

SPARC GAP

ST. PETERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

CLUB CALL W4GAC
REPEATER CALL WR4ALM
(147.66 IN) (147.06 OUT)

CLUB MEETING ON THE FIRST FRIDAY
REPEATER MEETING ON THE THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH

P.O. BOX 4026
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA
33731

APRIL 1978



PRESIDENT C.E.(REX) Cottrell W4GPL
800 Bay Point Dr. Madeira Beach 33708
Phone 391-5158

EDITOR-PUBLISHER Jack Adams W4NOK
1851 66th Ave N. ST.Petersburg 33702
Phone 525-2448

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S P A R C - G A P
+=====+

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON APRIL 7, 1978 AT 8:00 P.M. AT THE RED CROSS
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818 - 4th Street No., St. Petersburg, FL

P R O G R A M

Preparations for the upcoming public service events: Festival of States
Parades, Mutt Derby and Boat Regatta. Please come if you volunteered.
+=====+

The meeting of March 3, 1978 was called to order by Rex Cottrell W4GPL,
President at 8:00 P.M. Sixty one members and guests were welcomed.

The program for the evening was presented by one of our members, Bud
Norwood WA4QGV. He spoke on the subject of insurance and how it pertains
to our radio gear. It was an extremely informative program and we thank
WA4QGV for coming all the way from Sarasota for this meeting. He was asked
to present another program in the near future.

The meeting was recessed at 9:00 P.M. for coffee and doughnuts, and
was called back to order at 9:30 P.M.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Frank Ryll W4VIP.

Rex Cottrell W4GPL requested that members volunteer for the Festival
of States activities. Betty Bellows WA4TJG took the names of the volunteers.

Rex Cottrell W4GPL announced that the April meeting will be a short
meeting to prepare for the upcoming public service events. The May meeting
will feature Vic and Linda Astolfi, WB4FYS and WB4FYU, and their computer.

Hank Huth WA4WKO told about his column in FLORIDA SKIP. He is planning
to combine the activities of the SPARC and the Metro Amateur Radio Club into
one column. He is also having trouble collecting news items and requests
that anyone with an item of general interest contact him.

Recognition was given to Bob Smith WB40IG for his excellent work in the
mailing of the SPARC GAP paper and for obtaining a lower postage rate. Thanks
Bob.

Woody Huddleston K4SCL gave the Repeater Team Report. He said that
repairs and maintainance have been recently done on the equipment. He pur-
chased a replacement strip and tubes at the Miami Hamfest. He also said that
an updated letter needs to be sent to Mr. Dusseault at the St. Petersburg
Times.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 P.M.

RADIO CLASS

de
WA4WOU

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RADIO NOVICE, TECHNICIAN,
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S P A R C G A P

THE PREZ SEZ

Well, here we are again with our Spring tourist activity program to try to help out. We do have to admit that it is a chance for us to show our friends (friends ?) and neighbors that we aren't just a bunch of nuts with a lot of wires all over the roof, and occasionally, the source of the interference on their favorite T.V. program.

As you know, several of the events for this Spring are past history by the time this is published, but the fact remains: HAMS have been able to prove their worth in a public spirited way, and they have furnished a service, not otherwise available to Mr. John Q. Public or the various organizations he represents.

When we consider Walkathons, boat races, parades, swim meets, and sporting events, this writer feels that we have a place in normal Civilian life. This "fun" practice keeps us prepared for the many types of disasters and emergencies that come to the news surface daily. HR reports that the New York City Police value amateur radio assistance to the point that they are arranging Police/Ham training classes for future assistance in emergencies.

This writer wants to thank each and everyone of you for your time, help, good will, and willingness to give of your time. To those of you who would like to have helped but circumstances prevented your participation, your desire and interest are also very much appreciated.

With vacation time almost here, let me wish all of you the very best one ever in case I don't get a chance to say so in person.

Our April club meeting will be almost completely taken up with Festival of States Parade events. We will have a very good program on tap for May and we hope to see all of you at both meetings.

Any suggestions and/or criticisms you have in reference to our Club can be talked over. My phone number is 391-5158.

73

W4GPL

This is a BIG THANK YOU to Alice Stocky WB4ZPU for taking over my duties as Secretary last month. Thanks, Gal, you're one in a million. You did a super job!

And this is another BIG THANK YOU to everyone who wished me good thoughts while I was in the hospital. I enjoyed hearing your comments on the repeater, and I especially enjoyed receiving all the lovely (and some funny) cards. I am still getting them from my fellow hams all over the State, and I know they did more to keep my spirits high and get me back to good health than all the medicine in the world! 76 to each and everyone of you.

Faith WA4WOU

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING NAMES TO YOUR 1977 MEMBERSHIP LIST.

WA4BOR Lowell S. Horle	301 Belcher #903	Largo 33541	536-3973
WD4IVE Jim Whitmire	1530 72 Ave. N.E.	33702	879-2571
WB4BCF Dana Parks	705 Country Park	Clearwater 33516	536-7289
W4 BUB Edgar Powers	109 Phillips Way	Palm Harbor 33563	784-1656
WB4PIB Walt McLennan	6346 Beechwood	Sarasota 33581	
W1MXT Doc Leavitt	804 E. Hamilton	Tampa 33604	
" " "	after May 1	P.O.Box 58 Millinocket, Maine	04462
WB4SNU Ken Moyer	3606 Oriole Lane	Seminole 33542	393-1751
WB4DWA Wm Schoppe	1100 102 Ave N. #103	33702	576-4665

CONGRATULATIONS TO
SPARC and SPARC REPEATER TEAM.



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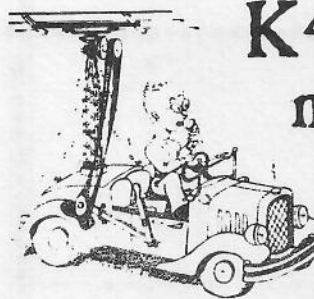
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*If we meet and you forget
me, you have lost nothing;
but if you meet JESUS
CHRIST and forget Him
you have lost everything.*



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REMEMBER WHEN ?

The City of St. Petersburg discovered that if it faced a major disaster it needed volunteer communications. The St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club got behind this project and appointed Woody (K4SCL) Repeater Trustee. They accepted the free site offered by the City and applied for a license in Aug. 1974.

The license arrived Dec. 20 1974 and it went on the air that night at 8:15. It was given the call sign WR4ALM.

The repeater included a G.E. Progress Line repeater station with 80 watts output, W1QAN duplexer, and a Phelps Dodge Super Station Master Antenna, which at the time was side mounted at 106' and was located at Old Fire Headquarters 150-14 St. N. The equipment was in a standard G.E. cabinet about 60"x22"x22", with doors and locks front and back. A loud speaker sets on top, a green lamp glows when the filaments are on, and a red lamp lights when the transmitter is keyed. Two meters are available for checking or monitoring various receiver and transmitter circuits.

The CW station identifier has a computer-type memory and circuitry which transmits the repeater call sign in CW every 3 minutes, if the repeater has been used during this 3 minutes.

The meeting place for the repeater team was held in a classroom at the Fire Headquarters.

Remote control was accomplished by dedicated telephone lines. The State had to investigate each control operator. This took considerable time and was costly. Each control point required a control encoder and battery with a charger.

Moving day was March 7, 1976. We left Fire Headquarters and moved to our present site at the St. Petersburg Times and Independent Publishing Co. 1301 -34 St. N. Our own brand new Phelps Dodge Super Station Master Antenna and hard-line coaxial feed-line was placed 210' above ground level.

Mrs. Kalabash (extreme interference at Fire Headquarters) was once and for all laid to rest. SUCH JOY---and also we did not disturb our new neighbors on the tower with QRM.

Our repeater cabinet is housed in the little metal building at the base of the tower. The dedicated telephone lines had to be also moved, which was an added expense.

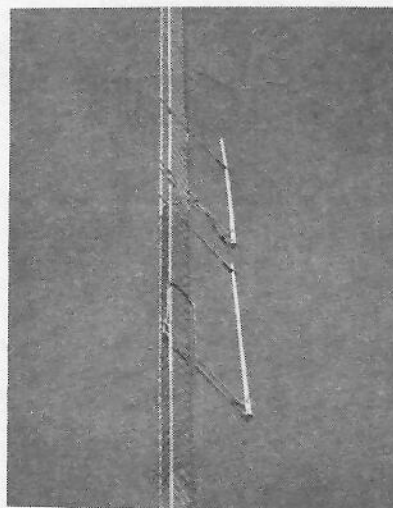
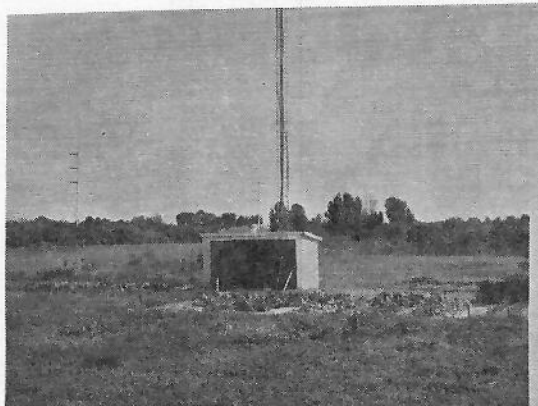
Our next major move was May 1976 to change our meeting place to the American Red Cross 818 -4 St. N. We enjoyed more room, a kitchen (before the coffee pot had to be filled at a water spigot outside of the building) and last but not least bathrooms. Who can forget the long drive to the "outhouse"!!!

Nov. 17, 1976 we were able to go from dedicated phone lines to our present control system. This system uses a simple tone encoder and any telephone, which gives the control operators freedom of movement during their watch.

Our latest addition is an extra transmitter strip.

I hope this brings all members up to date on the repeater history. As you all know it takes a lot of loving care, dedicated people, and money to keep it on the air. The repeater is just a machine --- it's the fellowship, consideration, and respect for others that makes SPARC 147.66/06 famous.

de WA4TJG



BITS & PIECES

For the first time in history we are about to achieve true democracy. The reason? Inflation. Luxuries and necessities are selling for the same price.

Save money on your Homeowners Insurance. Many homeowners policies have a \$100 deductible on wind and hail and a \$50 deductible on all other perils. The \$100 deductible on wind and hail is mandatory. The \$50 deductible on all other perils (fire, lightning, theft, etc.) is optional. Check with your agent to see how much you can save by going to a straight \$100 deductible on all perils. You will probably be surprised to find that you will save a minimum of \$15 per year. In just a little over 3 years you would have paid out the \$50 in premium.

The chief deduction most people make from their income tax is that government costs too much.

Is my amateur radio transceiver covered by my automobile insurance policy if it is permanently attached to my car and I carry comprehensive coverage on my policy? Yes, says State Farm Mutual, world's largest insurer of automobiles. State Farm's policy excludes coverage on citizens band transceivers and stereo tape decks unless you purchase specific coverage for them. Amateur transceivers that are (1) wired into the car's electrical system and (2) mounted to the vehicle (mounting bracket) are covered for theft losses, assuming that you are a licensed radio amateur and are carrying comprehensive coverage on your auto policy. CAUTION: Check with your agent. All companies are not the same. Some exclude coverage on all two-way radio equipment

There's an element of truth in every idea that lasts long enough to be called corny. Irving Berlin

Rumor Mill: Swan is planning to enter the VHF-UHF market in a big way. Dentron's new HF transceiver sounds nothing short of fantastic, and at an affordable price, made in USA. Production date still unknown.

Michigan Legislature proposes new bill to require Police Permit for CB radios, and other similar devices. Supposedly the only exceptions would be law enforcement officers or a bona fide amateur radio operator holding a "conditional, general, advanced, or extra class amateur license". Looks like they are a little behind times with the term "conditional". What about Technicians? Violators would be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or by a fine of not more than \$500, or both.

73 de WA4QGV

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I've taken Christ as my Savior;

All my sins are forgiven;

I'm going to live with God forever; and

I have no fear of death any more.

A person with those benefits is GUARANTEED nice days. Only one thing might tarnish my joy. The fact that you may not have them.

It's so simple to have them. All you have to do is receive Christ. He is the GUARANTEE, and He's available. Here's His offer:

"Behold I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in!" (Revelation 3:20)

You've answered a knock before. As you'd open the door of your home to a friend, open your heart to Christ. Say to Him..."Come into my heart Lord, and be my Savior." The peace you feel after that is your GUARANTEE that...

you'll have a nice day, and a nice forever too!



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OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 693 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT FEBRUARY 16 1978 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT
The FCC announced February 13, 1978 that it is permitting licensed amateur radio operators to operate their primary stations as repeater, auxiliary link, control and remotely controlled stations without prior FCC approval. Primary stations operating in the repeater mode must identify by following their call sign with RPT/repeater, primary stations operating in the auxiliary link mode must identify by following their call sign with AUX/auxiliary, depending on the mode used. There are no special identification requirements required for primary stations operating in the control or remotely controlled modes. This waiver is effective immediately and will terminate when the FCC releases a further order in 21033 pertaining to this matter. The upcoming edition of the Repeater Directory will include active repeaters operating under this new authorization, as well as those operating under WR call signs, provided that information has been registered with ARRL headquarters by March 1 AR

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 695 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT FEBRUARY 23 1978 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

Starting April 1, WIAW will aim beams on 20, 15 and 10 meters at Europe for code practice and CW and RTTY bulletins at 1400, 1500, 1600 and 2100 UTC, Monday, Wednesday and Friday only. The trial will run three months and continuance of the service will depend on listener response. Further details will appear in Operating News, March QST. AR

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 694 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT FEBRUARY 16 1978 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

FCC has adopted type acceptance of amateur power amplifiers and a ban on all commercially available power amplifiers capable of being operating between 24 and 35 MHz. The Commission has not yet determined the effective date of the new rules, adopted in Dockets 21116 and 21117 on February 16, 1978. An amateur will continue to have the right to build or modify an amplifier for personal use on the ten meter band. AR

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 692 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT FEBRUARY 10 1978 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

On Wednesday February 8, FCC took action in Docket 21135 to abolish the licensing of secondary and special events stations. No action concerning the disposition of club, military recreation, and RACES stations was taken at this time. However, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning the revision of eligibility criteria and processing procedures for these types of licenses. Also, an immediate freeze was imposed on the acceptance of applications for new club, military recreation, and RACES station licenses. Modifications and renewals will still be accepted. Present secondary station licenses will be valid until the end of their terms, and procedures will be set up to allow licensees to switch their primary and secondary call signs should they prefer to keep their secondary call. The effective date of the action is not yet known, but will be no sooner than March 13. AR

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 691 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT FEBRUARY 9 1978 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

In their traditional role, amateurs ably supplied emergency communications during the blizzards which paralyzed the midwest and northeast during the past several weeks. QST will document the performance of amateurs who aided the communications in an upcoming issue. To maintain the completeness of our record of public service, please report your blizzard related activities to the ARRL Communications Department, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Each amateur reported active will receive the ARRL Public Service Award soon after the QST writeup appears. AR



Continued **FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**
FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU

- 2 -

The amateur should first determine that he has complied with Section 97.73 of the amateur rules in reducing or eliminating spurious radiations. The spurious radiation shall not be of sufficient intensity to cause interference in receiving equipment of good engineering design including adequate selectivity characteristics, which is tuned to a frequency or frequencies outside the frequency band of emission normally required for the type of emission being employed by the amateur station. He should also comply with Section 97.77 in various other respects, such as eliminating feedback of radio frequency energy through power lines and by reducing direct radiation from the different stages of his transmitter and from the a.c. and d.c. leads which should not, but which might, be radiating radio frequency energy.

After assuring himself that his transmitter is not at fault the amateur should, as a matter of voluntary cooperation with the complainant, determine whether or not the operation of his transmitter blankets television reception. If such is the case the amateur should suggest the installation of a high-pass filter. If the filter, when connected at the receiver terminals reduces the interference, it is very probable that when it is connected inside the receiver at the tuner input by the receiver manufacturer's representative or the TV viewer's radio serviceman, it will eliminate or very greatly reduce the interference. If the amateur station operation to which the TV receiver is found susceptible is confined entirely to a single frequency it may be simpler to correct or mitigate this condition by means of a simple wave trap tuned to the amateur station's fundamental frequency and connected to the input of the TV receiver. In extreme cases the amateur might find it helpful to reorient his antenna with respect to the complainant's antenna, and possibly reduce power on the frequency to which the TV set is susceptible during those times the complainant has a program he particularly wishes to see or hear, in order to lessen the strength of the induction field of his transmitting antenna at those times.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON INTERFERENCE SUPPRESSION

There are many sources of published information outlining steps for the suppression of interference. Books, radio amateur magazines and other publications covering this subject are available at public libraries and book stores. While the Commission is not in a position to recommend or approve any individual publication on this subject, the following information is furnished for assistance. "Television Interference", compiled by the Remington Rand Laboratory of Advanced Research, South Norwalk, Conn., contains reprints of selected magazine articles on TVI, and lists a large number of references to such articles. "TVI - Television Interference, Its Causes and Cures" published by Radio Magazines, Inc., New York, "The Radio Amateur's Handbook" published by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), Newington, Conn. and "Radio Handbook" published by Editors and Engineers Limited, Santa Barbara, California, all contain information concerning TVI problems. The January 1952 issue of QST, a magazine published by the ARRL, outlines the Commission's plan for handling TVI. Information is given on the manner in which Commission field offices cooperate with technical committee groups assisting in problems of interference to radio and television.

For your convenience and guidance, some of the more usual steps to be taken in the elimination of interference are listed below:

- (a) Completely shield your transmitter.
- (b) Install a well-shielded low-pass filter.
- (c) Reduce transfer of harmonics between stages by means such as loosely coupled grounded link coupling between stages and electrostatic shielding in RF coupling transformers.
- (d) Install a high "Q" series inserted parallel tuned harmonic trap in the plate circuit

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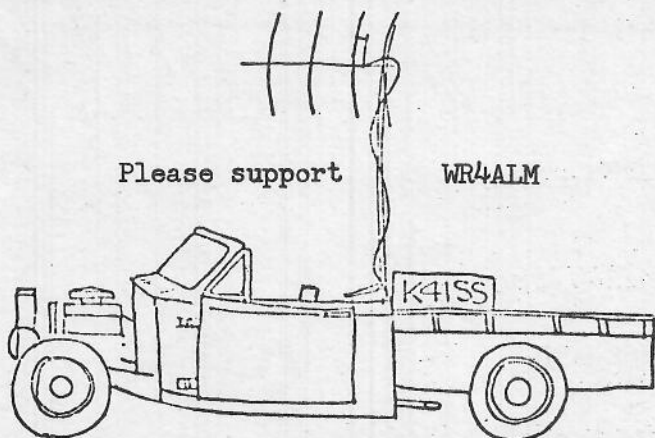
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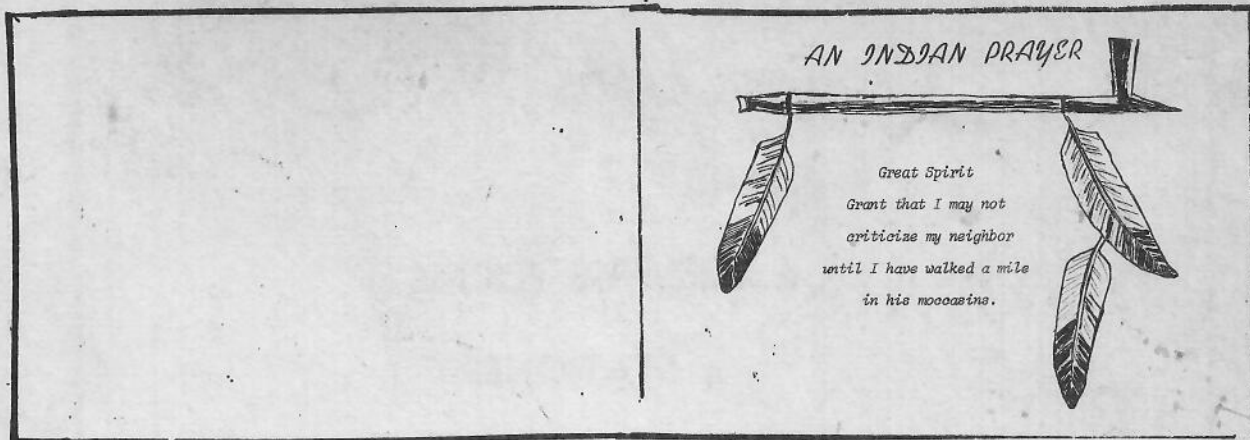
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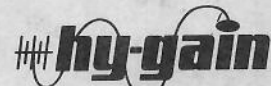
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