

SUN CITY CENTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

1009 North Pebble Beach Blvd, Sun City Center, FL 33573

KE4ZIP CONNECTOR

"The World at Our Doorstep"

Volume 2 Issue 2

February 2007

OUR PURPOSE:

To promote the hobby of Amateur Radio Communications, to provide license training and present topics of interest to all amateurs, to provide emergency communications to the Sun City Center community in times of crisis and to offer support to other organizations in Sun City Center that require communications for their projects.

VOLUNTEERS WHO SERVE OUR CLUB:

2007 OFFICERS

President

David Schierenbeck, N8PF, 633-5272

Vice President

Rick Sochon, N1OV, 634-3678

Secretary

Oscar Kramer, KA3OOK, 642-0621

Treasurer

Michael Friolet, W4MJF, 634-7027

Program Director

Bill Barron, W1WAB, 642-9079

Members at Large

Ron Bouverat, K14ILK, 633-1297
George Gray, K14HIS, 634-8721

Past President

Bill Fiacco, K3GSL, 642-8048

Station Trustee

Dick Marshall, K1KTK, 633-3338

2007 APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Secretary & Records

Don Nathan, K2GPM, 633-2619

Emergency & Special Events

Rick Sochon, N1OV, 634-3678

Entertainment & Sunshine

Rita Hale, W1UZR, 633-2210

News Letter & Historian

Charles Miller, N4GOI, 634-6857

Publicity

John Bowker, WA2WEN, 633-1427

Radio Room Equipment

Bob Goldberg, WA4M, 634-8277

Radio Room Operations

Bob Casey, KE4CFJ, 633-0087
Jack Werkowitz, K14NXI, 634-4668

Training

Don Chinnery, WU9T, 634-9119

VE Team

Dick Marshall, K1KTK, 633-3338

Welcome

Bob Hibbard, N1ZK, 633-9959

Club Station, KE4ZIP

E-Mail ke4zip@verizon.net

E-Mail: ke4zip@yahoo.com

Bill Barron, W1WAB, Moderator

Web Site: www.sccarc.info

Don Chinnery, WU9T, Webmaster

Bill Barron, W1WAB, Moderator

Submissions to sccarc@verizon.net**Club Meetings**

First Wednesday of the month at 3:00 PM in the Florida Room. The meetings June through August are informal.

PUBLICATION:

This newsletter will be published and e-mailed to members and friends the last Wednesday of each month.

Any article for publication should be emailed to: panamacharlie@verizon.net at least ten days before publication.

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM:

Bill Barron, W1WAB will present a program on building a Fox-hunt / direction finding antennas.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

SCCARC has been very busy this past month. We started off by repairing the beam antenna, changing the equipment layout in the Radio Room and added additional backup battery power for emergencies. Currently Technician Class training is being conducted with nine students. The ladies have scheduled a ladies day out for January 27th. It is a pleasure to see our members coming together to accomplish so much.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

March 10, 2007, Spring picnic at Horseshoe Shelter. Club furnishes hamburgers and hot dogs, everyone bring a covered dish.

March 28, 2007, Hillsborough County Mass Casualty Drill.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

To all Technician Class Licensees in the King's Point and Sun city Center Amateur Radio Clubs.

Your ship has arrived! The FCC has finally issued the order removing Morse code from the requirements for an Amateur Radio License.

For those of you techs that have a VALID CSCE for element 3, all you need to do is fill out a VEC form 605, make out a check to the ARRL/VEC for \$14.00 and participate in a VE session to have your 605 processed. A valid CSCE means that it was issued no more than 365 days prior to the current exam session. It is not valid for 1 year, but 365 days. This works for a normal year but has caught people on a leap year.

For those Techs who wish to upgrade and do not hold a valid CSCE, all you need to do is fill out a VEC form 605, make out a check to the ARRL/VEC for \$14.00, take and pass the exam element 3 at a VE session to have your 605 processed and earn your upgrade.

We now have many VE's so setting up a session will not be a problem. If you wish to participate in a session to upgrade or need more information, please contact Dick Marshall or Don Chinnery.

Happy Hamming

Dick Marshall, K1KTK

FAMOUS "HAMS":

"If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulder's of giants" Sir Isaac Newton

These hams led the way for us to follow.

The list was compiled by Gerry Jurrens, N2GJ and Steven Glazer, W2SG. The list is free and, like ham radio, they derive no pecuniary interest from their site.

Irving Vermilya, W1ZE "the first licensed radio amateur in the U.S.A. ("Boston Radio Archives"); Co- Founder of the OOTC (Old, old Timers Club) and it's first President in 1948; operator at old "CC", original Marconi wireless station on Cape Cod at South Wellfleet, MA; World Radio" His original spark call was "VN". Another interesting link "Amateur Number One," by "VN" from February 1917 QST.

Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD Former TV Journalist, long-time BS Correspondent, avid sailor. He has an asteroid named after him!

Lawson P "Red" Ramage, KB3DE "Red" earned the Medal of Honor after a submarine he commanded, the USS Parche (SS384), attacked a heavily-escorted Japanese convoy in the South China Sea off Taiwan on July 31, 1944, sinking two enemy vessels and damaging several others. The Parche's crew received a Presidential Unit Citation, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt personally presented Ramage with the Medal of Honor on January 10, 1945.

FEATURED ARTICLE:

Antenna Reflections

By

John Manning, KN4AO

Early times

I received my novice amateur Radio license way back in 1954 when I was 16. Because of my Muscular Dystrophy and wheelchair confinement, I was unable to get out and do most of the things that a growing young man enjoyed doing, such as horseback riding, hiking along the trails through mountains, playing action sports, scuba diving, etc. But Amateur Radio was a niche I took to with excitement and enthusiasm, as I listened to the chattering young hams that my parents had introduced. They were full of laughter and wit, one of them sending seven dots followed by a dash on a tone generator or code practice oscillator. Then they would all chuckle hilariously right in front of my parents. I was totally confused, wondering what they were laughing about. Of course, they knew they were sending a kind of double coded s*** in Morse Code! I was eager to become privy to some of that inside humor and to find out what ham radio was all about.

In addition to the rambunctious boys, there was a slightly older gentleman, a bit more mature, maybe in his late twenties, who took an interest in helping me. That was my old friend, Kenneth Carter, W4FEP, who was determined to keep after me until I learned that Morse code. I thought it was taking me too long to learn something mostly unnecessary. (I never thought I would live to see the day that the Federal Communications Commission would remove the code as a requirement to earning a license, but they have.) In those early years I probably saw myself as more of a disc jockey or a talk show host than a radio experimenter.

My perspective soon changed. Ken was a great coach, and he was a great promoter of amateur radio, having written a paper as part of his college work on the history of the Amateur Radio Relay League. A true mentor, he kept after me to study, encouraging me to watch him build my first transmitter (Johnson Viking II), since I was unable to do such things as transformers and soldering guns. I could hand him the nuts and bolts of the construction kit. Among the more interesting things, I watched him and the other hams build wire antennas. The center-fed and end-fed dipoles weren't so different. Neither was the tri-band Mosley beam I had at one time, but two configurations were exceptional, especially as conversation pieces and purely home "brew". Using them, I would always have something to chew the rag about!

B2B in the Good Ole days. (Beer -can vertical to Box kite rotate able!)

One of the antennas that drew attention to our front yard was one, comically qualified, as a Beer -can vertical. It would be used on the 15 m band so its length would be some fraction of that, perhaps one fourth. The aluminum cans, soldered end to end and covered with aluminum-based, electrically conductive paint, did not necessarily contain Budweiser or any of its cousin brews. Some of the older amateurs declared, as a rule if the contents of the cans were consumed before the antenna was completed, then the antenna would not stand straight when hoisted into an upright position. Some kind of obscure Physical law I presumed. (I am quite sure this referred to the antenna rather than the antenna builders.)

Our antenna must have contained a less potent potable from the start, because when my new amateur friends lifted it up, it sat, a beautiful spectacle balanced on top of a non-alcohol bottle and it pointed straight to the zenith. Later Ken tested its radiative properties by holding a small fluorescent bulb near the antenna's bottom then again toward its top as far as he could stretch. Judging from the glow of the bulb near the antenna's bottom we knew that the antenna radiated much more at the top than the bottom -- exactly what we had hoped for. I had many interesting experiences with that beer can vertical, one of which was with a fellow in Hawaii who was using what would turn out to be my next antenna experiment: a rotate able box Kite antenna. This one consisted of two big wooden X's separated several feet by a 1-inch steel pipe. The antenna was designed to radiate on the 10, 15, and 20 meter bands, but the steel pipe had only one purpose and that was to support the antenna above the electric rotator, which I could control from my station in the corner of the living room.

The High frequency signals were sent out on a 300- ohm "twin lead" (two conductors) or "ladder line". These dual -conductors, about an inch apart, were separated by dozens of clear plastic insulators leading from my living room transmitter to the outdoors to a point halfway between the feet of one of the Box Kite's two X's. At that point,they were connected by alligator clips to "pigtails"-the end- points of a wire tacked to the driven element-where they could be adjusted up and down to fine-tune antenna resonance and tune out "standing waves" for optimum radiation. The other X, the reflector, held a similar wire tacked identically to its end points but without any pigtails or electricity going to it. With that antenna, I made many a DX contact, but I think my most enjoyable use of it was getting "phone patched" into my relatives in California.