

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

When I packed up to go to the March meeting, one of the items that I had was a box full of Delta Club shirts. I was anxious to distribute them to those individuals that had ordered them and didn't want to have their call sign embroidered on the shirt. Unfortunately, when I opened the box and removed the first shirt my heart dropped to the floor. The shirts were great but for one thing. The seamstress had used the wrong color thread for the phrase "Delta Amateur Radio Club. So rather than distributing shirts to an eager club, I boxed them back up and made plans to return them to the vendor.

Several days after returning the shirts I received a call from the vendor saying that we could either take the shirts the way there were and they would reduce the price by \$5.00. If we chose not to accept the shirts they would be thrown out because the embroidery problem could not be remedied by taking the stitching out and sewing the name back in with the correct color thread. I informed the sales person that I appreciated her offer and that I would present it to the board of directors at our March meeting. However, I felt that the board would prefer to have new shirts, but I would contact her after the meeting and let her know our decision.

The Board of Directors all agreed that we should not accept the shirts. The primary reason for this decision centered around the fact that when we started this endeavor to get shirts and jackets, we assured the designer of the Delta Club logo that we would do everything in our power to insure the integrity of the logo as it was designed. If we were to accept the shirts with the incorrect colored thread we would be compromising this agreement.

I have informed the vendor of our decision and we are now waiting for the new shirts to be delivered. Although it is taking longer than expected to get the shirts, I firmly believe that the action taken by the Board of Directors was the correct action.

In addition, I have requested either an affidavit that assures us that the shirts with the incorrect logo will not be given to Goodwill, or any other charity organization, or that they cut the incorrect logo out and give to Delta Amateur Radio Club to destroy. Either option will assure us that integrity of the logo will remain intact.

We are quickly closing in on an annual event that is a lot of work, but more importantly is a lot of fun. That event is Field Day. For those of you new to the hobby of amateur radio, this is a week-end where amateur radio operators all over the U. S. have an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to operator under simulated emergency conditions. To make this last full week-end in June even more appetizing, ARRL has made it into a contest week-end. Not only do we have to demonstrate that we can operate under emergency conditions, but there are points assigned to the various aspects of operation.

One of those areas where a club participating in Field Day can accumulate points is the Novice/Tech station. This is, as the name implies, a station dedicated to those individuals holding a novice/tech license. The one unique aspect of this station is that it can only be setup and operated by those individuals holding a Novice, No Code Tech, and Tech plus license. No amateur with a higher class license can operate, or even assist in the setup of this station, it must be done completely by this very select group.

Recently, we had several members of the Delta Amateur Radio Club participate in a CW class and upgrade to a Tech Plus license. This is your opportunity to put those newly acquired skills to use, volunteer to operate the Novice/Tech station during Field Day Week-End. Not only do you get experience working CW and Phone, but you actually give the club additional points. We get points for having a Novice/Tech station and we also get points for each contact that you make during the 24 hours of operation.

As yet, no person has been selected to be the "captain" of the Novice/Tech station, so if you have a hankering to organize this station, contact Kurt Schropp, KU4NH, or Ernie Christensen, WA6KOC. They are the team that will organize Field Day '98. I'd like to see the four members who recently upgraded to Tech Plus be actively involved in the setup and operation of this station. You and the club will benefit by your involvement.

We are now rapidly moving into that period of the year where we see nature start to show her stuff in the form of flowers blooming, and trees budding. Also, it's that time of the year that we see numerous community service activities occurring. This year's March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon, Memphis in May Triathlon, to name a few. Our Past President, Tommy Thompson (KD4TJO) has been tasked with organizing this aspect of Delta Amateur Radio Club's community involvement. If you want to have fun, enjoy the camaraderie of fellow amateur radio operators, and provide assistance to a community event, volunteer to be a part of the March of Dimes "Walk-A-Thon" or the Memphis in May Triathlon. Speaking from experience, it's a lot of fun. If you have an interest, contact Tommy, KD4TJO, at 363-1198 and put your name on the list to participate. I guarantee, it will be a lot of fun.....

If you haven't attended a club meeting in a while, you are probably not aware of the fact that the power supply that we are currently using at the 146.82 Repeater site is the personal property of our Repeater Trustee, Tim Morrow, AB4NH. At the March Board of Director's Meeting we were surprised by a gift from LeBonheur Children's Hospital. They have donated to Delta Amateur Radio Club a 35 Amp power supply. We have been discussing in recent months about purchasing just such an item. Now, with this donation, we no longer have to worry about purchasing such an item. As president of Delta Amateur Radio Club, and as a member of the club, I want to thank Bill Hancock, WA4MMJ, and LeBonheur Children Hospital, for their gift. Rest assured that we will be putting this gift to work very soon at our 146.82 Repeater site.

Well, once again, I have rambled on and on. This is getting to be old habit with me..... Each of the last two months I have told our Director of Publications that I just can't get the creative juices flowing. However, once I start writing, it seems to go on and on and on.....

Look forward to seeing everyone at the April meeting.

73

Ben, KU4AW

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The membership drive is over but that by no means we are closing the doors. When your buddy wonders where his newsletter is, you can say, "Why, I got my SPARKS yesterday. Did you pay your dues yet?"

The following hams have renewed their memberships in Delta Club: Bill Hancock, WA4MMJ, Vicki Hancock, KF4DJS, Dan Fleek, N9PNA, Jim Evans, W0SK, Quincy Clements, W6LJH, Harold Kinchelov, Jr., KB7RSI, Daniel Porter, N4DWE, Dennis Talbert, W4FG, Terry McNatt, N4RES, Wade Wingfield, KB5SSG, Arnon DeShazo, KD5CXN, and Steve Greer, N4SG.

Be sure to give these new members a shout when you hear their calls on the air: Grady Bennett, no call as yet, Bill Allen, KA4LEQ, Uis Johnson, K4BMF, and Kenneth Roadinger, KB4ZZU.

73 to everyone,

Kathy, KE4UYU.

APRIL

CLUB MEETING

7365 HWY. 70

BARTLETT, TN

MEETING STARTS AT 7:00 PM

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE-EMWIN

April Program

This month's program concerns weather. In one way or the other, we all are concerned about the weather.

The national weather service has something new. It is called EMWIN, (Emergency Management Weather Information Network). John White, KE4WEV, with the National Weather Service office here in Memphis will be with us to put on a program about weather and EMWIN. Should be very interesting, you won't want to miss it.

73's

Ben Barth KF4GNC

VE Liaison

As much as the ARRL had problems with their Internet access and computer last month, I was unable to get a quick turn around on the testing session for February. Congratulations to: Nancy Bain KD5DJX Tech

This month with the completion of the first CW class of the month, I was glad to see that the session was posted the following Wednesday.

Congratulations to:

Melinda Thompson, KE4DXN, Tech Plus. Robert Holdford, KF4NDH, Tech Plus. Hilary Pat Vickers, KD5DQM, Tech Plus. Ace McInturff, KC4KBE, Advanced and Tim Billingsly, KD5CKP, Tech Plus.

N4XCO, Jim you did a wonderful job with this class - 100% of those finishing the class passed the 5wpm exam.

A big thanks to the VEs that helped with the two sessions, one at the meeting and the following Sunday:

Tim, AB4NH - Ben, KU4AW - Steve, N4SG - Dom, AASN - Jim, N4ZCO

REMEMBER: There is only until the end of June before the General Class question pool changes adding 5 more question to the test and the RF category. Talk to Melinda about the General review class.

See you at the April Easter meeting.

73 and keep hamming,

Joan KN4PM

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 the original 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.

REMINDER:

Please remember to keep the FCC aware of any change in name and address, they do have to be able to get in touch with you should there be any problems that arise.

As of January 1st the old 610 forms will no longer be accepted for any reason.

The new 610 dated September, 1997 will be the only form available for renewal or upgrading that is accepted by the FCC. The reason for this is the new inclusive phrasing that all must sign:

I certify that:

- The construction of the station would NOT be an action which is likely to have a significant environmental effect (see the Commissions Rules 47 C.F.R. Sections 1.1301-1.1319 and section 97.13(g));

-I have READ and WILL COMPLY WITH Section 97.13(c) of the Commission's Rules regarding RADIO FREQUENCY (RF) RADIATION SAFETY and the amateur service section of OST/OET Bulletin Number 65.

These new forms can be downloaded from the FCC site or I do have some forms available.

73, Joan KN4PM

W4BS REPEATER SYSTEM

146.82 net 8:00 pm

147.36 tone = 107.2

BACK ON THE AIR AT A TEMPORARY LOCATION

224.42 1.25 m reprtr

BACK ON THE AIR

443.20 patch, 107.2

145.03 packet / bbs

AIRWAVES

The radio program "Airwaves" has moved to a new time and day. Airwaves is now broadcast on WYPL-FM, 89.3, on Monday evenings from 8:30 to 9:00 PM. The format has changed, and is now devoted to only amateur radio.

Tune in, and enjoy.

73 Dom, AA5N

VICE DIRECTOR'S NOTES

A new and revised edition of "Now You Are Talking" has just been released from the printer. There is an entire chapter devoted to the Morse code. What the book doesn't have is a visual representation of the code, because the code is best learned by aural, not visual means. That is explained in the third paragraph of the chapter.

A new "RF Exposure and You" by Ed Hare, W1RFH has just been released from the printer. This book answers many questions that most amateur radio operators will ask. Some of these questions are: (a) What are the FCC RF exposure regulations? (b) How do they apply to my station? (c) Is it hard to meet them? (d) Do I have to prepare paperwork for the FCC? (e) Do I have to lower my tower? (f) Are there any restrictions on using my H.T? In answer to these questions, and many more, are inside, with the FCC rules relating to amateur radio translated into plain English. As you know, when House Telecommunications Subcommittee Chairman Billy Tauzin's Wireless Privacy Enhancement Act of 1998 was marked up by the subcommittee in October, the committee incorporated all but one of ARRL's recommendations into the bill. The last remaining issue to be dealt with was to clarify the intent of section 21(a) with regard to the modification of linear amplifiers and other amateur gear. Last week, the full Commerce Committee marred up the bill with the intent of getting it on the floor of the House before Congress adjourns in October 1998. It is a good possibility that the bill will enter the floor on the week of March 9, 1998.

NOTE: HR 2369, the Wireless Privacy Enhancement Act of 1998, has passed on the floor of the House by a vote of 414 to 1 with 15 members not voting.

I will be going to Hartford, CT, on July 17 - 18, 1998 for the ARRL Board of Directors meeting.

I hope to see and talk to you all at club meetings and hamfests.

73, Henry R. Leggette, WD4Q Vice Director, Delta Division, ARRL

Director of Training

What a month this has been. I have really enjoyed the CW class as well as the camaraderie of everyone involved in the class. This certainly was a successful venture. Everyone that went through the class also passed their 5-WPM test. We are all so excited. Or at least I think everyone else is as excited as I am.

I certainly want to thank several people. First again I want to thank Jimmy, N4ZCO there are not enough words for all of his patience, motivation and dedication. We truly all appreciate Jimmy and his willingness to help promote the hobby and his energy, time and efforts spent in doing so.

Next let me thank everyone who has helped in such a big way by calling the CW Practice Net. This has been so very much help to me and to many others that I know of for sure. Our profuse thanks go to Henry KU4DY, Jim K14I, Ben KU4AW, Kurt KU4NH, Dom AASN, Bill WA4MMJ and David KU4AS. We have had others to jump in and help out on this net besides these guys. So thank you to Jimmy N4ZCO, Tommy KD4TJO, Mr. Chuck W4VAC and Carl KA5JJP.

As you all know the idea was for the practice net and the class to complement each other. It certainly did work. Now that the class is over and has been so successful we are going to speed up the practice net. We DON'T want to stop at 5WPM but instead move on ahead to 13. I hope others out there who have had their 5 for some time will also take advantage of this opportunity to upgrade.

Let me also thank the VE team. We have a very dedicated team that really gives up so much of their personal time in making sure that we all have testing available to us each month. Plus they also are always ready to cheer us on and encourage us every chance they get. Keep us the good work, we all really appreciate it.

Speaking of upgrading, our next class for the year will begin the first Thursday night in April. This will be a General Theory class and it will run every Thursday in the month of April. There are several people scheduled to teach this class. I am really excited about this class and the truly knowledgeable hams teaching it. We really can benefit from all of their experience. I hope to see a lot of your there. Even if you are not interested in upgrading or if you already have but would be interested in the material being presented each week or any week, please come on out and join us. At the April club meeting I will have a schedule of the classes as well as the teacher for each and a subject.

We will be scheduling a No-Code Tech class. I need and want input from the club. Those of you who have unlicensed family members or friends that are interested in a class, would everyone rather have a 4 or 5 week class or a one-day class? Let me know what you think they would be interested in.

We will also be having a No-Code Tech class for ladies only. We have several who are interested. This will probably be the next class to be scheduled. I need a list of everyone who wants to attend any upcoming classes.

We had our first Net/Control Training Class a couple of weeks ago. This class was really a great learning experience. Alex, KE4GYR presented a terrific program on NTS message handling. I know that all net/control stations who attended the class are now ready to take any NTS traffic that may come across the net. We all are very grateful to Alex for sharing his knowledge and experience with us.

I hope everyone else in the club is having as much fun "hamming" this year as I am. It is really a terrific hobby and I am having so much fun. Thanks to all of you for helping me to do just that.

73, Melinda, KE4DXN

Repeater Committee Report

Our trustee, Tim, AB4NH asked if I would assemble a few words to let you know what's going on with the repeaters and the repeater committee.

As most of you have heard or read in last month's SPARKS, the project for the year is an upgrade of the 146.82 repeater. This repeater is the cornerstone of the club and has served the community well for about 14 years now. The controller has been replaced since the original repeater was put on the air.

While it is still a great repeater, what was state of the art equipment at the time it was built, it is beginning to get a little wear on it and better equipment is now available at a more affordable cost. The noises that we are having to put up with on this frequency are not being generated by the repeater itself, as a few folks have suggested, but we feel that it is being generated by another transmitter in the area, probably on another tower nearby. We ask everyone that hears the noise to please switch your radio to "reverse" or in other words, listen on the repeater input frequency of 146.22 to see if you can detect the noise there. If you have a beam antenna at your home and can get a general heading on the signal, that would be most beneficial in tracking down the source of the interference. Whatever you can detect, by whatever means possible, please record your location, time of day, signal strength of the interference, what type antenna you're using and a beam heading if you have one, and pass the information to a member of the repeater committee. It will take all of us to track down this "rabbit."

A great big THANKS to Mr. Roger Delphs and LeBonheur Hospital for the donation of a new power supply for the "82" machine. We had a power supply failure a few months back and while attempting to get it repaired, Tim, AB4NH took his personal supply out to the site to keep the repeater on the air. The new power supply is an Astron rack mount 35 amp supply with back up battery charger. This will allow us to install a few of the batteries that were donated to the club a few months back to make the repeater capable of operating during a power outage. Mr. Delphs was very complimentary of our club in it's efforts to provide emergency communications in the Mid-South area and therefore LeBonheur felt that the donation of the supply was an appropriate way for LeBonheur to support amateur radio in the area. Thanks also to Bill, WA4MMJ for making LeBonheur aware of our need of a supply.

The 147.36 repeater has been removed from the former site at LeBonheur Children's Hospital and is at another location being tested before relocating it to the new site. As most of you are aware, the repeater has been very hard to access. While some of the problem was it's location, after moving it to the test location and in "tearing into it" we found that the receiver had major problems. Gary, WA2IQC tuned up the receiver and got it back to factory specs. We are now working with the transmitter, which has been replaced with a new one. We are still chasing the "bugs" out of it and the intent is to have it 100% before installing it at the new site. Feel free to try it out at anytime and give us feedback on what you think. Antenna height is only about 40 feet, so coverage is nowhere near what it will be, but you should be able to hit it anywhere within the Interstate loop around Memphis. Thanks to Gary, Tim and David, KU4AS for their work on this project.

Gema is also looking at the packet repeater transmitter to resolve a minor problem with it. In the meantime, Suresh, N9GSA has had one of his radios in place to keep the repeater going.

At the time of this writing, the 224.42 repeater is off the air but should be back up by the time this newsletter hits your mailbox. We believe that there is a power problem at the site and hope to have it resolved in the next day or two.

The 443.2 repeater is doing well and so far (knock on wood) has no known problems. You have a great group of folks working on the repeater committee to keep all of our machines up and running for your continued use. If you detect any problems with any of the club's repeaters, or have any questions regarding them, please contact one of the control operators.

They are.....

Ben, KU4AW; Tommy, KD4TJO; Gary, WA2IQC; Bill, WA4MMJ; Dom, AASN; David, KU4AS; Suresh, N9GSA and Tim, AB4NH.

73, Tommy, KD4TJO

NOTICE:

The 224.42 repeater is back on the air. It was found that a circuit breaker had tripped. It was reset and the 224.42 is back on the air at this time.

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

One of the problems with the older computer systems is the BIOS backup battery. When it gets low the computer will not power up properly because the SETUP gets scrambled. Buying a new battery for these can get expensive with prices ranging from \$125.00 to a high of \$50.00 for the special ones.

The battery voltages vary from computer to computer from 3.6 volts DC to 7.6 volts DC.

This month's project is the BACKUP BATTERY SUBSTITUTE. It allows you to design a battery to replace the one in your computer when it dies. The trick is to start with a common 9 volt battery and use diodes in series to lower the voltage. I tested for PKU. 3. March of Dimes researchers were the first to link alcohol consumption to a specific pattern of birth defects. 4. The March of Dimes played a leading role in developing surfactant therapy for premature babies. 5. March of Dimes research led to the first successful fetal surgery to correct birth defects. The list could go on and on, but I think you get the idea. For more information you can check out their website at <http://www.msdimes.org>

This is a very worthwhile cause, and while I know that not all of you enjoy the public service part of the hobby as much as I do, those of you that can, please put this date on your calendar now and contact me to let me know that you will help. I would like to have more volunteers than we need, but that rarely happens. There are several of you that have helped with this event for several years and I'm sure will be there again this year, but I still need to hear from you. As we did last year, we will be using the 443.2 repeater for net operations. For those that don't have UHF capabilities, but would still like to help, we will again use the remote base on a 2 meter simplex frequency which will allow everyone to still communicate. The repeater will be restricted to net use only from about 5am until noon on the 25th of April. We appreciate everyone's cooperation in this.

The next event will be the Memphis in May Triathlon. Date is unknown at this writing for the event and there may not be time to get it in the My newsletter. This is well. Even that we got called more 4 days beforehand last year and we just barely were able to get the bare minimum amount of volunteers for this one. It is usually around the second weekend in May, so pencil this in on your calendars as well. Listen up on the nets for more information on both of these events, as it becomes available. And remember I need YOUR help.

73,

Tommy, KD4TJO

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