



SPARC



GAP



St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club January February March 2007



From our President

Thanks to all the folks who attended the SPARC After-Holiday Dinner-really enjoyed seeing you and talking with you! A big round of thanks to Freddie-KF4FCW..he did a great job in getting it all arranged~Thanks, Freddie! And a great big thanks to Bill-WZ4GW- and Annie, his XYL who brought the gift bags with the delicious fudge!!

We all appreciate the excellent suggestion made by Richard-KG4BUA- he suggested an Elmer's Column on the SPARC website. This is a place you can go to see if there is someone who can help you with a particular interest you have in Ham Radio...we have some listings already, such as Digital Modes, CW, Antennas, RTTY, Repeaters, HF and 10-10....so if you have interest or questions in these areas, the Elmers will try to help you. If you are willing to offer help with any aspect and would like to be listed as an Elmer, please contact Dee, N4GD so he can add your name to the list!

We had a great turnout at the February meeting for the PSK31 demonstration! Dave-KR4U and Ron-KP2N did a super job of getting the station set up and working well so that the members could see this mode in action! There was a lot of interest, and a nice big group at the demonstration table.

2007 is a very special year for SPARC! It is our 75th Anniversary as a club, and that is really something for us all to be proud of! We have been around for all these years, and have a rich history...and I am calling on any members who have any items of memorabilia pertaining to the club-newspaper articles, stories or anecdotal items, to please contact any of the officers so that we can all share them with you. I also need someone to help us with refurbishing our club banner...would like to add a logo to it with the 75th Anniversary information...

Our next picnic is April 22 at Lake Seminole Park-Shelter 2~come and join us around noon...hope to see YOU there!!

The SPARC Tailgate/Hamfest will be held at Lake Maggoire May 6 2007~get there early for a shady parking spot and bring your family and friends! Hot dogs and hamburgers, cold drinks and coffee will be available, so come on down and have some fun with us!

There will soon be a large (I hope) group of Technicians with 10 Meter Phone privileges while this band is relatively quiet right now due to the solar minimum, in awhile it will be loaded with stations from around the world! This is an excellent band for starting to learn about HF. I will be happy to meet with folks on 10 Meters to chat and answer questions. I am active in the 10-10 International group, and can help new hams with that. There are a number of 10-10 members in this area, so it might be fun to start up an informal group to meet on 10 meters. Our club station, W4GAC is a member of 10-10 and has a 10-10 number.

There are so many, many aspects of ham radio and there is something for every interest~get RADIO-ACTIVE!

73, Leslie, WA4EEZ
President, SPARC





VE Testing Group News

By Connie K4TBZ



After 6 years of dedicated service as coordinator (CVEC) of the SPARC testing group, Mark Nixon NP3R, has decided to resign his position. A hard decision to make, Mark wanted to devote more time to other interests, computer, etc.....

Mark had monthly sessions, overseeing the testing of individuals from every aspect in the ham world. Whether it was someone sailing around the world, someone passing thru Florida, visiting relatives or just so many ham radio operators in the local area. A very gratifying experience to say the least.....

So as of the January 5th, 2007 SPARC meeting at the Red Cross, a new CVEC was appointed. Mark had a very good crew of VE's that handled all the exams over the years.....

I was a member of his crew for the past 6 months and accepted the position as CVEC.

Since the appointment, my crew and I have given 4 testing sessions at the Red Cross. One special session was given at 12:01 am. Friday Feb.23rd for the new ruling on no code. We had a great turnout.

The crew of VE's are as follows: Dee Turner N4GD~ Ron Hall KP2N~ John Stark KU4BT~ Pete Secrist WB2SUN ~Bob Douglas AG4DY~Don Davis N4KIL~Dave Trewin KR4U~Alice King AI4K~Mike Anderson N4MAA~Tom Wedding AI4QP.....

The VE team would like to thank Mark NP3R for all his years of service. A plaque of appreciation was presented to Mark by Dee Turner N4GD, WCF Section Manager.....

With the continued support of the VE team I will strive to fulfill the duties as CVEC for SPARC. The support of the ham community will be greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to Bob Burke KC4SXO for taking pictures at the special testing session.

73 ConPage K4TBZ.



Connie K4TBZ and Alice AI4K



VE's Dee N4GD, Connie K4TBZ,
Mike N4MAA, Dave KR4U, & Ron KP2N



Tom AI4QP was there to help with
the paperwork and the cookies



Bob AG4DY Ron KP2N Mike N4MAA
in the Radio room



Congratulations!



Udo KF4KUL
Bruce KI4HHK.
Jim KG4JSZ
Ruth KI4PYK
Ray KD4HUW

SPARC Meetings

First Friday every month, 7:30 pm

and

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

at the Red Cross Bldg,

818 Fourth Street North

St. Petersburg

Breakfast

Every Saturday, 7:00 am

At the

Four Coins Restaurant



***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.

Station of Wendy KB1AF



Wendy has in her station:

Uniden BC785D trunking Scanner

Yaesu FT-7800 2mtr/440 Transceiver

Yaesu FT-60 Handheld 2/440 which also can connect to outside antenna

Mirage 2mtr Amp.... Not working

Toshiba Laptop 3.2 Ghz speed

CW Keyboard MFJ-452

TS-440S use with Keyboard

Toshiba Laptop 3.2 Ghz speed

CW Keyboard MFJ-452

TS-440S use with Keyboard

MFJ-784B tunable DSP Filter for the TS-440

I COM IC 775 DSP HF Transceiver....200 watts

MFJ Tuners, one for the TS-440S and one for the IC-775 dsp

Sgc-2000 All Frequency (2.0 to 30Mhz) with MFJ Tuner..

I used this when in the Coast Guard Auxiliary for frequencies out of the Ham bands. My call was WWJ40AJ

Not visible... ADI AR-146 2 Mtr FM Backup Transceiver, 2 portable battery packs..12 V Emergency Generator 1800 watts

Antennas are Hustler 80-10 Vertical and a 80 Ft. Random wire.

We are starting a new corner here...so please take a picture of your station and submit a list of equipment in WordPad or email. Then in each newsletter we will publish someone's station here.

Upcoming Events

Chester Tailgate 7AM till ...when everyone leaves

12 May Open, 14 July (SPARC), 2007

Chester Electronic Supply

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

Hamfests

May 06 St. Petersburg Lake Maggiore Martin Luther King St. S. & 38 Ave. S

ELMERS

Specialty	Name	Call	Contact Information
Digital, CW, and Antennas	Dave Trewin	KR4U	trewins@aol.com
RTTY, Repeaters	Ron Hall	KP2N	kp2n@arrl.net
HF, 10-10	Leslie Johnson	WA4EEZ	wa4eez@verizon.net

The Orlando Hamcation

has come and gone for another year. The event this year was a good one. The weather was ideal and, the turnout was at a surprise to all. I think, everyone was a little set back by the crowds of people that were there. I am sure that the good weather and the fact that the Miami Hamfest did not take place this year due to the Super Bowl. All and all it was a great event that tailgate area convert more ground then I wanted to walk over.

Arthur KG4TGR and myself a long with our friend from Everett Washington, Frank K7GSE got a fairly early start on Saturday morning to head to the Hamfest. We stopped for breakfast first and then made it to Orlando at around 9 a.m. We had to park way out in the field, but there was no line to get in! They have not called to me yet to let me know that my ticket won anything. So I guess I can forget that! I could tell by the parking that there were more people here than last year.

We started to make our way through the crowd as best we could to see what we could see. I was like a kid in a candy store, with my mind full of let me have it all, but a pocket that said forget it. I had a few things in mind to get so I had to stick to my budget. I made my way to the ICOM to see if I could get to a free radio for all that free advertising I had been doing with my new call /AI4QP Always ICOM 4 Quality Products. They told me nice try, but move on! So I went to Yaesu and bought a VX-170. It is a 2mtr Handheld that really is nice.

I got it for less then I thought to! I also picked up a pull-up antenna for the Handheld. This really helps out in giving you the little more punch getting out with this radio.

We went outside to the food area to meet some of the other SPARC members, so we could get a group picture. We got a pretty good group together. But only about half that was there. We all had a great time and everyone seemed to pick up a good deal here and there.

Looking forward to next year
73's Tom AI4QP



Contest/Operating Event Corner

Next W4GAC Contest

Florida QSO Party April 28-29, 2007

We worked the
ARRL RTTY Roundup Jan. 6-7 2007 and scored 88,300 Points

North American QSO Party RTTY Feb. 24-25 we worked with the TARC group
and scored 129,000 Points

There were 8 operators from SPARC, 3 Operators from TARC and
3 Operators from the Florida Contest Group

Tampa Bay Hamfest 2006

The Tampa Bay Hamfest, was blessed with a good weekend of weather. When the weather cooperates, it sure makes the tailgating at nice event. The turnout on Saturday was real good, as far as I could see. It seemed to me that there where a lot of people moving through the ham fest. We had a lot of people stop at SPARC table and take applications and copies of the SPARC Gap. The SPARC Gaps really went quick. I made some black and white copies to bring back Sunday. All those involved in putting this SPARC Gap together really did a great job. I know, that is a lot of work and takes a great deal of time.

I left after a few hours and then came back with my Camera to get a view pictures. It was about 3:00 pm when I returned, and I was quite surprised to find that a lot of the tailgating folks had already left. I hope that there reason was that they sold out! It looked like a lot of good deals were made, and people were having a good time. The vendors that were selling the connectors and other things, that we like to have on hand, were doing well in sales.

I saw a lot of Spark members, and some old friends that seems like you'll only see at these events. I hope, all that went and had a great time and hope to see you all in Orlando, in February. 73s , Tom AI4QP.



Leslie WA4EEZ & Roger K4SHI Johnson hosted the booth for the Club

EINSTEIN ON RADIO

"I am often asked how radio works. Well, you see, wire telegraphy is like a very long cat. You yank his tail in New York and he meows in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? Now, radio is exactly the same, except that there is no cat."

Attributed to Albert Einstein

**St. Petersburg Amateur
Radio Club**

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To



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