

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS Web Edition

SPARKS P.O. BOX 750482 MEMPHIS, TN 38175-0482 / VOL. 12 / AUGUST 1998

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 many of you know, the ARRL has prepared, after 30 months of research, a proposal that they intend to submit to the FCC regarding the restructuring of the amateur licensing process. In short, they are proposing that the code requirement of 13 WPM be reduced to 5 WPM for all license classes below Advanced. Also they are recommending that the 20-WPM requirement for Extra be reduced to 12 WPM. In addition, the license names would be changed to Class A, B, C, and D. This means that an individual who is an Extra class amateur now would become a Class A amateur. As I said, this is just a synopsis of the proposal that ARRL is planning to submit to the FCC. For a more in-depth description of the proposal I recommend that, those of you that have Internet capability, visit the ARRL "homepage". There you will find the proposal and charts indicating the various changes to frequencies, license names, and code requirements. I am encouraging every amateur to visit the ARRL "homepage" and read about the proposed changes and send your comments to Rick Rodrick (KSUR), Delta Division Director, and/or Henry Leggett (WD4Q), Vice Director of Delta Division. The more information that ARRL has regarding the feelings of their members and the amateur community as a whole, the better they will be able to represent us to the FCC. The first weekend in August we had our FedEx/St. Jude Special Event. I found that operating without the pressure of Field Day gave me another view of amateur radio. I hope that all of you that visited us at the gazebo in Freeman Park in Bartlett enjoyed yourself as much as I did. I want to thank Regina Graham, KF4IGS, for all the work she did to organize this event. For those of you that aren't aware, work on this project started back in the March timeframe. That's when we decided to hold the special event in conjunction with the FedEx/St. Jude Classic. At that time, Gina (as she is known to members of the club) started looking for sites where we could setup and operate. She and I visited the national headquarters of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. Their headquarters facilities are located right on one of the fairways of Tournament Players Club at Southwind. It was a terrific site, plenty of space to setup the tower-trailer, and shade to keep us cool throughout the event. Unfortunately, the almighty dollar took precedence over our special event and we lost out. Each of the parking spaces where the trailer would have been setup was being sold at upwards of \$2,500 per space. What a disappointment!!!! Gina then contacted the City of Bartlett to see if we might operate from Freeman Park again. It would have been nice to be right on the golf course, but it was not absolutely necessary, we could operate from anywhere and still be associated with the FedEx/St. Jude Classic. In addition to getting us the site from which to operate, Gina also made sure that we got our special event listed in the Special Event section of the August issue of QST. When I opened this issue of QST and turned to the Special Event section, it was really neat to see Delta Amateur Radio Club listed. In fact, a few days later I got an e-mail from a friend in Lakeland, FL with whom I have a sked, who said that he was planning to work our Special Event station. My hats off to you Gina for all the hard work you did to make this event happen. I also want to thank your OM, Alex, KE4GYR, for his assistance in identifying the frequencies that we should use. This year Delta Amateur Radio Club will be more involved with the Memphis Hamfest. The chairperson of the Memphis Hamfest has contacted me and asked if we might have several members who (CONTINUED ON PAGE 3) (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2) would be interested in chairing one of the many hamfest committees. Presently, Tommy, KD4TJO, is heading up the "talk-in" committee. If you have an interest in chairing a committee, like the flea market committee or the dealers committee, let me know and I'll pass your name onto the chairperson. That's all for this month. Hope to see you all at the August meeting.

73,

Ben, KU4AW

SECRETARY'S REPORT

We have one new member to welcome back into the fold, Ken Gregg, WD4EQZ. Ken was a DARC member a while back and has been away from the hobby for quite some time. Be sure to welcome him to the repeater if you hear him out there. Thanks to everyone who brought goodies to the meeting in July. I know they were appreciated and enjoyed right down to the last crumb.

See you at the August meeting.

73,

Kathy, KE4UYU

AUGUST CLUB MEETING

7365 HWY. 70

BARTLETT, TN

MEETING STARTS AT 7:00 PM

EASY WAYS TO LEARN CW

August Program

This month, Tom Richardson, K4TTA, will discuss CW. Easy ways to learn it and easy ways to bring your speed up. This should be an interesting program. Hope to see all of you there.

73,

Ben Barth, KF4GNC

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.

VE Column

Yes, you're right, this column has been missing for a few months. In May, I was late getting my article to the editor, June had no newsletter, July went to the wrong mailbox and so here I am trying again to keep you informed. Hope you can forgive a few mistakes. A big thanks to the following for giving so willingly of their time and effort to make YOUR team what they are: Steve, N4SG (4); Don, KJ4PO (3); Ted, AA7HX (our annual visiting VE from Arizona (2)); Jim, KI4I; Francis, WA4ZYN; Tim, AB4NH; Tom, N4TV. Without these VEs I could not do the job that you have come to expect from this team.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Brenda Redditt KF4QPB passed the advanced at our April session and then the EXTRA the following Thursday.
Nicholas Zelensk KF4RXB..... passed the 13 WPM code at the May session and then went on to pass the General the following Thursday.

At the April session 1 element was taken and passed, May session 8 elements were given with 2 passed, June session 3 elements administered with 2 passed, and the July session 0 (that's right no elements) were administered. If there is anything that you would like different with these testing sessions please feel free to contact me at 366-9722 or e-mail me joant@mem.net.

Please be aware that there are some new proposals being made by the ARRL to change the licensing structure of Ham Radio. Please read the ARRL Homepage relating to this subject it will affect us all. I will tell you that some will be happy and some will not. It looks to me, though, that they are trying to come in accordance with the rest of the world in license classes.

Till next month, I remain your VE Liaison.

73 de KN4PM - Joan

W4BS REPEATER SYSTEM

146.82 net 8:00 pm

147.36 tone = 107.2

224.42 1.25 m reptr

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

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

We are always looking for ways to organize and make the ham shack neater. Electrical outlet face plates are available as blanks for about 20 cents each. By drilling these to mount connectors we can build these on a panel or in the wall to bring in connections from other parts of the house or from outside. This month's project is the OUTLET FACEPLATE DRILLING FIXTURE which allows mounting holes to be drilled in the faceplates without breakage. The faceplates are made from a plastic that cracks easily if stressed while drilling. The fixture supports the faceplate and aids in hole locations for mounting connectors as needed. The fixture is easily built with a few scrap pieces of wood and makes building custom faceplates a lot easier. I will have the OUTLET FACEPLATE DRILLING FIXTURE at the meeting to show and answer questions for those who wish to build their own unit.

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING

James Butler KB4LJV

AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE

One of the biggest problems on HF digital modes is noise and interference. This prevents received signals from being properly decoded. Now if you have an older TNC you can upgrade to DSP with an add-on DSP filter from MFJ. The unit is the MFJ-781 which has a DSP with filter selections for Digital modes built right in. The unit offers superior performance to analog filters and is easily hooked up to the audio output of your radio before it reaches the TNC. The MFJ DSP allows better reception of digital signals when conditions are bad. The unit is available for less than \$125.00. If you are looking into improved performance with digital modes on HF check out the MFJ-781.

James Butler KB4LJV

SPARKS

Back in January of this year I joined the Amateur Radio News Service. I receive a newsletter from the Service monthly with some real good articles and tips on improving newsletters. In December of last year I entered our newsletter into national competition with a number of other Amateur Radio Clubs newsletters. Anxiously awaiting the results monthly, like a kid waiting on Christmas morning, I kept seeing in the services' newsletter that they were closer to completing the judging and would be publishing the results. Finally we were informed that one of the judges was hospitalized and was holding up the completion of all the judging. Well today, Friday, July 24, 1998, when I got home from work, Susan was holding a large envelope with the familiar return address. I ripped the envelope open to find a certificate.

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS SERVICE ANNUAL PUBLICATION AWARD FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF AMATEUR RADIO JOURNALISM; AWARDED THE DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB'S "SPARKS" AS BEING JUDGED "EXCELLENT"

I am very proud to have received this award on behalf of the Delta Club. Comments from the judges were

" Nice layout. Thanks for using 11 x 17 format -- much easier to read. Try to use full-justified text and hyphenation when using three-column layout. Club meeting location is hidden in newsletter, try and make it more visible (front or back page.) David, happy editing and keep up the good work ! "

Howard, N9RUI (Howard is one of the judges for the Amateur Radio News Service)

I cannot take full credit for this award. My thanks to all those who have written articles month after month for publication in Sparks, and for those who have added to the format and suggestions. Please look for a copy of the award in this issue, and take a look at the framed award at the August club meeting. I am trying a few changes in the format, i.e. location of meeting and what the program is about. Please let me know what you think of this. I'm really proud to publish a " Nationally recognized newsletter. Continue to send in those articles and information for our newsletter.

73,

David, KU4AS

E-Mail Us

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