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JULY 1979



PRESIDENT JOHN MAC DONALD WD4COL
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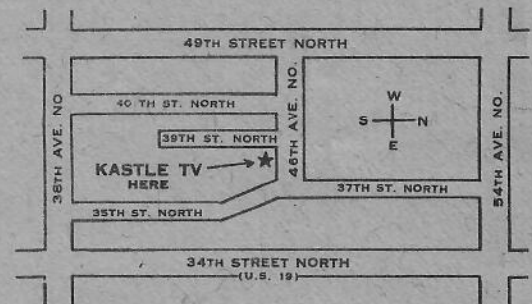
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DEBBIE & JOHN

N4APZ-WD4COL

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON JULY 6, 1979 AT 8:00 P.M. AT THE
RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS 818 - 4th STREET NORTH, ST. PETERSBURG

The meeting of June 1, 1979 was called to order by Ed Harney K4DRN, Vice President. Members and guests were introduced and welcomed.

The Treasurer's Report was read and approved, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Applications for car Amateur Radio license tags were made available during the meeting.

A "thank you" letter from the winner of the first prize at our recent hamfest was read.

The following are new members of SPARC: James M. Homan, Jr. W4DPH, Glen A. Parker WA4ELD, John McKenzie WA4ZRX, Bill Vinson WD4AXC, Danne Guthrie WD4HMC, and Forrest E. Norman K4QYA.

Dave K4KE told about his recent visit to the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch near Live Oak. He attended the annual awards banquet where the graduating seniors are given recognition for their accomplishments. For the first time in many years, there were no awards for Rancher accomplishments in Amateur Radio.

Woody K4SCL said that the new repeater is presently at his home, but would be installed the following day at the site.

He also reported that 153 radio operators participated in the May 8th flood and tornado disaster operation.

Herb W4IRA gave the Florida Gulf Coast Council report. He said that our President WD4COL should return his Director's Badge at the earliest opportunity. Also, our club will purchase a block of banquet tickets (20) to sell. The banquet will be held on Saturday night of the Sand Key Hamfest. The Hamfest will be held on November 17-18, 1979. K4TH moved that the same ad that was used last year be placed in the hamfest program this year. The motion was passed.

June 23, and 24, 1979 will be Field Day. The SPARC and Metro clubs will join together for the activities at the old CD site. Two cooks have been promised; ten rigs are needed; and as many operators as possible are requested. It should be a lot of fun for everyone.

Jim K4FCW reported that a few items still are needed to be sold from the estate of Jack Gordon W4MIM.

AGL Electronics of Clearwater donated a Shure mike to the club to be auctioned off and the proceeds to go to the club treasury. After some heated bidding, Ed K4EPH enriched our club funds by \$37.00.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. for coffee and doughnuts and was called back to order at 9:10 p.m.

The speaker for the evening was Mr. Ernie Sanchez, Director of the Red Cross, South Pinellas County. He gave us the final outcome of the May 8th disaster, and told us how much he appreciated, and how impressed he was with our efforts. He also wishes to become more familiar with Amateur Radio.

A gift certificate, donated by Ray's Amateur Radio was won by Denne W4OBL. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Faith WA4WOU



W4EOL

JOHN MAC DONALD

2 2 2 3 Lynn Court

Palm Harbor, Fl. 3 3 5 6 3



The Prez Sez,

The middle of the summer swiftly approaches. Many activities are now behind us, but many more are to come.

One of these is the Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club's November convention. Herb, W4IRA, our club's representative to the council, will be selling tickets soon. Our club has committed itself for a goodly number of tickets to all facets including the banquets. Please support the club and the convention by purchasing these tickets from Herb.

Much thanks to K4DRN, vice-president Ed Harney, for taking over the helm at the June meeting. The evening of June 1st was the prom night at Dunedin High School. As the Dean of Students there, my evening was already planned for me well in advance! Much thanks to Ed for not only this, but also the great programs he has procured for the meetings.

One weekly activity that the club is active in is Saturday morning breakfast. This begins about 7 a.m. at Howard Johnson's (corner of 5th Ave. North at 34th St.) with the arrival of Big Bob Browning, K5IHH. Members and visitors filter in and out until about 9 a.m. Turnout has been very good in the past few months. If you can make it, come on down for food, good hot coffee by the potload, loads of fellowship, and heaps of interesting conversation on every subject imaginable. The more the merrier - so bring the whole family!

The month of July finds Debbie and me heading out for Bermuda (VP9 land). I plan to work several hundred novices as I do every trip operating SSB on 21.160 crossmode to CW. Last year, I sent out 200+ QSL cards in one week. Come up to 21.160 and listen for us - and tell your novice friends to listen up also. I am looking forward to many QSO's there. Who knows - I may be the first SSB QNI to QFN! (VP9'ers can transmit any mode on any band).

That's news for now. May the best health be with you all...

161 de John

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SPARC REPEATER NEWS

Following our meeting of May 18th, SPARC Repeater Team hosted a critique of the disaster communications in connection with the tornadoes and floods of May 8th. Present were Lt. Danny Mink, Sheriff's Communication Center, Terry O'Hearn, Civil Defense RACES Officer, John Komp, American Red Cross and Woody Huddleston for City of St. Petersburg. All Amateur Radio groups were represented. Sheriff and Red Cross especially praised Radio Amateurs for excellent performance during the disaster. Civil Defense and City of St. Pete did not have any significant Amateur Radio involvement. Lt. Mink invited us to hold our next meeting at Sheriff's Offices so he could arrange for conducted tours through his Communication Center and 911 Emergency Telephone Center. This meeting is scheduled for June 15th.

On May 24th Sheriff's Dept. suffered a lightning stroke which disabled 2 of their 3 repeaters. Amateur Radio operators of the Pinellas County A.R.E.S., responding to Lt. Mink's call for help, established a network of 52 stations within 30 minutes covering Pinellas County. This was done in spite of our own difficulties with another lightning strike taking out the power supply on the 37/97 repeater necessitating shift of operations to 66/06. Very little traffic was handled, but apparently Sheriff's Dept. was pleased with our response.

Also on May 24th, a meeting of Assistant E.C.s was held at the home of K4SCL, ARRL Emergency Coordinator, Pinellas County. This was attended by W4GPL WA4MJT W4DPH WA4CZW WA4FYR WA4ESX WD4COL WA4TGO and WA4KNI. A frequency utilization plan for disasters was presented by WA4ESX and approved by the group. Basically, this involves using specific frequencies for specific kinds of traffic or emergencies as follows: 1. SPARC 66/06 Red Cross, Shelters, County-wide coordination and miscellaneous; 2. METRO 96/36 Fire Departments, Rescue and Ambulance; 3. TBRA Largo 37/97 Sheriff, C.D. and Police; 4. CARS 223.34/224.94 Hospitals; 5. Ten Meters 28,720 Liaison and Coordination as feasible. Of course the Section-wide emergency frequencies 3940, 7247 and 7272 KHz will be used as necessary. This plan envisions any intense local activity, not county-wide in nature, will be on simplex and ARES members are urged to have following simplex frequencies available: 146.49, 147.51, 146.85, 223.66.

W4GPL completed a survey of last year's Radio Amateur Callbook and found 1318 Amateurs listed in Pinellas County. We are now saying there are approximately 1500 in the County.

On June 5th, Morton Plant hospital suffered a telephone system failure and Radio Amateurs responded, first arrival being in 10 minutes, establishing communications between key points internally as well as external to the hospital. Star performers on this were W4DPH WB4FVN WA4MJT WA4KKR WA4FYR WB4PEL KA4BBB WB4AIZ. Additional standby and liaison were K4TH WA4TJG WA4KNI W4GPL WA4CZW WA4QHE N4AXN W5ROF WB4LXH K4SCL W4IRA and W4VIP. This lasted 1½ hours until telephone was repaired. Amateur Radio got some good publicity out of this with items in Clearwater Sun and St. Petersburg Times.

Cont'd

Cont'd from Page 3

SPARC REPEATER NEWS cont'd.

SPARC's "new" Spectrum repeater was placed in service again on June 2nd with autopatch and all control functions operational. It has been going OK for a week, so maybe we have the worst bugs out of it now. Our sincere thanks to W4GPL, K5IHH and K4NAN who worked diligently with me on this last round of repairs.

We have had several cases of interference. One is apparently a spur, possibly from a local FM station, centering about 147.04 but with components getting into our receiver on 147.66 and keying up the repeater almost continuously. This has been mostly eliminated by tightening the squelch. Another case was an unlicensed station identified as W2140 operating briefly on the repeater. He was possibly using stolen equipment saying he bought it for \$5. Metro personnel, K4RHD WA4KNI and WA4FYR mounted a direction-finder search for this station but he went off the air before they found him. You may be interested in looking up the item in a recent QST where another "W" station in Largo was apprehended by FCC, fined, CB license revoked and Amateur Radio license denied.

During the May 8th disaster operations we had a station, identified as WA9CLA, operating on our repeater helping with the emergency. It was later learned he was unlicensed and he has been silenced by the FCC Tampa.

On June 7th we had a case of a base station with carrier inadvertently keyed on timing out the repeater for about an hour. A D/F search was initiated with WA4KNI WA4FYR WB4YCQ and K4RHD involved. WB4YCQ found the transmitter and turned it off, the owner not being home. Apparently it was a case of a young child playing radio when his dad was not present.

73 de K4SCL



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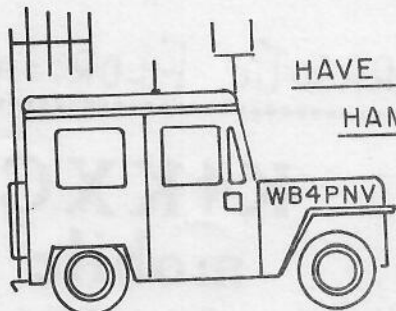
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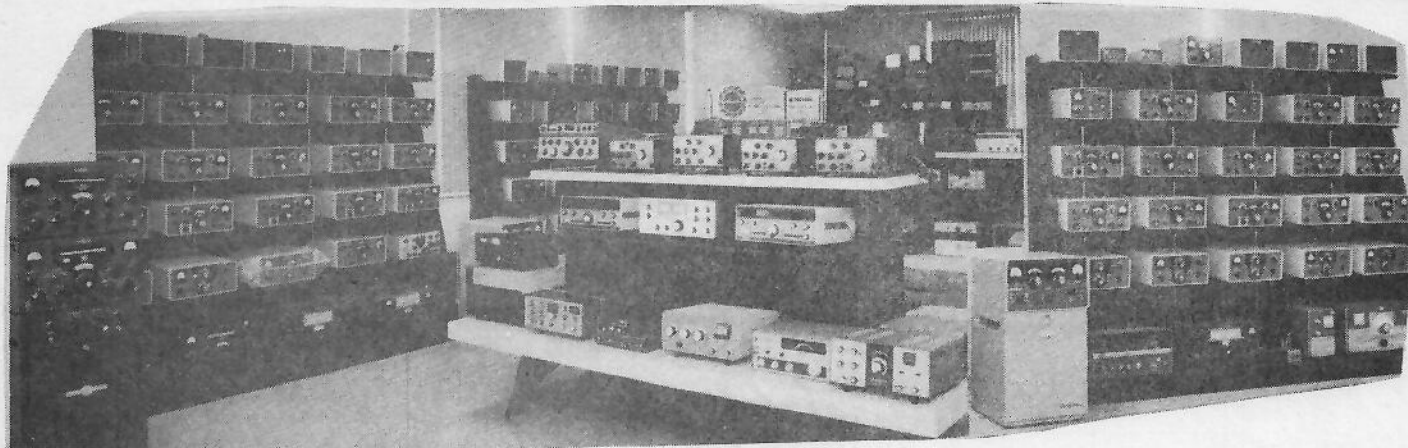
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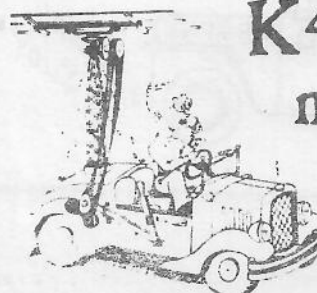
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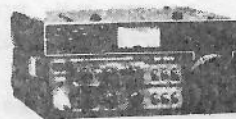
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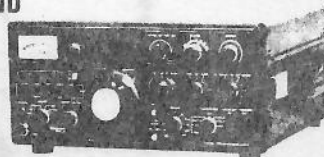
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HISTORY-ST PETERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

CONTINUED

1972

Time again for change of Officers; at the Princess Martha Hotel, Jan. 7th, the following were installed: Pres., W4CXL-Jack Faulstich; V-Pres., K4FCW-Jim Keyes; Secty./Treas., W4TDK-Naomi Spence; Directors: WB4QVB-Bob Greenfield; K4PMK-Kurt Haseltine; K4EGM-Herman Witman & Trustee, WA4MHR-Burt Daisey.

The Club was again saddened by W4OHJ-Jack Greene (better known as "Old Honest John") joining the Silent Keys a day or so before the Installation Dinner. Jack was a very active Club member & he will be sadly missed. Jack willed all his electronic equipment & devices, including his ham radio & its paraphernalia to SPARC.

SPARC members are still being honored: K4KE-Dave Stocky received Florida Skip Field Day Award & WA4GUZ-Carl Forsberg on the QST Honor Roll, with 270 countries worked.

W4TZW-Thor Larson & YF-Grace, charter members of SPARC, sold their business: St. Petersburg Engraving Co., Inc. They helped many members with QSL cards for years; provided negatives for SPARC-GAP free of charge, etc. Thor's hobby, besides radio, was collecting clocks.

For the third consecutive year, the Club took a stand against two bills, in legislature, for CBers getting special license tags in conjunction with ham tags.

In March, Trustee, WA4MHR-Burt resigned & K4PMK-Curt agreed to accept the post. SPARC participated again in the annual St. Pete-Yucatan Yacht Race.

May was a memorable month, as at last a permanent meeting place was procured at the American Red Cross, 818 - 4th St. No. Besides the meeting auditorium, there is a separate room for ladies, who want to play games & a room for setting up radio equipment, with antennae on top of the building; also emergency power available, in case of a disaster.

The Annual Hamfest was held May 7th, with over 800 in attendance, at Lake Maggiore. W4DQS-Dale Strieter, ARRL S.E. Division Director was present & gave an interesting talk on Division happenings.

Bad news again, week after Hamfest, Pres. W4CXL-Jack suffered a heart attack & in St. Anthony's Hospital, with no visitors, flowers, etc. allowed. V-Pres., K4FCW-Jim had to preside over the June meeting, at which time Tampa Bay Repeater Assoc. presented slides of 2-meter FM activities.

K4HQA-Art Bond joined the Silent Keys, soon after the Hamfest. He kept SPARC Net going on 6-meters & did a lot to help members. Always at the hamfests, etc.

SPARC also participated in Field Day each year, setting up at the waterfront & they placed in the top 10 in the Nation in recent years.

Hurricane "Agnes" struck Pinellas County this year & several members on the beaches suffered damages. W4ACG-John Smith & family left home when water was knee deep; fortunately, it did not go in the house, but plenty of debris to clean up on return. WB4YJD-Clair Mitchell stayed on the air until 4:00 AM, when Police warned it was his last chance to get off the island. He was back at 8:30 the next morning; spent 18 hours without going to bed. Damage was shingles off the roof & 12 screens missing around the pool. K4NE-Lew Sieck had damage to his antenna. K4PMK-Curt Haseltine was surrounded by water 24" in the yard, on porch, but didn't get in the house. There was a YL International SSB Convention held at the Bath Club, No. Redington Beach, with many from Alaska, Hawaii, Greenland, etc. attending & a great "boost" to the Suncoast area. However, "Agnes" broke up the festivities, so



PROFILE: N4APZ
DEBBIE MAC DONALD

Debbie comes to Pinellas County from the state of Georgia. The daughter of a Methodist minister (KA4HED), Debbie has lived in many places in south Georgia. In 1969, Debbie graduated from Appling County High School as an honor graduate. In school, Debbie was captain of the cheerleaders for 2 years and won many school beauty contests. Upon graduation, she went to Georgia Southern College where she graduated in 1972 with a B.S. in Education with a major in Elementary Education. Deb has been a teacher for 7 years and is presently at San Jose Elementary School in Dunedin. She got her ham license in 1977 and is now working hard on the CW and hopes to have her tech license upgraded to general soon.

Debbie soon hopes to be a reading specialist in the county and has a Master's degree in reading from the University of South Florida. She is married to club president WD4COL. Other hams in her family include dad KA4HED, Rev. Tom Oliver, and sister KA4DYV, 11 year old Julie Oliver, both of Savannah, Ga. Additionally, she and John will soon be going to visit father-in-law VP9JM, Bill MacDonald, of Hamilton, Bermuda. Debbie brags of being the smallest adult amateur in the U.S. at 83 lbs. and 4' 11½"! Pictured above is N4APZ and hubbie WD4COL about to try a little doubles in Bermuda.

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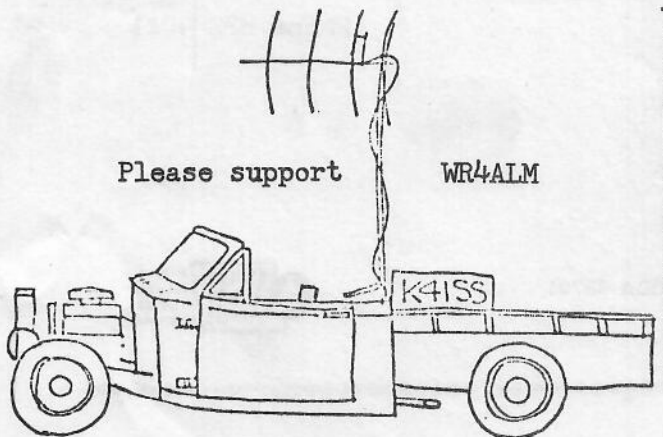
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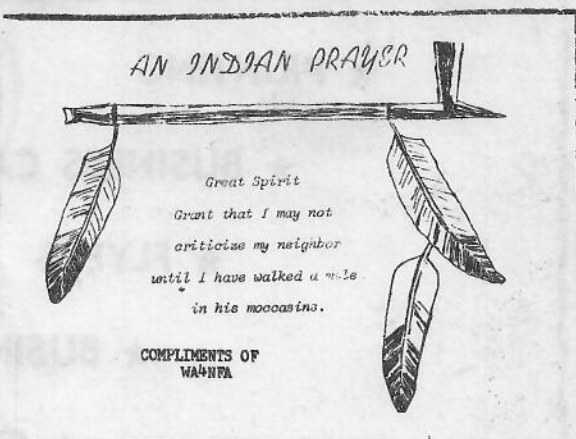
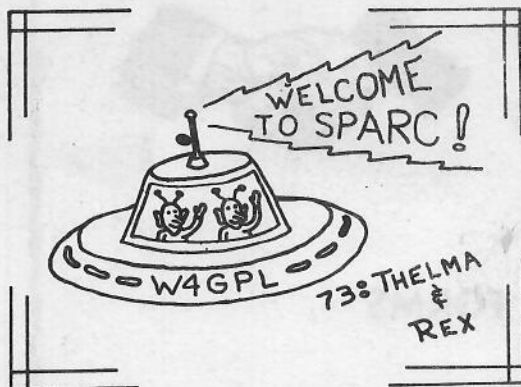
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