

SPARC GAP MAY 1979

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SUN. MAY 6, 1979



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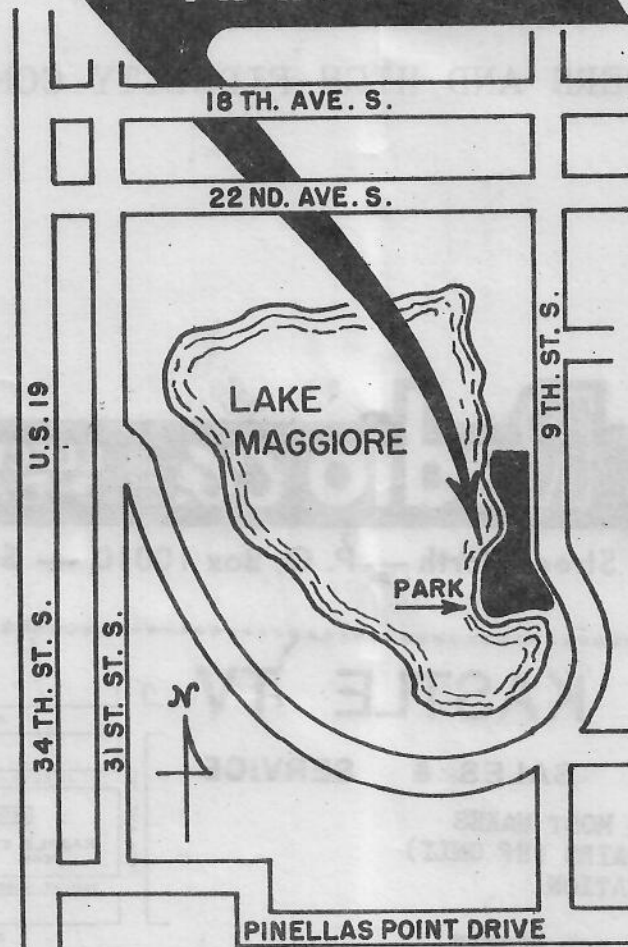
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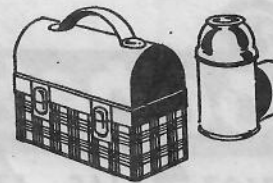
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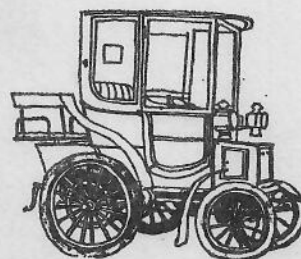
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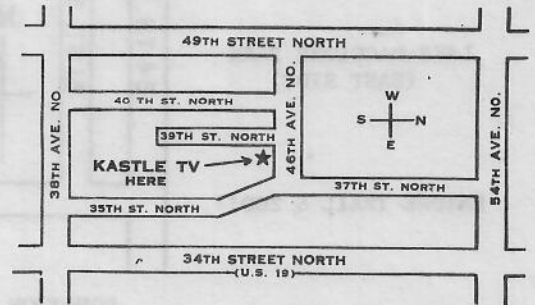
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S P A R C   G A P

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MAY 4, 1979 AT 8:00 P.M. AT THE RED CROSS  
HEADQUARTERS 818 - 4th Street No., St. Petersburg

The meeting of April 6, 1979 was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by John MacDonald WD4COL, President. Fifty-seven members and guests were introduced and welcomed.

The minutes of the last meeting were not read. There is one correction to the minutes: Howard Clarke's call should have been typed WA4KER. Apologies go to Howard for this error.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

The new badge design was discussed by John WD4COL. Hank WA4WKO won the design contest and will receive a free badge for his efforts.

John W4ACG gave the station report. He said that the new Omni has an intermittent sticky relay problem that should clear up by itself in time. He also reported that the Club will need to purchase 500 feet of coax.

Rex W4GPL gave the Engineering Report. He said that the new repeater still has a few problems, but that the committee has isolated the problems and hopes to have them cleared up shortly. Rex reported that he was very pleased with the use of the autopatch.

Wes WD4PUV presented Mark KA4BPO (by having to stand on a chair to look Mark in the eye) with the GOLDEN ALLIGATOR AWARD for timing out the repeater.

Marie KA4BBB told about the plans for the dinner cruise on the Capt. Anderson. Reservations must be made by May 1st by writing to: Capt. Anderson, 4901 Gulf Blvd., St. Petersburg Beach, FL 33706 including a check to cover the cost (\$11.50 per person) and designating on the check that you wish to sit with the Amateur Radio group. The dinner cruise will be held on May 12th between the hours of 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

The following are new members of SPARC: Frank Fugazzi N4APQ, Richard Pomeroy WD4SCD, Jack Kendall W2AED, Betty Sweeny WA4FDH, Ralph Moulton WA1SPR, Eugene Olson W4WFP, and N.S.B. Alexander AB4M. Welcome!!

It was suggested that members donate books to the public library. It seems that Amateur Radio books are greatly out of date and worn out in our library. John WD4COL will check into the possibility of purchasing books through the ARRL for the library.

John WB4LWB gave the hamfest report. He said that donations are being received from local businesses. Ticket sales are slow, but are expected to increase as the hamfest date draws closer. Hank WA4WKO suggested that everyone mention the hamfest during QSO's on every mode.

Betty WA4TJG gave the parade report. The Festival of States Parade will be held on April 7, and fifty "hams" will participate.

The meeting adjourned for coffee and doughnuts, and was called back to order at 9:10 p.m.

The speaker who was scheduled to speak on Solar Energy was called out of town, so Lew Sieck K4NE graciously agreed to step in and speak on the

Cont'd Page 2



## SPARC GAP

space phenomenon SYZYGY. Lew is a former President of SPARC and a member of the Board of Directors for four years. He is a retired Brigadier General with a Masters Degree from M.I.T. He presented a very interesting and exciting presentation on the effects of SYZYGY on the Earth during the next few years. Syzygy is a term to explain the unusual placement of the planets in relationship to the sun that only happens every 180 years.

Two drawings were held for the door prizes. A YAESU mike donated by AGL Electronics was won by Ralph Biddle WA4BGZ, and a gift certificate from Ray's Amateur Radio was won by Denny W4OBL.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Faith WA4WOU

### RALPH PETERS # K4RKY

Ralph Peters-K4RKY, better known as "Pete", was born in 1911 & educated in Altoona, Pa.

Pete was quite a musician &, back in the big Band days, played trumpet with Jimmie & Tommy Dorsey; also started out with Sammy Kaye's "Swing & Sway" Band.

He was in the 28th Division National Guard Band &, when inducted into the Army during WWI, was sent to Fort Bragg, N.C., where he was in the 78th Division Military Band for a short while. He was then sent to a Field Artillery School, where he took advanced training. When sent overseas, he was severely injured & was discharged with 100% permanent & total service connected disability. After the discharge, he went to the VA Hospital in Pittsburgh & later was sent to Bay Pines, Florida.

Pete received his license in 1958, while a patient at the Bay Pines VA Center, with the call of K4RKY. For years he "manned" the radio station there, keeping schedules with other hospitals & passing traffic for the patients. He met Brian Felps & had the pleasure of starting him on the road to "Ham" radio to receive the call of K4NAN. Brian was just a kid, at that time, & took to cw quickly & has passed Pete along the way, as he has his Extra Class License.

Pete has many certificates, among them "Florida Skip; WAS; ARRL Public Service Award; Citations from the City of St. Petersburg & from Civil Defense for services during hurricane "Donna"; besides thousands of QSLs from all over the world.

He can be heard, from time to time, on 2-meters, but every day is on the International Handicappers Net, at 11 AM, 14287 kHz & asks any handicapped operator, who is not already on the Net, to contact him at his home phone: 391-6643 for details.

After many years at Bay Pines, Pete met Betty, a Korean Veteran & they finally married & purchased their home at 10274 - 110th Ave. North, Seminole, Fla. 33540.

By WA4WKO

For Sale DRAKE T4X. AC4, R4A, a 1 MS4. R4A has full 10M xtals, W4V 10MHz and 160M xtals. All cables and manuals. \$525.00 pick up, \$544.00 FOB. W4OLL Bob Strid 1390 87th Ave. N. St. Pete. 33702  
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# SPARC REPEATER NEWS

The Festival of States activities have just been completed. SPARC Repeater Team had management responsibility as usual for safety communications for the Illuminated Night Parade preceded by fireworks April 3rd and the Day Parade April 7th. In addition, we furnished communications for the Youth Parade, a new function for us this year. Metro Repeater Ass'n took management for Champions on Parade and the Bicycle Race, I believe. Definite information not available at this time. With W4GPL assuming general responsibility and WA4TJG making personnel and/or station assignments, the SPARC participation was well-organized. Communication equipment, circuits and personnel worked almost to perfection. All of us can justly be proud of the way this went off.

As usual, the Parade Control Center was located in Bayfront Towers, First and Central, on the 28th floor. Personnel charged with management of each function were on hand -- Suncoasters, Red Cross, Doctors, Police/Fire/EMS. We operated 3 Amateur Radio circuits. K4SCL, operating on SPARC Repeater was NCS for the First Aid activity, under direction of Red Cross and Dr. Dean. K5IHH, on 146.49, was NCS for Parade Marshalls function under Ralph Spaulding. K4ISS was NCS on 223.66, managing Courtesy Cars under Bruce Haskell.

Our new repeater functioned beautifully through the entire operation. We even used the autopatch to good advantage on two occasions. Again I can point with pride to the state of the art in our equipment which permitted us to operate two stations in Bayfront Towers within 15 feet of each other, both on 2 meters, without mutual interference. In addition we had the 220 MHz circuit as well as portables on Police, Fire and Red Cross channels. Next year, if needed, we may have a circuit on 440 MHz for Wrecker Control.

We counted a total of 57 Radio Amateurs active with SPARC in these festivities, as follows: W2AED WB4AIZ W4APV N4AUO N4AXN KA4BBB N4BIS KA4BFO W4BUB W4CF KA8COZ WB4CSL WA4CZW WB4DWU W4EGM WA4FEN WB4FVN WA4FYR WA4GCH W4GPL K5IHH WA4IIT W4IRA K4ISS K4KE WD4KEZ WD4KGY WA4KNI WB4KSJ K4KKC K4NAN WD4NHH N4NL WB4OAT W4OJH WB4PEL WB4PNV WD4PUV K8PXM WA4QGV K4RHD WA4ROX WA4RQQ K4RXO WD4SCD K4SCL WA4TJG WA4UBT W1UEF WB4UFO W4VIP WA4WGO WA4WKO WA4WOU K4WYN WB4ZDZ WB4ZPU.

Our sincere thanks to all of you and congratulations on a job well done.

Recent earners of the Golden Alligator Award include K4SCL, W4GPL (repeat performers) and KA4BBB (a first-timer). Remember, when you talk too long and time out the repeater you are fined one dollar, you local hams who should know better. We can't make you pay your fine, but if you do you will be awarded a handsome certificate. Visitors, assumed not to know any better, get the certificate for free -- just to remember us back home.

73 de K4SCL

ARRL BULLETIN NR 16 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS  
NEWINGTON CT MARCH 22, 1979 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

FCC has extended the grace period for renewals of Amateur Radio operator licenses to five years. Any person who let his Amateur license expire may regain his operator privileges without reexamination if it has been five years or less since the date of expiration. Details will appear in May 1979 QST under the Happenings column AR

ARRL BULLETIN NR 14 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS  
NEWINGTON CT MARCH 8, 1979 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS B

During the February solar eclipse did you observe unusual propagation phenomena? To have your observations correlated with those of the solar eclipse nets organized by the Oregon State University Amateur Radio Club, send a copy of your reports to Allen Lefohn, KA7CBV, P.O. Box 196, Clancy, MT 59634 AR

# SPARC GAP

WD4COL

JOHN MAC DONALD

THE PREZ SEZ:

Club activity seems to be at a high right now. I would like to encourage everyone to take a part in the activities. Name badges are the first order of business and Florida Custom Plastics will be at the regular club meeting on May 4th (this was a change from the previously announced tentative date of April 20). We, at this writing, have 50 orders in, all of which were taken at the April 6th meeting. Most surely we will top 75 badge/tie orders in which case the badges will cost the individual \$2.80. If we should have 100 initial orders, the cost will be \$2.63. If we should have less than 75 orders, the cost will be with the 50 orders, we have still only \$2.98. Orders taken after the evening of May 4 will cost \$3.50. Only members in good standing may purchase the badge. If you cannot make it to the meeting, and if your SPARC Gap gets to you in time (!), of which I am not sure if it will or not, you may call me at home (note my new phone number of 796-5126) or at school at 733-2116 before the meeting date. Badges ordered like this will be mailed to you.

Betty, WA4TJG, Rex, W4GPL, and Woody, K4SCL did a splendid job putting on the Festival of States Parade communications for the club. Thanks and congratulations on a job well done to you and all of the members who participated.

John Merada has done a admirable job for the club this year in heading up the hamfest. As of this writing, John has written untold letters and has been in receipt of nearly \$750 worth of prizes. With the economy as it is today and the "purse strings" situation of many companies, this is remarkable. A hardy well-done and thanks to John and his helpers (especially Faith, WA4WOU).

Don't forget the "Captains" dinner cruise May 12. Contact Marie Adams, KA4BBB, for further details.

Thanks for your participation at the club meetings. Our worthy vice-president Ed Harney, K4DRN, has really been putting on the programs for us. Many, many more great programs are on tap. Don't miss a one!!!!

73 fer nw,



P.S. Hank, WA4WRC, won the badge design and a free necktie style badge AR

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Today society seems to move in all directions in pursuit of happiness. The signs all seem to point in the wrong direction! And so the search continues--for acceptance, for inner peace, for release from guilt, and for the true meaning of life. People are asking, "Where did I come from? Where am I going?"

More than nineteen centuries ago, Jesus Christ gave the ONE WAY direction for peace, happiness, forgiveness, and assurance of eternal life. To His followers He said, "I am the Way--yes, and the Truth and the Life; No one can get to the Father except by means of Me" (John 14:6, Living Bible)



It's heavy to think that we can be liberated from the power of sin. By a voluntary act on our part we are able to receive Jesus Christ-into our life. When we enter into a relationship with Christ, He gives us fellowship with Him. Our connection with Jesus means that we already can count on heaven as being our home forever. Jesus tells us, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him"(John 3:36).

Despite the pressures that we face today, God has established His method for those who search for reality. This is it:

ONE WAY TO SALVATION:"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"(Acts 4:12).

ONE WAY TO FORGIVENESS:"In whom we have redemption through His (Christ's) blood, even the forgiveness of sins"(Colossians 1:14).

ONE WAY TO PEACE:"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you...Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid"(John 14:27).

ONE WAY TO HEAVEN:"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"(Romans 6:23).

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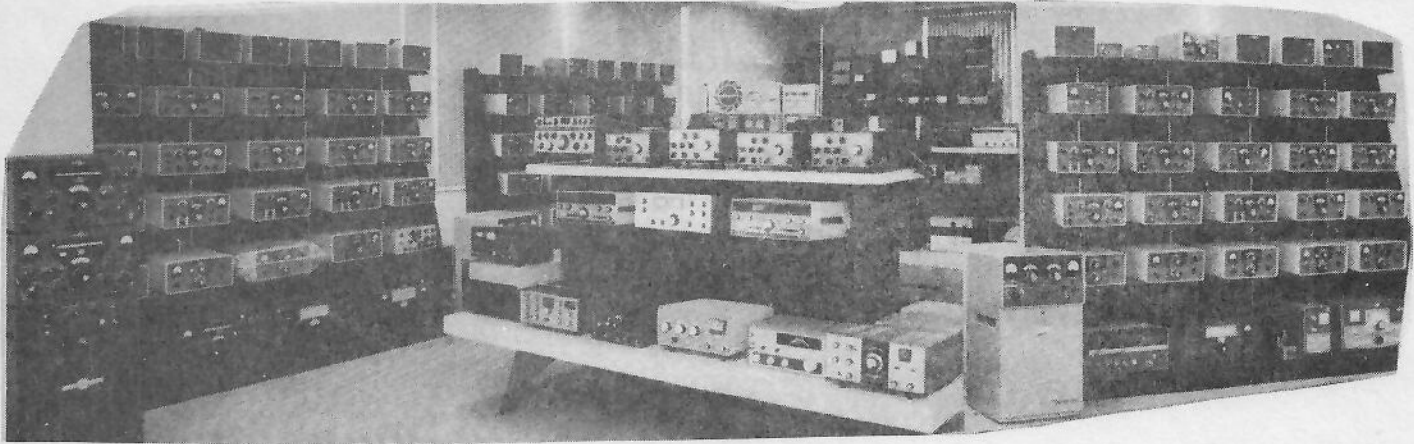
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but if you meet JESUS  
CHRIST and forget Him  
you have lost everything.*



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AND  
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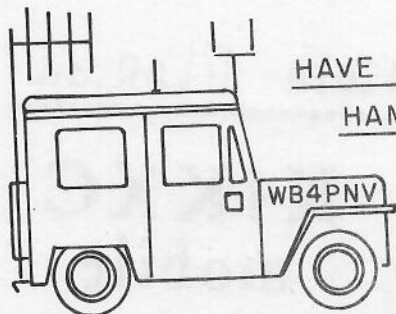
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## W4GPL

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MUTT DERBY April 1, 1979

Thanks to the kind offices of the St. Pete Jaycees and Mr Dale Smrekar as well as WA4NCY, Mr Gordon Price, we have concluded another running of the MUTT DERBY with complete success.

April 1st at Derby Lane: N4AXN, N4BLF, W4CF, W4GPL, W4IRA, WD4KEZ, K4KXC, N4NL, WA4NCY, WD4OEB & WA4WOU, furnished communications for the very interesting session of the annual Jaycee Mutt Derby.

It isn't completely understood, but W4IRA was brought by his Mother, apparently to keep him in the clear. It might be noted that, he managed to get her to go around with Thelma (Miz W4GPL) and what those two did hasn't been cleared up as yet? We must admit that Herb remained within radio contact during the operation - Doing just what We Don't Know. N4BLF & N4NL had a "follow the Man" assignment with officials and weren't in any one place very long. N4NL informed the writer, "Boy next year I'm going into track training in February for this thing." N4AXN managed to greet the Mutts as they regestared and they got down at the starting line to get them off to the races. This duty must have been quite a digger, at least he managed to get sand in his; hair, shoes, shirt and the battery pack of his radio also probably ground down his teeth somewhat.

The Jaycees were very appreciative of the smoothness and success of our communications and expressed themselves often, to that effect.

73 es 88

W4GPL

PS- Thanks to all of those that assisted and hope to see you next year.

ARRL BULLETIN NR 9 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS  
NEWINGTON CT FEBRUARY 22, 1979 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

Sincere congratulations to AMSAT on this its Tenth Anniversary. On behalf of the thousands of amateurs who call OSCAR their friend, and the countless tens of thousands of students throughout the world who have been introduced to the wonders of space science and communications technology through the OSCAR satellites, our deepest gratitude for the significant contributions AMSAT has made to the Amateur Radio service. Best wishes for an equally exciting and productive future AR

ARRL BULLETIN NR 1 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS  
NEWINGTON CT FEBRUARY 8, 1979 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS

FCC has assigned RM3314 to the petition filed by ARRL to allow Novices certain privileges on the 220 through 225 MHz band. Details of this petition will appear in March 1979 QST, page 58. In other action, FCC assigned RM3313 to the petition filed by ARRL proposing that standard FM emissions be allowed in the frequency range 52.0 through 52.5 MHz, thereby allowing the use of 16F3 emission in the entire six meter repeater subband AR

## SPARC GAP

### HISTORY-ST PETERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

CONTINUED

#### 1969 Cont'd

A proposed Amendment to the By-Laws, Re: pro-rating dues of new members, met with objections so it was referred to Board of Directors to bring in revised proposal. Final decision: \$4.00, Jan. 1 to July 1; \$2.00, July 1 to Oct. 1 & \$1.00, Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, all plus \$1.00 initiation fee.

It was quite a shock to learn W4RUR-Ed Blatt had joined the Silent Keys. Ed was crippled with arthritis, but sent beautiful code. He started code practice sessions, twice a week, in 1952 on 10-meters; later transmitting it simultaneously on 6, 10, & 40 meters. It was a great loss to amateur radio, as many owed obtaining their license to Ed. His YF-Martha (better known as Sweetie) had to help him with his radio, throwing switches, etc. at his directions. SPARC presented Ed with a plaque for his outstanding services in 1958 & in 1965 he was winner of Florida Skip Amateur of the Year Award, receiving a \$50.00 Savings Bond.

Further trouble at SPARC: WB4DXB-Ralph, the newly elected Pres. was hospitalized for surgery, so V-Pres., John had to take over.

K4BRY-R.F. Wright, Jr., who sailed the briny seas wrote an interesting & informative article "Sailing, Sailing Over the Bounding Main", which ran in several issues of SPARC-GAP serially. Many other interesting articles by different members from time to time.

This was quite a year, again our meeting place at the FPG Line-men's Assembly Hall, was no longer available & at the same time WB4DXB-Ralph had to resign, as it was necessary he & YF move to Sarasota. So W4ACG-John Smith took the reins as President. A new meeting place was procured at the AZalea Community Center, 9th Ave. & 72nd St. No.

SPARC Hamfest was held May 18th, at Lake Maggiore, with the usual crowd, lots of prizes & a huge success. We were honored to again have K4KQ-Chuck Bolvin, S.E. ARRL Director, attend & speak to the group.

#### 1970

This year the Installation Dinner was held at Black Angus Restaurant, Jan. 9th, new Officers being: Pres., W4ACG-John Smith; V-Pres., WB4JSI-Stan Hurst; Secty/Treas., W4TDK-Naomi Spence. Directors: W4RZQ-"Sim" Simcox; W4RUN-Lew Litzenberg & K4WXS-Lee Kanarian; with WA4MHR-Burt Daisey remaining as Trustee.

A Radio Club was formed at the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, near Live Oak, under the direction of K4KE-Dave Stocky, who was elected Trustee. Members of the Florida Side-Banders Assoc. sponsored the Club.

For many years SPARC provided communications for the Yacht Races, sponsored by the St. Pete Yacht Club & Club de Yates, Isla de Mujeres, Yucatan. Although the race began April 11th, phone patch traffic was handled beginning April 1st & continued through April 17, with schedules at 9 AM, 3 PM & 10 PM. XE3DE-Alfredo, British Vice-Counsel was in charge of ham operation at Merida, Yucatan terminal. One of the contacts could not speak English so, at one point, W4GQ-Dave & W4PWB-Walt had occasion to exercise their Spanish speaking capabilities. The yachts, unfortunately, could not carry ham equipment, due to lack of room.

SPARC took a stand, with other Clubs, etc. in opposing HB1121 Bill in Florida Legislature, pointing out why the radio amateur auto license tag was authorized for extra charge of \$1.00 & GBers cannot perform such communications, etc. Bill was killed in Legislature.

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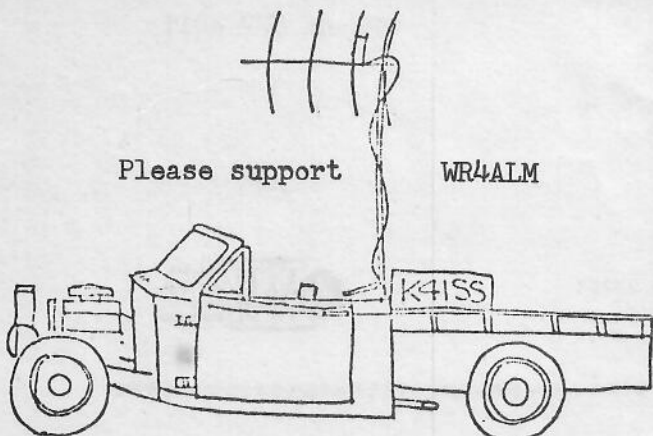


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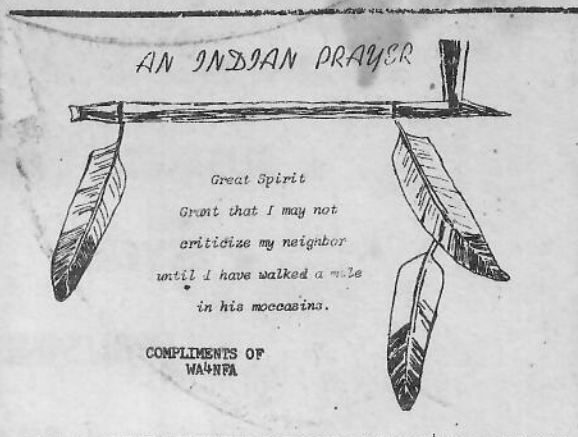
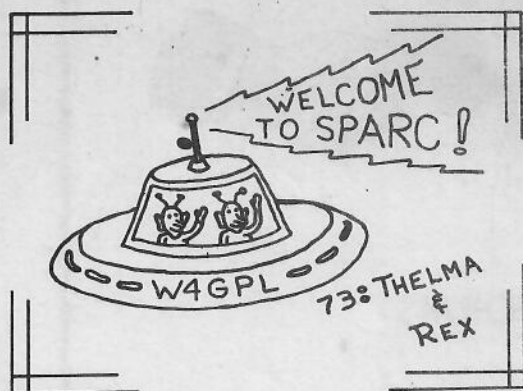
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