

# St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club

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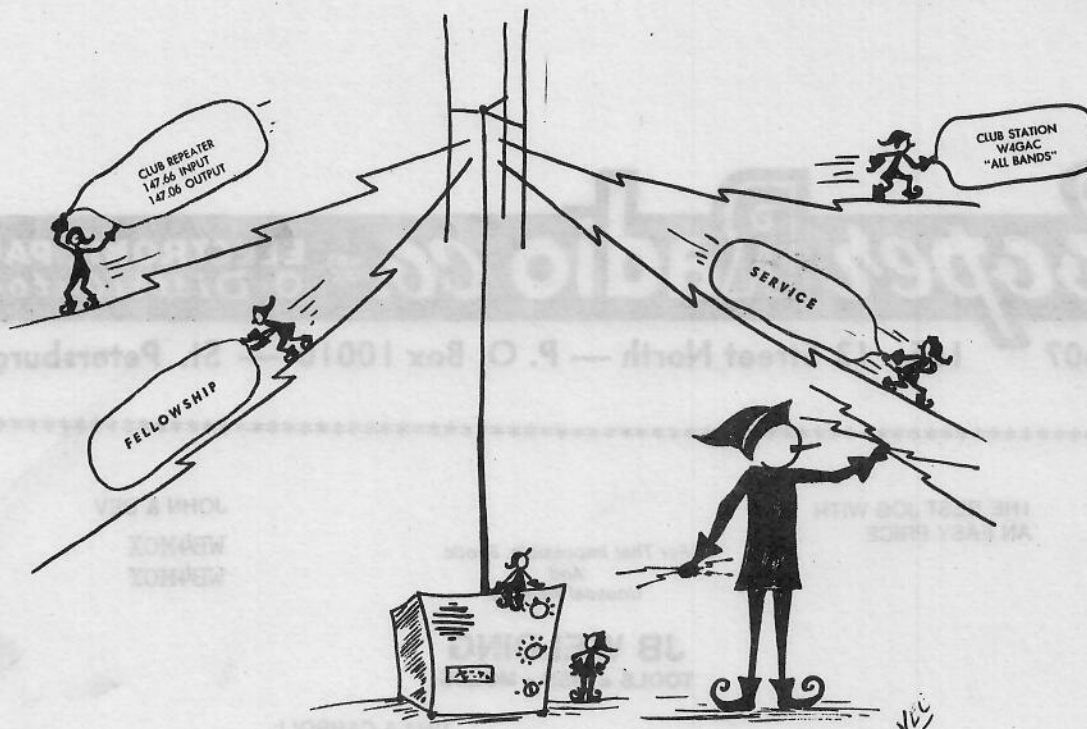
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## S P A R C - G A P

AUGUST 1976.



# WR4ALM



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S P A R C - G A P

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OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON AUGUST 6th. AT 8:00 P.M.

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818 - 4th Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida

PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER ON \*\*\*\*\*

At our last meeting we had 31 members and 7 guests. The guests were welcomed to our meeting, they were asked to stand and identify themselves with their call and any comment they could contribute to the meeting, and they were received with a round of applause.

George Rae K4TH - agreed to be the a director, representing SPARC Club at the Florida Gulf Coast Radio Council. He also agreed to submit a report to the SPARC Club. There is still another opening for an alternate director, it is hoped that a volunteer will come forward. Anyone wishing this job please contact the President. At this time we wish to congratulate George K4TH - for his acceptance of the job, and for the wonderful way he is carrying it out.

We wish to thank Bob K5IHH/4 for helping to arrange the hall for our meetings setting up the PA system and the seating arrangement. Kim Cole WB4ARZ for his big part in the maintenance of the Station W4GAC, also his part in helping with the refreshments at each meeting.

Our SPARC-GAP is made up from the activity that goes on in our Club and the reports and all the articles come from our membership - We get the following reports from Woody K4SCL on the repeater activity, Larry WA4CTM with RTTY information and what goes on in the teletype circles... George K4ISS and his lovely XYL Betty has started an article on the SPARC REPEATER TEAM TRANSMITTER HUNT. Please help and submit articles, reports and what have you.

The meeting attendance has been low, but that's to be expected due to the summer months, vacations and other activities. We are hoping that the fall will bring back all our members and many guests. Let's all remember this is our CLUB and it takes all of us to keep it as the St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club.

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The following letter from the 'American National Red Cross' South Pinellas County Chapter:

Mr. Frank M. Ryll, Treasurer  
St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club, Inc. St. Petersburg, Florida.

Dear Frank:

This acknowledges the generous donation from the St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club. Attached is our receipt for your records.

Please express our sincere thanks and gratitude for this contribution. This really helps with Red Cross Needs at this time. Thanks very much.

Yours sincerely,

Ernest L. Tose  
Manager

FLASH: As we go to press we learned that our EDITOR JOHN MERADA IS IN BAY PINES IN INTENSIVE CARE. Good luck John.

(1)



# SPARC - GAP

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## FLORIDA GULF COAST RADIO COUNCIL HIDDEN TRANSMITTER 2 - METER EVENT

This event will take place Sunday, November 7, 1976, starting at 10:00 A.M. The starting point will be the front entrance of the Convention Center. Those wishing to participate will check-in with the Official Starter, at that time and place. Only those holding convention tickets will be eligible for a prize, but anyone may participate in the event.

This will be a handicap event. When you check-in, with the Official Starter, you will be given a card with your call, odometer reading, and your starting time written on it. For each tenth of a mile, and each minute of elapsed time, one point will be added. The person traveling the shortest time and distance will be the winner. The 'Bunny' will remain on station until 12 noon, at which time the Hunt will end. The winner will be announced on or about 1:00 P.M., at the Convention Center.

The 'Bunny' will start transmitting at 10:00 A.M. and make one 1-minute transmission every 5-minutes, on a frequency of 146.52 MHz. To allow an equal opportunity to all participants, not familiar with the Tampa Bay Area, the 'Bunny' will be hidden in the City of Clearwater. We hope to have a sufficient number of maps, of this area, available for those persons who do not have one.

This will be a straight-forward event. The 'Bunny' will not alter position, polarization of his antenna, nor fluctuate his power level.

When you locate the 'Bunny' DO NOT FORGET to check-in with your card. Your time and mileage will be noted for the purpose of ascertaining your total points. The one finishing with the lowest number of points will be declared the winner. Good Luck to all.

NOTE:- Personnel needed . 2/3 persons, with SPARC shirts, with blank cards, at the convention center, to register entrants and enter their call, speedometer reading, and time.

One 'Bunny' on location, with two assistants to enter speedometer reading and time, on the cards of those who find the 'Bunny'. If time permits, they can handicap the results, so that there would be no delay in announcing the winner/ or winners / at 1:00 P.M.

Submitted;

George W. Rae, K4TH

### Florida Gulf Coast Radio Council Meeting:

The June meeting was held at the Sand Key Sheraton Hotel, June 15, at 7:30 PM with WA4PTM, President, in the Chair. Present were representatives of the following clubs; Clearwater - New Port Richy - T.B.R.A. - Tampa - Sarasota. No representative from SPARC was present, so this writer acted as Alternate for the Club.

Reports from the various committee chairmen were made. To date, 11 booths have been sold with the expectation that a total of 20 will be sold, by convention time. Florida Customs Plastic has been granted a booth at the front entrance, without charge, in exchange for 17 name badges - free of charge - for council Officials. They will set-up their booth without cost to the council.

Convention Ads are being sent to Ham Radio and QST, with October the 'big' month for the final Convention publicity, and program events. TV 'spot announcements, on local TV is to be explored, and there is the possibility of an 'interview' type of appearance in conjunction with Florida Amateur Radio Week, of June 20th. or at a later date.

cont' page <sup>3</sup>----



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# S P A R C - G A P

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Official ARRL Bulletin NR 595 ---- Attention DXers. May 1976 QST announced the addition of Okino Tori-shima to the ARRL Countries List.

Advice from the JARL indicates that the first contact with the DXpedition station 7J1RL took place at 0030 UTC May 30, 1976. Confirmations for contacts for this new country, made on or after May 30, 1976, may be submitted for DXCC credit starting September 1, 1976. Contacts prior to May 30 will continue to be credited toward the Ogasawara listing on the ARRL Countries list.

Official Bulletin NR 596 ---- Special events station WG1JFK will be on the air for 48 hours beginning 000 UTC July 3 in celebration of the U.S. Bicentennial. This unique station will be operating from a plot of land, within Great Britain, presented to the U.S. in memoriam to the late President John F. Kennedy. It is considered a U.S. station on U.S. territory. WG1JFK will operate on all bands with the exclusion of 160 meters.

Official ARRL Bulletin NR 597 ---- As a membership service ARRL is providing a chart showing all available 1 X 2 calls as of early June in the contiguous 48 states. This chart may be obtained by sending a self addressed envelope with 24 cents postage addressed to Call Signs, ARRL.

Official ARRL Bulletin NR 598 ---- Headquarters is looking for volunteers for our recently expanded Intruder Watch program. As part of preparation for WARC-79, ARRL will be playing a much more active role in the program, to more aggressively defend our amateur bands. If you are willing to devote a few hours a week to patrolling the amateur bands for non-amateur stations, write Intruder Watch, c/o ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, Ct. 06111.

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## FGCRC

Ticket designs, and forms, are at the printers being processed. Each club will receive a bloc of tickets to be sold either to, or by, their members. Heavy local and area support for the convention is expected, without too much dependence on out of area ticket sales. In this case, 'area' is defined as that part of Florida lying within the central belt from Coast to Coast.

ARRL has requested the Council to inform and solicit the endorsements of the Division Director, and the SCM's of the Northern and Southern Florida. This request was not understood as it is assumed that the convention DOES have the support of these officials. Anything else would be ridiculous, and it is wondered if the HQ Staff, in Newington, is "au courant" with their own scheduling of coming Conventions.

The Hidden Transmitter Hunt will be staged by DPARC, and will take place on Sunday starting at 10:00 AM. To facilitate the printing of programs, I have taken it upon myself to make-up a list of operating rules, to govern the event.

The possibility of having a Tampa Bay Area Call Book printed was discussed. This call book would list the calls, names, and addresses of amateurs in the Pasco; Pinellas; Hillsborough; Manatee and Sarasota Counties. This data can be obtained from the printers of the Amateur Call Book who will supply call signs and addresses according to Zip Code areas, at a nominal fee. With advertising, and a sale price of 50¢, this item could show a profit as well as being an operating aid for amateurs in these areas.

These will be an advanced sale of tickets, but no mailing service will be provided. Advance sale tickets will be picket-up at the door upon arrival. Those tickets that have been paid for, but not picked-up by convention time, will still be eligible for prizes where the winner need not be present to win.

An invitation to amateurs, in the area who might like to attend one of the meetings, to be present at the next scheduled meeting. The council is still in need of a Secretary. Interested parties please or write to FGCC, P.O.Box 157 Clearwater, 33517, or contact me at 447-4372

de George W. Rae; K4th.....



SPARC - GAP  
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~~XJXX~~ AUG. 1976

RTTY NWES

We continue with the History of Teletype as written in Ron Guentzler W8BBB's series of articles in the RTTY JOURNAL.

The test of the first working model of the Morkrum printing machine was a success.

In 1910, the second largest telegraph company in the U.S., the Postal Telegraph System, bought teleprinters made by Morkrum and had them installed on its New York to Boston circuits. Postal Telegraphs' major concern was whether or not the Morkrum machines would perform well in bad weather - like their salt, when it rained, the messages poured through! By 1912, Postal Telegraph had eight circuits working with Morkrum equipment, the longest being a thousand miles from New York to Chicago. (The Machines probably operated around twenty words per minute)

In 1912, Western Union had six circuits in operation using the Morkrum equipment, Several railroads then followed suit.

By 1914, Morkrum had a tape perforator system in use for off-line preparation and on-line transmission. Its first major use was by the Associated Press to distribute news stories to Page printers at its member newspapers in the New York area.

The name "Teletype", and the scroll symbol were introduced as part of the advertizing promotion on the Model 11, introduced in 1921. The Model 11 operated at 40 WPM. It used a type wheel and printed on paper tape. One of the advertizing flyers for the Model 11 stated: "Teletype - Don't Say It - Don't Write it - Print It."

The Model 12 page printer using type bars was introduced in 1922. It was the first machine placed into widespread use by businesses on private circuits. This machine was so rugged that its first installation - 37 machines put in use for the Chicago Police Dept. in 1922 - was not replaced until 1956. Approximately 12,000 Model 12's were sold.

In 1923, the first Teletype by radio (RTTY) messages were sent 30 miles from the factory to the home of the president, Sterling Morton.

Next time, conflicts and changes of hands.

de Larry Miner WA4CTM.

THE SPARC REPEATER TEAM TRANSMITTER HUNT.

What is a Transmitter Hunt? First of all it's a non-official group, which does not exclude anyone from participating, that gathers each Sunday afternoon at 2 P.M. on 146.490 MHz. Incidentally, 146.490 MHz. is the alternate simplex frequency when the repeater is off the air.

The Hunts restarted in September of 1975 and have been held almost every Sunday. There are approximately 6 regulars and we've had as many as 15 to show up.

Our purpose is to have an unofficial but organized group capable of finding any transmitter tormenting the input frequency of the repeater. Fun is the name of our training game. The "Bunny" has the option of setting new rules for his hunt but following the safety guidelines of previous hunts. Any changes should be given on the SPARC 6:30 P.M. net the Sunday before the Hunt.

You too can join us and stay at home because we need fixed stations to give initial bearings - strength of signal - and updated bearings. We miss the able assistance of K4SCL as a plotter. W4GPL receives bearings first from hunters and then from fixed stations on 146.490 MHz. After plotting he transmits the intersection of the fixes on the hunt frequency and on 6 meters.

Anyone desiring to get their feet wet come on out, you'll see everyone checking each others equipment for new ideas - maybe back to the drawing board - or to your friendly parts store for an attenuator or field strength meter - the "dog eared" antenna book will be checked and rechecked. Would you believe the drivers for the hunters are debriefed after each hunt, but that's another chapter, only after more research.



SPARC-GAP

St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club

REPEATER TEAM  
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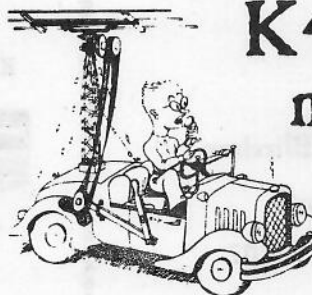
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SPARC REPEATER NEWS

The Repeater Team met at Red Cross Henderson Hall June 29, 1976 with 24 members present. Coffee by K4RXO. Doughnuts picked up by K5IHH. The refreshment fund has become essentially self-supporting through donations of members enjoying the doughnuts and coffee.

Introduced by John Komp WB4YTY, Dayton Saltzman, Red Cross Disaster Director presented an information sheet on disaster reporting procedures, solicited team members to sign up as Red Cross representatives for reporting disasters when we happen to be first on the scene. To those of us who wished to participate (most of us) he handed out Red Cross shoulder patches and official vehicle stickers. Membership cards will be mailed later.

K4SCL showed a framed certificate of appreciation presented to the Repeater Team by Red Cross in appreciation of our work on Festival of States. We decided to place the certificate in the W4GAC operating room so that many club and team members can see it.

Treasurer W4VIP reported a balance of \$529.89 including \$188.52, our share of hamfest profits. Biggest expense of the month was \$205.90 towards new control equipment. Refreshment fund has \$19.74.

K4SCL reported no technical problems with repeater lately. Technical committee is still hard at work on building new control system. We hope this will be in service by the time you read this. Woody showed two of the new Touch-Tone control boxes to be used with the new system.

K4SCL re-emphasized need for Team members to furnish a photocopy of their license. Treasure is keeping these, with K4FCW assisting record keeping. This requirement was adopted to protect us from non-licensed persons who could otherwise be masquerading as amateurs and operating on our repeater. It has happened. Lets help guard against it.

Woody asked members to review "Repeater Tips" on back of Repeater Directory. These tips are essentially what Woody has been preaching for the past several months.

K4TH reported on Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council meeting. Sparc Repeater Team is scheduled to conduct a hidden transmitter hunt for the convention at 10 A.M. November 7. It will be on 146.52 and will emphasize minimum time and distance to find bunny. George will need about 3 people in SPARC shirts to officiate.

K4SCL reported on Pinellas Emergency Net. The 2-meter branch meets at 8 P.M. Sunday evenings on the SPARC repeater. The 10 meter branch meets at 9 P.M. on Thursday on 28.720. K4DRN has been appointed Assistant Emergency Coordinator for 10 meters. Pinellas AREC now has 50 members. The emergency communication plan is at the printers and should be partly distributed by the time you read this. Printing cost is expected to be 53¢ per copy, so individuals desiring copies will be asked to contribute 50¢.

Our next meeting will be at the Florida Power club repeater site, the power plant on Weedon Island, August 3 at 7:30 P.M. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for 3rd Fridays monthly at Red Cross....

73 de K4SCL Woody...

A first report and order was adopted this week in Docket 20282. which accomplishes the following:

1. Full Novice privileges for Technician Class Licensees.
2. A Novice reaching the end of his license term can retest for a new Novice immediately; the one year wait is discontinued.
3. Novices may run 250 watts d.c. POWER INPUT.
4. All licensees using the Novice segments of the bands are also limited to 250 watts.
5. Full credit will be granted for examination elements completed by mail; e.g Conditionals are "grandfathered" to General, Technicians C to Technician.
6. Element 2, the novice written test, will be a part of all exams.
7. The number of distinct license classes is reduced from 10 to 5 by this action.
8. The future availability of mail exams is limited to Novices only, except in cases of protracted physical disability.

These changes will be effective July 23, 1976

de Perry F. Williams, W1UED

SPARC - GAP

~~JULY 1976~~

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AUG. 1976

MINUTES July 02 1976----

The regular meeting of the St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club met at the Red Cross Headquarters Hall on Friday the 2nd. The meeting was called to order by the Vice President John Merada at 8.05 P.M. local time.

Treasurer Frank Ryll W4VIP was unable to be present, his report was read to the membership indicating the amounts in the checking as well as the savings, also some of the expenditures, which included a donation to the Red Cross, the division of the proceeds from the Hamfest were credited to both the repeater committee and the main account books in equal amounts.

The Secretary read a summary of the actions of the Executive Committee meeting held on June 23, 1976 also the minutes of the past club meeting were read and voted approved as read.

Ed Harney K4DRN spoke for a greater attendance at the AREC net held on 28.720 MHz at 2100 hrs local time each Thursday. This net is to improve our own local AREC, so each one please attend, or if unable to transmit, please listen in.

Woody K4SGL spoke for the net that meets each Sunday at 2000 hours local time on the SPARC repeater. This net is also a function of our local AREC unit, and Woody is the EC for this area. He urges all SPARC members who have not as yet signed up with the AREC in either full or limited capacity to do so soon. A strong and well organized AREC is needed in this area.

A member of SPARC for two months, Robert Smith made a good suggestion - the formation of a 'Welcoming Committee'. Vice Pres. Merada said appropriate action will be taken.

Larry WA4CTM asked for a report of the Field Day activities of the club, and was told by members at large that the activity had been 'cancelled' by one of the members of the Field Day Committee.

George K4TH, one of the directors from the SPARC CLUB at the Florida Gulf Coast Radio Council submitted his report of the last meeting to the Secretary for filing.

A film on Harbors and Ports of the U.S. commemorating the Bi-Centennial was shown this was an outstanding film and everyone was very well pleased. The meeting was then placed in recess for coffee and doughnuts. After the recess the second film was shown with the same interest, it also was an outstanding film that is issued by TEXACO on ENERGY and everyone was pleased with this film. Many thanks to Lee Kanarian K4WXS for making this film available, after this film the meeting was adjourned at 2155 hrs local time.....

Submitted by Larry Minor, Secy.

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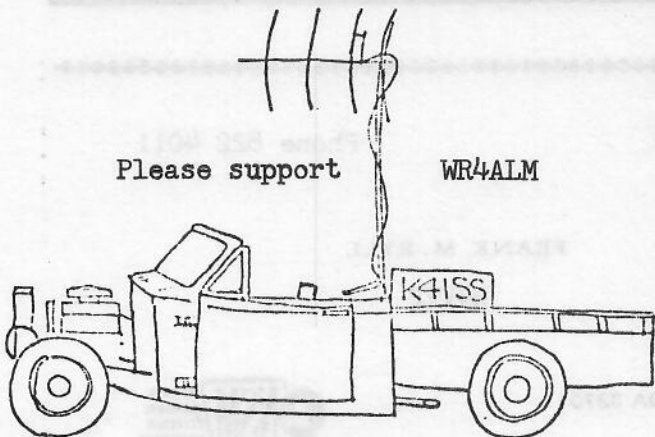


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