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

AUGUST 1979



PRESIDENT JOHN MAC DONALD, WD4COL
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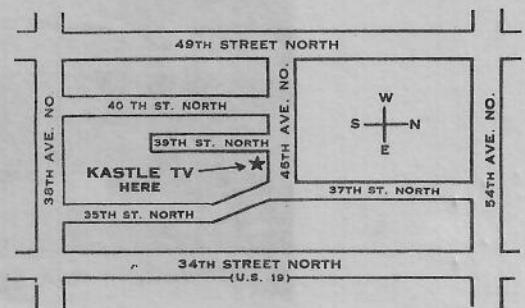
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N4APZ - WD4COL

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 3, 1979 AT 8:00 P.M. AT THE
RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS 818 - 4th STREET NORTH, ST. PETERSBURG, FL.

The meeting of July 6, 1979 was called to order by John WD4COL,
President.

The Treasurer's Report was read by John WD4COL. The minutes of
the last meeting were read and approved.

The Repeater Report was given by Woody K4SCL. He gave special
recognition to Brian K4NAN, Bob K5IHH, and Rex W4GPL for the time
and effort they have put into the new repeater. Woody also said that
twice during the last month the repeater was accidentally disconnected
from the AC supply, and continued operating for several days on bat-
tery power before it was discovered. The station ID comes on more
often during storms due to the sensitivity of the repeater to
lightning.

The City of St. Petersburg has included Amateur Radio in its
aircraft disaster program. We are to man the emergency center at
Police Headquarters and two places at the disaster site. Also, a
radio operator might be needed at the County Morgue. On July 24th
there will be a drill to test our availability and effectiveness.

Bob WB40IG gave the Station Report. He said that everything
seems to be in good shape.

Tickets to the Banquet to be held during the upcoming Sand Key
Hamfest in November will be picked up this week at AGL Electronics
and will be put on sale in the near future.

Betty WA4TJG reported that a dinner will be held on August 11th
at the Sweden House in Clearwater. The price will be \$6.50 and it
will include the meal, tax and tip. Reservations must be made in
advance, and your check can be given to Betty at the next meeting.

Hank WA4WKO requested that articles be submitted for publication
in our SPARC GAP.

Upon motion by Betty WA4TJG, and unanimous vote of the members,
Rex W4GPL was given the title of President Emeritus.

The Executive Committee will have a meeting in the near future to
discuss additional honors to be given to outstanding members of our
organization.

An auction was held and Ed K4EPH bought a Yaesu 24-hour clock
that was donated by AGL Electronics.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. for coffee and doughnuts, and was called
back to order at 9:05 p.m.

James Webber WB4RIF is a new member of SPARC.

A "thank you" letter was read from Dale Smrekar, Chairman of the 1979 Mutt
Derby. He also included several copies of the program.

The program for the evening was presented by Mr. Robert Bjorklund, Service
Supervisor with General Telephone Company. Mr. Bjorklund had slides and spoke on the
subject of "Light Wave Communication". There was a lively discussion, and many
thanks to Wes WD4PUV for helping Mr. Bjorklund with answers for the numerous questions
asked by our members. Mr. Bjorklund did a fine job and we were very pleased to have
him as our guest.

A gift certificate donated by Ray's Amateur Radio was won by Fran K4RXO.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Faith WA4WQH. Secretary

July 8, 1979

SPARC REPEATER NEWS

Our last Team meeting, June 15th, held at Sheriff's Department, was well-attended with about 100 people present. Our thanks to Lt. Mink and Sheriff's Dept. for hosting this meeting and providing excellent tours through their Comm. Center and 911 Emergency Telephone Center.

Also at this meeting we were fortunate to see the film "The Everglades and After," borrowed from Coast Guard Air Station, showing rescue efforts after an aircraft crash near Miami. It was an outstanding film of a real disaster and showed many of the problems we will face if a large aircraft crashes in our area.

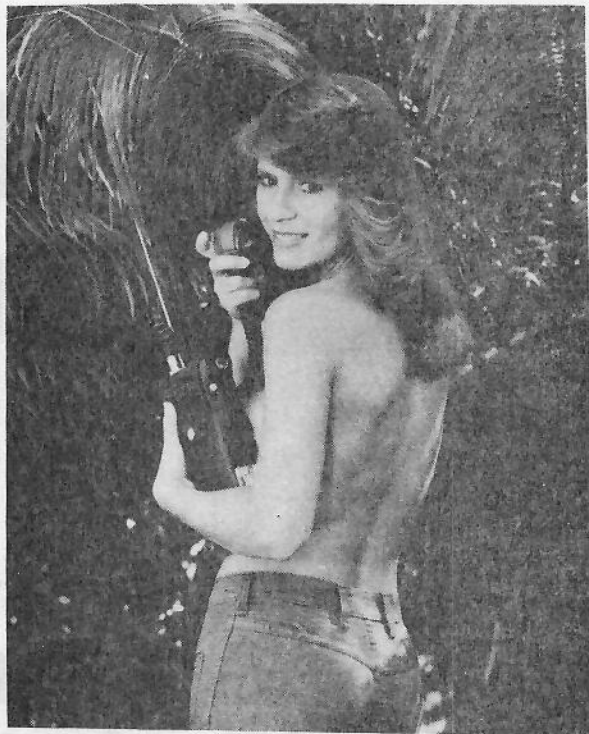
The City of St. Petersburg has honored Amateur Radio by recognizing us as a viable disaster communication resource and writing us into two of their important emergency plans: The Aircraft Disaster Plan and The Severe Weather Emergency Operations Plan. Arrangements have been made for alerting Amateur Radio through the Emergency Coordinator and the American Red Cross.

The Aircraft Disaster Plan will be activated at any time an aircraft crashes in St. Petersburg city limits, or outside the limits if St. Pete. is asked to assist. It is scheduled to be activated for a drill on July 24th, about 5 or 6 P.M. Amateur radio units will be needed as follows: 1. report to On Scene Commander at Rescue Command Post, 2. Report to Paramedic in Charge of Triage Area (near crash site), 3. Police Headquarters Emergency Operations Center, Public Information Conference Room, where a pre-positioned 2-meter antenna with coax terminal is already available, 4. Each hospital, Emergency Room, designated to receive casualties. These will probably be: a. Bayfront Medical Center, b. St. Anthony's, c. St. Petersburg General, d. St. Petersburg Osteopathic, 5. Red Cross Chapter, W4GAC. (Clearwater Chapter for crashes in their area), Possibly Pinellas County Civil Defense and 6. Possibly County Morgue, just west of Sheriff's Dept. on Ulmerton Road. If the operation should carry on for several hours, radio amateurs on these assignments should be relieved periodically. Units should be selected and standing by to relieve assigned units in the event of equipment failure. Primary circuit will be SPARC Repeater. Let's keep alert and ready to do a good job on this drill in order to justify the city's confidence in us.

As a result of the May 8th disaster operations, several Radio Amateurs have received certificates of appreciation from Red Cross. Several more certificates are in the hands of the club secretary for delivery, as they were mailed to the Club. I imagine that ARRL will also issue Public Service Awards for this operation, but I don't know of any received as yet.

The meeting of the Metropolitan Repeater Association for July 27 is to be devoted mostly to emergency communications planning. We don't know what will come out of it, but will try to report next month.

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Cont'd

We wish to thank AGL Electronics for the donation of an HF all-band (80-10 meters) mobile antenna auctioned off at our June 15th meeting to N4AIX for \$45.00 enrichment to our treasury. AGL has been real generous about furnishing excellent prizes for both Club and Team meetings the last several months. In addition, Ray's Amateur Radio has been furnishing gift certificates for Club meetings.

Field Day ahs come and gone. Congratulations to METRO Repeater Ass'n for a fine job heading up this operation. I think the combined effort of Metro, SPARC and CARS produced excellent results, but I don't have any particulars.

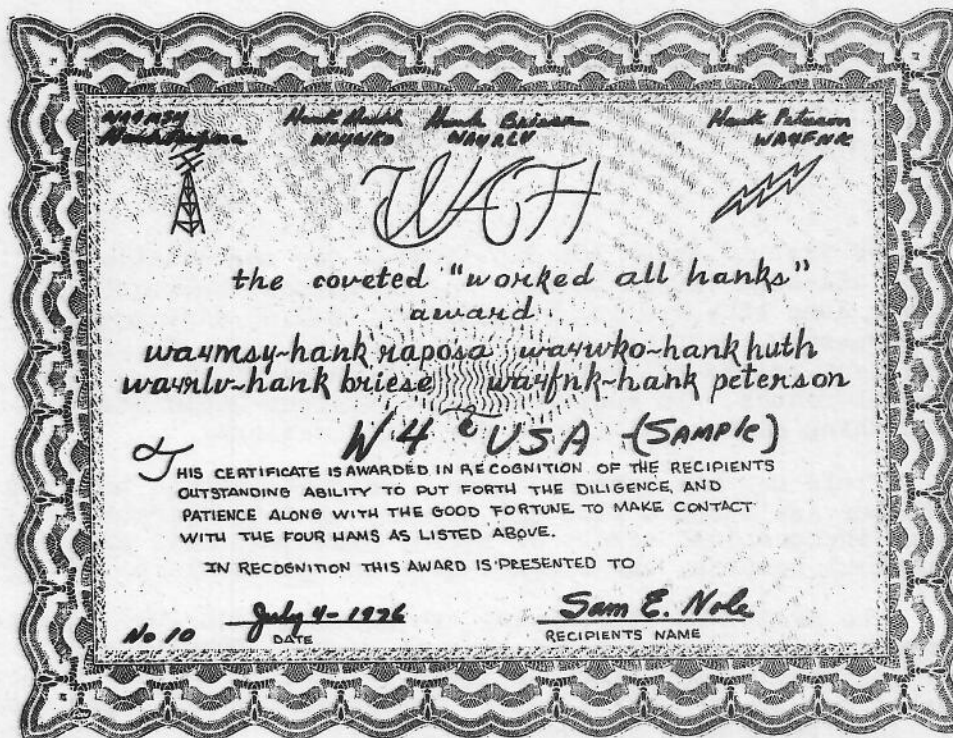
The SPARC Repeater, using the SPECTRUM SCR-1000 repeater, complete with Autopatch and special control functions is working very well during the last few weeks. We have discovered that the repeater senses nearby thunderstorms and reports same by identifying more frequently than normal. A severe thunderstorm overhead will keep the CW ID going almost continuously.

We had one lightning surge which blew a switch to pieces, killing the A.C. power, but the repeater continued to function on battery. By chance we discovered this before the battery became seriously discharged. K5IHH is now working on a circuit to sense A.C. power failure and change the tone of the CW ID so we can tell when this happens.

One of our next changes in mode of operations will probably be going to Tone Access for the night hours 2300 to 0600. With Tone Access the repeater can be considered on "Automatic Control" and will not require a control operator on duty. The Autopatch will be disabled while on Automatic Control, as we are not allowed to have Autopatch without a Control Operator on duty. Tone Access may be extended to other hours in the future should band occupancy and interference conditions, including inter-mod, require it. Members should proceed with equipping their rigs with tone encoders.

Our first known case of SPARC Repeater Autopatch being used to call 911 Emergency occurred on July 3 when WA4WOU, after a near miss, needed to report a DAV road hazard. K4SCL dialed up 911 for her and Faith report the hazard. The 911 operator appeared to sense that Faith was rather "shook up" and was very calm, courteous, efficient and reassuring. It worked out okay for us, but probably Sheriff's response was not fast enough as the road in that spot was covered with glass for the next several days.

73 de K4SCL.



HAVE YOU WORKED ALL HANKS YET - CERTIFICATE TELLS YOU HOW - GOOD LUCK

John Smith, W4ACG informs us that former club member Evelyn Dolvak passed away. We are indeed sorry to learn of the passing of this former club member.

ARRL BULLETIN NR 42 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT JUNE 12, 1979 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

With the reentry of the Skylab space station predicted for sometime within the next 3 or 4 weeks, Amateurs are urged to contact their ARRL Section Communications Manager, page 8 QST, to coordinate efforts for possible communications assistance for observation networks. ARES, RACES, SKYWARN and other groups may be needed to collect and relay spotting information to government agencies. AR

ARRL BULLETIN NR 46 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT JUNE 20, 1979 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

New York, New Jersey and Connecticut have begun allocating gasoline sales on the basis of the license plate, with odd numbered plates eligible on odd days, even numbered plates on even days. For this purpose, in New York and New Jersey, the main number in the callsign will govern. Thus, most amateurs in the two states will be classified as even because of the two in the call. In Connecticut, the last letter of the callsign will govern, with A through M classified as even and N through Z as odd. Should additional states adopt odd even plans, and amateurs in those states furnish HQ with details, there will be further bulletins on the subject from this station AR

Latest bulletin mailed to OBS was NR 39

Latest bulletin mailed to OBS was NR 45

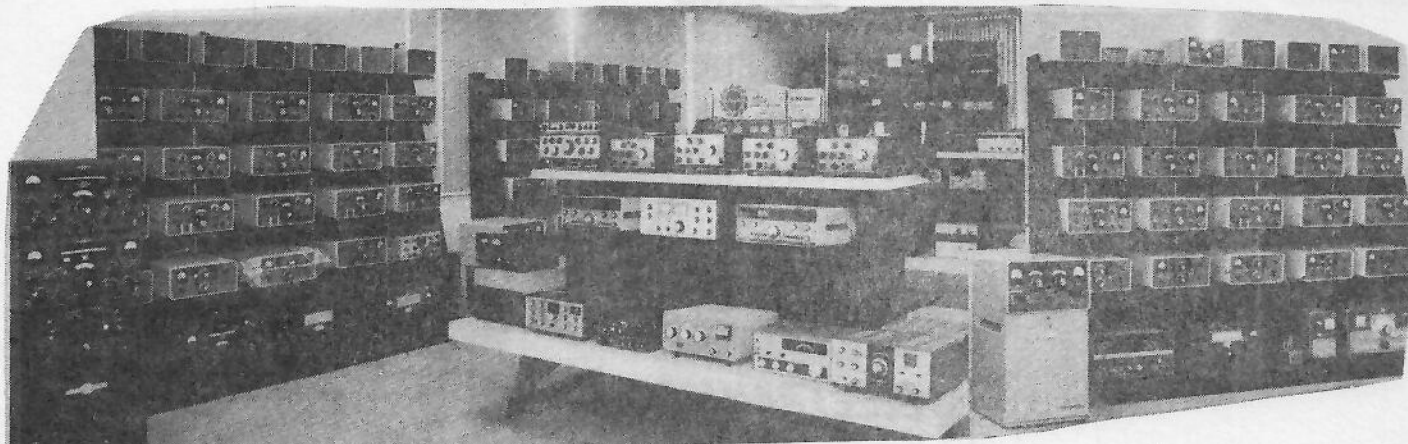
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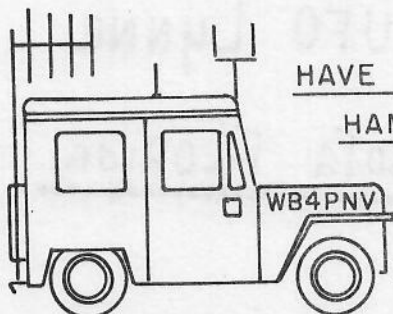


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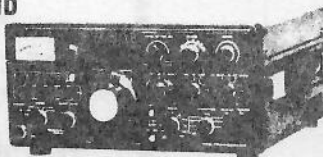
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FROM MIKE & KEY
HAL GRUBER, EDITOR

1. A minimum grounding system consists of a grounded rod driven eight to ten feet into the ground at the point where your electrical service enters your shack or house. Even better additional ground rods installed close to your shack and at the base of your tower, all tied together with #4 or larger copper wire. Answer should be YES.
2. a) The ground system won't do you much good if you don't connect your equipment to it. A good installation is a #10 or larger copper wire running behind your operating table with all your equipment connected to it. Answer is YES.
b) Many of us use portable transceivers that we use both mobile and base. Although many models have no provision for grounding, many such as the TR33C have metal cases which can be just as dangerous as our permanent equipment. Answer is YES.
3. That third wire is an electrical safety ground in case your equipment or tool develops a short to the case. You should also have 3 wire receptacles in your kitchen, bathrooms, work shops, outside. Answer is YES.
4. That's a no no. You may as well not even have that third wire. Answer is NO.
5. The ARRL slogan "SWITCH TO SAFETY" is a good life saving idea. With a master switch, you won't have to fumble around to find the right switch if you get into trouble. Answer is YES.
6. a) What good is a switch if you can't get to it? You might even break a leg trying to get to it. YES is correct answer.
b) That switch is there for your protection. But you may not be able to reach it if you're frozen to a live circuit. If you haven't shown your family the location of the master switch, do it today. Answer is YES.
7. A good safety precaution. Even lightning arrestors are not 100 percent effective protection. Answer is YES.

7. Do you ground your antennas when they are not in use?
a) Yes
b) No
8. Have all the members of your household been shown the location of the master switch and how to use it?
a) Yes
b) No
9. Can you remove the power from all the equipment in your shack by throwing one switch (either circuit breaker or disconnect switch)?
a) Yes
b) No
10. Do you use two conductor extension cords on tools and equipment furnished with a three prong plug?
a) Yes
b) No
11. Do you use 3 wire electrical outlets in your shack?
a) Yes
b) No
12. Do you ground your portable equipment to the station ground?
a) Yes
b) No
13. Do you have a ground rod installed for your station?
a) Yes
b) No

How safe is your shack, your home. Test yourself with this easy quiz and find out. Answer all the questions with a yes or no. The scoring appears at bottom of this page upside down. Don't cheat!

TWENTY TO LIFE

Taken from Penn Wireless Association publication - the X-MITTER



ARRL BULLETIN NR 39 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT JUNE 8, 1979 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

ARRL/IARU Headquarters has confirmed with the government of Panama that HP9 calls have never been issued for use on the amateur bands. The prefix designates commercial maritime users, and the bearers of such calls are expressly prohibited from using the amateur frequencies. U.S. and Canadian amateurs are therefore advised that communications of any kind with HP9 callsigns, including third party traffic, is not legal. See FCC Rules and Regulations Part 97.89 and DOC General Radio Regulation Part 2, Section 52, Subsection 1 AR

Latest bulletin mailed to OBS was NR 33

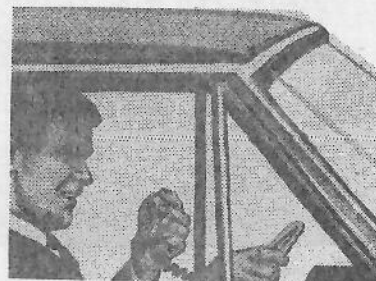
ARRL BULLETIN NR 32 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT MAY 22, 1979 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

Announcing the ARRL 80 Meter Midnight Special, a two hour non prime time contest to be held Saturday morning June 2 from 0700 to 0900 UTC, which is midnight to 2 AM Pacific Daylight Time. The general call is CQ S while the exchange is Zip Code for US stations and possessions, Postal Code for Canadians, and a six digit number consisting of day month year of birth for DX stations. Calling frequencies are 3535 and 3900 with single operator entries only. A station may be worked only once in the contest. Score equals total contacts. Send logs to ARRL postmarked by June 9. Normal ARRL contest criteria apply. This bulletin will be the only means of announcement of this activity. Please pass the word AR

ARRL BULLETIN NR 33 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT MAY 25, 1979 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

The FCC monitoring station in Anchorage, AK, has been issuing notices of violation to American amateurs who have been heard in communication with radio amateurs in Thailand. These notices have been issued in error. There is no banned countries list. American amateurs may presently communicate with other amateurs in any country without violating FCC laws. Amateurs who have received these notices are urged to respond in writing to the FCC within ten days, as required by Section 97.137 of the FCC rules and regulations. They should return the notice, retaining a copy for themselves, along with a letter which includes the date of the alleged violation and the names of the officials who signed the notice. They should add that they are aware that there is no banned list, and that therefore no violation of the rules has taken place. The reply should be sent via certified mail, return receipt requested AR

Latest bulletin mailed to OBS was NR 32



1972 Continued

many departed early Sunday, though had planned to stay longer. The Antenna Committee was really busy helping those with antenna trouble caused by the hurricane.

K4FCW-Jim, V-Pres., was acting President during the time W4CXL-Jack was recovering from his heart attack, which was June to October, when he picked up the reins again.

1973

Princess Martha Hotel again was the scene of SPARC Installation Dinner, Jan. 5th. Installed were: Pres., K4FCW-Jim Keyes; V-Pres., K4QG-Art Monsees; Secty., W4RIL-Dorothy Patterson & Treas., W4TDK-Naomi Spence. Executive Committee: W4QVB-Bob Greenfield; W4ACG-John Smith; W4RQZ-"Sim" Simcox & Trustee, K4PMK-Curt Haseltine.

W4GAC, SPARC station, was set up in the Red Cross Headquarters & was dedicated Feb. 2nd. All members invited to visit the Station before & after Club meetings.

More bad news, K4FCW-Jim suffered severe heart attack, March 23rd, in Intensive Care, so K4QG-Art Monsees, V-Pres., had to take over the reins of President, with the Annual Hamfest coming up in May. Then May 2nd, the "axe really fell", as letter received from K4FCW-Jim, advising, much to his regret, he tendered his resignation as President, as the doctor's orders, he curtail all his activities for an indefinite period; expressed his appreciation for all cards, etc. & for the cooperation of members during his period in office. (Ed. note: at this point we wondered if SPARC would survive, as this was the third Pres. resigned account of health.). However, K4QG-Art bravely accepted this responsibility & members promised their cooperation; so SPARC proceeded on. K4FCW-Jim had carried the load as Editor of SPARC-GAP, along with his term as V-Pres. & Pres., until April 1973, when W4LWB-John Merada consented to accept the Editorship.

Another old time member, who could always be depended on for a "laugh", was W4YU-(Yellow Underwear) Harold "Hote" Hotaling, who became a Silent Key & his loss was greatly felt by SPARC.

In spite of all the troubles & sorrow, the SPARC Hamfest was the usual success.

W4JOU-Bob Spiers, charter member of SPARC & Pres. of GCI (General Components, Inc.), was picked from a field of 10 small business firms in Fla., Miss., & Ga. & GCI was named "Small Business Subcontractors of the Year". GCI did about a million dollars the previous year; employed 60 people & manufactured electronic printed circuit boards; flex-cable & computer memories parts. It was nominated for the award by Honeywell's Aerospace Division. Bob served many times as M.C. at our annual banquets.

K4FCW-Jim was presented a "Resolution", May 5th, honoring him for his fine job in 1972 as V-Pres. & acting Pres., when W4CXL-Jack had to resign account of health & subsequently as Pres. in 1973, until he was forced to resign, also because of health. By "unanimous recommendation of the Executive Committee & the approval of the membership of SPARC, that the club bestow upon Jim Keyes, K4FCW, the title of PRESIDENT EMERITUS In Perpetuity, with all the rights & privileges thereunto appertaining." He is the only "President Emeritus" of SPARC.

At the June 1st meeting K4GQP-George May was elected as new V-P, to fill the unexpired term of K4QG-Art, when he became President.

Interesting to note, in August 1973, the membership totalled 155, with the following breakdown: Extras 10; Advanced 42; General 39; Technicians 7; Conditionals 5; Novice 7 & unlicensed 44; plus Canadian 1.

Accomplishments of some members during this year: K4NE-Lew Sieck placed 2nd & K4QG-Art Monsees, 3rd, worldwide in Old Timers Contest & in QCWA contest, Lew placed 7th & Art 18th. Also Lew 1st in Fla. in the Communication Dept. Contest in ARRL Bulletin.

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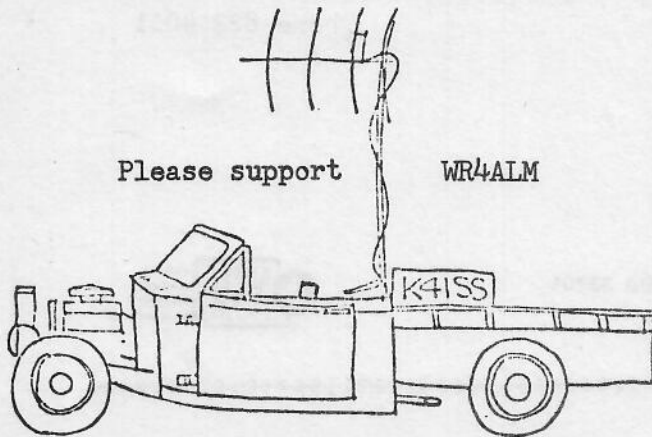
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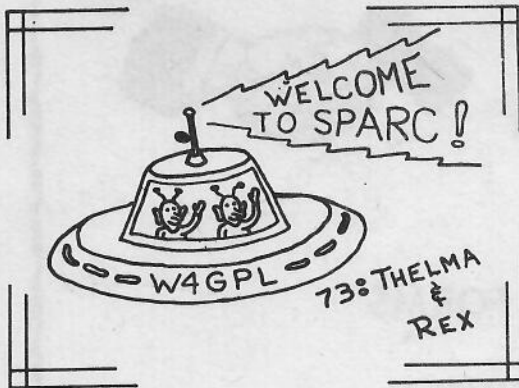
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