

Welcome to

SPARC COUNTRY

Vol. 2 No. 3

N4JWL Ted Moritz Editor

June 1989

«««« PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS »»»»

Well we have had our Hamfest-Picnic and it was a great success. I hope you all had as good a time as I had. The new location seemed to be to everyone's liking. I had several comments to have it there next year.

Now for my lecture. I cannot impress upon you enough that this is YOUR club. Not mine or a small group that loves to work. We as your officers are trying to do what we think you would like to have done, but we cannot do it all by ourselves. Your participation is part of your responsibility as a member of SPARC. We want your help. - we need your help - we have to have your help if this club is to succeed. You all commented that you wanted a Sparc - Gap printed on a schedule, we have the machinery in place and active.

Now it is YOUR turn to give us something to print. YOU want to check into a net 365 days a year. OK, that's fine, but the net does not run by itself. YOU need to provide the net controls to make it work.

Now that you understand that YOU have to get active I expect - I need - in fact I delegate to you the jobs that need to be done. Please let me know which of you are taking which job.

The Roster for next year will be published in March 1990 and those that will be listed in the roster must have their dues paid by the Feb. Club Meeting or they will be left off the roster for that year. We now have an up-to-date computer program of the roster and we need to know all of your specific changes as they occur so we can keep the roster up to date.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP ! 73's AA4SF Pres.- Bob

"A fellow complained of his old shoes that hurt his feet, and then, he met a man who had no feet."

Contributed, (thank you)

This Ham is sitting at his desk answering a letter from his insurance company.

I am writing in response to your request for additional information in block number three of the accident reporting form. I put "poor planning" as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully, and I trust that the following detail will be sufficient.

I am an amateur radio operator. On the day of the accident I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the un-needed tools and materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which fortunately was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground level and untied the rope, holding tightly to insure a slow descent of the 300 pounds of tools. You will note in block number eleven of the accident reporting form that I weigh only 155 lbs.

Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley.

Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block number eleven. As you might imagine I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and, fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me.....I again lost my presence of mind. I let go of it.
.....from the Sterling Rock Falls Newsletter

PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY NET

Pinellas County Emergency Net was held on May 2, Tuesday evening, at 7:30 pm. This was a combined effort to begin a county wide net, rather than an individual club/repeater net.

This will meet several objectives of the E.C. By meeting on one net; all amateurs can receive the same information and training. I continue to encourage all amateurs to check in on 146.970 at 7:30 P.M. Tuesday evenings.

73's Dan Traylor, N8JLO / E.C.

FLEA MARKET

FOR SALE: Swan 500cx, 117XC power supply; 508 VFO, Vx-2 vox unit. FP-1 Phone Patch, spare set matched 6MJ6 finals. Instruction books. Package only. No shipping bring CASH, \$350.00 - "Jim" Keyes, 1300-28 Av.n. St. Petersburg.FI.
Phone (813) 822 - 1699. *****

LIKED THE IDEA, HOW ABOUT YOU???

I liked the idea Joy N4NMQ came up with at the last Club meeting. After signing in, get your coffee and doughnuts from the kitchen, leave a little cash, and bring the goodies to the meeting. If the meeting gets dull, which it doesnt, just take a sip of coffee. What do you think? Just dont sit there.... Speak up. Tell Joy!

S.P.A.R.C. Club Minutes of meeting. May 5, 1989

The meeting of the St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club, was called to order by Pres. Bob Phelps, AA4SF, at 1930, Fri. May 5, 1989 at the Red Cross Bldg. St. Petersburg, FL.

At 2045 Bob thanked Jim Homan, W4DPH, for presenting an outstanding program on Packet Radio, and then proceeded with the business meeting, with 37 in attendance including 2 visitors.

In the absence of the Secretary, no minutes were read and Joy Phelps, N4NMQ, was asked to record the minutes. Since this Pres. was apparently unable to read lips, she reluctantly agreed to do so. Hi!

The Treas. Ken Dale, AA4IO, reported a balance of \$2,571.71

In the absence of the net mgr. Helen Haynes, WBOHDX, Dan Traylor, N8JLO, reported 641 checkins for April, down from March due to loss of winter visitors. Helen needs a net control fro Friday nights and Sunday nights, and advises that if someone doesn't volunteer soon she will be forced to tender her resignation. Her health will not permit her to shoulder the stress.

Repeater Trustee, Ammett West, WA4AKH, reports things are going well with the exception of some female voice resonant problems which trip the tones. He has been in touch with the manufacturer, who has suggested on a remedy and if that doesn't eliminate the problem, he's to return the controller to them. It appears to be a freak situation: however, WB4ZBO CARS machine has the same problems. Emmett will keep after it.

W4GAC Trustee, Rex Cottrell, W4GPL, reported that though our club station is there for members' use and enjoyment, we must all remember to clean up after ourselves. There are no signs in the building any longer, but it is understood that there is a No Smoking policy in affect. Rex also reported that a City Inspector found 2 antennas not grounded. This will of course be taken care of. He then thanked everyone for their cooperation in keeping the Station room clean and neat.

SPARC - GAP Editor, Ted Moritz, N4JWL reported that the deadline for articles, want ads, sale items, etc for the June issue is May 15. He encouraged all to participate in filling up the pages of our newsletter as well as helping out in other areas so that not just a few end up doing all the work.

Emergency Net Mgr. Dan Traylor, N8JLO reported that his first net was this past Tues. and there were 29 checkins with the net lasting 62 minutes. He encouraged all to check in on this net every Tues. at 7 PM on the Largo machine, 146.97. This machine is used because it has a very good area coverage. See Dan for ARES membership applications.

Florida Gulfcoast Amateur Radio Council (FGARC) representative, R.D.Lee, WB4TEJ, reported that they are now affiliated with ARRL. Tickets for the Suncoast ARRL convention will be \$5.00 in advance or \$6.00 at the door. They are working on the parking situation, R.V.'s etc. There will be a 15 pc band at the Sat. night banquet. They need workers in many areas.- please volunteer. Dates: Nov. 18, & 19.

Changing hats, Lee, further reported 24 students in the Novice class and a 75% passing ratio. He thanked all of the volunteers who have been involved and reminded us that we need to start a tech/general class so these folks can move on up the ladder. Anyone interested in helping with this endeavor please make yourself known.

Under old business, the Pres. reminded us again we should all be active if we want a successful club - send articles to Ted, volunteer to be a Net control for a night a week, we are moving ahead by "Pitching in and getting the work done."

Lee reported the FGARC program is being readied for print for the Nov. convention. Ads still \$80.-full page; \$40 - half page; \$20 - qtr page. Rex suggested Ted design us a new ad and he agreed to do so. It was moved and seconded that SPARC again take out a full page ad. Upon vote it was unanimously agreed to do so.

Tom, AA4YS reported that upgrading can be done at Seminole Hi School May 17, at 6pm.

Under New business it was reported there is a woman on the air using the call sign W4JUL and she is not an amateur. Be on the watch for her.

Wayne, W4LTE, reports that Stanley Kahn, K4JBL is being looked for. It is thought he may be a silent key. Anyone with any information let Wayne know.

Much discussion was had on TVI. If we get a complaint we're to report it to W4TAH in Sarasota. The position of cables in back of VCR's sometimes presents problems. May need to be replaced or shortened. There were several reports of various incidents with radio, T.V., etc.

The Pres. announced the Hamfest was tomorrow and he look forward to seeing everyone there at the new location just around the corner.

Coffee and donuts were served before the meeting tonight and finished up during and after. This seemed to work out nicely and will continue for a while to see how members like it.

Meeting was adjourned at 2130

Respectfully submitted, Joy Phelps, N4NMQ
Sect. Pro-tem

SPARC AUTODIAL EMERGENCY NO'S

(Cut this out, keep a copy with you at home,
and in the car.)

- 0 ARC American Red Cross
- 1 PPD Pinellas Park Police
- 2 SPP St. Petersburg Police
- 3 CPD Clearwater Police
- 4 E.O.C. Emerg. Operations center
- 5 LP Largo Police
- 6 AAA Amer. Auto. Assoc.
- 7 FHP Florida Highway Police
- 8 PSO Pinellas Sheriff. Office
- 9 911 911 Emergency

St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club

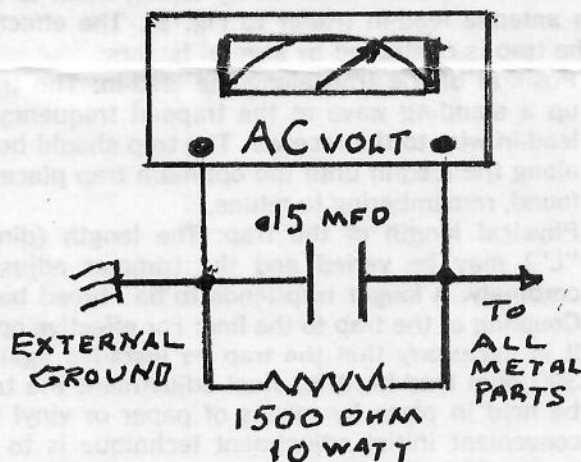
P. O. Box 4026

St. Petersburg, Fl. 33731-4026

QST...de AA4YA.. To all SPARC members...Don't get zapped by AC leakage from your rig! A simple test unit, as shown in the illustration, will tell you if excessive leakage is present. Connect the unit's ground terminal to a separate ground, then touch the remaining terminal to any metallic part of the rig. If the voltage reads 7.5 volts RMS you have a leakage current of 5^{ma}. This is a hazard potential (especially to pacemaker wearers) and should be corrected. For receivers made since Jan. 1973 the leakage must not exceed .75 volts (RMS). That corresponds to 0.5 ma current. Obviously this test is made with the rig plugged into the AC. Repeat the test with the power switch in the off position but still plugged in to AC!

The second illustration shows the value of using polarized plugs ... If your rig has old 2 pin plugs it would help to change them to polarized types. Plugs are cheaper than funerals!!!!!!

73- B, H - AA4YA



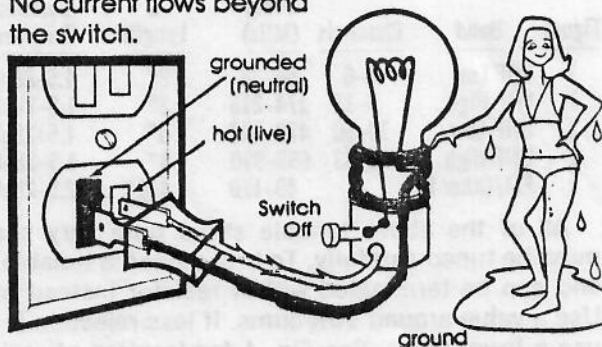
JUNIOR, YOU'RE A BAD BOY--- DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT YOUR FATHER'S LITTLE HANDHELD WOULDN'T FLOAT?

Typical flow of electrical current.

- Return "cool" line (neutral).
- "Hot" line (live).

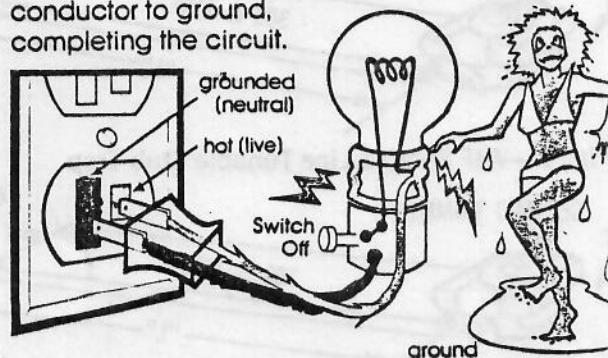
Polarized

When the switch is "off"—the hot line is "off" No current flows beyond the switch.



Non-polarized

Even though the switch is "off" the hot line **MAY** still be "on." Here, the woman's body acts as a conductor to ground, completing the circuit.





CONSTRUCTION DETAILS FOR TUNABLE TRAPS

A tunable stub can be constructed from 300 ohm twin lead or 75 ohm coaxial cable to effectively minimize FM interference (TVI) or other sources of RF interference, within a range of 40 to 990 MHz entering a television receiver via the VHF or UHF antenna terminals.

A tunable stub is composed of a length of 300 ohm twin lead or coaxial cable and a ceramic trimmer. The trimmer is soldered on one end of the line and the other end is terminated with a short, or left open.

The table shown below gives the length of the transmission line and the type of termination to use on the end of the line for the construction of tunable stubs (Refer to Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 for detailed drawings).

Figure	Band	Channels	Freq. (MHz)	L Length	Ceramic Trimmer	Line Term.
1	VHF-Low	2-6	54-88	8"	1.5-28pF	Short
1	VHF-High	7-13	174-216	3"	1.5-28pF	Short
2	UHF-Low	14-50	470-692	5"	1.5-28pF	Open
2	UHF-High	50-83	693-990	3"	1.5-28pF	Open
1	FM/Other RF	-	40-170	4 3/8"	2.5-28pF	Short

All of the above tunable stubs tune very sharply and must be tuned carefully. To broad band a tunable stub, the end can be terminated with a resistor instead of a short. Use a value around 10K ohms. If less rejection is required, use a lower value. See Fig. 4. for location of resistor.

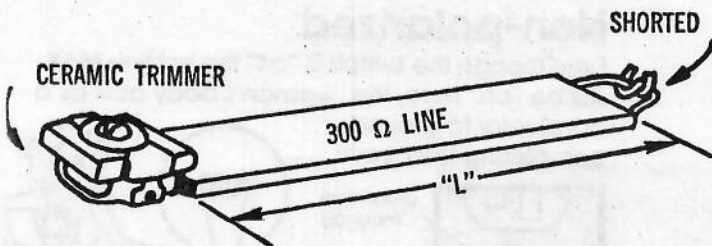


Fig. 1—VHF Shorted Line Tunable Stub Trap

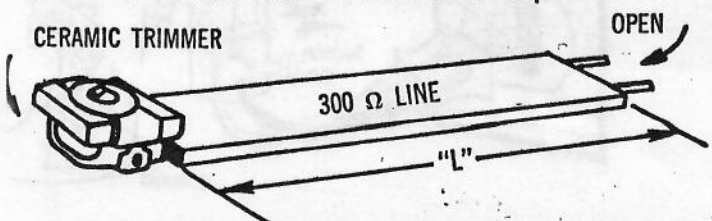


Fig. 2—UHF Open Line Tunable Stub Trap

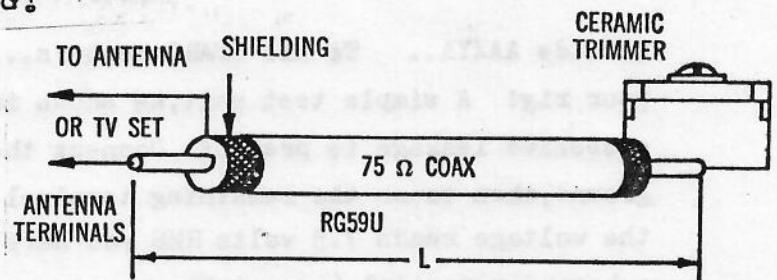


Fig. 3—75 Ohm Coax Tunable Stub Trap

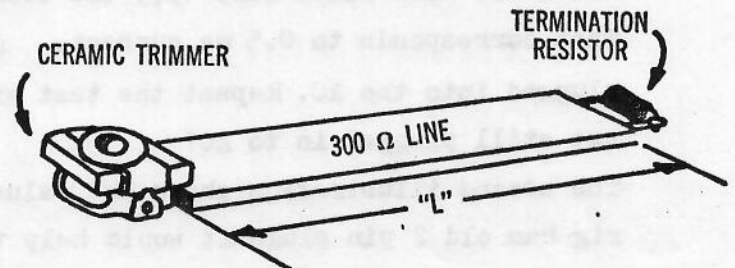


Fig. 4—Broad-Band Tunable Stub Trap

TUNABLE STUB TRAPS INSTALLATION TECHNIQUES

Tunable traps are installed by taping them to the 300 ohm antenna lead-in (Refer to Fig. 5). The effectiveness of the trap is controlled by several factors:

1. Position of the trap along the lead-in: The trap sets up a standing wave at the trapped frequency in the lead-in wire to the receiver. The trap should be moved along the lead-in until the optimum trap placement is found, remembering to retune.
2. Physical length of the trap: The length (dimension "L") may be varied and the trimmer adjusted accordingly. A longer trap tends to be "broad band."
3. Coupling of the trap to the line: For effective operation it is necessary that the trap be installed against flat 300 ohm lead-in. After final adjustment the trap can be held in place by means of paper or vinyl tape. A convenient initial adjustment technique is to hold it on the 300 ohm line by means of spring loaded plastic clothespins. The clothespins serve as convenient handles during the trimmer adjustment, and allow positioning along the lead-in for optimum attenuation.

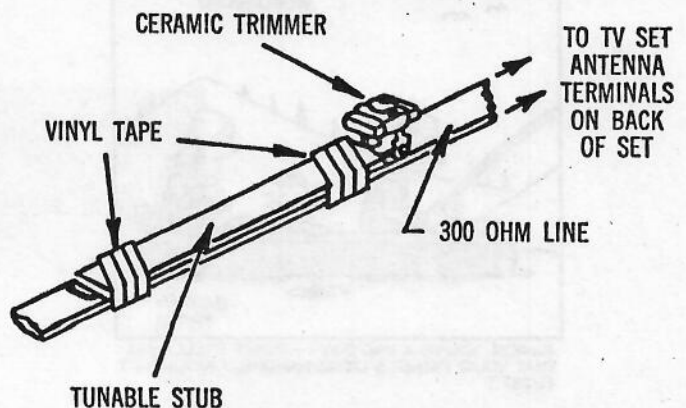


Figure 5

Mirror, mirror, on the wall
 You're no good to me at all!
 When I look into your space
 And see the reflection of my face
 Is that person that I see
 Is that person really me?

Sure, I know it's been a while
 Since I was called a juvenile,
 But I really feel the same
 'Cept I'm stiff and a little lame,
 Hair's turned gray, getting thin,
 Lots of wrinkles and a double chin.

But I'm really feeling fine,
 Work at something all the time.
 Still I wonder when I see
 That reflection that is me,
 Which one of us is really real,
 The one I see or the one I feel?

—Gertrude Young, age 96 ■

PARTY PATTEN!

Another enjoyable get-to-gether has occurred! SPARC hosted its annual Lake Maggiore Picnic and Swap Meet in a delightful new location in the park – just around the corner in a shiny-bright, new picnic area. It was great to see our friends from out of town who joined us.

I neglected to report on the great time we all had in February on the Starlight Princess Dinner Cruise. Twenty five members and friends enjoyed a beautiful evening.

Next on the Agenda is an evening of German festivities at the Old Heidelberg Castle in Sarasota. We'll rendezvous in the parking lot on the northwest corner of 38 av. n. and 16 st. n. St. Petersburg (Exit 275 at 38 Av. N. Go East a few blocks to parking lot on your left.) We'll leave in car pool / caravan style at 4:30 PM. Our reservations are for 5:30 for dinner.

Beginning at 5:30 there will be a live Band. (Our tables are on the dance floor, so wear your polka shoes!)

The floor show starts at 7:00 pm and lasts until 8:30. There will be a sign up sheet at the next meeting or call Joy at 527-4919, to make reservations. There will also be a copy of the menu at the meeting.

There will be German, Swiss, and American cuisine, for you to choose, ranging from \$8.95 to \$14.75. Dress is casual and a big smile and fun-loving spirit is a MUST!

If you choose to meet us there: exit I-75 at Exit #39 Fruitville Rd. Go west into Sarasota direct to restaurants on corner of 301 and 3rd St. which is the end of Fruitville Rd.

COMING UP: Sat Sept. 9, 10:00 AM special guided tour of Pinellas County Heritage Park and picnic lunch in Pavilion. Brochures at our next meeting. Special note – There's a "garden for the blind" at this lovely 21 acre open-air historical exhibit. Plan ahead to come and experience lifestyles from the turn-of-the-century. See Pinellas County's oldest existing structures!

December activity to be announced. Anything special any of you would like to do? Let me know! LIFE REALLY DOES EXIST outside of the Ham Shack. Hi!

Joy - N4NMQ



"You never seen a ham operator before?"

THE 1982 OFFICERS

President	Bob Phelps	AA4SF	527-4919
Vice Pres.	Dan Taylor	N8JLO	526-8951
Secretary	Ed Allen	N4TYX	323-4820
Treasurer	Ken Dale	AA4IO	321-9635
BOARD MEMBER	Betty Marston	KA4CRS	546-3857
	Joy Phelps	N4NMQ	527-4919
	(Another Bd. Member to be appointed)		
REPEATER TRUSTEE	Emmett West	WA4AKH	526-3460
STATION TRUSTEE	Rex Cottrell	W4GPL	391-5158
SPARC-GAP EDITOR	Ted Moritz	N4JWL	526-6555
Representatives:			
DAILY NET MANAGER	Helen Haynes	WBOHOX	527-5510
EMERGENCY NET MGR	Dan Taylor	N8JLO	526-8951
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN	Gene Chester	K9FOQ	596-6302

REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular monthly meetings of SPARC are held the first FRIDAY of each month, at the Red Cross Headquarters on 818 4th St. N. in St. Petersburg, FL.

BREAKFAST WITH "SPARC" each Saturday 7am to 9am. at Jerry's Restaraunt... 2595 54th Av.N in St. Petersburg,FL.

SPARC NIGHTLY NET 6:30 pm. Check in, be friendly. SPARC 147.06

WESTLINK is on SPARC 147.06 on Monday immediately following SPARC nightly Net.

DCWA Pelican Chapter Net is held Saturday at 10:00 a.m. on 147.06.

(ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS or regularly held meetings will be published in this spot if written out and given or sent to the Editor, N4JWL, Ted Moritz, 7465 2nd St. N. St. Petersburg, FL 33702. DEADLINE 15th of each month preceding publishing date of (June, Aug., Oct. Dec.)

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