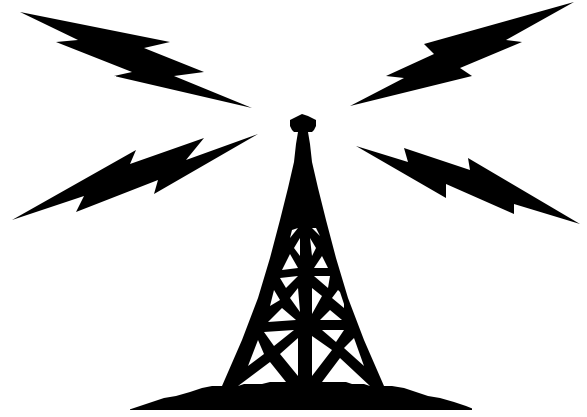


The DELTA club meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month. This month's meeting will be April 8th at 7:00pm at the Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Highway 70, Bartlett, TN.



VOL.16 April 2003

### President's Corner

Spring is upon us! The weather is beginning to break and give us better conditions to get our towers and antennas installed, adjusted or repaired.

As we enter the third quarter the board is working on several items. We should be presenting our recommendation for Trustee at the April meeting. We are also working on finding a replacement for the Director of Publications. Jim, AF4WQ, submitted his resignation to the board to be effective April 1. I would like to thank Jim for his work as Director of Publications.

With only a little over two months until Field Day we are in need of quite a few volunteers in order to plan our activities. If you are interested in helping with a particular part of Field Day please contact a board member to get your name on the list. At this time we need help in all areas.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting April 8.

73.

Randy, W4RMV

VE TESTING: Don't forget the monthly Volunteer Examiner testing session. Registration begins at 5:30pm, and testing begins promptly at 6:00pm. Please remember to bring 2 forms of ID 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 6:00pm. This to allow for Volunteer VE team to finish in time to attend the club meeting. For more VE testing information contact:

Joan Thorne, KN4PM, VEC  
Phone: 901 737-5795  
EMAIL: JOANT@MEM.NET



## Packet Update

We are always looking for a new key for running the oldest digital mode of morse code. Morse Express has come out with a new line of VGA keys from Belarus. The new VGA T-1 is a single lever paddle. The unit has a beautiful chrome base with chrome plated parts. The lever itself is a CNC machined aluminum part with emerald green fingerpieces on it. The action is different also. The lever is shaped like the letter "T" and has dual springs to set the tension for the dits and dahs. The spacing is also adjustable. If you are looking for a nice single lever paddle for under \$100 then check this one out from Morse Express. Their web address is: [www.mtechnologies.com](http://www.mtechnologies.com).

James Butler, KB4LJV

## AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Radio kits are still used by Amateurs who want to build up their own equipment. Most of this is now in the area of QRP or low power operation. These small kits are fun to build and operate and the quality is good. A plus of building your own kit is that you get to learn how it works and also know how to fix it later if something breaks. I built up a kit from MFJ. It is the QRP CW rig called the 9380 CUB. This one operates on 80 meter and puts out about 2 to 2.5 watts. The kit went together without any problems and is very easy to operate. The only controls are the frequency and the volume control. This unit draws about 50 mA when receiving and 350 mA when transmitting which makes it nice for battery portable operation. The PC board is first class with some tiny surface mount components already mounted on it. You add the rest of the parts and put it in the supplied case and you are ready to go. The receiver on this rig is amazing in that it is sensitive and lets you hear the really weak signals. When I put it on the air I worked a station just outside Chicago on my third call of CQ with my butternut verticle antenna hooked up. I am very pleased with the performance and operation of this little radio and highly recommend it for anyone who likes running QRP. They make models for 80, 40, 30 and 15 meters and at less than \$100 makes it easier on the pocket book. I will have the MFJ QRP CUB at the meeting to look at for those who wish to build up their own unit.

James Butler, KB4LJV



SPARKS is published monthly by the DARC, and is mailed to club members and other interested parties. All information published in this newsletter is provided as a service. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, DARC and its officers assume no liability resulting from errors or omissions.

### President

Randy VanVoorhis, W4RMV  
w4rmv@arrl.net  
901-384-0487

### Vice President

Ned Savage, KA4BLL  
ka4bll@arrl.net  
901-682-8716

### Secretary

Damien Covington, KG4NBM  
kg4nbm@arrl.net  
901-381-4849

### Treasurer

Frank Dowell, KA4SJM  
ka4sjm@arrl.net  
901-382-5279

### Director of Training

Ed Norris, KD5IEI  
kd5iei@arrl.net  
662-895-3921

### Director Of Publications

### Director of Programs

James Butler, KB4LJV  
jbutler@slimfast.com  
901-294-2540

### Director of Meetings

Barry Anderson, WA4MFF  
wa4mff@arrl.net  
901-725-0924

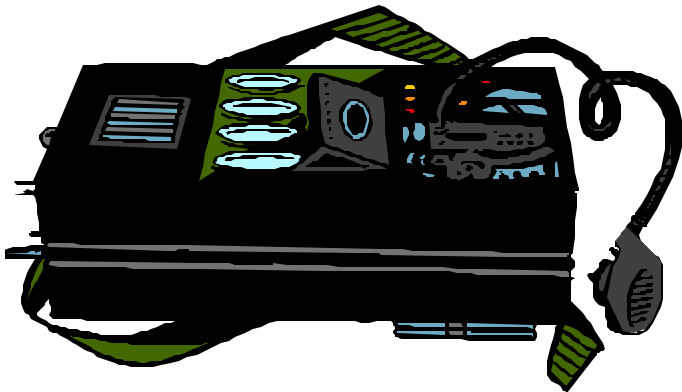
### Past President

Lance Morris N4GMT  
lmorris1@midsouth.rr.com  
901-371-9342

## MARCH TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's report for March 2003

The Treasurer's Report is not published in the web version of SPARKS. Members may check their printed version for this information.



From the Secretary  
KG4NBM

If you are a new member and need a new member's packet and a pin for the autopatch, please call or write Damien at:

Damien Covington, KG4NBM  
4735 Quintell Ave  
Memphis, TN 38128

901-381-4849

## VE CORNER:

This has been a very sad and trying month for the VE Team. My heart and sympathy got the following members:

Francis White WA4ZYN on the loss of his wife, Kathleen White, KD4LGL, Edward Cookenham, K3ORS, on the loss of his mother, and Arlene Cline AA5GX on the loss of her husband, Paul Cline, WM5Q. Kathleen and Paul were both Delta Club members.

A moment of silence in their names.

The VE Team, however, went on with testing in the usual manner. We had two testing sessions this month. March 11th was held just before the Delta Club meeting and March 15th was a special request by a class that was helping at the Church of the Latter Day Saint in Bartlett.

Thank you to the following VE's for their continued help: Bill KC4SXT, Don KJ4PO, Jim AG4KM, John WV5J, Ned KA4BLL, Ray N4ARH, Rick KE4NTI, and Tom K4ZFV.

The March 11th session had 5 people take 7 elements. We have 4 new technicians and 1 general class advancement. At the March 15th session we had 11 people take 11 elements. We added 10 new technicians to our midst.

The March 15th session has not been published as of this writing.

Congratulations to:

Clinton Alexander - KG4YZW - Technician  
Carolyn Duvall - KG4YZU - Technician  
Christopher Hall - KD5VPW - Technician  
James Reyle - KG4YZV - Technician  
Sandford Simaitis - KG4WWU - General

March 15 Session

Eleen Hempling - Technician - KG4ZDE  
Ryan Ellegood - Technician - KG4ZDF  
Nichole Rudowski - Technician - KG4ZDG  
Kevin Rudowski - Technician - KG4ZDH  
James George - Technician - KG4ZDI  
Charles Grieme - Technician - KG4ZDJ  
Phillip Mitchell - Technician - KG4ZDK  
Candace Crook - Technician - KG4ZDL  
Trent Fleming - Technician - KG4ZDM  
Robert Griggs - Technician - KG4ZDN

73,  
JOAN KN4PM  
ARRL VE Liaison

## 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 or 385-0995.

K4TTA (Extra) Tom Richardson 901-386-6268  
k4tta@arrl.net (1,3,4,6,8,9,13,14)

KA4BLL (Extra) Ned Savage 901-363-9607  
ka4bll@arrl.net (1,5,8,14, MARS, ARES/RACES, net control, traffic handling, emergency service)

KB4LJV (Extra) James Butler 901-294-2540  
(2,7,9,11,13,14)

KD4NOQ (Adv) David Campbell 901-388-6166  
kd4noq@bellsouth.net (1,2,3,5,9,10,12,14, slow scan TV, ATV minor)

KU4AW (Extra) Ben Troughton 901-372-8031  
bktrough@mem.quik.com (2,4,8)

N9ACQ (Extra) Bill Kuechler 901-368-0532  
wkuechl1@midsouth.rr.com (1,8,13)

WA2IQC (Extra) Gary Blinckmann 901-794-5289  
garyblin@midsouth.rr.com (1,7,10,14)

WA4MJM (Extra) Bill Hancock 901-853-7192  
billwa4mjm@aol.com (1,2,8, emergency communications, ARES, MARS)

WM5Q (Extra) Paul Cline 901-385-0995  
wm5q@arrl.net (7,8,10,14, RF safety, spread spectrum, trouble shooting, soldering, electromagnetic compatibility, CFR47 rules/regs.)

K4DIT (Extra) Ken Gregg 901-853-7384  
k4dit@arrl.net (4,6,8,11)

### Codes:

1. Antennas
2. APRS
3. Contesting
4. CW Operating
5. Direction Finding
6. DXing
7. Exp./Circuits/etc.
8. HF Phone
9. Packet
10. Repeater Oper.
11. QRP
12. Satellite
13. RTTY
14. VHF



The Delta Club board meets at 7pm the first Tuesday of each month at Bartlett United Methodist Church, 5676 Stage Road, Bartlett, TN. We meet in the lounge of the gym building (just inside the gym doors). All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## Vice President's Corner

I need all members who have, or know where club equipment is located, to make a list of the item, location of the item, condition of the item, if known, and who might have the item or items.

I do know where the Tower Trailer is, and where the "FEDEX TRASH DISHES" which the club picked up in the '90s are, and I do know who has knowledge of the whereabouts of the tower J-pole and the club's generator.

I would like this information either sent to me via e-mail at KA4BLL@arrl.net or given to me at the next meeting. Thank You, Ned Savage, KA4BLL

## Birthday List

### April

2	Amber, KG4MLU	21	Neal, W4EKD
	Dan, N4QLK	22	Daniel, KG4LHU
10	Rosie, K4MPQ		John, KG4OLG
13	Karen Blinckmann	24	Jennifer, KE4RKH
15	Rob, KD4SKT	26	Jim, N4BSP
16	Thomas, KG4EOV	29	David, N5COO
18	James, KB4LJV		
	Paul, KG4GYV		

NORTH AMERICAN YOUTH NET 20M  
Frequency 14.329  
FRIDAY NIGHTS 6:00pm

For more info go to [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com) and check out the

**Newsletter inputs are due the Friday following the monthly DARC Meeting. All DARC members are encouraged to submit information to be put in SPARKS.**

**Please send inputs to:**



**DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
**P.O. Box 750482**

**NONPROFIT ORG**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**MEMPHIS TN.**

**POSTMASTER**, send address changes to DARC,  
P.O. Box 750482, Memphis, TN 38175-0482

**CLUB MEETING on Tuesday April 8 at**  
**Ellendale Church of Christ**

**\*\*\* Date sensitive material. Please deliver promptly \*\*\***



**W4BS**  
**REPEATER**  
**SYSTEM**

146.82- net 8:00 pm  
147.36+ tone 107.2  
224.42- 1.25m repeater  
443.20+ patch 107.2