

# Kings Point

## Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Bringing together all levels of ham operators, both newcomers and veterans, to share in the enjoyment of shortwave radio and emergency communications

Volume 3 Issue 3

Sun City Center, Florida

March, 2008

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### KPARC Radio Room

642-0651

The Kings Point Amateur Radio Club meets the first Monday of the month from October through May at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Club-house Craft Room.



### Joe Sturniolo, W2WLF— February Member of the Month

Joe became an Amateur in 1948. He first knew he wanted to be an Amateur on December 8th 1941. The day after Pearl Harbor. At that time he was a member of the amateur radio club of Erasmus Hall High school but not a licensed ham. The shack was located on a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, in what was considered the science lab; sitting near a large window was the radio gear that made this room the radio club. The science teacher was a ham who opened his eyes to the endless possibilities of amateur radio. The transmitter was a home brew 50 watt cw rig which Joe was aloud to look at but not touch and the receiver, a Hallicrafter with a detached speaker. On December 7th the science teacher called Joe at home and asked if he could come to school at 8a.m. instead of the usual 9a.m. The purpose of his early arrival was soon made clear. The school principal had called an unscheduled assembly for the seniors and juniors in the school to hear President Roosevelt speak to congress. Joe's assigned task was to drop a rope out the window pick up a wire from the assembly room that others were to lay and solder it to the speaker leads of the Hallicrafter receiver. He would then be in touch with the science teacher by telephone and when the president was introduced cue the teacher who would cue the principal. It worked flawlessly and the president gave his famous "A DATE THAT WOULD LIVE IN INFAMY" speech to congress and heard at our assembly. It was at that point I knew I liked this ham radio stuff. That was in 1941 He was licensed in 1948, What took so long? Little things like World War II and upgrading my education at RCA Institute.



Dick Bishop W4NWD

### Presidents Corner,

I am amazed at how fast this year is passing. March is upon us, the Orlando Hamcation is over, and now we need to get serious about the upcoming hurricane season. There is so much unfinished club business left from January and February, i.e. by-laws, inventories, membership list, open house, logos, etc., but time does not stand still.

We must keep moving. I suppose the 80/20 rule is our only "friend" at these paces. You know the rule: you get 80% of the results with the first 20% of the effort. Well, we cannot be satisfied with only 80%, but when we take on so much and stretch ourselves so thin the results are inevitable.

Catch up is hard, so we must set milestones that once achieved, allow us to slow down and catch our breath. This seems to be true in our club as well and our lives. I used to say "I need to go back to the boat to rest up". Returning was my milestone. Snowbirding has its merits!!

Our club has joined the West Central Florida Group Inc. (NI4CE linked repeaters system). Our contribution makes us a voting member of the group. The NI4CE Group provides seven repeater links covering West Central Florida. A new D-Star repeater system is expected to be ready this spring and will be located in Riverview, FL. The system will provide coverage with about a 50 mile radius. We in Sun City Center will be able to use this system with an HT, and with the linking system have a window on the world.

The West Central Florida Group's goal is to have the D-Star system up and running for emergency use before

Continued on page 2

the 2008 hurricane season. Our Club, KPARC, has purchased a D-Star dual bander for our club room. The Icom ID-800H will allow us to keep pace with capability, knowledge, and developments in ham radio and with local emergency communications. I propose we offer small group demonstrations to familiarize members with our new D-Star capability.

We in Hillsborough County have had been under two tornado watches in the last three weeks. These winter storms are a bit unusual and may be a forecast of weather to come this spring. The National Weather Service in Ruskin has requested hams in our local area to volunteer to be on call to help NWS handle phone and radio traffic in cases of rapid developing, severe weather. I will be organizing a group to visit the NWS in Ruskin to discuss the needs and how we may help.

Stay tuned, 73's, Dick - W4NWD

## March Meeting Program Bar Codes



Vice President and Program Chairman Russell Akridge will introduce Oscar Kramer, KA3OOK to be our guest speaker for the KPARC March 3rd meeting.

Most of us have experienced supermarket clerks, hardware cashiers, etc. swiping your purchase over a glass panel in the counter or a gun type gadget to read the multiple lines. Yes, we are talking Bar Codes.

Oscar has worked with Bar Codes for many years and will give us insight on how they work and the benefit they provide to the variety of business and corporations that use them.

## CQ CQ CQ

### The Ladies Net Report



The Wednesday YL Net meets at 7:30 and open to ALL lady amateur radio operators. Anita Akridge, KI4YV has done a great job in getting the YL Net up and running. Now it will move into the next phase which is training net control operators. Having a cadre of

qualified operators is vital during times of emergencies. This was evident when Anita was hospitalized and Eileen Bishop, AB9T stepped in to run the net with out missing a beat. So, ladies, its time to make your voices heard as net control.

## Echolink Has Moved

KPARC's Echolink has been moved from the KE4ZIP repeater frequency, and is now on 442.450 simplex. The DTMF tone "A" is no longer necessary to access Echolink. All that is necessary to use Echolink is to key the mike and enter a node number. Since there is no repeater courtesy tone on simplex you will know you are connected via a voice connect message. Wait until the message completes then press to talk. Remember always hit the "#" sign to disconnect when finished. Feel free to use the system as often as you like.

All Echolink codes are the same as default so use them as listed on Echolink's set-up, drop down menu on your PC.

Recently a problem was found and repaired with the Echolink antenna and now the audio and DTMF decoder seems to be working better than in the past. The transmitter is putting our 20 watts to a dual band vertical antenna about 30 feet above the ground. The antenna is located on the North Eastern corner of the Kings Point Main Clubhouse above the KPARC shack.

We would appreciate your help in determining the useful range of the new system so let us know how far away you are able to bring up the system. Please note your power and antenna type along



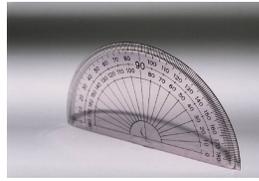
with the location. Let's all monitor 146.55 to help out those trying to access SCC from outside the repeater range.

Here are a few Node numbers to get you started:

Echolink	Test Server	9999	
Sarasota	NI4CE	4429	
Tampa	KG4ZY	99089	
Dalton GA	KO4TFX-L	41118	conference
KPARC	W4KPR	278318	
Brandon	K4TAP-R	7697	
Munich Tower		7385	
Brecknell UK	GB3BN-R	1938	
Tampa		134039	

Note, these are not always active, so pick a few nodes from Echolink on you PC or just try "01" for a random connection.

## Trigonometry



Trigonometry is fundamentally a study of triangles. The primary focus is on six simple functions defined in terms of the sides of right triangles.

Those six functions are known as the sine, cosine, tangent, secant, cosecant, and cotangent. Surprisingly, even though trigonometry is fundamentally just a study of simple relationships in triangles, it happens that oscillating phenomena such as radio waves, light waves, sound waves, water waves, tuned tank circuits, oscillating quartz crystals, electronic oscillators of all kinds, resonant antennas, resonant feed lines, antennas swaying in the wind, and oscillating shock absorbers can be described in terms of trigonometric functions. That is why knowledge of trigonometry is so important to someone interested in technical aspects of radio and more generally in almost any branch of science.

## Simple Power Injector for Preamps

### Web Williams (KR4WM)

#### Via Ham.net

There may be certain instances you may want to use a receive preamplifier mounted remotely at your antenna. In setting up a WEFAX station for personal use, I found myself facing the prospect of building my own power inserter for powering a mast-mounted preamp by sending it's required DC voltage up the coax.

After a little head-scratching, I happened to think of using a satellite television diplexer! These device are designed to let you combine both a satellite dish signal and your local cable company's signal use the same wire, while passing 14 or 18 volts DC at a couple hundred milliamps between two of the three ports. On the cable tap, they sometimes specify the frequencies passed as a very wide range. The "good ones" are designed for minimal signal loss. Surely one would pass the power required for a simple mast-mounted preamp, and pass 137MHz signals with ease, right?

Not wanting to bother the manufacturer for exact voltage/current specs, I began experimenting by connecting one to my WEFAX preamp using RG-6 coax and waterproof crimp "F" connectors, and I was up and running in about 15 minutes! Disconnecting the power shut the signal completely off, so the preamp must have been receiving a useful enough voltage to operate. Empirical experimentation- you gotta love it!

I feel safe in saying a diplexer probably would not survive being transmitted through, but if you are using a mast-mounted receive preamp on one of a pair of satellite antennas for working the ham satellites (and don't have any plans to transmit using that antenna), a satellite diplexer might help you get power to your preamp quickly. One would also be great for powering a mast-mounted radio scanner preamp. I'm sure there are other uses as well. Naturally there will be a combination of adapters to make things fit.

Diplexers are available at your local "big box" home improvement store and from electronic supply houses who provide parts to cable and satellite installers. I happened to get lucky and buy a dozen for \$1.00 each at Dayton last year! Cheap ones are around \$3.00, and expensive ones could set you back \$20.00 each or more.