

W4GAC

# THE SPARC GAP

WA4AKH

## THE ST. PETERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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CQ CQ CQ de SPARC. The SPARC club has a very different look this year. Last year at this time we could not get a nominating committee together. This year we have a working committee that was appointed at the Sept. meeting and reported at the Oct. meeting. The slate is as follows;

President;	Lee, WB4TEJ;	Vice-president;	Robert, N4ZMQ;
Secretary;	Mike, KD4FEY;	Treasurer;	Donn, N4KII;
Board members;	Jean, KC4KZU;	John, KD4CBY	Pat, WB1GZW;
Nominations from the floor;		Gary, KD4CBZ;	Tom, N4USX.

There being no other nominations from the floor, nominations were closed. The nominating committee was thanked and then excused. The elections will be at the November meeting and the newly elected officers and board members will assume the duties of their office at the end of that meeting. Gary, KD4CBZ, will not run for a board position due to business.

At the September meeting, handouts from Mike, KD4FEY, (ex, W4/G1JZG) and Lee, WB4TEJ, were passed out to everyone that attended. They have information, a chuckle or two and a few misnakes. The information covered, among other things, ARES/RACES plans & frequencies, local nets of interest, a list of ARRL officials in Florida as well as frequencies that would be used for hurricanes. These handouts will not be mailed to the general membership. When new handouts are made, they will be passed out to those attending the SPARC meetings.

Maxine, KB4QYF received a Certificate of Merit as Chairman of the Picnic committee. She was very surprised, pleased and thanked everyone on the committee who helped make the SPARC Picnic such a big success.

The club station, W4GAC, received a donation in memory of Richard "Dick" Buchholz, W4JNE. Dick, a long time member of SPARC, recently became a silent key. He requested that some of his equipment be donated to the club for use at W4GAC. The plaque to be placed in the club station in his memory was shown at the Oct. meeting. A letter of thanks will be sent to Mrs Bucholz

A special meeting of SPARC will be held on Nov. 25, 1991 in Henderson Hall at the St. Petersburg Red Cross. The guest speaker will be Matt Fisher, KC6RAJ from ALINCO ELECTRONICS INC. Matt will be at the Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council Convention at the State Fairgrounds on Sat. & Sun. Nov. 23 & 24. He will stay over for the SPARC club special meeting and then head back to Washington state. Mike, KD4FEY is to be congratulated for all the time and effort he has put into making all the arrangements.

If you have been monitoring the SPARC WA4AKH repeater during the last year or so, you may have noticed a change in the calls and the way things are being done. For the most part these changes have been good for the repeater, the nets and the SPARC club. We have an active group of hams who would like to learn and experience amateur radio as well as have a good time. Be it on the repeater, the nets, at the club meetings or at a picnic or dinner. If you haven't taken part in any of these good times, why not join us? You could teach someone something or learn something from someone. You might have a laugh or two, or at least a smile from you or with you. It takes only two muscles to smile and look at all the exercise you could get and still enjoy yourself.

The SPARC W5YI VE testing team is doing well. They have done the testing for the last two SPARC classes. There is a need for more ve's to help with the testing. It does take an Advanced or Extra class license and a desire to help. No one has a heavy work load during the testing as we share it so no one goes on overload. With more people to help, it would be easier for everyone. If you are interested in becoming a member of this VE team, contact WB4TEJ, N2ESP, WB1GZW, N4KII, N4USX or WB4GQK. Bob, KC4SXO has joined the team. How about YOU?

Bob, N4ZML after 52 nets has asked to be relieved as a net control station. You can help the club by taking a net on a regular schedule or as an alternate who could fill in due to illness, vacations or just for a break. The first net can be an experience so Robert, N4ZMQ, the net manager will help you if you would like. He has done this for others and they say it is nice to have his experience at your elbow. He can help answer any questions and help keep the net running smoothly. Try it once or twice to see if you like it. Some have done just that and are having fun with it. Lee, WB4TEJ has also helped and he can make your first net or two just a little bit easier.

We all need to renew our license periodically and some of us need to renew our membership in ARRL. With that in mind, SPARC would like to help by giving you a reminder. To do this, we need the information from you as to the date of expiration of license and if applicable, expiration date of your ARRL membership. (see form at end of SPARC GAP)

Sparc started a new no-code Tech Lite class on Sept. 23 with five students. The class now has eight students. We hope to start a new Novice class in Jan of 92. There is great interest from the public about the no-code license. I have found most of the Tech Lites are upgrading to Tech Plus by passing the 5 WPM code. They need to be encouraged, not put down. They want to learn just as we did when we first started into ham radio. Fact is, we should still be learning everyday. No one knows everything, even if some of us feel we know it all and sometimes show that feeling to others when we talk down instead of TO them.

THANKS TO DONN, N4KII, THE REPEATER NOW SINGS TO ITSELF INSTEAD OF HUMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMING WITH US WHEN WE TRY TO COMMUNICATE. DONN ORDERED THE NEW PARTS AND WITH THE HELP OF BOB, KC4SXO, INSTALLED THEM. THANKS AGAIN GUYS AND WELL DONE.



SPARC is a charter member club of the Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council (FGCARC). We are supposed to have a Director and an Alternate who represent our club to the council. They attend FGCARC meetings every month, vote for SPARC on all issues, help at the Suncoast Convention in November and report back to SPARC. That job has been done for the last two years by Jean, KC4KZU, Pat, WB1GZW and Lee, WB4TEJ. Not as directors from SPARC, but as 2nd vice-president, Jean, secretary, Pat and past president / Convention Chairman, Lee. Both Jean and Lee still have votes with the positions they hold. SPARC could also have a vote from a director or alternate if someone would like to become involved. This is your convention and is the closest to us. It would be a shame if this convention failed due to lack of interest. You can help as a Director, Alternate or someone with an interest. Find out how a hamfest or convention works. From start to finish and everything in between. The meetings are open to all, so you can attend a meeting or two and see if there is an interest on your part. Ten member clubs make up FGCARC and each is supposed to have a Director and an Alt. This gives us a maximum of 20 people plus officers and past Presidents to put on the Convention in Tampa. We need help to plan, process, and execute the hamfest. Start with talk-in frequencies. Many people come from different areas and need directions. Courtesy; people need information as to where a booth or table is or where the forums and ladies activities are going to be held. Swap tables; info sent and received needs to be coordinated and acted on. Forums; programs need to be arranged and scheduled. That hasn't touched getting the site, host hotel, vendors, ARRL approval, guest speakers, transportation, design of flyers, mailing of flyers, site security at night, courtesy or a hundred other things that have to be done. As you can see, we need help even if it is a two hour time period on Fri. Sat. or Sun. Contact Jean, KC4KZU or Lee WB4TEJ for more info or to volunteer to help make this the best if not the biggest Convention in the state. With your help we might even get a National ARRL Convention here in Tampa Bay with-in the next few years.

The Oct. program was on ARES/RACES. Charlie, N4OBT county EC and Don, KN4EA asst county EC, each gave us information on ARES/RACES. George, NY1H south county asst. EC and "FROG", KK4XQ president of the METRO club also attended. The info was well received and hopefully, will be put to good use. Applications were made available to sign up for ARES/RACES. A follow up program is in the planning.

Have you heard about the "HEAVY TECH"? HE now has soles without holes on HIS shoes, socks on feet and HIS xyl is TRYING to teach HIM how to manipulate those things called shoelaces so HE can start walking. If HE does this on a regular basis and reduces the size of HIS clothes, will HE become a Tech Lite? HE is not on VHF as often as HE has been, but then again Ten Meters has not been the same since HE discovered the joy of DX. There are several CBY filters around from the one HE wears to prevent a foul up of your rig to a flashing light on your rig that lets you know HE is on the air. Some will change frequencies or turn your rig off and some will run an anti virus test to eliminate any residue HE might have left in your rig. At this time HE is KING of the HEAP. Take your best shot. Its you or HIM !!!!!



I can do only one thing at a time, but I can avoid doing many things simultaneously.

[ Ashleigh Brilliant ]

Update on the "HEAVY TECH". The reason HE wants to be able to walk is so he can go hunting pigs in the woods. HE seems to be more than HIS xyl, Wanda can handle. She has left town for a rest and will resume HIS training on how to put one foot in front of the other and not fall over as he moves his other foot to the front. We call it walking but HE still needs to work on his balancing act. Have you ever seen HIM try to get up from the prone position? Most of us have tried shootin hams (DX) on the radio waves, but when he goes hunting, HE shoots pigs (hams) with a rifle. We get a QSL card but HE gets the bacon. Do we know the real HIM? The next thing you know, HE will try to shoot the local hams "HIS" way so HE won't have to travel so far. Maybe even invite you to HIS home QTH so when HE goes "hunting", the hams will come to HIM and HE won't have to do any walking at all. Do you know the "REAL BUBBA"??????



Dues for 1992 have been increased to \$14.00 per year for a single or a family membership. The cost of postage, the desire to enhance or upgrade both the repeater and the club station and the hope of a SPARC GAP at least quarterly are some of the reasons for this increase. A completed application form must be submitted from EACH individual who desires club membership. You may also pay your \$14.00 dues for 1992 now to help support YOUR SPARC CLUB, WA4AKH repeater, W4GAC club station and the SPARC GAP. Thanks for your support of SPARC. 73.

Name;	Call;	Class;
Address;		Zip;
License exp date?	ARRL exp date?	Renew for 1992?
Phone number with area code;		
Would you like SPARC to have a monthly or bi-monthly dinner?		
What night of the week?		Where?

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