a computer problem he is the guy to see.

Finally, I want to thank those members who supported my election. I will endeavor to fulfill your trust during the next 12 months.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Ron KP2N



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

W4GAC Station Project by DAVE KR4U

There was a very interesting article in the June 2010 issue of QST written by Gary Gordon, K6KV. This is a 'Home Brew' construction project for a high frequency triplexer which will allow three transceivers to be connected to a single three band antenna such as a tri-band beam. The radios can all be operated at the same time and not interfere with each other. Ron KP2N along with John KI4UIP and myself are building one of these units for use at our station. The most notable application would be at field day where we use a three element beam for the SSB stations. The design is for use on 10-15-20 meters so we could run three transceivers into the beam at the same time and possibly increase our operating efficiency. We will sure give this device a serious evaluation, it should be finished in January so we can check it out long before field day. 73 de Dave KR4U



Pictures are from the November Sweepstakes contest. See page 4

New Officers for 2011



Last meeting the newly elected officers were sworn in. The new officers are from left:
Tom Villanova Board Member
John Toth Board Member
Bob Entwistle Secretary
Bob Douglas Board Member
Tom Wedding Treasurer
Ron Hall President
Tom Schaefer Vice President



ART ARBOR FESTIVAL BY TOM / AI4QP

WE had a good group of SPARC members turn out for the Art Arbor Festival this year to give me a hand with the Parking at the Festival. The weather was beautiful, it could not have been better. The turn out was not as good as last year but with the economy the way it is now and all of the other activities that were going on this week end, like the Rib Fest. I guess the park did ok.

The good thing about volunteering for this event is that it is fun to get together with other ham's and play Radio. Most of the time you can sit in a lawn chair in the shade and relax. This is a good job to have. Next year when this comes around, put it on your list. I took a few pictures there and again, thanks to all who helped out.



I THINK BILL (WZ4GW) CAME OVER TO MONKEY AROUND !



CLAYTON (KJ4RUS) CHECKING THE LOT FOR SPACES



HELPER'S AT THE FESTIVAL
RACE KF4WRL, RON KP2N, TOM KI4RVU



Upcoming Contests

ARRL 160 METER CONTEST DEC. 3-5

NAQP SSB JAN. 15-16

ARRL10 METER CONTEST DEC. 11-12

BARTG RTTY SPRINT JAN. 22-23

SARTG NEW YEAR RTTY CONTEST JAN. 1

ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP JAN. 8-9

Contest/Operating Event Corner

W4GAC Club Station Use In November

Our club station was put to good use participating in the ARRL November Sweepstakes the first and third weekends of the month. The first weekend is the CW event followed by the SSB event two weeks later. The contest period is 30 hours long in which you are allowed to work 24 hours total. This contest is rather unique in that it has the longest exchange between stations of all the current contests. Five pieces of information must be correctly logged between stations. The goals of the event are to work all 80 ARRL sections and make as many contacts as possible in the 24 hour time limit. If all 80 sections are logged its called a "clean sweep", sometimes this can be a challenge. The CW team consisted of KP2N, KR4U, K4OB, W4CU, N4RI, NY4I and K8TYS. The end of the contest was fast approaching on Sunday evening and we still needed the State of Nebraska to complete a sweep. It seems each year there is one section that becomes difficult to get. Scotty, N4RI finally caught a spot on the packet cluster and we were able to snag Nebraska. All of the station equipment worked very well for the entire CW portion.

Two weeks later we set up for the SSB portion and had a much larger team of operators. It consisted of the following folks W4TSP, W4NHQ, W4CU, WA4EEZ, WB2SUN, KG4PMC, N2ESP, N4NHO, KJ4VEM, NY4I, N4RI, KP2N and KR4U. The contacts were coming in very well but not from the close in forth call area which we needed. Our vertical antenna on the roof just did not provide good signals for nearby states. In the mean time we started having problems with the microphone connector on our station one radio, it became intermittent. We switched over to station two and could not get the antenna tuner to work correctly so now we had two problems. Ron provided a replacement radio for station one so we switched back and continued to make contacts. At about 2AM Sunday morning we had no fourth call area QSO's in our log. According to the packet spots there were many stations that we needed on 80 meters but our vertical antenna could not work on 80. Ron and I decided to quickly hang up our 80/40 dipole (we called it the W4GAC Stealth Antenna). We strung it from a post at the entrance to a tree across the street in the playground just over 6 feet above the ground, ran the coax in the door and connected it to the radio. We picked up all of the fourth area except for South Carolina. We thought we could pick it up later as the day progressed, not so. As the event was winding down we still needed SC so Bob, N2ESP and I strung up the "Stealth" again at around 7PM Sunday evening and the operators were able to make the final section QSO for a sweep. A special thanks to NY4I for networking our computers and giving us online access. I hope everyone had some fun and its great to put our club in the contest books...Well Done!!

73 de Dave KR4U

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SPARC Meetings

First Friday every month, 7:30 pm

**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:

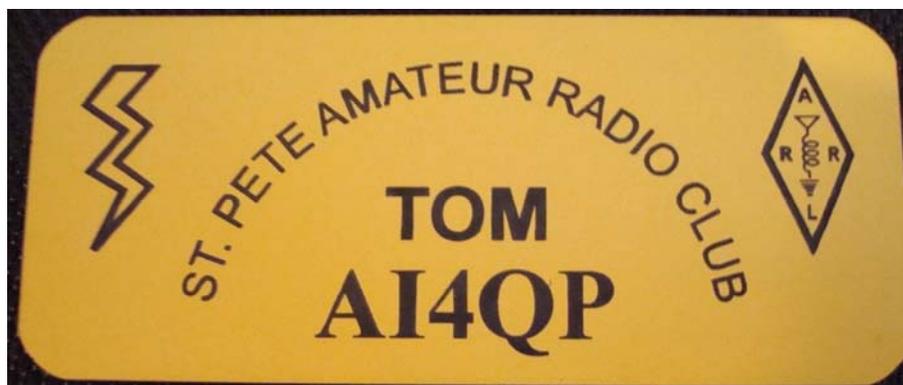
1. To further and promote the social benefits and technical advancement of the radio arts.
2. To acquire, organize, establish and maintain facilities for social and emergency communication, both mobile and stationary.
3. To assist and cooperate with authorized agencies in any emergency of local, state or national scope.
4. To further fellowship among radio amateurs, potential radio amateurs and other parties interested in amateur radio.

ELMERS

<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	Ed Kline	N4NHO	n4nho@yahoo.com
	Kyle Jeske	N4NSS	n4nss@arrl.net



SPARC Badges are available from Tom AI4QP



Club Officers for 2011

President Ron Hall KP2N

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Vice President Tom Schaefer NY4I

vice-president@sparc-club.org

Secretary Bob Entwistle N1XX

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Treasurer Tom Wedding AI4QP

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Repeater Trustee Ron Hall KP2N

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Net Manager Johnnie Popwell W4TSP

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Web Master Dee Turner N4GD

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Newsletter Editors Veronika Trewin KC4YAW

David Trewin KR4U

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Past President Grace Harris KG4CTG

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Board Members

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Tom Villanova KI4RVU boardmember2@sparc-club.org

John Toth KI4UIP boardmember3@sparc-club.org

