

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS Web Edition

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

The month of September was a very busy month for Delta Club. Just about every weekend had some sort of event in which we were participating. On Saturday, Sept. 12th, several members got together and represented Delta Club at the Collierville Safety Day event held at the Collierville Community Center. We had quite a few visitors stop by our station and admire our setup, especially the tower trailer.

I think those members, Barbara, KE4BUU, Bill, WA4MJM, Kathy, KE4UYU, and Ken, WD4EQZ, that were able to stay and operate did a fine job of representing Delta Club and made a number of nice contacts throughout the event. Unfortunately a couple of members didn't get to operate, they spent their time either setting up the tower or taking it down and transporting it back to its home. Many thanks to Bill, KC4SXT, and Tommy, KD4TJO, for their assistance. Many thanks to Rob, KD4SKT, who arranged for Delta Club to be involved with this event.

The very next day, Sunday, Sept. 13th, was our annual picnic held at Plough Park. This year's event was organized by Melinda, KE4DXN, and she did an outstanding job. Her job was made a lot easier thanks to the efforts of Nancy Morrow and Vicki, KF4DJS. They assisted with those tasks that we don't see, getting the food and preparing things like salads and garnishes. We had hot dogs and hamburgers and an assortment of deserts. Throughout the day we had the annual volleyball game that had many different forms of participation. Some members and children served and returned serve in the traditional manner, using clenched fists to setup a "spike" or open fist to "spike" the ball. But there were others who served the ball by "drop kicking" the ball over the net, while others simply returned serve by rolling the ball on the ground underneath the net. I guess it didn't matter how you got the ball to the other side just as long as it got there. I tried it for a while but every time I tried to setup a "spike" the ball would go into the woods. We all have to thank Melissa Morrow (no call sign yet) for acting as ball retriever. Every time one of us hit the ball anywhere but over the net, it was Melissa who retrieved it.

While most folks sat around talking with other members and their families, Jim, KI4I kept the tradition of operating a station in tack. Jim brought out his Kenwood 130 and setup a "random wire" antenna and sat back and enjoyed himself. He made numerous contacts all over the States.

You all know how avid a CW operator Jim is, so you would be surprised to see him speaking into a mic. But he didn't let his reputation get tarnished; you soon heard the familiar dits and dahs coming from Jim's radio. What made us do a double take when we stopped by the table where Jim was operating, was the fact that the key that Jim was using was the PTT button on his mic. I guess where there is a will to send CW there is a way...

I think the fact that the weather was cooperating with us lead to a successful picnic. We had between 50 and 60 members and family members come out to Plough Park and enjoy the picnic. Thanks to all those who brought a dessert, I'm sure that there were a couple belts that had to be loosened at the end of the day.

On Saturday, Sept. 19th, we once again setup operation, this time at the Bartlett Celebration at Freeman Park in Bartlett. We had quite a number of members assist with the setup and teardown tasks. Tom, K4TTA, assumed the leadership role this year and did an outstanding job. Not only did he arrange for the setup, operation, and teardown, but he also arranged for a "special event" callsign. I think the propagation gods were with us this particular day as Tom reported that at the close of operations they had made in excess of 200 contacts.

If you will recall, in the September issue of SPARKS I reported that we had been notified that we were going to have to remove the 146.82 repeater from its current home on the WPTY tower. At that time we had a number of potential sites, but nothing confirmed. I am happy to announce that, although it is not definite yet, we are very close to solidifying an agreement with WPTY to make the new home for the 146.82 repeater on the new WPTY tower.

Tommy, KD4TJO, has been working very hard collecting information that demonstrates how Delta Club has been very involved in community events. He has been in contact with Steve Pickle, Chief Engineer for WPTY, discussing the future of 146.82.

As we get closer to finalizing the new location I will be updating the membership on the Traffic and Information Net. If you are interested in receiving an update via the Internet, please send me your E-Mail address and I will be happy to e-mail you.

The month of October is a very important month for Delta Club as it is the month when nominees for the Board of Directors are announced. As is customary, as President I have appointed three members to comprise the Nominating Committee. These members have been meeting since their appointment to identify members for the eight board positions.

If you are interested in running for one of the eight offices of the Board of Directors you can be nominated in one of two ways. The Nominating Committee can nominate you or you can be nominated from the floor. Nominations will be taken at both the October and November meetings, so if you decide that you would like to be nominated after the October meeting, you still have November's meeting. At the October and November meetings, nominations will be called for from the floor three times. After the third call at the November meeting, the nominations will be closed and the voting will commence.

If you are considering nominating someone for a position or have been approached to be nominated, remember these two rules. First, you must have attended 50% of the last twelve meetings, and second, you must be a licensed Delta Club member in good standing.

One final comment regarding nominations, if you are going to nominate someone first inquire if that person is willing to accept the nomination for office.

That's it for this month. Look forward to see you at the October meeting when we will have an outstanding presentation from Melinda, KE4DXN, on Repeater Etiquette.

73,

Ben, KU4AW

Secretary's Report

The club has no new members to introduce this month but three applications have gone out.

Just around the corner is MemFest, which kicks off our Membership Drive. For renewing hams, be sure to come and visit us at the Delta Club booth, renew your membership, and receive 5 tickets to put into the barrel for the prizes to be drawn at our November meeting. If you have friends interested in becoming members soon, let them know that if they pay for 1999 at the HamFest, they get October, November, and December of 1998 thrown into the bargain.

See you in October.

73,

Kathy, KE4UYU

OCTOBER CLUB MEETING

7365 HWY. 70

BARTLETT, TN

MEETING STARTS AT 7:00 PM

REPEATER ETIQUETTE

VE Liaison

Bust one month and quiet and exciting the next, that seems to be the way that the VE sessions are going this year. A Big WELCOME to Nathan AE4YY our newest addition to your VE Team.

A big thanks to the following who helped at the last session: Don KJ4PO, Nathan AE4YY and Tim AB4NH. We had one person testing at 20 wpm and passed the element.

Congratulations to:

Ace McInturff, AF4LY- Extra, formerly KU4RQ, KC4KBE

Remember to update new addresses with the FCC. I have 610 forms and am able to mail them along with my testing session if you are a member of the ARRL.

See you at the next session on October 13th.

73 de 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 1977 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(a));

- I have READ and WILL COMPLY WITH Section 97.13(e) of the Commission's Rules regarding RADIOFREQUENCY (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

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE...

Many Amateurs work to prepare for emergencies that may happen in the community. One of the most important is portable power to operate our radios in case of emergency.

This month's project is the PORTABLE EMERGENCY POWER BOX. The box has two sealed gel cell type batteries for use when regular power is out or for operating portable. Power connections for the radios are cigarette lighter jacks. A plug in wall transformer is used to charge the batteries between uses. The system is housed in an army surplus ammo box. These boxes are strong and sealed against water entry with a rubber gasket. Since they cost under \$5.00 they are a bargain. The power pack can use any rechargeable surplus batteries as long as the case you choose has room for them.

Having a backup supply like this will help you run a lot longer in an emergency. I will have the PORTABLE EMERGENCY POWER BOX at the meeting to show and answer questions for those who wish to build their own units. SEE YOU AT THE MEETING

James Butler, KB4LJV

AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE ...

Amateurs are always looking for new Software related to Amateur radio. One of the best deals in this software today is the QRZ Ham Radio CD-ROM. It has callsign listings for Amateurs around the world for starters. It also has internet addresses for over 51000 hams, 3000 ham radio software programs, TAPR files and bulletins, morse code training software, contest logging software, and more. This CD ROM disk contains a tremendous amount of information in many areas of Amateur radio such as Radio and scanner mods, computer controlled radio programs, and packet BBSs. This disk is a bargain at \$29.00 and offers a lot of information and software for the money.

James Butler KB4LJV

M.A.R.A. ANNOUNCES NEW MEETING PLACE

I received an e-mail from Hamp, KSJY, President of the Mid-South Amateur Radio Association, informing me that they are now meeting at the Holy Communion Episcopal Church located at the corner of Perkins and Walnut Grove Rd. Their meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. They had been meeting at the McFarland Community Center for a number of years. I'm sure that they would be more than happy to have visitors come and join them at their new meeting place.

David, KU4AS

MemFest '98

39 Years of Dedication to Amateur Radio in Memphis, Tennessee

Greater Memphis Amateur Radio and Computer Show

2585 N. Hollywood at I-240 Memphis, TN.

Sat. October 10 & Sun. October 11 Sat. 8:30 am - 4:00 pm Sun 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Set-up times Fri 3- 9, Sat 7 -8:30, Sun 7:30-8:30

Talk-In: 146.82 Courtesy of the Delta Club

ARRL will be giving a Forum Sat. Oct. 10th, 11:00 am on license restructuring and what it means to you.

Admission: \$5.00 at the door

PRESENTED BY THE

GREATER MEMPHIS AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

P.O. BOX 751841 MEMPHIS, TN. 38175-1841

This information was copied from the MemFest98 homepage.

<http://www.memfest.com>

E-Mail: lbowers@netten.net

VICE DIRECTORS NOTES

As you prepare to send your comments to the FCC in reply to NPRM 98-143. It is suggested that all license amateur radio operators prepare comments and send to the FCC. Your comments and thoughts may be the best and will give our license structure a great composition.

There is no set format for informal public comments on FCC NPRMs, NOIs and other items. If you want to make a formal "filing", the rules become more formal. On page 15-9 of ARRL's "FCC Rule Book" there are some suggestions, which basically boil down to:

1. Use 8.5 x 11 (letter size) paper 2. Include the Docket number or Rulemaking number 3. Include your name and address 4. State your interest in this matter (i.e. "a concerned citizen" etc.) 5. State your position and facts directly, and relate them to your experience 6. Make clear exactly what provisions of the rule are objectionable 7. Support your argument with facts 8. Keep your comments succinct 9. Include an original and four copies 10. Send to: Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20554

Interested parties may file comments on or before January 1, 1998 and reply comments on or before January 15, 1999. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Filing System (CEFS) or by filing paper copies as stated above.

Comments filed through the CEFS can be sent as a file via the Internet to <http://www.fcc.gov/e-mail/cefs.html>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed.

Alternative formats (computer diskette, large print, audio cassette and Braille) are available to persons with disabilities by contacting Martha Contee at 202-418-0260, TTY 202-418-2555 or at mcontee@fcc.gov. This notice can be downloaded at <http://www.fcc.gov/dtff>.

I hope that this information will be helpful.

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

Considering Our RF Spectrum Views and Values of What We Have, and What We May Lose

By: John Wendt WA6BFH

We have a tendency to respond to threats to our radio spectrum only as they appear on the horizon. This is wrong and myopic!

We must view our spectrum as if we all owned a magic receiver. This receiver would allow us to tune all the way from the lowest wavelengths at 160 Meters all the way up to 1.2 millimeters. If we viewed our spectrum this way, as if we could just spin the dial and listen in as on any of those magic, we would hold it in better regard!

We tend to focus only on those bands that we think or see as under utilized. I have used the ploy of mentioning "all of Ham Radios 26 bands". I don't usually add to this that we can of course also use all frequencies above 300 GHz. The response I am looking for is for someone to say, "how many bands?". They don't usually do this but, you can sense the pause as they are thinking it saying to themselves, "we don't have that many bands!".

Sometimes I will ask, "how many Ham bands are there?". The typical answer is twelve!

Sometimes this will be modified, when someone says, "oh yea thirteen, I forgot 6 Meters".

For sake of argument here is a listing of all of our Ham bands:

160 Meters - 80 Meters - 40 Meters - 30 Meters - 20 Meters -17 Meters - 15 Meters -

12 Meters - 10 Meters - 6 Meters - 2 Meters - 1.25 Meters - 70 cm - 33 cm - 23 cm - 13 cm

9 cm - 5 cm - 3 cm - 1.25 cm - 6.4 mm - 4 mm - 2.5 mm - 2.1 mm - 1.2 mm

All frequencies above 300 GHz. (or 1.0 millimeters)

Not counting the spectrum above 300 GHz, this means we have 23,471 MHz. of total available spectrum.

Now as I said before, I often hear about our under utilized spectrum at 70 or 135 centimeters. I don't argue with this general assessment but we do have activity and use on these bands. By this I mean an infrastructure of popular use. On the microwave bands we have use by only specifically oriented groups such as the San Bernardino Microwave Society. We all need to start using and even more importantly defending our bands!

A former FCC commissioner recently said that we are the largest special interest group in the country. He compared us to the National Rifle Association that usually gets their way with political actions that they see as effecting their interests. Well, the membership of the NRA is a drop in the bucket compared to our ranks. So, where is the support on the issues that effect us?

E-Mail Us...

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