

# 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

THE W4BS BUFFET  
or  
WHAT DO YOU GET  
FOR THIRTY BUCKS?

About an hour's drive from our meeting site is located my favorite restaurant with a buffet. For about twelve bucks, you get all the BBQ, BBQ ribs, BBQ chicken, catfish, catfish fillets, shrimp, fried chicken, seafood gumbo, apple fritters, BBQ beans, fried chicken, ham, hush puppies and corn-light-bread you can eat. They have fabulous cobbler, along with the usual salad but items and vinegar slaw to die for! (Anybody want to organize an "eatin' expedition," let me know - I never need much of an excuse to go there!) When I go there, I fill up on the "high-dollar" items, with a little salad on the side. Of course, I could munch out on a lot of the "rabbit food," but it still would cost the same.

The annual membership for Delta Amateur Radio Club is thirty bucks (thirty-five for a family membership) and like the other, you have LOTS of choices and virtually unlimited use. You can use the "high-dollar" items or you could actually utilize none of the myriad of services and opportunities available. Let's look at the Delta Club menu. We have one of the best repeater systems anywhere in the South with coverage unrivaled by just about any other system. We have an award winning monthly newsletter that gets to most of us on time every month - (late delivery NOT the fault of the editor). We have a nightly traffic and information net in which you can participate and thereby keep up with what is going on in Delta Club and ham radio in general, in addition to learning about proper net procedures and message traffic handling. We have an ongoing training program to get or upgrade your license and we've had almost a 100% pass rate for our "graduates." We have an active "Elmer" program with "Elmers" knowledgeable in just about every phase of our diverse hobby.

Also on the "menu" are monthly meetings complete with good camaraderie, fellow-ship and informative programs. Delta Club participates in numerous public service events and SKYWARN uses our repeater in times of dangerous weather. Delta Club puts on an incredible Field Day effort with the added bonus of LOTS of "learn by doing" opportunities. Want to sharpen your operating skills - come to Field Day! We have social functions including our annual "Fall Seminar," complete with a picnic dinner and our annual Christmas Dinner. For dessert, we have lots of opportunities for leadership and service.

Everybody has their own personal "tastes" in what they do in ham radio. Imagine all of the Delta Club functions laid out on a buffet table. What are you "eating?" Whether or not you get your money's worth is pretty much up to you. Sooo, step up to the table and fill up your plate, my friends! The wonderful world of ham radio awaits you.

73,  
K4TTA

PS. Try saving room for "dessert!"

### FEBRUARY MEETING

Bruce Campbell, KG4HLZ, and David Campbell, KD4NOQ, will be presenting a program on Amateur TV (ATV) and Packet. They expect to have stations operational demonstrating these exciting modes and will field questions from the audience.

### VE CORNER

January - a brand new year (which I find very hard to write the 01, especially hard was 01/11/01 for some reason), brand new fees, brand new cw testing arrangements AND a brand new VE. WELCOME to Frank McDowell KA4SJM, the newest member of the VE Team.

On January 9th we held our first testing session of the new year. Thank you to the following VE's who were able to help at that session: Arleen, AA5GX, Frank, KA4SJM, John, WVSJ, and Paul, WMSQ. We had 6 people take 4 elements with 3 elements being passed. I came home from the meeting that night and finished all of the paperwork associated with the test, went back out to FedEx it to the ARRL headquarters and arrived back home about 10:00 that night. I had announced at the meeting that night that the ARRL had new software and were now able to send the test results as they were received rather than batch send them to the FCC. Little did I know that the session from Tuesday would be on the internet on Thursday. Congratulations ARRL on a mighty fine job (this is the fastest session I have ever had processed in the 4 1/2 years of liaison for this organization).

Congratulations to the following:  
Joel Craig, KG4LTD, Technician  
Keith Peltier, KG4LDU, Technician  
Daniel Source, KG4LDV, Technician  
Brian Cooley, KA0GOY, General  
Shirley Gregory, KB4GHC, General

HAMFEST IS HERE - SUPPORT THE MEMPHIS AREA CLUBS - COME SEE ALL OF THE NEW EQUIPMENT - WIN A NEW RADIO -- UPGRADE YOUR LICENSE - LEARN FROM AND ENJOY THE WONDERFUL FORUMS!!!!!!

THREE opportunities to upgrade in February : 10th 11th 13th !!!!!!!

73. Joan, KN4PM  
Delta Division ARRL VE Liaison  
[kd4pm@arrl.net](mailto:kd4pm@arrl.net)

QSL Cards and Award Checking

You can now have your QSL cards checked locally by Terry, KB4KA, for the following awards:

Worked All States  
U.S. hams must be ARRL Members for all awards; no "repeater", "ship board" or "airborn" contacts; Alaska contacts must be dated January 3, 1959 or later and Hawaii contacts must be dated August 21, 1959 or later. Be sure and read the rules!

5 Band Worked All States  
Only contacts January 1, 1970 and after are valid.  
DXCC

All except 160 Meters, deleted countries and contacts over 10 years old. Be sure and read the rules!

Check the ARRL web page at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) and follow the links to the awards pages for additional details and forms. All submissions will be checked per the letter of the existing rules. Terry may be able to provide some of the forms on request. QSL card checking is available at Delta Club meetings, hamfests and by contacting Terry for an individual session. Good luck in "chasing your wallpaper"!

Terry Cox, KB4KA

### Memphis/ Shelby County Emergency Management Agency A.R.E.S./ R.A.C.E.S. Outdoor Warning Siren System Testing (OWSST)

#### Volunteers 1999-2000

The following list consists of people who are to be recognized for their participation in the siren testing project during 1999-2000:

Project Coordinator & Net Controller:  
Robin McConnell, KE4GPR

Assistant Coordinator & Net Controller:  
Bobby Jamerson, KG4CMA

Other Volunteers:  
Mary Jamerson  
Arlene Cline, AA5GX  
Paul Cline, WMSQ  
Michelle Cline, KG4IZZ  
Andrew Cline  
Tim Morrow, AB4NH  
Jim Maxwell, K4KTP  
Tom Richardson, K4TTA  
Ned Savage, KA4BLL  
David Campbell, KD4NOQ  
Keith Butler, KD4GTS  
Mark Kapley, KD5ARO.  
Barbara Abrams, KE4BUU  
Joseph Donahue, KE4JFN  
Betty Donahue  
Pam Christensen, KF4NDD  
David Smith, KF4PFY  
Austin Onek, KG4GKE  
Paul Lemieux III, KG4GYV  
Michael Dwywood, KG4ILB  
Scott Gordon, KG4IRF  
Joan Thorne, KN4PM  
Gerry Bailey, N9SCJ  
Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO  
Ernest Christensen, WA6KOC  
Robert T. Thompson Sr., WB4ZZT  
Mike Pandolf, KE4OKL.  
Ben Barth, AF4TV  
Eloise Barth, AF4TW  
Steve Campbell, KF4LUR

Delta Club Representatives  
Kathy Troughton, KE4UYU  
Melinda Thompson, KE4DXN  
Tommy Thompson, KD4TJO  
Bob Holdford, KF4NDH  
Freddy Bratton, KF4ZGJ  
Bill Hancock, WA4MJM  
Tom Richardson, K4TTA  
Ken Gregg, K4DIT  
Paul Cline, WMSQ

### CQ FIELD DAY

With only minimal air twisting, threats and bribery, Paul - WMSQ - and J.D. - K4USN - have agreed to head up Delta Club's 2001 Field Day effort. Paul will serve as Field Day Chairman and J.D. will be the Co-Chairman. Paul brings a wealth of electronic and operating experience and expertise, being an RF engineer and holding an Amateur Extra license. J.D., a Master Chief Petty Officer in the Navy, while being in amateur radio for less than a year but already holding a General license, brings a wealth of organizational experience and great enthusiasm to our effort. For the three years that I have been a Delta Club member, Field Day has been one of my favorite club experiences. Last year, W4BS, was in the top ten per cent of the 3A category - even despite a few visits from Uncle Murphy and several of his in-laws!

Start making your plans to be a part of Field Day 2001, June 23rd and 24th.

73, Tom, K4TTA

### Digital Update

PSK31 continues to grow in popularity, as is evidenced by the increase in activity on the bands, especially on 20 meters. The "new" MFSK mode is also gaining in popularity, although it is not yet as well known as PSK31. For those of you curious about how the modes compare, the ARRL made some test runs on January 13. For these tests, they transmitted text at 1 watt, 10 watts, and 100 watts on 80, 30, 20, and 10 meters using PSK31 and then MFSK16. Although I have not yet seen any official results from that test, Dale, KF4SIR, in Orlando, Florida, conducted testing and posted his results on his Internet site. He surmised that, due to high QRM at the time of the test, there was no appreciable difference in the two modes at his QTH, which is located about 1,100 miles from WIAW. This is surprising, since MFSK is touted to be better for high-QRM situations. You can review Dale's findings at: <http://psk31relay.net/temp1.html>.

As you may know, we had a PSK31 station active during Field Day 2000. Although the mode may not lend itself well to the rapid turnaround needed for Field Day contacts, there were, nevertheless, plenty of other PSK31 stations active during that event. Although there have been RTTY contests for years, you may have noticed in the "Contest Calendar" section of the newsletter that there are beginning to be occasional contests for PSK and other digital modes.

Software for these two modes, as well as several other digital modes continues to get better every day. If you have Internet access, you have the capability to download a number of free programs. Equipped with one or more of these programs, a modest computer with a soundcard, and a simple rig interface, you can be on the air digitally in no time! Although a good stable rig is a necessity, minimal power and a simple antenna are all that is required for lots of exciting DX! If you haven't joined in yet, you're missing a lot of fun!

The highly popular PSK31 program Digipan just got better with a new release, available at: <http://members.home.com/heller/digipan/>

I've been using Digipan, as well as two other programs: Stream and Hamscope. While Digipan is PSK only, Stream and Hamscope both do MFSK as well as PSK.

Stream is available at: <http://z8bly.svsonline.it/Stream/>

Hamscope is available at: <http://www.biinternet.com/~g3vfp/download.html>

Tom, K4TTA, and I will be presenting a digital forum at DixieFest on Sunday, February 11, at 1 PM. Stop by and see what the new digital modes are all about!

Here's a few Internet links on this subject:

<http://www.psk31.com>  
<http://aintel.bi.chu.es/psk31.html>  
[http://psk31relay.net/ham\\_links.html](http://psk31relay.net/ham_links.html)

73, Ken Gregg, K4DIT

What is MURS and why should you, as a HAM care? MURS is a new CB service which could challenge Ham Radio. Find out about it at:  
<http://www.qrz.com/articles/00/10/15/1215251.shtml>

### PACKET UPDATE

One of the newest digital modes is PSK31. This mode allows computer keyboard to keyboard communications on HF radio. The mode uses a computer with a Sound Blaster sound card along with special software to run. West Mountain Radio has come out with an interface which connects the radio and the computer together for PSK31 operation. It has isolation hardware and all cables to hook up between the radio and the computer sound card. It allows you to leave your microphone connected to switch back to voice mode. Also the package includes a software CD with the software needed for operation. At under \$80 this package has all the cables for plug and play operation and software get you up an running quickly. If you are looking for a fast way to get into PSK31 check out the RIGblaster from West Mountain Radio.

James Butler, KB4LJV

### AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Many times we have to use our HTs for base use. It might be our main radio or just an emergency rig during power outages. One accessory I have never seen for an HT is a desk microphone. This month's project is the HT DESK MICROPHONE. It uses a PC mount microphone element (Radio Shack part number 270-090B) for the remote microphone. The housing can be any deskstand microphone housing or can be home built. I used an old PC camera housing to mount the element in. I also included two types of switches to make operation easier. A momentary switch for normal push to talk and a toggle switch to lock the radio on transmit for extended operation. The circuit is easy to build and adds to the versatility of your HT for base operation. I will have the HT DESK MICROPHONE at the meeting to show and answer questions on for those who wish to build up their own unit.

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING .....

James Butler  
KB4LJV

### THE W4BS ELMER SHACK

Please feel free to contact any of our ELMERS to help you enhance your amateur skills. Anyone wishing to be added to the Elmer list please contact Arlene at [aa5gx@aol.com](mailto:aa5gx@aol.com) or 385-0995.

K4TTA (Extra) Tom Richardson 386-6268 [k4tta@arrl.net](mailto:k4tta@arrl.net) (1,3,4,6,8,9,13,14)

KA4BLL (Gen) Ned Savage 363-9607 [nsavage@juno.com](mailto:nsavage@juno.com) (1,5,8,14, MARS, ARES/RACES, net control, traffic handling, emergency service)

KB4LJV (Extra) James Butler 294-2540 (2,7,9,11,13,14)

KD4NOQ (Adv) David Campbell 388-6166 [kd4noq@juno.com](mailto:kd4noq@juno.com) (1,2,3,5,9,10,14, slow scan TV, ATV minor)

KU4AW (Extra) Ben Troughton 372-8031 [bttrough@mem.quik.com](mailto:bttrough@mem.quik.com) (2,4,8)

N9ACQ (Extra) Bill Kuechler 368-0532 [wkuechl1@midsouth.rr.com](mailto:wkuechl1@midsouth.rr.com) (1,8,13)

WA2IQC (Gen) Gary Blinckmann 794-5289 [garybin@midsouth.rr.com](mailto:garybin@midsouth.rr.com) (1,7,10,14)

WA4MJM (Extra) Bill Hancock 853-7192 [billwad4mj@arrl.net](mailto:billwad4mj@arrl.net) (1,2,8, emergency communications, ARES,MARS)

WMSQ (Extra) Paul Cline 385-0995 [wm5q@arrl.net](mailto:wm5q@arrl.net) (7,8,10,14, RF safety, spread spectrum, trouble shooting, soldering, electromagnetic compatibility, CFR47 rules/regs.)

K4DIT (Gen) Ken Gregg 853-7384 [k4dit@arrl.net](mailto:k4dit@arrl.net) (4,6,8,11)

W4GMM (Extra) Ham Hilliard 372-2337 [hamh@bellsouth.net](mailto:hamh@bellsouth.net) (All categories)

Codes:  
1. Antennas  
2. APRS  
3. Contesting  
4. CW Operating  
5. Direction Finding(fox hunting) 6. DXing  
7. Experimenting/Circuits/etc. 8. HF Phone  
9. Packet  
10. Repeater Operation  
11. QRP  
12. Satellite  
13. RTTY  
14. VHF

### CONTEST CALENDAR

Here are some of the contests coming up in the next few weeks...

North American Sprint, phone, sponsored by NCJ, 0000-0400Z Feb 4 (local time, Feb 3); CW is 0000-0400Z Feb 11 (local time, Feb 10). <http://www.ncjweb.com/>.

FYBO Winter QRP Field Day, sponsored by the Arizona S-QRPions, 1400Z February 3 to 0200Z February 4. [www.extremezone.com/~nk7m/fybo01.htm](http://www.extremezone.com/~nk7m/fybo01.htm).

Ten Ten International Net Phone QSO Party, from 0000Z Feb 3 until 2400Z Feb 4.

YL-OM Contest, CW, sponsored by YLRL, 1400Z Feb 3 to 0200Z Feb 5. (Phone: 1400Z, Feb 12 to 0200Z, Feb 14.) [www.qsl.net/~yrl/yfcontest.html](http://www.qsl.net/~yrl/yfcontest.html).

Spring Classic Radio Exchange, CW and Phone, Sponsored by CX Newsletter, 2000Z Feb 4 to 0500Z Feb 5. [odsteph@acs.eku.edu](mailto:odsteph@acs.eku.edu)

Mexico RTTY International Contest, sponsored by the Federacion Mexicana de Radio-experimentadores, AC. RTTY only. 1800Z Feb 3 to 2400Z Feb 4. [www.fme.org.mx/concursosos-rtty/rules.html](http://www.fme.org.mx/concursosos-rtty/rules.html).

CQ World-Wide RTTY WPX Contest, sponsored by CQ Magazine and The New RTTY Journal, 0000Z Feb 10 to 2400Z Feb 11. [www.rttyjournal.com/rules/wpx.html](http://www.rttyjournal.com/rules/wpx.html).

Novice Round-Up, sponsored by FISTS CW Club, CW only, 0000Z Feb 12 to 2400Z Feb 13. [www.fists.org/~fists/novice.html](http://www.fists.org/~fists/novice.html).

ARRL International DX Contest, CW, Feb 17-18. See Dec 2000 QST, page 110

CQ WW 160-meter SSB Contest, Feb 24-25. See Jan QST page 100.

REF French Contest, phone. Feb 24-25. See Jan QST page 100.

UBA Contest, CW, Feb 24-25. See Jan QST p. 100.

North Carolina QSO Party, sponsored by the Alamance ARC, from 1200-2400Z Feb 26 and 1200-2400Z Feb 27. [www.netpath.net/~ndmio/qsoparty.htm](http://www.netpath.net/~ndmio/qsoparty.htm)

For more information on these and other contests in January, please visit the ARRL contest page on the internet at: [www.arrl.org/contests/months/feb.html](http://www.arrl.org/contests/months/feb.html)

## February 13 CLUB MEETING

7365 HWY. 70

BARTLETT, TN

MEETING STARTS AT 7:00 PM

The Month program will about Amateur Television  
presented by  
Bruce, KG4HLZ and David, KD4NOQ

### 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.

### W4BS REPEATER SYSTEM

146.82 net 8:00 PM

147.36 net = 107.2

224.42 1.25 m reptr

443.20 patch, 107.2

145.03 packet / bbs

### Other Important Contacts

**VE Liaison**  
Joan Thorne, KN4PM  
737-5795  
[joant@mem.net](mailto:joant@mem.net)

**Membership Chairpersons**  
Ben Barth, AF4TV  
Eloise Barth, AF4TW  
[eloiseb@aol.com](mailto:eloiseb@aol.com)

### 2001 Board of Directors

#### E-Mail Us...

Tom Richardson.....President.....[k4tta@arrl.net](mailto:k4tta@arrl.net)

Terry Cox.....Vice President.....[tacox@centric.net](mailto:tacox@centric.net)

Ben Troughton.....Secretary.....[bttrough@bellsouth.net](mailto:bttrough@bellsouth.net)

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Bill Hancock.....Repeater Trustee.....[billwa4mj@arrl.net](mailto:billwa4mj@arrl.net)

Kathy Troughton.....Past President.....[ktrou@nb.utmem.edu](mailto:ktrou@nb.utmem.edu)