



**St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 2217 St. Petersburg, Fl. 333731
May-June-July 2009**



From Our President Richard N4BUA



Field Day is in the books and SPARC has done itself proud. Nearly 1500 contacts were made on six different bands using both CW and SSB modes. Nearly 2500 points were attained during the 24 hrs contest period beating last years totals. Over sixty persons visited the Field Day site including several local dignitaries and a good time was had by all who came out to enjoy the operating opportunities, visiting with fellow hams, and enjoying the great food that was provided. My thanks to all who helped set up, provided food, operated the radio stations, and especially helped with the tear down after all the fun was over. Field Day 2010 is just a short time away. It is time to start preparation now. RAH...RAH...FIELD DAY.

On July 3rd, SPARC held its first meeting at our new facility located at the Salvation Army Community Center at 3800 9th Avenue N. in St Petersburg. At the new location we have room for a much larger radio room. It is our plan to wait until after the hurricane season is over before we move our radio station to the Salvation Army. This will give us time to properly plan our setup and will insure that we can make our radio and antenna installations first class.

On Sunday, July 12, 2009, Rick Crabtree, KG4MRH, sadly and unexpectedly became a silent key at age 55. Rick is a former member of SPARC and is fondly remembered by many of our members. Whenever we needed help with our antennas and tower, Rick was always willing to lend a hand. More often than not, Rick, was the one to volunteer to climb to the top of the tower. Rick was an active member of the Alphas Repeater Group and Lealman CERT. Rick was always good natured and a joy to be around. Rick was not only an acknowledge antenna expert, but he was also renown for his culinary expertise. His skills were always in demand whenever food was involved. Our sincere condolences are offered to his wife, Tracy, KG4MRG. Rick will be greatly missed by the amateur radio community of the St. Petersburg area.

73, Richard, N4BUA

SPARC President

Field Day from the old timer's view.



By Ron Hall, KP2N

Another ARRL Field Day has come and went. For some reason they seem to occur faster to me than the last weekend in June. This was by far the best SPARC Field Day that I have participated in since 2004.

My very first Field Day was in 1954 as new member of the Toledo Ohio Radio Club. Our call was W8FO and

I think we were class 6A. Having just received my General Class license a couple of weeks earlier I was part of the 80 meter CW team. Our team leader was Paul Wagner (SK), W8HSW. We were located outside Perrysburg, Ohio, a little Southwest of Toledo. One of the club members owned a rock quarry that was now filled with water and used for swimming. The owner Shelly, whose call I can't recall, let the club members have use of the grounds for this annual event.

The 80 meter antenna was a dipole fed with RG-8 cable and installed right over the water by using the tall trees that surrounded the quarry. The receiver was a Hallicrafters SX-28 and the transmitter

A Johnson Viking II with external Viking VFO. There was a Dow antenna relay installed on the back of the transmitter and all CW was sent by hand, either bug or straight key. We didn't have a keyer until someone brought a Hallicrafters TO model to later Field Days. The operating tables were 2 x 6 planks supported by sawhorses. We were in a 10 by 20' tent that also had the 10 meter AM setup.

Since 80 meters is mostly used after sunset it gave me a chance to sit in at the other stations. All logging was by hand and we checked for dupes on the dupe sheet. Both the operator and logger kept a paper log with the logger keeping track of the dupe sheet. At the end of the event the Field Day chairman swooped in and gathered all our efforts. Those sheets were real art. Mixed in with the writings were various stains such as coffee, soft drinks, brown 807's (that what we called beer back then), cigarette burns and a host of insect bodies.

W8BBO, Zip, was in charge of providing power to all the sites. He had in his possession an Army surplus, trailer mounted, 15 Kw gasoline power generator. It had a air cooled Wisconsin V4 engine and a full panel of meters and switches. Zip had a 55 gallon drum of gasoline placed on a homemade stand that let the fuel be gravity fed to the engine. Back in 1954 gas was 19 cents a gallon. This generator was Zip's pride and joy. He spent the entire Field Day next to that generator making sure there were no troubles. He also had miles of 3 conductor cable complete with outlet boxes that connected each operating site. This setup was called Zip's Power and Light and there was a sign posted to announce the same.

After Field Day a group would meet at the chairman's home to re-check the logs and come up with a claimed score. Results and bonus point material was mailed to ARRL. It was many months later that we saw our score posted in QST. No Internet and no computers.

In future writings I shall go into other Field Day events such as the infamous beer can vertical and all the experimental radios that were used at the Heath kit site.

73 Ron KP2N

SPARC Field Day 2009 by Dave KR4U

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The first thing that comes to my mind is a huge THANK YOU to all members who provided support to our efforts and helped by submitting a request to the weather folks for a rain free event. That weather thing really helps and we will do the same next year!!

We made several changes to the SSB area this year and they worked out very well. We assembled a 3 section aluminum tower donated to SPARC by Blackie W4TA. Tom W4CU brought out a small Hy-Gain 3 element beam which was also assembled on site in a short time. I made a base support for the tower and with the beam installed we raised it up and guyed it in place. Off the tower we also installed the 80 meter dipole supplied by Roger K4SHI. The last antenna used was a 40 meter vertical again donated by Blackie. Instead of using the big and thirsty SPARC generator we used deep cycle batteries and a small 2000 watt Honda unit supplied by Bob N2ESP. Also included in the SSB effort were Paul KD4YDY using his usual 6 meter station and Leslie WA4EEZ running her IC-706MK2G on 10 meters. 6 meters only yielded 12 QSO's this year but 10 was better than last year with 55 QSO's. We used our club radios the Kenwood TS-450S and Yaesu FT-920. The 920 started to give us some audio problems so we switched it out for an IC-706 we brought as a spare, from that point on all went well. Our operators made a total of 479 contacts WELL DONE!!

The CW area was very similar to last years setup with one notable exception. Scotty N4RI brought out his new Elecraft K3 radio. We used it on 20 and 80 meters using my 40 meter vertical with a tuner at the base of the antenna. This combination worked out very well and gave us a chance to use the K3, several of us for the first time. Excellent radio with great CW performance. The other station used the club Yaesu FT-920 and a 40 meter vertical that Blackie donated last year along with a 15 meter half square that Tom W4CU built. This setup worked very well on 40 and 15 meters. Power was provided by deep cycle batteries and a 1000 watt Honda generator provided by Roger K4SHI. 100 bonus points were earned by making 5 contacts on QRP using an Index Labs radio donated to SPARC by Ernie AA1IK, it ran 5 watts. I logged 2 QSO's for Pete WB2SUN which doubled his count from last year. Our final total was 1002 CW QSO's.

It was great to see some of our members on the air for the first time at field day..we are always ready to help get anyone started on hf digital, cw, or ssb..just let us know how we can help you. The total QSO count this year was 1481, a great job by all and a great weekend event...THANK YOU AGAIN.



Contest/Operating /Event Corner

Possible Upcoming Contests/Events

SARTG WW RTTY	Aug. 15-16
CQWW DX RTTY	Sept. 26-27
SPARC Picnic	Oct. 4 Lake Seminole Park Shelter 2
MAKROTHEN RTTY	Oct. 10-11

NAQRP RTTY

Four SPARC/ FGC members along with W4ZE from Port Saint Lucie, Florida formed FCG #1 Team for the NAQP RTTY Contest on July 18-19. This was our first effort in team competition. Each station used their own call except for Ron KP2N who operated and used W4GAC. The individual scores were added to provide the total team score.

W4CU	51,216
W4GAC	45,750
WA4EEZ	26,964
KR4U	22,200
W4ZE	17,706
<u>Total</u>	163,836

We had lot's of fun and are looking forward to doing it again.

Anyone else interested in joining us next time ?????

Field Day

Since Field Day is not a Contest but rather an operating Event here are our QSO totals:

BAND	CW QSO	SSB QSO
80	025	031
40	279	081
20	366	289
15	331	011
10	001	055
6	000	012
TOTAL	1002	479
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	<u>1481</u>	<u>CONTACTS</u>

Thanks again to all who participated or gave us moral support.

Silent Key Richard Crabtree KG4MRH We will miss you!



Richard was a former member of SPARC and was a founding member of the Alpha Amateur Radio Group. He installed and repaired many towers in the area. He also was an active member of the Lealman CERT team. Richard working on our antenna at



W4GAC taken by
KC4SXO

Ham Shack of Emory Brown KD2DN

First licensed in May of 1982 after having spent several years in CB Radio which was enjoyable in those days, I have continued to remain active in amateur radio and presently hold an Advanced Class ticket.

Following my retirement from the New Jersey Highway Authority and relocating to Largo, I discovered that I had to downsize to a much smaller antenna system and now spend most of my time on 20 meters. I do however have vhf and uhf capabilities. My current HF setup is an FT-1000 MP Mk. 5 with an Ameritron AL-80 amplifier and Windom Sloper. For the vhf/uhf, I use a TM-G707 dual bander and Comet vertical antenna.

Tiger, my faithful feline companion has expressed a passing interest in amateur radio and seems to enjoy hamming it up on occasion, usually when I am trying to have a QSO with someone. Hearing only my side of the conversation because of my use of earphones, I suspect that he may think that much of the chatter is being addressed to him.



Upcoming Events

Chester Tailgate 7AM till ...when everyone leaves

2009

September 12 Wormhole

November 7 CARS

Chester Electronic Supply

311 Missouri Ave. N. Largo, FL 33770 Ph 727-585-4736

SPARC Meetings

First Friday every month, 7:30 pm

and

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

at the Salvation Army,

3800 9th 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

Field Day Photos



Club Officers for 2009

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