

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS Web Edition

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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

As I sit down to write this month's article it is only a few days from Field Day and by the time you read this, Field Day will be only a memory. A memory that we can and should share with those that were not, for one reason or another, able share this special day in Amateur Radio that always comes on the fourth weekend in June. I hope that you were one of many members that took the time to experience Field Day, whether you are a newly licensed amateur or an "old timer" that has had the opportunity to share this experience for many years. Our Saturday evening meal this year was a little different than in past years. We had ribeye steaks, baked potatoes, salad and assorted deserts. Many people donated the use of equipment for our Field Day this year and for that we are thankful. When the "BIG ONE" hits, it will take everyone working together to provide the equipment and manpower to do the job that Field Day helps us train for. I would like to take this time to thank someone that offered just about anything he had and he's not even a ham. Thanks to Noel Nabors, who works with me at AutoZone for the use of the AutoZone cooker and his own generator and large ice chest. If he had not been called out of town on business, he had even offered to come out and cook for us. Noel told me that even though he's not a ham, he understands and appreciates the role that amateur operators play in times of emergency and was willing to do anything he could to help. Thanks again Noel. Speaking of generators, Delta Club is now the proud owner of a 3.5 KW generator. This year's project of the year was to obtain two generators to be used in conjunction with the tower trailer and we are still looking for a good deal on another one. Although we were looking for a little larger generator, the deal that we got on this one couldn't be passed up. Thanks to a new member, Robin McConnell, KE4GPR we were able to obtain this generator at about one-half of the normal retail price. Thanks Robin, and keep your eyes open for another one.

The tower trailer has been outfitted with flood lights at the top of the bottom section. More modifications will be done to the lights after Field Day, but for now, we will have two floods pointing up to illuminate the antenna and six floods which will be pointed downward to light up a large area around the trailer at night. We have also acquired a tri-band HF beam and rotator for use with the tower but we didn't have a rotor plate that was large enough to fit the tower, so a new rotor plate had to be made from scratch. My thanks to Robert Greene, KE4HFH for his assistance in mounting the lights and for "manufacturing" a new rotor plate.

My intent was to have a survey in this month's SPARKS that will give you the opportunity to let us know your feelings on different issues involving the club. The year is half over and the board would like to get your opinion on several issues. However, my work schedule has been such that we almost had a blank front page this month and time would not allow me to put the survey together. Look for it in next month's issue, save up your pennies, one a day for the next month, to take care of the stamp, then please take the time to fill it out and send it back. It will be anonymous unless you want to put your name and call on it.

That's it for this month...and as always I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at the July meeting.

73 Tommy, KD4TJO

From The Editor.....

Well we made it through Field Day, we had a very good time even though we had to weather one storm. The food was excellent, the bands were in pretty good condition, and we made a whole bunch of contacts. Look in a later issue of sparks for the results of the Delta Club's Field Day 1997. I'm sorry this issue is very late this month, with Field Day and my work sending me out of town right in the middle of this period when I normally do Sparks, I just could not get it all together and off to the printer and all, so I hope you will forgive me. Look for next months to be on time. 73.....David...KU4AS

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This month's article is about the two major events that occurred during the month of June. The first was the second annual Delta Club Carport Sale. Throughout the months of April and May announcements were made on the Nets and at the meetings. Tommy, KD4TJO, and I made announcements at the meeting informing people that the carport sale was going to be the 7th of June at Suresh's, N9GSA, home. As the time flew by we were getting no donations and I received several calls from a very nervous president asking if anyone had contacted me about picking up donations. When I replied that I hadn't had one call, there would always be a dead silence on the other end of the phone, and then he would say, "Oh well, I'm sure they will be bringing stuff to the next meeting."

Well, the week of the carport sale, it seemed like everyone decided to clear out their attics, their basements, their storage rooms, and their closets, because all of a sudden we had people calling and asking us to pick up something. When 7:00AM, Saturday, June 7th arrived, we had everything from kitchen ranges to table tennis tables. It was outstanding!!!!

The most interesting aspect of the whole event as far as I was concerned was who bought what. See, the whole objective of a carport sale is to get rid of those things that you don't need anymore, you don't use anymore, they shrunk when they were washed (that's a polite way of saying we increased in size).... You know, clear out those storage spaces.... Well, I think a second objective, or subordinate objective, is to see what you can find at YOUR carport sale that can now fill that space you just cleared. And I'm telling you, members of Delta Club did themselves fine. I think the big spender that day was Gary Blinkman, WA2IQC, and his wife Karen. First Gary started rummaging through the various boxes looking for that special trinket. And there was Karen, telling him it was time to go. Of course Gary was oblivious to the requests of his wife. However, when Gary was ready to leave, where was Karen, she was searching through the many boxes, looking for that special trinket.... Then there was Alex, KE4GYR, and Regina, KF4IGS. Or, maybe it was Regina, in any case they took home more than what they came with. If it hadn't been for the benefit to the club, I probably should have just taken my stuff to their house because the Nic Nac Shelf, the computer chair, and several other things that Kathy and I brought now reside in the Graham household!!!!

It was an enjoyable day. The club made a profit for the day's event. And the people that helped out had a lot of fun. I want to thank everyone that contributed, both by donating and by purchasing. It was so much fun that we are planning to have another carport sale later in the year, probably around September. So, once again, start collecting those things you don't need, can't wear, shouldn't have bought, and placing them in a safe undisturbed spot. Then, when the date is set, gather them up, give Tommy, KD4TJO, or me a call, and we'll have another carport sale.

The other event that occurs in the month of June is Field Day. This year the dates were June 28th and 29th. Since I'm writing this article before the event actually occurred, I going to assume that we all had fun. I'm sure that the CW station once again did an outstanding job at accumulating the most points, but I'm sure the Novice/Tech station and the SSB station contributed, like the United Way slogan says, "their fair share."

A special thanks to Melinda, KE4DXN, for organizing the publicity portion this year. I'm certain, based on previous years and knowing Melinda, that she did an outstanding job; to Jim, KI4I, for once again handling the CW station and burning the airways with code at 20 wpm or faster; to Ernie, WA6KOC, for assuming responsibility for the VHF/UHF station; Pam, KF4NDD, for taking the leadership role for the Food and Beverage area. This team put together an outstanding meal. And how could they fail when the chairperson's call can be translated into "No Dirty Dishes." How many other Field Day locations had Ribeye steaks and baked potatoes for their meal, not many I'm sure; to David, KU4AS, for organizing the SSB station. I'll bet that nice white trailer looked pretty against the evening sky right at sunset; to Tommy, KD4TJO, for his efforts in first passing his code and then using that skill to run the Novice/Tech station; to Bill, WA4MJM, for organizing the First Aid station, and last but not least to Mike, WA0WQI, for assuming responsibility for the Packet Station. These are the members of the Field Day team that made Field Day 97 happen. You all did an outstanding job. I want to express a very special thanks to all the members that helped setup, contributed equipment, operated stations through the night, to friends of the club like Auto Zone for the use of their cooker to prepare a fabulous meal, and anyone and everyone who just came out to share in the excitement. You made Field Day 97 a success....

73,

Ben, KU4AW

SECRETARY'S REPORT

This month's article will be a short one (hold those cheers down to a minimum, please). June has been busy so far, what with the Carport Sale, the club meeting, the board meeting, Field Day meetings, and its not done yet. The finale will arrive before the printing of this newsletter. Hope it all goes well.. The Delta Club welcomes 5 new members: Mark Kaply KD5ARO Rick Bonds KE4NTI John Turner KF4PYE Shirley Turner KF4PYD Jack Kroetz KF4RXD Be sure to say hello to these folks when you hear them on the radio. It always helps to get over the initial mike-shyness that a new ham experiences if a friendly voice on the other side of the mike welcomes them on the air.

73, Kathy, KE4UYU

W4BS REPEATER SYSTEM

146.82 net 8:00 pm

147.36 tone = 107.2

224.42 1.25 m reprt

443.20 patch, 107.2

145.03 packet / bbs

JULY 1997 CLUB MEETING

DATE: July 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 TO BE ANNOUNCED

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.

VE Liaison Corner

June 10th was the last official VE Testing session for Delta Club before the new question pool for the Novice Tech exams goes into effect and did we have activity. There were 15 elements administered with 13 being passed. A wonderful THANK YOU to the following VE's that helped at this session: Bill Hanock WA4MJM, Francis White WA4ZYN, Jimmy Pierce N4ZCO, Steve Greer N4SG, Tim Morrow AB4NH.

With all of this assistance we were able to have the CW exam held in a different room from the written exams, an element that was successfully passed. Without you and those that volunteer (and on rare occasion are not needed) I tip my hat.

Congratulations to:

Donald Kellett KF4SJU Tech

Kurt Schropp KF4SJV Tech

Julia Schropp KF4SJW Tech

Thomas Shealy KF4SJX Tech

Michael Murphy KF4SJY Tech

Ricky Smothers KF4OCJ Tech Plus

The new question pool starts on July 1st which contains the new RF Safety subelement. This increases the Novice test questions to 35 (26 out of 35 to pass) and the Tech test to 30 (22 out of 30 to pass). The general class question pool will change on July 1, 1998 so now is the time to upgrade!!!

All those that have MOVED RECENTLY be sure to stop by and pick up a 610 form to keep the FCC aware of your new address!!! If you do this on meeting night I will be glad to send it for you with the test session - saving you a stamp, envelope and aggravation.

73,

Joan, KN4PM

Delta Club Activities.....

146.820 Repeater

8:00 PM Traffic and Information Net (except second Tuesday)

Friendship Net, First Sunday Night (right after DARC Traffic and Information Net)

Club Meeting 2nd Tuesday

Special Event Station...

As the Director of Meeting and Special Events, I am happy to announce that the first Special Event Station for the Delta Amateur Radio Club is about to come to life. This however will be a non-operating event. On July 10-13, 1997, the club will have a display booth at the Military Vehicles Preservation Association's convention. This is a group that collects and preserves all types of military vehicles from bicycles to tanks and should be a really great event for the Delta Club. I have already had a few club members tell me that they have some old military gear that they will be willing to display, however we could use a few more pieces of equipment. What we are looking for is WW-2, Korea and Vietnam era military radios. If anyone has this type of equipment and would be willing to let the club use these radios for the display, please contact me either by e-mail or phone. My e-mail address is tmcneill@tssc.com My phone number is 452-5230 home, and 794-5230 ext 5111 work.

I am also happy to announce that the Delta Club will have a sanctioned Memphis in May event next year. We have broken ground with the Memphis in May festival Committee to have a special event station sanctioned by Memphis in May. This will be an operating event. Seeing as how it will be held during the 1998 season, there has not been a date or location for this event selected yet. This event will give the club a wonderful chance to get both media exposure and have the event published on the Memphis in May official calendars. This will allow the Delta Amateur Radio Club let the general public know what amateur radio is all about.....

73, Tim, KF4DNA

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

One of the biggest problems we have with our Amateur Radio equipment is keeping it clean. Getting in all those small places where dust and dirt hide can be hard. This month's project is the VACUUM CLEANER ADAPTER. It will allow you to hook up your full size vacuum to a small flexible hose to get into those small places. The adapter can be built out of wood, metal or plastic. I built mine up from a piece of scrap plastic. The adapter reduces the diameter of the vacuum hose to a small piece of flexible hose for cleaning. The small plastic hose is available at hardware stores. The unit works well and has lots of suction from the full sized vacuum it is hooked to. This adapter will let you keep your equipment clean and operating properly. I will have the VACUUM CLEANER ADAPTER at the meeting for those who wish to build up their own units.

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING

James Butler KB4LJV

AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE.....

TNC manufacturers are constantly adding features to their Packet controllers and improving them. One of the newest units is the new KPC-3 PLUS from Kantronics. The original KPC-3 has been out a while. One of it's nicest features has been the power drain of only 30 MA. This allowed the TNC to run on a single 9 volt battery. The newest version has added some additional features. The TNC adds two analog voltage inputs. This allows monitoring of temperature, wind speed, light levels, etc... by connecting the proper sensor to the unit. This information can be sent out via Packet Radio. Two digital control line outputs from the new Kantronics TNC allow you to remotely turn on your lights or coffee pot via packet from a remote location. The unit has additional commands for APRS repeater and telemetry beacon operations. If you are looking for a new TNC for APRS or telemetry work check this new one from Kantronics.

James Butler, KB4LJV

I'm a New Member.....

I see you at the meetings, but you never say hello. You're busy all the time you're there, with those you already know.

I sit amongst the people and yet I'm a lonesome one. The new fish are as strange as I, you old members pass me by.

But darn it, you guys asked us in and you talk of fellowship; You could just step across the room, but you've never made the trip.

Why can't you nod and say "Hello" and then go sit among your friends? Now that I'd understand.

I'll be at your next meeting, perhaps a nicer night to spend. Thank you could introduce yourself? I WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND!!

Webmasters Note: I'm proud to say that I doubt you will ever find this to be the case at a Delta Club meeting.

G5RV The man behind the antenna

The G5RV is a versatile antenna used for DX. The man who designed the antenna is R. Louis Varney, who is 85 years old. According to information in the QRZ DX newsletter of June 30, 1997, Louis also holds CX5RV. He and his Uruguayan wife Nelinda spend the European winters in Uruguay. They both speak English, Spanish, French, Italian, and Portuguese. Louis was an engineer and a consulting engineer. He gave up horse riding, and operating 2M as CX5RV/horseback mobile in Uruguay, when he turned 80 because his wife was worried.

Dom, AA5N

99.9% is not quite good enough

If you thought that giving 99.9 percent effort is good enough, consider what that 0.1 percent could cost....

Two million documents would be lost by the IRS this year.

1,314 phone calls could be misplaced every minute.

268,500 defective tires would be shipped this year.

2,488,200 books with the wrong cover would be shipped in the next 12 months.

5,517,200 cases of soft drink produced in the next 12 months would be flatter than a bad tire.

3,056 copies of tomorrows Wall Street Journal would be missing one of the three sections.

18,322 pieces of mail would be mishandled in the next hour.

114,500 mismatched pairs of shoes would be shipped this year.

\$756,900 would be spent on tapes and compact discs that won't play.

315 entries in Webster's Third International Dictionary of the English Language would turn out to be misspelled.