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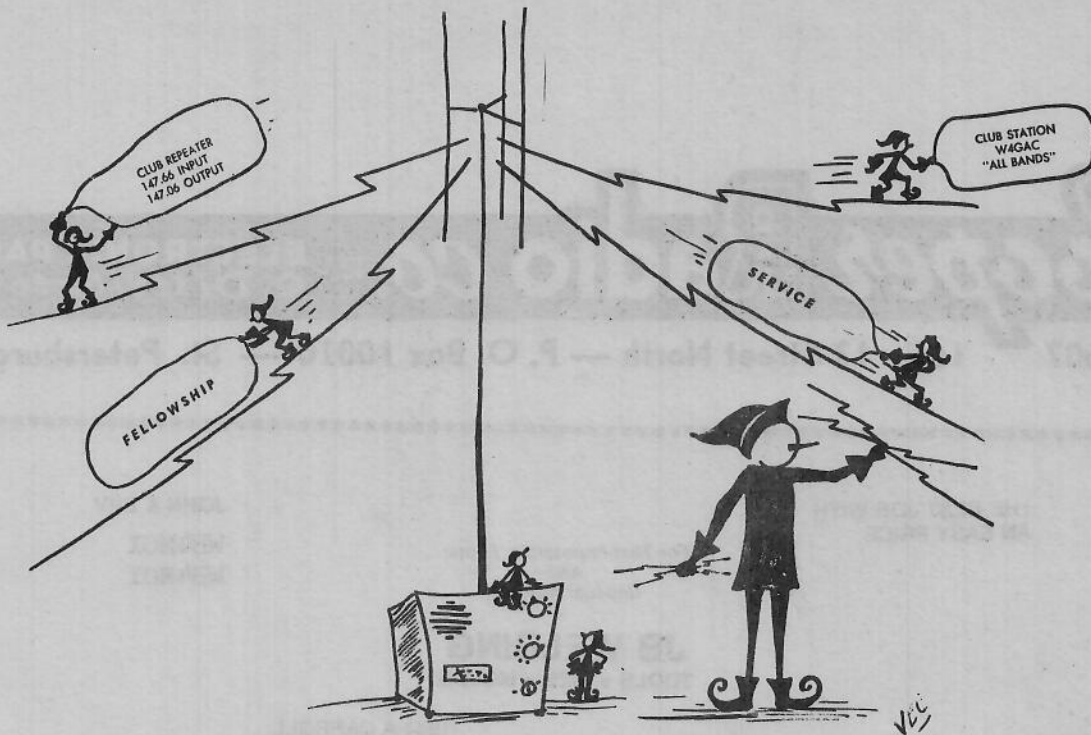
St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club

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ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA
33731

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1851 66th AVE. NORTH
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PHONE 525-2448

S P A R C - G A P

SEPTEMBER 1976



WR4ALM



REGULAR MEETINGS ON THE FIRST FRIDAY
OF EACH MONTH

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NEXT MEETING WILL BE FRIDAY SEPT. 3rd

8:00PM

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Florida.....

PROGRAM...

THE LAST PROGRAM ON MINI-COMPUTERS WAS SO WELL RECEIVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP THAT OUR PRESIDENT BILL COX, WA4FNY PLANS TO HAVE ANOTHER PROGRAM AT THIS MEETING OF A SIMILAR NATURE BUT WITH A DIFFERENT TEAM DOING THE HONORS. SHOULD BE INTERESTING.

.....Y'ALL COME.....

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club was called to order on 8/6/76 at 1958 hours, local by Pres. Bill Cox. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the Secretary and approved as read. The Treasurers report by Frank Ryll revealed \$1144.65 in the checking account \$611.48 in the savings account. Pres. Bill read the announcement of the convention to take place on Nov. 6th & 7th here in the county. Bill introduced George Rae, K4TH who is the Director (from this Club) to the Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council. Some of the highlights of Georges report are : The FCC will be giving Ham exams on Saturday the 6th of November at the convention. There are only 400 seats available, so be sure to get the reservations sent to FCC early, specifically requesting the Nov. 6th date at the convention, also there will be a transmitter hunt on the 7th sponsored by the SPARC club. Linda, WB4FYU reminded everyone that every Sunday the SPARC Club has a "Bunny Hunt" run on 2 meters and invited every one to sharpen their wits and have a good time, after the hunt. There is now a CW net meeting under the sponsorship of SPARC members, Its a section of the 10-10 Club but done on 28,110 kHz in CW and headed by Linda WB4FYU. ALL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO SEEK MORE ADVERTISEMENTS FOR SPARC GAP. CALL JACK W4NOK IF MORE INFORMATION IS NEEDED. The coffee break was had, and then the program begun. The program/demonstration was presented by Bill Thames WB4ARN and Bill Turner WN4ALM. Their subject for the evening was "Small Computer Systems and what they can be to the Radio Amateur". The mini-lectures and the fine demos were well received by the members-Thanks to both Bills. The meeting was adjourned by Pres. Cox at 2200 Hrs. Respectfully Submitted, Larry Miner.

.....
Dates to Remember.....

PLATINUM COAST AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY.

MELBOURNE FLORIDA

HAMFEST

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.....
FLORIDA GULF COAST AMATEUR RADIO COUNCIL CONVENTION

CLEARWATER FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 6TH & 7TH.

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WB4TPJ- John M Brady 519 Crystal Dr. Madeira Beach, 33708
WA4YCV) Paul H Maeder 5281 99th Terr. N. Pinellas Park, 33565
WB4CSF) Clare E Maeder (Liz)
WA4LMQ- Warren Brown 8835 52nd St. N. Pinellas Park, 33565
WA4NZO- James W. Griggs Box 2175 MacDill AFB 33608

++ ROSTERS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED AT MEETINGS-IF YOU HAVENT BEEN TO
MEETINGS TO RECEIVE YOURS - CONTACT FRANK RYLL W4VIP PHONE 867-5950

JOHN H. MERADA- WB4LWB

John was born in Plymouth, Mass, Feb. 25th 1907. He attended grade school up to Jr. high and after school worked as a messenger boy for the Western Union Telegraph Co. He was very proud of this job as he wore an attractive uniform that was furnished by the company that made him a big deal around the boys in his part of town. (At least he thought so.) In those days while waiting for telegrams for delivery the company required him to learn the Morse Code and practise on a sounder. To John this was very fascinating and by the time he was 14 years old was a fully qualified operator. He went from town to town as a relief operator. After the novelty wore off John tried a job with the NYC Railroad claiming to be 22 years old, however the bonding company found out his true age and he was promptly relieved of his job. While this was a disappointment to him as other types of work was uninteresting to John. In October of 1925 he tried join the Navy as a radio operator but enlistment has changed with the years and it took too long. in the meantime he joined the U.S.Coast Guard. He was enlisted as a striker radio operator and soon became third class radioman. Over the years John served on many Coast Guard Cutters, patrol boats, and Radio Stations.

While stationed in St. Petersburg, Fla., He met a little nurse employed at Mound Park Hospital and in November 1933, John and Minnie Lee Hopson were married. After his marriage his next assignment was to Jacksonville Florida to put up a radio station and later was transferred to Coast Guard Air Station, Miami, Florida. While there and at Dinner Key, John and Minnie's first boy was born. This was in 1935 and he was named Robert. Today Bob is a pharmacist in St. Petersburg. He also is a member of the great Ham Fraternity with call letters WB4MCF. As events transpired he was stationed at most of the Coast Guard Air Stations. While located in San Diego California their 2nd son, James was born, June 16th 1942. Shortly thereafter John was transferred to various war time activities, such as navy transports manned by Coast Guard Crews. He was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer. The war years were very unpleasant for John, being away from home and family but he is not remiss about it conjecturing on the fact that he did return where many didnt. John's education was obtained in college level courses from service schools, Capitol Radio Engineering, etc furnished by the service. After WW2, John served as C.G.Electronics Repair, Boston and Argentia, Newfoundland with Ice Patrol detail flying from that point as logist support to Loran stations etc. The last duty was at U.S.Coast Guard Air Station, Lindberg Field, San Diego. He retired after 32 years of service. SPARC is indeed lucky to have a man of John's character as an officer (Vice President) and Sparc-Gap Editor. May his star shine brilliant for many years to come.

.....

PLATINUM COAST AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Proudly Presents the 11th Annual

Melbourne Hamfest

and

ARRL Convention

Melbourne Civic Auditorium and new Ramada Inn, Melbourne, FL
Saturday Sept 11 and Sunday Sept 12, 1976 — 9 am to 5 pm each day

Aug. 6, 1976

SPARC Repeater News

The Repeater Team met August 3, 1976 at the Florida Power Corp. Weedon Island plant with 51 members and guests present. Our thanks to the Florida Power Repeater Club, especially Al Friend WA4BGW, Bill Dudley WA4IBM and Dave Stocky K4KE for hosting this meeting and showing us a good time.

After introductions by Al Friend and a brief business meeting, Bill Dudley gave a slide film and audio presentation of the FPC generating facilities in general and particularly the Weedon Island plant (which they call the Bartow Plant). Then, after coffee break, we were divided into small groups and conducted on tours through the plant. It was very impressive, especially the cleanliness and orderliness which was apparent everywhere. But we especially liked the 230 Megawatt generator ^{and} others, possibly 150 Megawatt each, available to power the Club Repeater if cut off from the rest of the world!

It has been suggested that the SPARC Repeater Team should occasionally have a social function such as a dinner or picnic. Linda Astolfi WB4FYU suggested we might have a picnic or water melon bust following a transmitter hunt on Sunday. Sounds like fun. It would be essentially a dutch treat situation, bring your own or share with each other. So if you are interested in this, talk it up and do it!

Hopefully, our new repeater control system will be in service by the time you read this. The average repeater user should not usually notice any difference, but it is expected to give our control operators more flexibility and relieve some of the strain of long periods of duty.

It doesn't look like we will get a Repeater Team Roster, per se, published this year. If you really want one, why don't you make your own? Here are the stations we have as Team members: W4ACG WB4AIZ WA4AKH W4APV WB4ARZ WA4BGW WB4BNL W4BNM W4BY WA4BZX WA4CGW K4CSC WB4CSF WA4CTM WA4CVV W4CXL W4CZS WA4DHR WA4DUT WB4DWU WB4EEE W4EGM W4EXS K4FCW WA4FEN WB4FLH WA4FNK WA4FNX WA4FNY WB4FYS WB4FYU WA4FZG K4GBR K4GBT WA4GCH WA4GDM WB4GFD W4GPL WB4GWC WA4HKP WA4HOF WA4HYH W4IDW K5IHH K4IJK WB4IKK WB4INB W4IRA K4ISS K4ITR K4JNW WA4KCR WA4KDL K4KE WA4KER K4KIJ WB4KSJ K4KXC K4LCJ WA4LMQ W4LTE WB4LXH W4MCA WB4MCF K4MFF W4MHG WB4MHQ WA4MJT WB4MOX WB4MOY W4MXT K4NAN K4NB WA4NFA W4NMU W4NOK K4NX WB4NZB WA4NZO WA4ORX WB4OYZ WB4PNV W4PWB K4QCG WA4QGU WA4QGV WA4QHE WA2QMR K4RAQ WA4RJO WA4ROX K4RW K4RXO K4SCL K4SQ W4TAD K4TH WB4UOH W4VIP WB4VWO W4VXF WA4WDM K4WXS WB4YCQ WA4YCV WB4YTY WA4ZDY WB4ZPU WB4ZYZ. If you aren't on the list, but think you should be, contact Team treasurer, W4VIP.

Future Repeater Team meetings will generally be held on the 3rd Friday each month at Red Cross 818 4th St. N., St. Petersburg at 7:30 P.M., the next meeting being Sept. 17th.

73 de K4SCL

S P A R C - G A P

CODE AND THEORY CLASS ANNOUNCED.....

The ten week class in amateur radio code and theory is scheduled to start Monday, September 13th. These classes, offered by the Evening Trade Extension of the Adult Education Program, are tuition free. Classes meet twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 to 10 P.M. in room 228, Dixie Hollins High School, 4940 - 62nd Street, North, St. Petersburg. Students completing the course and acquiring the necessary code speed should be fully prepared for an F.C.C. examination up through General class. Classes are conducted by Fred Harriman W4NMU.

+++++

F E E D B A C K

Cathy Soehl, W4BAV recently purchased WB4UOH's rig who is going to Costa Rica as a Missionary. She finally broke down and joined us 2M FM fans and is having a ball riding the air waves all the way from Sarasota.

=

Fred Harriman W4NMU our very good teacher, left for North Carolina where he teaches an Amateur Radio class. Should be back some time during the latter part of August. We miss his illustrious voice on 2M FM.

=

K4RXO, Fran And K4SCL are vacationing in 8 land(What do you bet, Woody takes in a Hamfest or two if there are any in the area)///

=

It is nice to hear our Prez-WA4FNY back in town and on 2M FM. He is busier than a one armed paper hanger with the itch. He is going to be gone for a few weeks but says he will be back for the next meeting.

=

Larry Miner, WA4CTM is off for California where he will go to school for a few weeks and return here to work for Burroughs.

=

Business calls over the repeater is a no-n0. If you are in business and want to direct some one to a job or talk about your commercial business ask the party to stop somewhere and use the land line.

=

Wife to husband, Quotes.. I wish you would quit talking about our reconcilliation as a REMATCH.

SPARC-GAP

St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club

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RTTY NEWS

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

In 1924, a patent conflict between the Morkrum Company and the Kleinschmidt Electric Co., which also manufactured teleprinters, led to a meeting of the interests and an eventual merger under the name Morkrum-Kleinschmidt Corporation; Sterling Morton was the president, and Edward Kleinschmidt and Howard Krum were the vice presidents.

The model 14 type-bar type printer was introduced as a rugged low maintenance machine in 1925. The development resulted from requests by the telegraph companies who wanted to have teleprinters on all their circuits. Because it printed on paper tape, the machine was simpler than a page printer, and it could handle messages a bit faster because it did not have to carriage return or line feed.

For simplicity, the company's name was changed from Morkrum-Kleinschmidt to Teletype Corporation in 1928. 15,500 machines were made from 1918 to 1927; 12,700 were produced in 1928 and 25,200 were made in 1929.

Teletype Corp. was bought by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company in 1930 and was made a subsidiary of its Western Electric Company.

Next time: The Model 15 arrives!

NOTES OF INTEREST:-

Our Sparc Gap Editor John Merada, WB4LWB is galavanting to his annual trip up around Massachusetts. Visiting an ailing brother, first and secondly to have his fill of those good fish products that come from that area.

FROM AMATEUR RADIO NEWS BULLETIN:

It has been reported that a Horse passed the test for an Amateur License. This is the first time to our knowledge that a whole horse has accomplished this.

STAND BY EDITOR FOR THIS MONTH:-

Jack Adams-W4NOK--Your regular editor handles all complaints.

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SPARC - GAP

+++++

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BIGGEST WEEK-END OF THE YEAR - NOVEMBER 6, 7, 1976



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FLORIDA GULF COAST AMATEUR RADIO COUNCIL; Inc.

Synopsis of Meeting of July 14, 1976

The two main topics discussed at this meeting were the contents of last meeting's minutes, and the incorporation of the Council.

Discussion of last month's report were the estimated expenses to be incurred, in staging the Convention, and these expenses proposed as a tentative budget, by Fred, K4KIK. This point was brought forward by the representative (Director) of the New Port Richey Club.

Evidently, the members of the New Port Richey Club; after reading the Minutes, misconstrued their meaning, or - did not have them properly interpreted by their representative. They assumed that the proposal, presented by K4KIK, was an accepted budget, and that the Council had indebted themselves for almost \$6,000. Which raised the further question, as to what extent the member clubs were obligated in the event of a default of payment of these debts. New Port Richey wanted immediate answers to these questions, with the implied hint that - unless the answers were satisfactory - they would withdraw from the Council. There was also the question as to the responsibility and the obligation of the various Directors, when voting on proposals, and to what extent the member Clubs were involved by such votes.

The Chair - after deploring the implied threat in these questions - undertook to clarify the matter, along with the Council's Attorney of Record. The figures presented by K4KIK were an estimation, and NOT a budget. Nor were these figures approved, or voted upon. The Council HAS NOT indebted, nor obligated, itself for any expenses. Bills presented have been paid - the Council is financially solvent - and the projected financial prospect is good. The only obligation that the Council has, in staging the Convention, is the renting of 200 rooms and staging a Banquet at the Hotel. The meeting rooms, convention hall and auditorium are presented as a service by the hotel, and there is no costs for the usage of these facilities.

The Attorney then clarified the question as to what extent member clubs were responsible, in the unforeseen event of a default by the Council on financial debts. The answer to this is **NOTHING!** By incorporating the Council, any debtor must look to the assets of the Council for satisfaction of any financial claims. He cannot look to any member club, or individual member, for satisfaction of any judgement.

It was further pointed out that each member club is obligated, and bound, by the actions of their delegated representatives in conducting the business of the Council. As a personal aside, I would like to iterate - therefor - that each club should choose it's representatives carefully, and with consideration of these factors. This expatiation seemed to satisfy the New Port Richey Director and the meeting passed on to other business.

Continued

SPARC - GAP

- 2 -

Further business conducted with the Attorney, consisted of drawing up petitions to the I.R.S. and U.S. Post Office, for Tax Exempt status and bulk mailing rates. There seems to be no foreseeable problems in these areas, other than the interminable amount of papers required to be filed. It was pointed out that - if we did not get bulk mailing rates - the expense of mailing a letter would go from 1.7¢ to 7.7¢ per item. So Tax Exempt status is important.

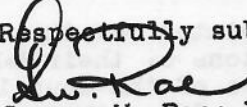
Due to the indisposition of Gene WB4VWO, I was asked to present his report as Chairman of the Prize Committee. Very briefly; the total expenses of the committee were \$37.69, and the prizes donated amounted to \$595.00. Gene has obtained committee approval for the purchase of the main door prize. This consists of a DRAKE TR-40; RV-4; MS-4; AC-4; or a complete HF Station. This represents a retail value of over \$900.00, for the purchase price of only \$503.00. Gene also has many more 'goodies' on hand, and promised, and prize-wise, it looks like an exciting Convention. Gene's report was very well received by the Council, and they are very pleased with his Chairmanship and efforts. Gene has been receiving \$15 value, for every \$1 spent.

Exposition Booths are practically sold-out, there being only three left uncommitted. I have been erroneously reporting that the price for a booth was \$37.50. The actual price is \$75.00! with a cost of \$50 per booth, to the Council, this price represents a profit of \$25 per booth.

The tickets are at the Printers and should be available for sale by July 24th. Tickets are the responsibility of the Clearwater A.R.S., and should be distributed for sale by the end of the month. It is proposed that advance purchase and registration will entitle the purchaser to three (3) extra chances for the main prize. Registration at the door will entitle you to only one (1) chance. You may also purchase additional chances - 11 for \$10.00. Or; 30 for \$25.00.

F.C.C. will conduct license exams on the ninth floor, on November sixth. Exams with code elements will start at 9:00 AM, and non-code exams at 11:00 AM. Persons wishing to avail themselves of this service should send their application and fees to the Tampa Office, of the F.C.C., by October 29, 1976, specifying an exam date of Nov. 6, 1976.

Respectfully submitted;


George W. Rae; K4TH
SPARC Representative.

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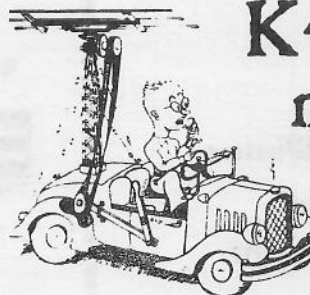
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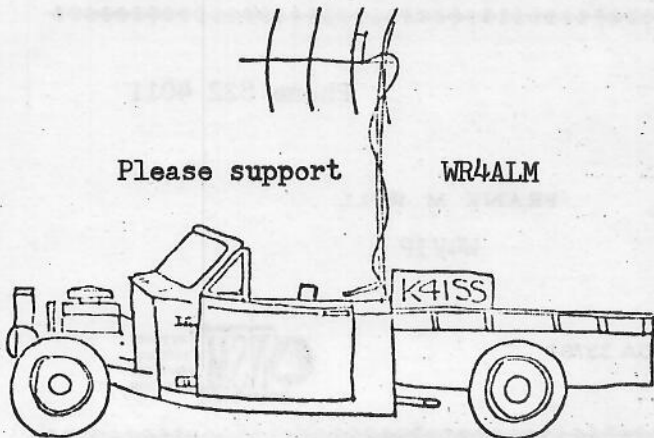
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