

# SPARC GAP

## St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club • SPARC

The next club meeting will be Aug 5th at the Red Cross headquarters 818 4th St. N. St. Pete 7:30 PM (19:30)  
WA4RLV has arranged for a Speaker from GTE

"Breakfast With Bob" Sat. 7-9 at Jerry's Rest. 2595 54th Ave. N. St. Pete.

Westlink is on SPARC 147.06 Monday 7:30 PM (19:30) brought to us by Omar N4MQG.

QCWA Pelican Chapter NET is Sat. 10 AM on 147.06

ARES-RACES EMERGENCY NET TUESDAY 7:30 PM (19:30) on 147.06  
If you would like to volunteer to be a net control or to expound on a familiar subject contact Carl N4QEF 577-3591

According to WD4RQK, Ray Lettre a past club member is now an ordained priest at St. Therese's in Spring Hill

John N4KHZ has accepted a new job that may not let him continue as club secretary. He ask if someone has a Comm. 64 computer to take care of the roster and or can take the minutes of meetings.

Bob N2ESP has suggested that the club purchase a gin pole. This would be a help and safety item for many of us and everyone should not buy his own. What do you think?

### The 1988 Officers

President	Jay Strom K9BSL	822-9107
Vice President	Hank Briese WA4RLV	391-5488
Secretary	John Fiorino N4KHZ	347-2741
Treasurer	Ken Dale AA4IO	321-9635
Board Members	Oliver Thigpin WD4KGY	321-4069
	Betty Marston KA4CRS	546-3857
	Dave Stocky K4KE	526-4429
Repeater Trustee	Emmett West WA4AKH	526-3460
Station Trustee	Rex Cottrell W4GPL	391-5158
W4GAC		
SPARC GAP EDITOR	Donn Davis N4KII	527-9636
Daily Net Mgr.	Betty Marston KA4CRS	546-3857
Emergency Net Mgr.	Carl Meyer N4QEF	577-3591
Membership Chairman	Sam Hameroff N4BGS	381-1070



# FREE FLEA MART

For Sale: E-Z Way RBX-50 crank-up tilt over tower with ground post and rotor head, galvanized, extra heavy duty, reworked, ready to go. \$600 OBO. Dick KF4NS 527-1331

For Sale: Swan 500 CX, 117 XC power supply, 508 VFO, VX-2. Vox unit, FP-1 phone patch, spare set matched 6mj6 finals, instruction books, Now in use. Sale as package only, prefer no shipping \$300 Jim Keyes K4FCW 813-822-1699  
QST Magazines 73,74,75,83,85,86 \$2.50 per year

For Sale Santec 440/up hand held with programable P-L, extra battery, deck charger and speaker mike \$250.  
K9BSL 822-9107

4 amp power supply \$15, SP430 new Kenwood speaker \$55, MC-358 4 prong Kenwood mike \$20. like new set of ladies golf clubs with carry cart, all types of luggage Sam N4BGS 381-1070

For Sale cabinet, bass speaker 37½x26x16½ four 6" wrought iron legs included \$20, 2 cabinets, speaker, electro voice Marquis, mahogany finish 19x16x31 \$15 each, cabinet, speaker lined oak 23x14½x14 \$10  
GE 1000 Large screen color TV \$500, acoustical modem \$25  
Emaline Saunders 343-1611

As you know we now have, available to us, a new RACES Card.

This card will be issued by C.D. Hq in the following manor: Any licensed Amateur desiring to be included in the new RACES list, for the older RACES card holders as well. Will fill out one of the regular RACES applications, as before, only this time include a one inch wide by one one and fourth inch high Color or black & white picture.

The application will then be  
Sent to Rex Cottrell-W4GPL  
800 Bay Point Dr  
Madeira Beach, Fla 33708.  
Phone 391 5158

Upon receipt I will forward the same to C.D. Hq. for the new encapsulated card to be made up and forwarded to the applicant.

Delivery of the new card will require about 30 days, because of added work load at C.D. Hq.

The old cards will remain in force for some time yet. However the new encapsulated card will be more acceptable, by the various agencies involved. That implies that if you are a RACES member your membership will not be immediately canceled if a new card is not issued and your current one is not outdated.

Applications will be available at the various Radio Clubs or at C.D.Hq.

73's-

*Rex*

Rex Cottrell W4GPL

# RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMPLOYER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ CITY & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RACES PROGRAM ? \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WISH TO BE CALLED AT WORK IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY? \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU HAVE A TOUCHTONE PAD? \_\_\_\_\_ DO YOU HAVE A PHONE PATCH? \_\_\_\_\_

Member Of ARRL \_\_\_\_\_ ARES \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB AFFILIATION: CARS \_\_\_\_\_ METRO \_\_\_\_\_ SPARC \_\_\_\_\_ TBRA \_\_\_\_\_ NONE \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU SERVE AS A "CONTROL OPERATOR" FOR CARS \_\_\_\_\_ METRO \_\_\_\_\_ SPARC \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU HAVE A HANDTALKIE? \_\_\_\_\_ IS IT SYNTHESIZED? \_\_\_\_\_

IF not synthesized 146.37/97 \_\_\_\_\_ 146.49/49 \_\_\_\_\_ 146.94/94 \_\_\_\_\_

LIST crystal pairs 147.51/51 \_\_\_\_\_ 147.66/06 \_\_\_\_\_ 147.96/36 \_\_\_\_\_

(Other Pairs) \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK APPROPRIATE BLANKS IF YOU HAVE SUCH EQUIPMENT:

	2 METER	6 METER	220MHz	450 MHz
Base Equipment	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mobile Equipment (in car)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Portable Equipment (could be moved)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Emergency Power (batteries only)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Portable Generator	_____	_____	_____	_____
Portable Antenna	_____	_____	_____	_____
Synthesized Rig	_____	_____	_____	_____
Crystal Pairs	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____
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	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____

11  
 Include  
 Picture  
 Color or  
 Black/White  
 1" X 1-1/4"

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO RELOCATE IN YOUR CITY? \_\_\_\_\_

C COUNTY? \_\_\_\_\_ OR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER? \_\_\_\_\_

IF SO, PLEASE LIST THE THREE (3) CLOSEST SHELTER OR PLACE NEEDING COMMUNICATION

1. \_\_\_\_\_ DISTANCE FROM HOME \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_ DISTANCE FROM HOME \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_ DISTANCE FROM HOME \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. COUNTY EOC \_\_\_\_\_ DISTANCE FROM HOME \_\_\_\_\_

CLASSIFY YOUR AVAILABILITY:

(1) GENERALLY \_\_\_\_\_ (2) PROBABLY \_\_\_\_\_ (3) OCCASIONALLY \_\_\_\_\_

# What To Do When You Hear A Radio Call For Help

BILL WELSH, W6DDB

The code distress call is SOS. The voice distress call is MAYDAY. MAYDAY is an anglicized derivation of the French word *M'aidez*, which means "help me." Distress calls have absolute worldwide priority over all other types of transmissions. There have been several instances wherein distress calls have been heard on the amateur bands. Twice I have been the initial amateur to answer distress calls, and any active amateur is apt to be such a coordinating station at any time. It is essential that you know what to do if you hear a distress call. I wrote the original version of this article while working at RMCA Coastal Harbor Radio Station WBL (Buffalo, New York) more than three decades ago. There is very little difference between the two articles, of course, since the requirements have not changed much during the intervening 30 years. However, I have deleted references to East Coast telephone numbers and replaced them with ones that are pertinent throughout our country.

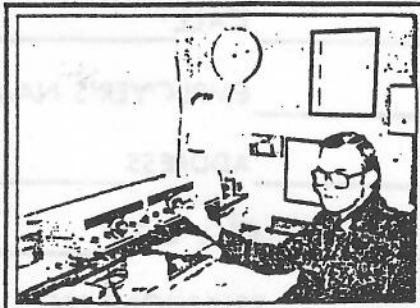
If you hear a distress call, assume that it is genuine; there are severe penalties for falsifying such transmissions and it very seldom occurs. In any case, it would be better to be fooled than to take a chance on not helping people in distress. After you get over the initial shock and disbelief, do not panic; the people sending the distress call (from a ship, yacht, tug, airplane, balloon, car, etc.) have enough problems without having to put up with a terror-stricken responding station. I have been the transmitting operator in a few bad situations, and I assure you it was great to have my messages accepted in a professional manner.

The first station acknowledged by the station in distress is in charge of the distress communication in conjunction with the station in distress. If it becomes obvious that some other responding station can handle the distress traffic better (usually due to better reception conditions), control may be transferred if the station in distress agrees to the change. If you are the first station responding to a distress call, obtain the following required information:

- (1) Name of vessel.
- (2) Civilian or military assigned call sign, or airplane registration number.

CQ • November 1982

2814 Empire Ave., Burbank, CA 91504



*Dave Schwertfager, KA8PCS, of Columbus, Ohio, is one of many retired amateurs on the Novice bands, having held KN8AHV and K8AHV more than two decades ago. Dave credits this column with getting him interested in amateur radio again. His station includes a 40 meter dipole and antenna tuner, plus the Heath HX-1680 and HX-1681 pair. Even though this is his second time as a Novice, Dave again suffered first contact jitters. He has gotten over that now and he is working states at a good rate. He recently contacted DK4YJ in West Germany. His code speed is about 13 w.p.m., and Dave expects to be a General by the time this picture is printed. He also expects to have the Worked All States (WAS) award very soon, an accomplishment he missed in the 1950s.*

Note that this is not the amateur callsign that is probably in use.

- (3) Exact nature of the distress and imminent danger.
- (4) Physical description of the vessel (size, color, etc.).
- (5) The number of people involved.
- (6) Summary of any injuries or deaths.
- (7) Geographic location and certainty of that location data (sure or unsure).
- (8) Frequencies and modes distressed station can and will use to supplement amateur band communication.
- (9) Home port (city and country, or airport city and state).
- (10) Exactly what help is required.
- (11) Disaster site weather conditions.
- (12) Authority for distress traffic (usually the master of a ship or the captain of an airplane).

As soon as you have checked all of the preceding facts with the operator at the station in distress, call the appropriate search and rescue (SAR) organization. Many federal and local agencies participate in American search and rescue ef-

forts, but the two most useful organizations to contact in emergencies are the Air Force and Coast Guard. SAR activities are coordinated throughout the 48 contiguous (adjoining) states by the Air Force from Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, where the toll-free telephone number is 1-800-851-3051. This number is only to be used for emergency calls. The Air Force coordinates SAR activities in the inland areas of our country. The Coast Guard coordinates SAR activities along our Atlantic and Pacific coastlines. Both Air Force and Coast Guard can (and will) coordinate SAR efforts among all federal and local facilities concerned with each emergency situation.

The Coast Guard has divided the Atlantic and Pacific regions into sub-regions and sectors, each of which has rescue coordination centers (RCC's) that are responsible for dispatching SAR personnel and equipment. The telephone numbers of the subregions/sectors are as follows:

**NOTE #2**

Inland Region (USAF) 48 continuous states	
Scott AFB, Illinois (emergency only)	1-800-851-3051
Atlantic Maritime Region (USCG)	
Boston Sub-region	617-223-3644
Cleveland Sub-region (Great Lakes)	216-293-3984
Miami Sub-region	305-350-5611
New Orleans Sub-region	504-682-6225
New York Sub-region	212-668-7055
Norfolk Sub-region	804-398-3231
St. Louis Sub-region (Mississippi, Ohio, and Missouri Rivers)	314-425-4614
W. Atlantic Sub-region	212-668-7055
Pacific Maritime Region (USCG)	
Central Pacific Sub-region	808-546-7109
Eastern Pacific Sub-region	415-556-5500
Long Beach Sector	213-590-2225
San Francisco Sector	415-556-5500
Seattle Sector	206-299-5886
Northern Pacific Sub-region	907-586-7340

The preceding SAR centers have excellent communication capabilities between themselves. If you are not sure which group has jurisdiction over an emergency situation, just call the closest group and they will provide help. It is an excellent idea to look up the telephone numbers of Air Force and/or Coast Guard facilities listed in your local telephone directories. Simply look under "U.S. Government" and remember that the Coast Guard is now part of the Department of Transportation. I hope you will make a copy of this article and keep it in your shack for use in the event of an emergency. It is good to add telephone numbers of your local USAF/USCG facilities to this emergency aid.

CAP St.Pete 821-8354

SAR Coast Guard St.Pete 896-6187

Police non emergency ST.Pete 895-1911

National Response Center 1-800-424-8802 (chemical and oil spills)

\*1 Note: Scott AFB # verified March 88

CG RCC #'s not verified this year