

Kings Point

Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

25 Years Of Voluntary Emergency Communications Service To Our Community

www.kparc.org

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

Volume 4 Issue 5

Sun City Center, Florida

July, 2009

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Bev Wilson, KI4TYZ

Weather Station Manager

Vacant

Training Manager

Vacant

Program Chairperson

Vacant

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



Dick Bishop, W4NWD

From The President

Summer is here and many of our snow bird friends have left for the season. Our June club meeting had about 40 members in attendance which is a very good turnout for summer months. The activity around the club has not slowed, and we hope this participation continues through July and August. At this writing the planned field trip to the Liberty ship and its ham radio station has not taken place, but Dotty Love has planned an informative fun event for June 24. We will give a full report of the trip next month.

A Tech license class is scheduled during the month of July. We have about eight names on the student list. This class is co-sponsored by Sun City Center and Kings Point ARCs. The class will be held in Kings Point two days a week for about three weeks. Additional announcements will be made about the particulars of the class. Contacts are Don Chinnery (634-9119) and Dick Bishop (633-7157).

With the growth of CERT in SCC and KP, Amateur radio is gaining in importance. A CERT net has been started on our repeater, 147.090 + PL 146.2, on Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM. All hams are welcome to check in. The purpose of the net is to train CERT members in the use of radio communication in the event of an emergency activation. The adoption of ham radio as the preferred mode of communication for CERT had spurred CERT members' interest in getting a license. So we are accommodating them with a summer class as mentioned above. It is really important for experienced hams to participate in the net to demonstrate proper practices and give a helping hand to the newer licensed hams.

You will be hearing new voices on our repeater before long. KP has purchased a digital voice recorder (DVR) module to compliment the repeaters CAT controller. The purpose of this unit will be to allow members to record and play back their transmitted signal and check out their audio. Additional uses of the DVR are to pre-record emergency announcements and to personalize our repeater ID.

NASA has made their prediction for the solar activity of Cycle 24 and the sun spot count for the up-coming period. To summarize the prediction, the peak activity should occur in mid 2013 with an average of 90 sun spots per day. Current activity is picking up but the prediction is for a lesser active season than previously expected.

In closing, remember Saturday mornings are a fun time at KPARC, so drop by and see what is cooking. We had interesting show and tell the last four weeks.

73,

Dick, W4NWD

Attention All Amateur Radio Operators Their Spouse And Guests

Kings Point Radio Club Is Sponsoring A One Day Getaway For All Hams

What: S.S. America Victory Mariner's Memorial and Museum Ship

Where: 705 Channelside Drive, Tampa

Date: Wednesday June 24, 2009

Time: Guided Tour at 10:00 a.m.

Cost: \$9.00 per person (Tickets purchased on that day).



Parking: Drive yourself or carpool. Park Behind Aquarium, Cost \$6.00.
(Parking Lot Located Between Cruise Terminal 2 & 3)

OTHER INFORMATION

Temperature in the ship will be in the 80's, but a breeze is promised.

Bring your own water.

One hour guided tour at 10:00 a.m. Followed by on your own touring

LUNCH – 12:00 at Bennigan's. (Order of the menu on your own)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Americanvictory.org.

QUESTIONS AND RESERVATIONS CALL DOTTY LOVE 634-2749

CERT NET

WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30 p.m.

KPARC REPEATER

147.090 - PL 146.2

REMINDER

Kings Point Amateur Radio Club Meeting

July 6, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.

Main Clubhouse Craft Room

Surfin': One Ham's Garbage Is Another Ham's Art

By Stan Horzempa, WA1LOU
Contributing Editor

Surfin' finds old radio parts recycled as new radio art.



"Old radio parts are too cool to throw away," according to Rich Holoch, KY6R. Instead of discarding old tubes, dials, variable capacitors and the like, Rich uses the parts to create radio-related "[assemblage art](#)."

It all started when Rich's wife noted that Amateur Radio operators continue to carry the torch for Morse code long after its demise in most commercial communications. She joked that Rich would be one of the last to use the mode, inspiring him to create his [first assemblage](#) based on a pun of the gun-owners' old line that "You'll have to take my key [rather than gun] from my cold dead hands."

Rich enjoyed creating the art so much that he continued creating his "shrines" devoted to radio. The Web site [flicker](#) hosts his radio assemblage art. You will also find his non-radio-related assemblages and collection of ham radio photos.

My personal favorite assemblages are [one](#) "that lets us hams pray for sunspots," [another](#) that incorporates old teleprinter keys (one of my favorite modes) and finally, [one](#) that (to me) represents the wide-eyed innocence of youth that I recall having when I began exploring the short-waves.

One Hundred Years Ago

1909 Young radio amateurs are building receivers with whatever parts are available. Although headphones can be purchased...many public telephone booths become inoperative. There are many examples of home brew receivers at the Antique Wireless Association museum in Bloomfield, NY dating to prior to 1909. It seems that very early on the young experimenters figured out that given a little wire for a coil & antenna, a home-made detector described in Modern Electrics or Hugo Gernsback's catalogue and a pair of headphones (some were homemade) they were all set. Don Wallace was first on the air in 1909 with a self-assigned call and working his buddy a block away with a spark coil from a Ford.

FIRST USES OF RADIO AS AN AID TO SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA

Early in 1899 two dramatic incidents focused worldwide attention upon the value of radio for maritime safety. In January of that year, the East Goodwin Sands Lightship, battered by heavy seas and with part of its bulwarks carried away, sent a radio message which quickly brought assistance. Only a few months later, the same lightship had a very narrow escape from sinking when, in a dense fog at 4 o'clock in the morning, March 1899, it was rammed by the steamer *R. F. Mathews* outward bound from London. The East Goodwin Lightship was one of four light vessels marking the Goodwin Sands, and fortunately it happened to be the one with a radio installation. It immediately flashed "We have just been run into by the steamer *R. F. Mathews*, of London. Steamship is standing by us. Our bows badly damaged." Received by the South Foreland Lighthouse, the message was relayed to Trinity House authorities at Ramsgate. Tugs were dispatched, the lightship was towed out of danger and the entire crew saved. It was later proven in Admiralty Court that property to the value of £52,588, had been salvaged by the action resulting from the one short radio report of the accident.

THE FOLLOWING LETTER IS BEING SENT TO ALL SUN CITY RESIDENTS. KINGS POINT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB IS INCLUDING THE LETTER AS A COMMUNITY PUBLIC SERVICE

Letter To All Sun City Residents

From The Sun City Center Emergency Squad

Dear Neighbors,

Please be advised that, effective immediately, the Emergency Squad will **no longer provide NON-EMERGENCY AMBULANCE TRANSPORTS** out of our service area.

What does this mean?

Our current service area is from U.S. 301 to Cortaro Drive, including all of Kings Point. We shall continue to provide non-emergency ambulance transport to /from South Bay Hospital and facilities within our service area. However, in the future , should a resident need to be transported from South Bay Hospital to a rehabilitation facility located out side our service area (in Brandon, for example), the resident will have to obtain other means of transportation.

Why is this change necessary?

At this time we have enough volunteers to operate two ambulances during the daytime and only one at night. Our equipment must be available at all times to respond to emergency calls from our residents as well as emergency calls from Hillsborough County Fire Rescue. We do not have enough volunteers to operate additional ambulances.

Where are all the volunteers?

Our numbers have dwindled significantly, not only due to snowbirds going North but, like the general SCC population, our members are aging and replacement volunteers are not as forthcoming as they have been in the past.

How can you help?

Please give serious consideration to joining the SCC Emergency Squad. We are in desperate need of ambulance and van crew members (Drivers, EMT'S, First Responders) and information technology (computer) staff. All training is provided Free of charge and conducted in SCC.

Stop by the Squad Building located at 101 Ray Watson Drive to get an application or call Hud Richard, Asst. Chief Personnel, at 813-633-1411.

Please know that taking this action was a very difficult decision to make. If and when sufficient numbers of new volunteers are available, our plan would be to reinstate non-emergency ambulance transports outside our service area. Be assured that we shall continue to respond to emergency calls from SCC residents.

Thank you for understanding. We hope you will consider volunteering.

Sincerely,
Christine Patrick, Chief