

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

FEBRUARY 1980



PRESIDENT James E. (Ed) Harney, K4DRN
720 38th Ave. South
St. Petersburg, FL 33705
Phone 898-4595

EDITOR—PUBLISHER Jack Adams W4NOK
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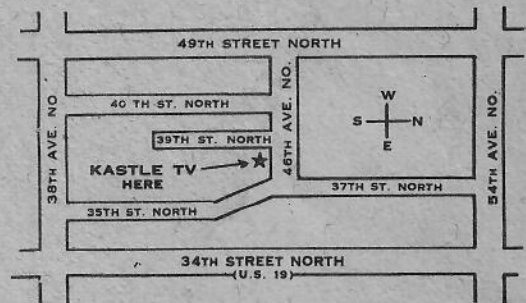
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S P A R C G A P

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 1, 1980 AT 8:00 P.M. AT THE RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS, 818 4TH STREET NORTH, ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

The meeting of January 4, 1980 was called to order by President John Macdonald W4CCL. Members and guests were welcomed and introduced. Forty-seven members and guest signed in.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and corrected as follows: Dues for Repeater team will be established at the December meeting. The minutes were approved as corrected.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved. K5IHH and W4LTE checked the books and everything was in order. Good work Frank!

Woody K4SCL gave the Repeater report. Dues for 1980 were established at \$7.00. The autopatch has been acting up some, but everything else working well.

John W4AGG reported that the club station W4GAC is working well. Volunteers are needed to install some guy wire. Volunteers with hand-talkies are needed for a March of Dimes Walk-A-Thon that will be held in March.

Herb W4IRA gave the report from FGARC. He read a letter discussing the pros and cons of holding the 1980 Band Key Hamfest. There was discussion about SPARC's interest and participation in the hamfest. A vote was held to see if SPARC wanted the hamfest to continue. The vote was as follows: 1 no, 1 abstaining, all others yes.

Hank W4WKO reported that the SPARC GAP does not have enough articles or advertising. Volunteers are needed to help with the SPARC GAP.

Bob K5IHH needs someone to take the Wednesday night net every other Wednesday.

K4NAM Brian asked that the SPARC not participate in the communications of the Sun Coast Power Boat Regatta. During the last event held in October at Lake Maggiore there were some problems and some of the hams were not allowed on boats. The Club that sponsors the events did not support us. W4GPL made a motion that we pull out, K4SCL second, Passed.

The following new members were presented: Jim Lauritsen K4FQP, Harvey Klein W4NWS, Ed Brown KA4LME, Dave Bierbaum K4RBJ, Glenn Sprague W4NGN. Before voting upon the above members K4ISS moved that the vote be presented in two groups: Those that were present and those that were not present. The motion was seconded but was voted down. K4TH George moved that we accept the prospective members. The motion was seconded and passed.

Woody K4J6L asked that an investigation Committee be appointed. President for 1980, Ed K4DRN will appoint a committee to investigate prospective members. The prospective members should be presented to the club in person.

W4GPL said that the Suncoasters have asked the we help and coordinate communications during the Festival of States parade. This will be coordinated by SPARC but all hams and clubs are invited and encouraged to participate.

After the break officers for 1980 were installed and sworn in by Rex W4GPL. They are as follows:

President: K4DRN Ed Harney
Vice President: WD4COL John MacDonald
Secretary: N4APZ Debbie MacDonald
Treasurer: W4VIP Frank Ryall
Board of Directors: Herb Tuel W4IRA

The new President, Ed W4DRN took over the meeting. He said that he will be making committee appointments. He hopes that this year will be a successful one for SPARC.

W4BAV is donating a complete set of SPARC Gaps to the club.

An executive board meeting to be held following the meeting was announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Submitted by,
N4APZ Debbie

W4ACG

Ref: Equipment added at W4GAC

Hi John:

WD4FUV, WA4WEO, WD4KGY, N4NL, WA4CGW & the writer were instrumental in installing the following equipment at the Club Station: (Also KA4BFO)

- 1- New Antenna for Amer. Red Cross station, with new Co-Ax (Paid for by the St. Pete Chapt. of Amer Red Cross)
- 2- Wilson, Series II, tri-band beam
- 3- 220 Mhz beam with new co-ax
- 4- Midland Model 13-513 220 transceiver, S/N 77000435
- 5- Dentron Super Tuner Plus, S/N 1609
- 6- Bearcat Model 210 Scanning Rec. No Serial Number available

WD4FUV was foreman incharge; he along with WD4KGY, N4NL & W4GPL put in quite a few hours on several week-ends, while WA4CGW & WA4WEO both worked a morning each and KA4BFO one full day.

The writer will do a few chores around there on Sunday 10/28 also. The above fellows are to be congratulated on their continued interest and fine workman ship.

Rex

CC- WD4COL, K4SCL & W4VIP

PS- Suggest you secure serial numbers on the other equipment, where available,

we had too much to do otherwise.

NOTICE AUCTION

WHO: All SPARC Members and any
WHAT: Any and all used radio & items of interest to radi
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"73s"

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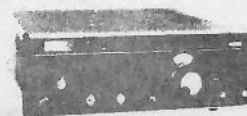
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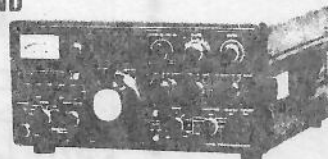
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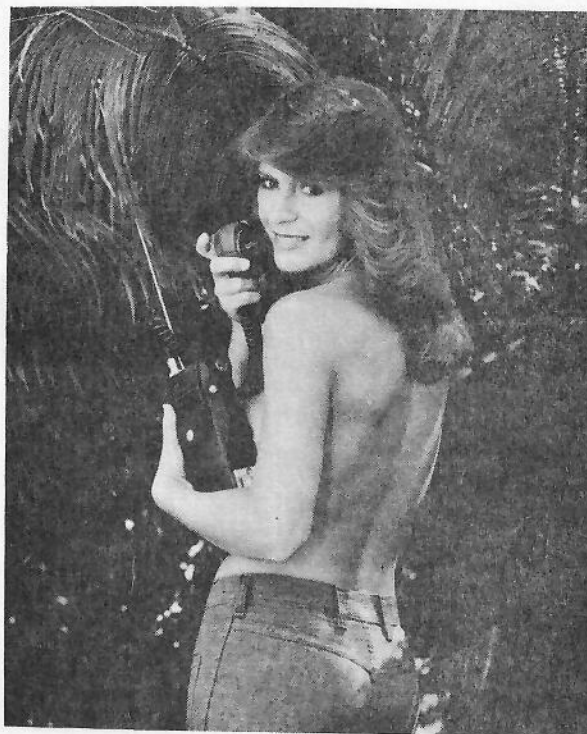
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Cont'd

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.

SPARC GAP

SPARC REPEATER NEWS

The 1980 Team Budget was approved at the December 21st meeting, as follows:

1. Telephone, \$25 per month	\$300
2. Maintenance, \$15 per month	180
3. Red Cross donation	200
4. Administrative expenses	30
5. Autopatch logging tapes	20
6. Spare repeater antenna	270
	<u>\$1000</u>

Based on the approved budget, the 1980 Repeater Team dues were established at \$7.00, down 30% from last year!

The 1980 SPARC Repeater Team organization is as follows:

1. Trustee/Chairman: K4SCL
2. Secretary: K4TH
3. Treasurer: W4VIP
4. Standing Committees:
 - A. Engineering: K4SCL, W4GPL, K5IHH, KANAN, K4ISS, W4LTE, WD4PUV.
 - B. Control Operators: K4SCL/K4RXO, W4IRA, WD4KGY, W44TJG/K4ISS, K5IHH, W4GPL, W4LTE, K8PKM/K48COZ, WD4COL/N4APZ, WB4LXH, W4VIP, W4WKO, AA4G, W4AKH/W44TVL, W44WOU, WB4FVN, W4NOK.
 - C. Net Manager: K5IHH.
 - D. Public Service: W4GPL, KANAN.
 - E. Refreshments: K4RXO.
 - F. Awards: KANAN.
 - G. Social Events: W44TJG.
 - H. Publicity/Public Relations: Open.

Recently a revised list of Control Operators was distributed. Please correct the phone number for K4SCL/K4RXO to 584-0984.

The Pinellas Amateur Weather Net was started on the SPARC Repeater on December 6th, meeting each Thursday at 8 P.M. This provides the opportunity for radio amateurs interested in cooperating with Ruskin NOAA Weather Center and reporting severe weather conditions to meet and talk over problems. We expect to have a series of programs, with NOAA instructors, teaching us what and how to report.

The Pinellas Emergency Net is now reduced to two regular weekly meetings, one on the SPARC Repeater at 6:30 P.M. on Sundays, combined with the SPARC Repeater Net, and one on 28,720 KHz at 9 P.M. on Thursdays.

Our ARES 220 MHz emergency repeater is now ready to go on 223.06/224.66, but it would be nice if we had a site to put it up sort of permanent and get people used to using it. The 13-513 at W4GAC needs something to talk to.

It is a new year and a new decade. Let us pray that this brings not only great accomplishments but pride in what we are doing, with a good feeling of friendship, trust, and mutual respect among the local Radio Amateurs.

73,

K4SCL

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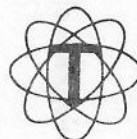
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SPARC GAP

SPARC REPEATER STATION POLICIES

Note: Station policies are specified by the Trustee, usually with advice of Control Operators and/or membership. Control Operators are expected to help carry out these policies when on duty.

1. Operate legally. Follow FCC rules as carefully as possible.
2. Provide the best service possible for our members, our community and our visitors.
3. Keep our equipment operational and our members trained so as to be ready to provide the best possible service in the event of a disaster or lesser emergency.
4. Cooperate with government agencies, especially law enforcement and emergency service agencies.
5. Maintain close liaison with American Red Cross, South Pinellas Chapter, making our facilities available for emergency service as may be required.
6. Encourage and assist our members and prospective members in improving their equipment and operating ability.
7. Cooperate with other Amateur Radio organizations, especially repeater organizations, in matters of mutual interest, with a view to improving the Amateur Radio Service as a whole.
8. The repeater will be operated with carrier access from 6 A.M. to 11 P.M. daily. During this time, there will be a Control Operator on duty and the autopatch will be available to members. The autopatch access code will be divulged to members only. Non-members and visitors may use the autopatch by having the Control Operator or other Member access the patch and supervise the operation. In the event of Club or Team activity extending beyond 11 P.M., the station may be left on carrier access later than normal. This should be cleared with the Trustee, if possible.
9. The repeater will be operated with tone access from 11 P.M. to 6 A.M. During this time, the repeater is on "automatic control" (FCC 97.85e), with no Control Operator on duty. The access tone will be divulged to members only. The autopatch will be disabled while the repeater is on automatic control. Control Operators must take care to ensure that the autopatch is disabled when switching to tone access. Any members observing rules infraction during this period shall take action as necessary to correct the situation.
10. In the event of a known emergency in progress or expected, we should make every effort to have the station fully operational on carrier access.

Woodrow Huddleston
Woodrow Huddleston, K4SCL,
Trustee

SPARC GAP

CONTD

SPARC Repeater report:

John, WD4COL, read a note sent by Hank, WA4WKO, suggesting several features which could be incorporated into the repeater.

Woody, K4SCL, reporting on the repeater stated that it is 'still working', and has had no need for maintenance for quite some time. Commenting on Hank's suggestions, he said that they are all good and possible, but they do require someone's time, and there appears to be a lack of people willing to devote the time needed to accomplish the tasks.

A 'Storm Alarm', donated by 'AGL Electronics', was auctioned off to the highest bidder with the money going to the Club treasury. Mac, K4EPH, is the proud possessor with the high bid of \$23.

A gift certificate from 'Ray's Amateur Radio' was given as a door prize. Brian, K4NAN, being the winner.

The meeting was adjourned for coffee, donuts, and fellowship from 8:35 to 8:50 PM.

Woodrow Huddleston (Woody), K4SCL, the Section Communications Manager for South Florida, gave a brief talk on the planned 'Simulated Emergency Test' to be conducted this next weekend. He commented on the fact that the dates for the S.E.T. had been changed from January to October because the Northern states were "up to their ears in real emergencies during the winter months". The Section Emergency Co-ordinator for this S.E.T. will be Bill, AA4WJ. The Assistant Emergency Co-ordinators are Rex, W4GPL in South Pinellas County and Jim, W4DPH, in Northern Pinellas County. As promised at an earlier date, Woody had copies of the Pinellas Emergency Plan available for all.

The planned problem of this year's S.E.T. will be Hurricane 'Jimmy', due to hit Florida at 8:00 A.M., October 6, 1979.

Rex, W4GPL, told of the plans for the South County Area which will require several amateurs contacting the various municipal agencies and receiving a message from the agency then transmitting the message from that location. Rex asks that each amateur send two messages during S.E.T. One to W4GAC and One to K4SCL.

Jim, W4DPH, stated that the response of the various municipalities and agencies has improved since the advent of the rains associated with hurricanes David and Frederick. They will be conducting their S.E.T. Exercises Sunday, October 7, and will be utilizing the frequencies of the Largo, SPARC, and 220 MHz repeaters.

Ed, K4DRN, expressed a word of thanks from Jim Keyes, K4FCW, thanking all for their cards and wishes. He is weak but doing fine.

With no more business to be conducted, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wes Jackson

Wes Jackson, WD4PUV
(Conscripted acting secretary)

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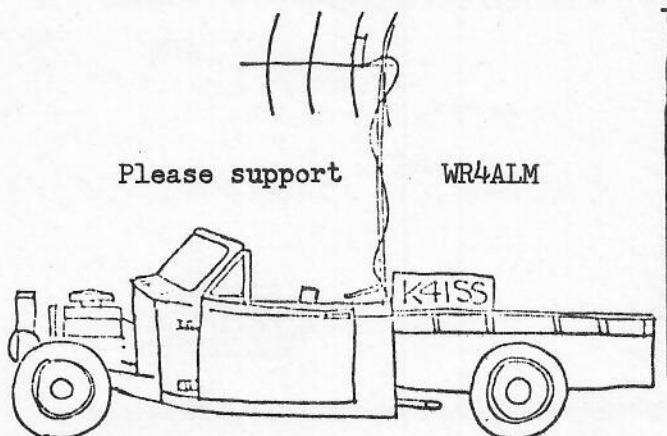
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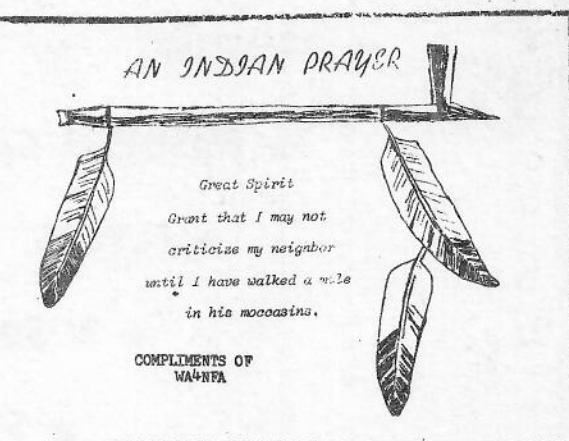
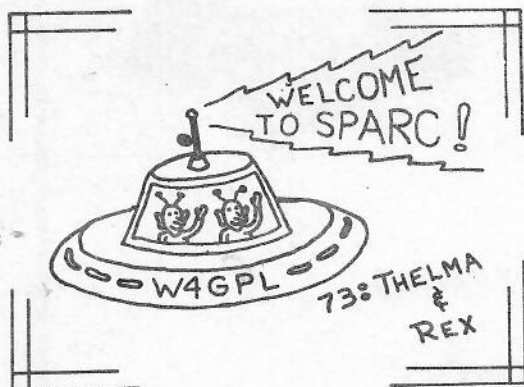
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