

ST PETERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

CLUB
REPEATERS
147.06 224.66

SPARC



GAP

P.O. BOX 4026
ST PETERSBURG, FL
33731-4026

MEETINGS 1ST FRIDAY OF MONTH 7:30 PM AT RED
CROSS BLDG-4TH ST N & 8TH AVE N

SPARC GAP

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1ST QUARTER 1993

NIGHTLY SPARC NET
147.06 AT 6:30 PM

ARES/RACES NET TUESDAY NIGHT
7:30 PM--CHECK-IN ON 147.06
P.E.R.T. NET-7 PM WED ON K9BSL
REPEATER-145.290

IS 2-METERS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR
HEALTH?

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is a group devoted to establishing standards for both industry and government. According to the ANSI specifications, we are OK. It says that unless the antenna is placed and kept next to the skin, transmitters of less than 7 watts are exempt. So technically our handi-talkies and little rubber duckies don't pose a problem.

But let's look at the field strength we are exposed to. At 2 meter frequencies, the warning bell rings at a average power density of 1 milliwatt (mW) per square centimeter. This translates to about 6.5 mW per square inch.

Using the formula, take power output, divide by the area irradiated by the antenna. Let's take a look at a 6 inch rubber duckie, allowing that the antenna will be omni radiating, and no power comes off the ends of the antenna, the power will come out looking like a cylinder 6

inches high, centered on the duck antenna.

Armed with the formula for the area of a cylinder, $2 \times \pi(3.14159) \times \text{radius} \times \text{height}(6 \text{ inches})$ —we can take a power output of 1 watt, divide by this area to get the power density at different distances from the duckie.

At 3 inches we have approx. 9 mW per square inch, and it doesn't drop to below 6.5 mW till we are close to 5 inches away from the antenna. This really isn't all that bad, BUT! at 5 watts of output we are looking at 9.2 mW at 5 inches, that's over the limit! Unfortunately we use our HT's close to a vital organ—our eyes— not good.

To minimize our exposure to the RF field, a few precautions are in order:

1. Try to angle the antenna away from you when transmitting, i.e. lean the top of the HT away from you when transmitting.

2. Use the lowest power output possible.

3. Keep the duty cycle low, listen more, talk less.

4. If possible, use a 1/2 or 5/8 wave

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CLUB OFFICERS 1993

PRES-N4ZMQ-BOB RUSSELL
V.P.-KJ4PF-DAVE COLTON
SEC -KB4QYF-MAXINE BRADHAM
TRES-KC4SXO-BOB BURKE

BOARD MEMBERS**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

WB4TEJ-R.D. LEE
N2ALU-PHIL MAHAN
KD4FEY-MIKE WILMSHURST
KD4FED-DOUG DILLON

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

K4FCW-JIM KEYES
W4GPL-REX COTTRELL
N4KII-DONN DAVIS

SPARC GAP EDITOR

KJ4PF-DAVE COLTON

help out on this front. By the next club meeting we should be processing the FCC paperwork to effect this "changing of the guard", Thanks again Lee.

Till next time..N4ZMQ-Bob-CLUB
PRESIDENT

W4GAC UPDATE

There are "big" changes going on with the club station. At the Boys Club hamfest W4GAC had a table with all kinds of "goodies" on it for sale, I don't know the final figure, but money was made. This also made some room in the radio room for more than 2 people to stand and talk! It was discussed at the last board meeting about having at least a couple of nights a month, (maybe one a week), where the station would be open and manned to: Have people available to check out club members on the operation of the equipment we have, and also to be available for some operation time "with" new hams...Remember your 1st contact, were you a little nervous? little unsure of procedure? (I was, on both counts), well we want to help any and all who want to make sure they are "A-1" operators.

We will discuss this more in the near future, and plan on it to start as soon as possible. Even if you have a "super station" at home, stop down when we are up and running on this, everybody can learn from other hams experiences—and the coffee will be on!

The club station is open for your use-IF-you have a copy of your license on file at W4GAC, and you are checked out on the station.

**BOB'S MIC****GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS**

We start our new year with many plans for the club.

WB4TEJ-Lee, who served the club for many years, is a "hard" act to follow, Lee had many jobs at SPARC, and did them all well.

Lee has recently retired from his job and wants relax and see some of the country, we all wish him well.

We are looking for a volunteer to become the new trustee to W4GAC- as this SPARC GAP goes to the printer, there have been a couple of club members express a desire to

SPARC GAP X-TRA !!

SPARC DUES ARE NOW "OVERDUE" !!

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN !!

As hard as it is to believe—It's time for dues again.. I know, we all think "it can't be! I just sent in a check", but it is that time of year again.

As you all may or may not know, we are going thru some major changes at the club, I have taken over the "job" of SPARC GAP editor, along with being Vic-President, so I may need your help, (just a little).

If you received a roster with this edition—good news, we have you listed as a "Dues Paid" member. If you DIDN'T receive a roster, it means one of two things.

- 1.You forgot to pay your dues, or
- 2.We messed up, and "forgot" to put you in the Paid Dues column.

This can be fixed real fast, either call our treasurer Bob-KC4SKO, at 527-7096, and verify our "mistake". Or, send a copy of your canceled check, (or receipt—if you paid cash to Bob), in the event that Bob has no record of your payment.

This will get you "current", and I will send you a copy of the SPARC paid roster upon verification by Bob. OK ? Easy right ?

By doing this, you help us correct our

records, (which will now be on computer), and make sure you will receive the SPARC GAP, and other mailings we plan in the future.

I want to also ask, if you have anything to put in the newsletter, or have suggestions as to improving it, call me on the radio, or at home, after 6 PM. Phone is 522-0287.

Tnx es welcome to the "new" SPARC GAP.

Dave-KJ4PF_Editor

*Membership applications or
payment of dues for current
members—Contact KC4SKO, or any
club officer.*



**" I FORGOT
TO PAY MY
SPARC
DUES "**

**PUBLIC SERVICE
INFORMATION**

In the past, SPARC, CARS, METRO and other clubs in the area, had public service events that they did with their own members. Each club had a Public Service Coordinator (PSC), that got the needed information about the event, requested the help of the hams, and ran the event. If there were a need for more operators, a call for help was made on the nets of the other clubs. This usually brought enough hams for the event. This, to some extent is the same today—BUT—things are changing.

N4OBT-Charlie, the Pinellas County Emergency Coordinator (EC), has appointed KD4GHE-Geoff, as Assistant EC for Public Service Events. Geoff is to get information about upcoming events and pass that on to each club PSC so they can request volunteers from their respective clubs. This will insure enough operators for each event, and that each operator gets a chance to participate, if they so desire. It also promotes camaraderie between the hams and the clubs in the Tampa Bay area. You can contact Geoff on the 146.97 repeater in the evening.

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

10K Armadillo Run on 27 March in Oldsmar.
10K Ester Run on 10 April in Clearwater.
150 mile Bike Ride on 01,02 May, from Tampa to River Ranch, stay over, and return to Tampa next day.

Geoff wants to thank all the hams that took part in the Ft Desoto 1/2 Marathon:

**ANTENNA
WORK
PARTY!!****CALLING ALL HAMS!!**

The club needs to form 2 work party's for some necessary repairs at both the Red Cross and the repeater site. The repeater work is the one that needs to be done ASAP, the Red Cross can be arranged at a later date.

The repeater tower and antenna need to be moved from where they are now, to a new location approx 60 ft away from where it is now. This has been made necessary by the fact that the bank closed, moved there sign on the roof, this caused us to loose a guy standoff—this needs to be corrected before the storm season is upon us.

We have the "muscle" already, (well, most of it), we could use some roof support people, I.E. tool handlers, rope people, communication people etc. If you can help—please call Emmett WA4AKH, or any club officer to sign-up. This will most likely be done on a Saturday morning, around 10 AM, hoping to be done by 2 or 3 PM.

Let's get this done before it get's up in the 90's again!! Hope to hear from you...

SATURDAY MORNING LIVE !!!

If you are "alive" at 7:30 AM on Saturday morning, please join us for breakfast at the 4 Coins Restaurant on US 19 at 27th Ave N in St. Petersburg. The food is good, and priced right—and the fellowship is even better!! All are welcome!

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antenna, yes it is longer and a pain sometimes, but worth it—AND you will be more solid into the repeater, a joy for others on the frequency.

If all the above just doesn't fit into your plan of operation, there is a last compromise. Buy a speaker mic, a belt clip, and hang it on your waist, the organs that can be damaged by the RF field around your waist are less vital, or as important as your eyes.

Until we have more data on the long term effects of RF and electro magnetic fields, it is much better to use a little prevention, and a lot less cure. A final comment, this article is on 150 Mhz operation, the higher we go in frequency the worse it gets, more about that

next time.

Enjoy your HT, and don't lose sleep over operating it, (unless you talk hours a day on it), but in this age of "everything" is bad for you, be aware of what can happen with exposure to RF and EM fields.

CREDIT:

(73 AMATEUR RADIO TODAY, DEC 92)
& (ANSI C95.1-1990)



Many thanks to
N4XSN-Robin, for
recording NEWSLINE for
us, (heard on 147.06 after
net on Mondays).

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