

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS Web Edition

SPARKS P.O. BOX 750482 MEMPHIS, TN 38175-0482 / VOL. 9 / APRIL 1997

W 4 B S R E P E A T E R S Y S T E M

146.82, 147.36, 224.42, 443.2 & 145.03 Packet

President's Page...

If you received this newsletter in the mail, you are one of the many that have renewed their membership for 1997. I thank you for your continued support of the Delta Club. There are a few of your friends and fellow hams that have let their memberships lapse for one reason or another. Many of them, even after all the reminders, still have just forgotten to renew. Some members may have moved out of town, decided to get out of the hobby or have just gotten "burnt out" as some do occasionally and are taking a back seat for a while. We hope that these folks will decide to become DARC members again very soon. If you know of someone that is not a member, be sure to invite them to join the fun and fellowship that is a part of being a Delta Club member. Some that have been away for a few years may not know all the new things that we have going on that they might like to be a part of.

As many of you know, Tim, KF4DNA has been working hard on several Special Event Station opportunities. Most recently he has been in correspondence with the people at Memphis in May to try to obtain space for us to set up a station at the Memphis in May Bar-b-Que Festival. We hoped to not only make contacts worldwide but especially to the Memphis in May honored country of Brazil. I am very disappointed in Memphis in May's decision not to allow us to have the station. It seems that in an attempt to keep controversial groups like, but not limited to, Pro-Choice and Pro-Life, Memphis in May has adopted a policy of not allowing NON-PROFIT organizations to set up at the festival. They threw us into this category without regard to our reasons for wanting to participate, and although they did acknowledge in their letter that we were not an organization that would create a controversy, there was nothing that could be done since we are a non-profit group. A comment was made at the last meeting that this appears to be a result of the 501 (c) (3) and I did not properly respond to this comment. Delta Club has been a non-profit organization chartered by the State of Tennessee for many, many years. The new IRS 501 (c) (3) status means that we are a tax exempt organization and any donations made to the club are tax deductible. These are two totally different things. We are still trying to talk to Memphis in May about what it would take to get a Special Event Station "sanctioned" by them and have it in another location. Tim has been successful in setting up one event and is working on one or two more. Look for other information from Tim elsewhere in this issue of SPARKS.

By the time you read this article, our first training class for the year will be complete. Bill, WA4MJM and his group of very qualified and dedicated instructors have completed a codeless technician class, held at the LeBonheur Bartlett location on Stage Rd. I would like to personally thank LeBonheur for the use of the building and also the numerous hams that have taken time out of their personal schedules to act as instructors and help make this class a success. I believe that attending a DARC sponsored training class is one of the best ways to obtain your amateur radio license. They actually take the time to TEACH the theory instead of making sure the students just memorize the answers to the questions. The latter is the way I got my ticket and in retrospect I don't think that it gives you the knowledge that you need to be a good amateur radio operator. My hat is off to Bill and his group of volunteer instructors. I understand that Bill is in the process of organizing a class on General Theory and CW. Check with Bill, or look on the DARC web site for more information on upcoming classes.

Spring is here!!! I hope everyone enjoys the nice weather, and whatever other outdoor hobbies you may have. Whether you go camping, hiking, fishing, boating, biking or whatever else you like to do, amateur radio can come into play by helping a group stay in contact with each other, communicate to someone back at the campsite, or if necessary obtain help if you should find yourself in a precarious situation. I certainly hope that no one will find themselves in need of emergency assistance during their summer fun, but just remember that if you do have to put out a call for help, amateur radio will be there to help you. It's also time for us to start thinking about Field Day 1997. No it's not too early to start planning for it, and Fred, KS2X as the Field Day Chairman this year will probably be scheduling some planning meetings in the near future.

That's all for this month, and as always I look forward to seeing each and everyone at the April meeting.

73

Tommy, KD4TJO

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This month, I am taking a different approach to my article, I'm not going to talk about the Delta Amateur Radio Club, but about amateur radio operators in general.

This hobby of amateur radio has a long, and distinguished history. It has provided communications in times of natural disasters, it has provided radio operators in time of national emergencies. We have proven ourselves to the Federal Communications Commission and they, in turn, have bestowed on us the ability to perpetuate the hobby by permitting us to establish the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator program. In an area that is so vulnerable to misuse, we, the amateur radio community, have proven that we can maintain a high level of professionalism in the administering of exams, and the enforcement of FCC Rules and Regulations.

The role of the Volunteer Examiner is that of a "role model." It is someone to whom we all should be able to look up to and say that these individuals represent the best of the best in our hobby. Their moral and ethical standards are beyond reproach. And, those individuals that attained this position should feel honored that a federal government organization feels confident enough to allow them to conduct the testing process that has for many years been administered by them.

The standards against which the Volunteer Examiner is measured are very high and requires constant attention to insure that this level is maintained. We have read, and heard, about members of this prestigious organization in other parts of the country that have not been able to maintain these high standards and the FCC had to intervene.

We, here at the Delta Amateur Radio Club, should be very proud of the level of professionalism displayed by the Volunteer Examiner Team with which we are associated. They, under the direction of the VE Liaison, have established a level of integrity that is the envy of many a VE team. They conduct a very organized, efficient testing session each month just prior to our monthly meeting. In addition to conducting these testing sessions, they also arrange to conduct testing in conjunction with training classes for those individuals who are interested in the amateur radio hobby.

The next time you attend a testing session conducted by these VE's that are associated with the Delta Amateur Radio Club, take second and observe how efficient, professional, and above all, the ethical standards portrayed, not by one or two individuals, but the entire VE team. You can rest assured that the FCC and the ARRL will not ever question the moral and ethical standards of this group of amateurs.

My hats off to these amateurs, you are the "best of the best."

Ben, KU4AW

SECRETARY'S REPORT

It's not very often the store comes to you but that's what happened at this month's meeting. Thanks go to Melissa Going from Incentives Sales for bringing out so much clothing and supplies to our meeting. She gave up an evening of bible study to join us, but she told me that we brought back memories of her father being in radio when she was small. This has rekindled her interest in radio herself. Who knows? She may be one of our newer hams this year.

And speaking of new hams, I have been remiss in introducing our new members this year. The following have joined Delta Club since January:

David Smith, KF4PFY

Steve Muir, KF4IVY

Steve Campbell, KF4LUR

Dan Fleek, N9PNA

Marjorie Kagoo, KF4NZA

Jim Latham, KF4NDG

Pam Christensen, KF4NDD

Michelle Powell, KF4NFL

Jimmy Powell, K4YD

Darrel Riales, K4QWV

John White, KE4WEV

My apologies and I hope I have not left anyone out.

I want all you OM's to show this next paragraph to your YL's (forget that X). You're on the honor system, but I will be checking up on you.

Not one to give up on a good idea even though it does not catch on right away, Melinda, KE4DXN, is inviting all YL's (that's women in radio-ese) to join her at the Dixie Cafe at Stage and Bartlett Blvd. on April 17 at 7:00 to get to know the 'other half' of the of the calls we hear so often. Don't let the fact that you may or may not have a call stop you from sharing good food and new friendships. See you there!

Kathy, KE4UYU

APRIL 1997 CLUB MEETING

DATE: April 8, 1997 (2nd Tuesday - be there)

PLACE: Ellendale Church Of Christ, 7365 Highway 70, Memphis, Tn. (2 miles east of Hwy. 64-Stage Rd.)

TIME: 7:00 PM

PROGRAM: TBA...Listen to the Delta Club's Traffic and Information net for Info

VE TESTING: Don't forget the monthly Volunteer Examiner testing session. Registration begins at 5:30p.m. and testing begins promptly at 6:00p.m. Please remember to bring two forms of identification and copies of any existing licenses or CSCE's you might have. Please be on time for registration, as you will not be allowed to enter the testing session after 6:00 p.m., so our volunteer VE team can finish in time to attend the club meeting. Call Joan Thorne 366-9722, if special testing arrangements are required.

W4BS REPEATER SYSTEM

146.82 net 8:00 pm

147.36 tone = 107.2

224.42 1.25 m repr

443.20 patch, 107.2

145.03 packet / bbs

VE Report

Well your VE team has been busy again this month. Thank you Jimmy, N4ZCO, Jim, K14I, and Tim AB4NH for a job well done. We had 8 candidates take 15 elements at the last session held on March 11th, with 14 of those elements being passed. We will be busy again on March 24th since the Novice/Tech class is finishing. I am told that there are 28 people in this class, this will be a rewarding evening for all. You team is getting more and more organized for your benefit. At the last testing session all those testing, along with the team, were able to make the club meeting. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact me. My number and e-mail are listed in this newsletter. A Friendly reminder to check your license for your expiration date. It usually creeps in when least you expect it. Also whenever and wherever you are testing for upgrade of your license, remember to bring both the original and a COPY of CSCE's and license.

Hope you had a wonderful Easter. We'll see you April 8th.

73 Joan, KN4PM

CONGRATUALTIONS!!! to the following:

Cyril Harris, KB5JCS Tech Plus

Hyong Yun, KB6YMW Tech Plus

Shirley Turner, KF4PYD Tech

Johnny Turner III, KF4PYE Tech

Westoland Simpson, KF4PYC Tech

Melody Hancock, KF4PYB Tech

Matt Stafford, Jr., KM5HV Advanced

Explorer Post 903 Meeting

The Explorer Post of the DARC will meet Tuesday, April 8th at 6:00 PM (one hour prior to the DARC club meeting) at Ellendale Church of Christ. All 14 to 20 year old young people are welcome along with any adults wishing to help. Remember this is our Post and we need your help. It takes adults to lead these young people, just look around, don't you think some of them need our help.

Web Site Update.....

We invite those of you that may have just recently become Internet capable, or anyone else who hasn't yet, to check out the DARC Web Site. This is a way of telling the world what a great club we have. While we are in the process of deciding on a domain name for the site, there have been many comments that it is too hard to remember the URL for the site, especially if you are trying to tell someone about it and you do not have the address at hand. The site is available from several of the most popular Internet search engines, such as Infoseek, Yahoo, Excite, Lycos and Webcrawler. If you will bring up your favorite search engine and input "W4BS" it will take you to a list of sites that have our call somewhere in their text. Normally our site will be listed first or sometimes second in the list. That makes the site very easy to find and once you get to the site for the first time, use your browser's bookmark feature to make it a click away at any time. I will be adding new links to the page as I find sites that I think would be of interest to other people. My goal is not to have a million links but to have links to quality amateur radio related sites. At this time, I do not have any commercial sites linked unless they are directly related to amateur radio. There have been suggestions made by a couple of people about putting links to the major shipping companies to allow someone expecting shipment of a new rig to be able to track their shipment. If you would like to see this made available, please e-mail me from the web site and let me know your opinion. As always, if you find a link that you think others might enjoy, please let me know. Upcoming plans are for a local amateur radio calendar and information about upcoming training classes sponsored by our club. Happy surfing!

73

Tommy, KD4TJO

Computer Manual,

By Dr. Seuss

"With Apologies to Dr. Seuss"

IF a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port,

And the bus is interrupted as a very last resort,

And the address of the memory makes your floppy disk abort,

Then the socket packet pocket has an error to report!!

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash,

And the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash,

And your data is corrupted 'cause the index doesn't hash,

Then your situation's hopeless, and your systems gonna crash!

You can't say this?

What a shame, sir!

We'll find another game, sir!

If the label on the cable on the table at your house,

Says the network is connected to the button on your mouse,

But your packets want to tunnel on another protocol,

That's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall!

If your screen is all distorted by the side-effects of gauss,

So, your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse,

Then you may as well reboot, and go out with a bang,

'Cause as sure as I' a poet, the sucker's gonna hang!

If the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy on the disc,

And the macrocode instructions cause unnecessary RISC,

Then you have to flash your memory, and you'll want to

RAM your ROM...

Quickly turn off the computer,

and be sure to tell you MOM!

Author Unknown

NETS.....

Remember the nets that are held on the 146.82 repeater. The Traffic and Information net nightly at 8:00pm and the Friendship Award Net every Sunday night after the T & I Net. Please remember to listen and try to check in to these nets. A lot of information related to our club and the ham community is passed on the Traffic and Information net. If you have a chance please remember the Friendship Net on Sunday nights. A lot of new hams are listening to this net and check in to get their feet wet "on the air." We have a lot of fun every Sunday night, and you never know who might check in. We've had stations from all around check in. So if you have a chance stop by and check-in.

HARDWARE UPDATE ...

While reading over the ads in QST I noticed a new product on the market. It is a Cable Organizer that allows you to route excess cables into a holder and route the proper length out to the power outlet. This cleans up the area in back of your operating desk or workbench and keeps cables off of the floor where they can get tangled or damaged. It also makes the area under the desk look a lot neater. The system was a bag that is attached to the back of the desk and the cables placed in it. The cables then will hang off the back part for me. On this project at my power strip and cables I could use it. The dimensions on the drawing can be changed easily if you need more room for cables. I found some scrap fabric to make the organizer from. The hard part for me on this project was figuring out how the sewing machine worked, threading it up, and keeping my fingers away from the needle. After folding and stitching the edges I was ready to fold the final product in half to make the sack. Cables from the desk go in from the top into the sack and exit the ends to go to the outlets. This is an easy project to make and really cleans up the wiring in the shack. I will have the CABLE ORGANIZER at the meeting to show and answer questions for those who wish to make up their own.

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING James Butler KB4LJV

PACKET UPDATE.....

Packet TNC companies constantly come out with new hardware for us to use. One new Packet TNC to come out is the Kantronics KPC-9612 Plus. It is a dual port TNC which can hook to two radios at the same time. Besides standard Packet uses, the TNC can be used for 1200 Baud and 9600 Baud at the same time. The TNC also has the capability of supporting the POCSAG standard paging format like the packet pagers use. This mode allows reception of POCSAG along with transmission for use in Amateur paging functions. Amateur paging offers another new digital mode for Amateurs to use. This new TNC is unique in the modes and features it offers. For more information you can check with Kantronics on their Web page...<http://www.kantronics.com> on the Internet.

James Butler KB4LJV

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