

SPARC GAP

ST. PETERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

JULY 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
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S P A R C G A P

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON JULY 7, 1978 AT 8:00 P.M. AT THE RED CROSS
HEADQUARTERS

818 - 4th Street No., St. Petersburg, FL

Two representatives from the local Chapter of the Red Cross will present their hurricane disaster plan for this season.

+++++

The meeting of June 2, 1978 was called to order by Rex Cottrell W4GPL at 8:00 P.M. Seventy members and guests were welcomed.

The auction started immediately after everyone introduced themselves. Gene Scarbro WB4VWO was the auctioneer. The Club treasury was increased by the total of \$107.30. Thanks to everyone who participated.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Faith WA4WOU, Secretary

THE AUCTION

You missed it???? There were so many wonder items offered. John Smith W4ACG even spent 20¢!!! The finals, receivers, selsyns-filters, ship-to-shore, mobil antennas, and the beautiful jewelry! Fabulous. The earrings, necklaces, the shawls, the excellent items turned out by the women - even the empty antique bottles that were sold looked interesting. If only they were still full.

Our able auctioneer, Gene Scarbro WB4VWO, had us all laughing so hard we were crying. Who was that fellow that was buying all those dc transformers???? WA4WKO almost bought a pair of selsyns he didn't bid on..what a sharp auctioneer. Even Woody K4SCL who bought a load of gear ran out of money. Don W4OJH bought a telephone and typewriter. Debbie WD4NQZ bought a kw low pass filter. For the mobile, John?

Faith WA4WOU had a receiver that found a home with a 13 year old novice-to-be. Rex W4GPL, who bought, and bought. What an array of equipment.

Was that an eleven element two meter beam???? A six meter J'pole, 80 meter mobile, insulators, etc????? Herb W4IRA bought a bunch of coax fittings with service tested coax cables attached, chassis, parts. Now has to build some equipment to use up the goodies.

Was a nice turn out of folks who thoroughly enjoyed the meeting. Clubs are not all drills and compelled to perform functions. There's fun to be had....join us at the SPARC meetings and nets.

de WA4WKO

S P A R C - G A P

W4GPL

C. E. "Rex" COTTRELL
800 Bay Point Drive
Madeira Beach, Fla.
33708

The Prez Sez:

As you know May was an active one for us with the County Hospitals. All 21 of them being active on a simulated communication problem and the critique that followed. SPARC is working closely with those hospitals in the county and south of 74th Ave North.

Woody, K4SCL & Fran, K4RXO, were host & hostess to a group of NCS stations for the County Emerg. Nets and a start was made toward County wide coordination of Amateur operations for all types of emergencies requiring Amateur assistance.

We had 70 members and guests at the Friday night Club meeting & auction, which netted the club about \$107. Believe I can safely say, that we all had a fine time and Auctioneer Scarbro, WB4VWO, was at his very best. As you may well imagine, most all of us purchased something we didn't need, but thought was just what we wanted.

Betty, WA4TJG has things lined up nicely for the dinner at the Carless Navigator for Friday, June 9th. With a guest list of approximately 40 slated to attend. THANKS, Betty for all of your interest and work, maby I should say time too!

Last Sunday, June 4th, K4ISS and WB4YCQ couldn't find anyone on a Bunny-Hunt so they had their own. Larry found a hole and George was digging him out, guess they have the BUG bad, but don't think that it is fatal.

Hope to see you-all at the July 2nd repeater meeting and/or the July 30 Club meeting. At the Club meeting we will have a member of the South County Red Cross Chapt. The program is to be on disaster procedures by the Red Cross and it's associates.

Very Best 73,
Rex W4GPL

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 711 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS...
NEWINGTON CT JUNE 6, 1978 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

Potential Field Day OSCAR users are reminded that OSCAR 7 will be limited to Mode B and that OSCAR 8 will be on Mode J only for the duration of Field Day. The complete OSCAR 8 Field Day schedule is available for a self addressed stamped envelope to ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. W1AW will transmit Field Day OSCAR 8 orbital data on 24 June 1978 following the regular bulletin schedule. AR

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 708 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS...
NEWINGTON CT MAY 18, 1978 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

Two new milestones were reached by amateur operators this week. Ben Stevenson, W2BXA, qualified for the first Satellite DXCC and Connie T. Marshall, K5CM, was awarded the second two meter WAS Club award. On another subject, FCC sources have indicated that those former holders of the Novice class license whose tickets expired prior to May 15, 1978 may apply for renewal without reexamination within one year of their license expiration date. Form 610 is used for this purpose. Send a self-addressed envelope with fifteen cents postage to Special Request, ARRL, Newington, CT 06111 AR

FENDER BENDER

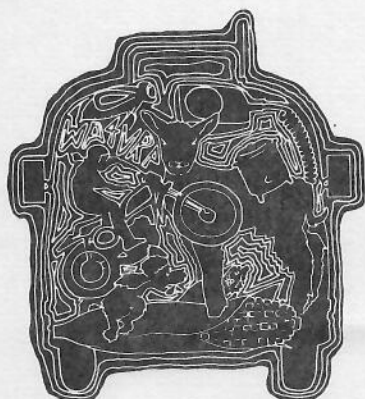
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W4TAD



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HIS ONE MISTAKE

His one mistake! He brushed his teeth twice a day with a nationally advertised toothpaste. The doctors examined him twice a year. He slept with the windows open. He stuck to a diet with plenty of fresh vegetables. He relinquished his tonsils and traded in several worn-out glands.

He golfed--but never more than 18 holes at a time. He got at least eight hours' sleep every night. He never smoked, drank or lost his temper. He did his "daily dozen" daily. He was all set to live to be a hundred.

The funeral will be held Wednesday. He's survived by eight specialists, three health institutions, two gymnasiums and numerous manufacturers of health foods and antiseptics.

He forgot God, lived as if this world was all, and is now with those who say, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." (Jeremiah 8:20).

Dear Friend: Are you making this mistake? It certainly isn't necessary. The Bible says: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10:9)

For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Mark 8:36,37)



ONE WAY--JESUS--Won't you receive
Him into your life today?

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SPARC GAP

NOSTALGIA-

My tenure in SPARC dates back to the fall of 1961 and much water has flowed under the bridge since that time. We published in SPARC GAP about 12 years ago the original organization of SPARC in 1932 and its activities up its incorporation in 1954. Phil Mc Masters one of the original Presidents wrote the article. Sparc has had many ups and downs since its birth in 1932 but has been operated ever since which is quite a feat in itself. There has been thousands of clubs organize and fold since that time. Some very successful for a while. Meeting places sometimes have been excellent, as now and some very meager. Since 1961 and for several years SPARC spinned its wheels, not progressing much nor degressing much either.

There were about 35 to 60 members most years. Contrary to the by laws, nearly every thing was handled on the floor rather than by committee or the Executive Committee. Can you imagine the arguments, long winded discussions which made for very dull meetings and members who didnt like this sort of thing were conspicuous by there absence. There was little entertainment.

When John Smith, W4ACG became President things began to Progress. The Executive Committee began running the Club, in the meantime we had graduated to a better meeting place-There was planned entertainment. One exception that was to come later. It was mostly social with little time devoted to the propagation of Amateur Radio and there was ~~praticallly~~ no on the air activity as it applied to a Club. Oh! yes, there was a very good picnic hamfest every year and some field day activity and an installation dinner. The purpose of a Radio Club should be Radio and to exist you must have a purpose and in about 15 years of club research those that have stayed in existance over the years definately had a purpose and in most instances followed that purpose first. Now there are several Radio Clubs supported wholly by large corporations and usually consists mostly of their employees.

Along came the repeater team and 2 meter FM. We ~~not~~ have a purpose. The propagation of Radio, communications in time of disaster, excellent affiliation with the Red Cross, Much larger membership with working hams activity in civic affairs, A complete Radio Station, A well trained net with plenty of intra net affiliation. We still have the social part of the club. Even SPARC GAP has graduated from a 2 page mimeo sheet to 18 pages Offset.

Congratulations SPARC for 46 years of existance and development into a very fine Radio Club.

de W4NOK

ROSTER CORRECTION

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Gary Gardner 3611 Burlington Ave.No. (Barbara K.) St. Petersburg 33713	NONE	895-3496
Bill Lynch 1837 Meadow Lane Clearwater 33516	NONE	447-4729
John R. Oden (Marjorie) 1840 54th Ave. No. St. Petersburg 33714	WD4 IGI	522-1462
Billy Kent Dodd 11358 92nd Str.No. Largo, Fla. 33543	WA4 QHE	392-6178

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 707 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CONN MAY 11, 1978 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

International Telecommunication Union Day May 17, 1978 will be celebrated worldwide by many activities. Notable among these are the Canadian Radio Relay League with special events station C3J3ITU on all high frequency bands and the Japan Amateur Radio League with three special events stations. 8J1ITU will operate on 40 meters through 70 cm, 8J3ITU on 160 meters through 23 cm and 8J9ITU on 160 meters through 2 meters. Both countries' special event stations will use all popular modes of operation and will reply to QSL cards received through their respective QSL bureau. The Canadian operation will be on ITU day only. However, the JARL stations will operate May 13 through 18. On a new subject, delayed delivery of the 1978 ARRL Repeater Directory is now expected shortly. If your request is not yet on file, send a six by nine inch or larger self addressed envelope, with 46 cents postage affixed, to ARRL Repeater Directory, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. AR

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 709 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT MAY 25, 1978 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

A ten meter beacon is operating in North Hollywood, California, under FCC special temporary authorization. Until September 30, W6IRT will be operating on 28.888 MHz using low power cw emission. Monthly reception reports are solicited. This beacon supplements several beacons now operating around the world just above 28.200 MHz. A complete list will appear in How's DX, June QST. AR

SPARC-GAP

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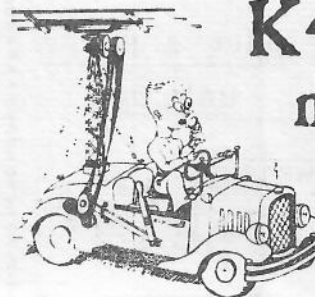
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me, you have lost nothing;
but if you meet JESUS
CHRIST and forget Him
you have lost everything.*



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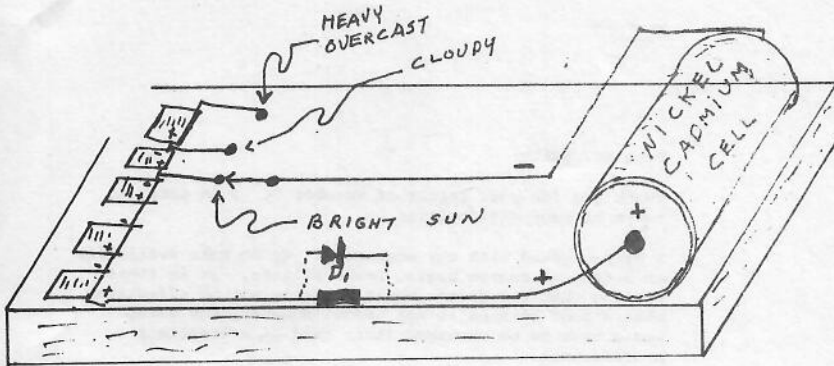
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SOLAR POWER BATTERY CHARGER by Joe Rice-W4RHZ



It is now possible to use the sun's energy to do useful work. For years we have had photo-electric cells which were able to detect light rays. These did not have suitable power to do useful work.

Here is a battery (cell) charger operating from one of the new solar cells. These cells are capable of providing from 50 to 100 ma. of current. There are two models. The ones I used are sold by Radio Shack under the trade name of ARCHER and having part No. 276-128. Callectro Company has two models also. They sell them as single units or one model has two cells connected in series providing 1-volt at 50 ma.

These satellite type cells are rated at their full current capacity of 50 ma only in bright sunlight. They are rated at 0.5 volts each. In order to obtain a voltage of 1.5 volts they must be connected in series.

As a demonstration unit I used an EVEREADY CH-50 Nickel-Cadmium cell rated at 1.2 volts and a current capacity rated at 1.2 amp-hours. This was a type D cell.

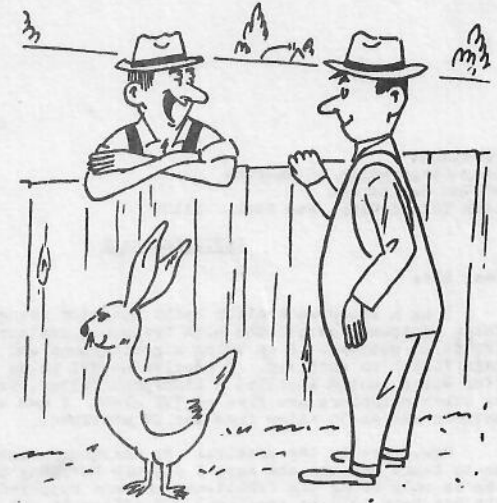
I found that the cell you wished to charge could not be left in the circuit as in the absence of light the cell would discharge through the energy cells. Whether the energy cells provided a resistance path, or whether they acted as a primary cell is not known to me. The fact remains, however, that some means must be provided to disconnect the battery from the energy cell in darkness or the battery will be discharged.

The addition of a diode, such as a 1N34, connected in series with one of the leads solves this problem. It also adds another problem. There is a voltage drop in the neighborhood of about 0.2 to 0.4 volts across the diode. So it takes another energy cell to compensate for this additional IR drop.

There is a lot of variation in the amount of sunlight available on a given day. This can be adjusted by the switch as shown. For a bright, sunny day, you will need the minimum voltage and for various conditions of overcast you can add more cells as the condition warrants.

Although I have shown only one cell it is a simple matter to add more in parallel or for that matter you can arrange for higher voltages for other batteries.

From Mike & Key
Hal Gruber W8MGP, EDITOR.



"I hear you've been doing some experimenting over here, Harry."



"THAT MR. HAZELTON SETS UP THE BIGGEST HOWL EVERY TIME I CHANGE HIS BANDAGE."

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 710 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON CT JUNE 1, 1978 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

On June 16, 1978 the FCC will implement a new method of conducting FCC administered amateur radio license examinations. Applicants who pass the code test for the class of license for which they are applying will receive credit for the code test even if the applicant fails the written portion of the examination. This code test credit will be good for up to one year, and valid only at the FCC office that administered the code test. For example, an applicant for a General Class license who passes the 13 wpm test, but fails the written portion, will receive a certificate giving him credit for the 13 wpm code test. During the next year he may return to the same FCC office and would only be required to take and pass the written portion of the examination to obtain his General Class license. This code test credit program does not apply to Novice Class examinations which are administered by volunteer examiners. AR

SPARC GAP

October 7, 1975

President
Sony Corporation of America
47 Van Dam Street
Long Island City, New York 11101

CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear Sir:

I am a licensed amateur radio operator using Collins and Yaesu equipment on all the high frequency amateur radio bands (80 to 10 meters). I am using a good ground and a Johnson low-pass filter on each rig. I receive no TVI on my own Zenith TV (for which Zenith supplied a high-pass filter, free of charge). My other neighbors are free of TVI also. I use a good outside antenna and am 30 miles from the TV stations.

Now, here is the problem: My nextdoor neighbor is taking me to court because she says I disturb her Sony portable TV. She is only using the rabbit-ear antenna supplied with the set. She has been told by the local FCC office to put on an outside antenna and a high-pass filter (Drake 300 or equivalent). I feel that you, the manufacturer, should supply her with this filter. My equipment is clean.

Would you please write a letter to me which I can give to my neighbor's lawyer, explaining that it is not good engineering practice to use a rabbit-ear antenna and no filter for stations that far away? I am very sure that a letter from you, the TV's manufacturer, will solve my neighbor's problem and mine.

I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

John V. Smith
W4ACG

JVS/ks

ZENITH RADIO CORPORATION

July 9, 1975

Mr. John Smith
1924 Dolphin Blvd.
St. Petersburg, Florida 33707

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your letter. We are very concerned to learn of the interference problem you are experiencing with your Zenith television.

Zenith, as a manufacturer, does supply TVI filters to the owners of Zenith television receivers. One of these filters, Zenith part number S-58500, has been ordered for you at no charge. You may expect to receive it within the next few days.

If after installing the filter you are still experiencing an interference problem, we suggest you contact the Zenith Service Manager for your area. He is:

Mr. Guy Sweetland
Dennis Street at Copeland
P. O. Box 2815
Jacksonville, Florida 32203
(904) 356-4812

At that time, he will review the circumstances involved, and assist you in promptly and properly resolving your difficulty.

We appreciate hearing from you, and assure you of our continued interest in your satisfaction as a Zenith customer.

Very truly yours,

ZENITH RADIO CORPORATION

A. P. Kaas

Sony Corporation of America
9 West 57th Street
New York, N.Y. 10019
Telephone: (212) 371-1500

Harvey L. Scher
President

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your letter of October 7. I am sorry to learn of your difficulties.

I have checked with our engineers. We do make available, on a free of charge basis, Drake Filters. It is their feeling that the filter would probably not be effective when a roof antenna is not used. However, the setup would have to be examined first hand by a competent professional.

Sincerely,

Harvey L. Scher

Mr. John V. Smith, W4ACG
Southeastern Museum of Wireless
1924 Dolphin Boulevard
St. Petersburg, Florida 33707

October 16, 1975



APK/bah
cc: Mr. Guy Sweetland
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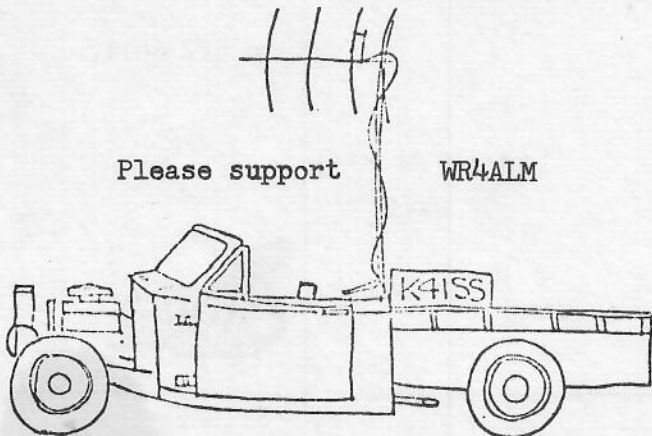
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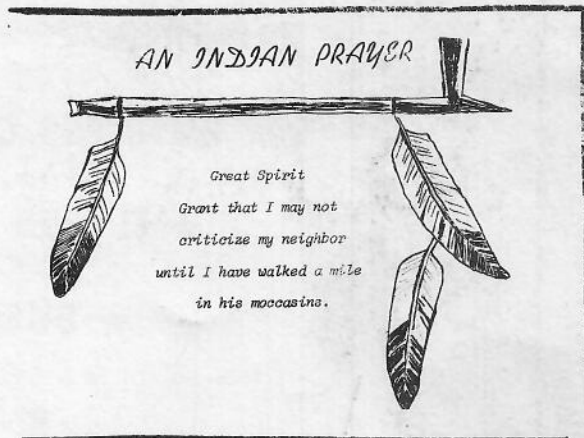
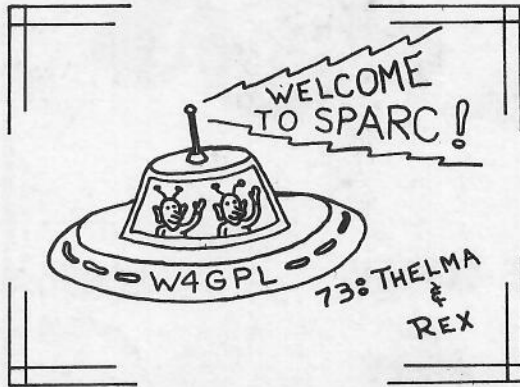
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