

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

P. O. BOX 750482 MEMPHIS, TN 38175-0482 / VOL. 16 / AUGUST, 2004



Welcome
to the

Delta Amateur Radio Club!

Visit our home on the web at: <http://www.deltacub.org>

W4BS
REPEATER
SYSTEM

146.82, 147.36, 224.42
443.2 & 145.03 packet

AUGUST 2004 CLUB MEETING

DATE: August 10, 2004 (2nd Tuesday - be there)
PLACE: Ellendale Church Of Christ, 7365 Highway 70,
Memphis, Tn. (2 miles east of Hwy. 64-Stage Rd.)
TIME: 7:00 PM
PROGRAM:

VE TESTING: Don't forget the monthly Volunteer Examiner testing session. Registration begins at 5:30 PM. and testing begins promptly at 6:00 P.M. Please remember to bring **two forms of identification** 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. This is to allow our 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
E-mail: joant@mem.net

Please Remember: Deadline for Reports and Articles for the next issue of SPARKS is Wednesday, August 25th. All articles MUST be in to me by the deadline in order to be published in the next issue. Please forward all articles and items of interest to:

paulsonrj@bellsouth.net

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

To all of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Members:

The Field Day Chairman and the Field Day food chairman are planning to offer hamburgers to any meeting attendees who come early for the August 2004 meeting, until they exhaust the supply left over from the Field Day event. These burgers were not cooked, but returned to the freezer un-opened. A small donation to the club for this event will be greatly appreciated (I think \$2.00 's would be reasonable, if the board of directors' approve). I believe that the amount remaining burgers are at least 25. We will also provide canned soft drinks.

Hope all have a great summer and hope you all can make the August meeting.

73, Ned, KA4BLL

**Delta Amateur Radio Club
Board Meeting Minutes
July 6, 2004**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.

Attendees: KA4BLL, Ned Savage; KG4EOV, Tom McLemore; K4TTA Tom Richardson; KC4SXT, Bill Covington; KG4VAW, Bill Torkell; & W4RMV, Randy VanVoorhis.

Old Business:

Field Day expense receipts were presented for payment to pay for items purchased, which include food, condiments, canned soft drinks, bottled water, ice, and propane fuel. Those to be repaid are:

Ann Cissel, \$29.93

Darryl Sheffield, \$ 16.38

Kathy Trouhton, \$ 148.59

Motion to pay by Randy VanVoorhis. Motion Seconded by Bill Covington. Motion Passed.

Treasurer's Report as of July 6, 2004

Balance 7-06-04 \$ 6,361.36

New Business:

Tom Richardson, Director of Training, asked that a search be undertaken to find a replacement for him. Although there have not been enough requests for training classes to justify creating one, he feels that his new business responsibilities are restricting him from giving the director's position the full time that is needed to adequately promote the training programs that we can offer.

Should the Club continue to offer an auto patch on the 146.82 repeater, and/or "the hard line" phone service? The phone patch is seldom used and the club pays about \$ 60.00 per month for it.

A suggestion was made to investigate, if we could reduce expenses by moving the bank account to a different bank. It was suggested to talk to our current bank before moving to see what they have to offer, but after the investigation. We pay an average of \$170.00 per year in bank account service fee. We have been maintaining a balance that usually higher than most require before charging a fee and our number of transactions per month is normally low. It may be feasible to open a money market checking account.

Meeting Closed at 7:44 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Tommy, KD4TJO
Secretary

**Delta Amateur Radio Club
Membership Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2004**

Ned Savage, KA4BLL called the July General Membership Meeting for the Delta Amateur Radio Club to order at approximately 7:05 pm local time with 31 members and guests present.

Ned, KA4BLL called for introductions of all present.

Ned also read the treasurer's report to the membership.

Old Business:

Ned gave a short report on Field Day with Ben, KU4AW being out of town on vacation. As everyone is aware, we had an unusually great year as far as the weather is concerned. There were mild temperatures and a light breeze to make it even more comfortable. The member participation was lower that we had hoped but those that attended had a great time anyway. There was a lot of fun and camaraderie to go with lots of contacts and plenty to eat. There was so much to eat that there are about 25 hamburgers left

over that will be grilled at the August membership meeting, so get there early if you want a burger. This is a case of “the early bird gets the burger.” If you would like to make a small donation in exchange for the burgers, the club would appreciate it but it is not required. Hopefully our total points score will be presented at next month’s meeting.

New Business:

Ned presented a couple of items for discussion that had been brought up at the July board meeting. There was discussion of whether or not to drop the autopatch from the “82” repeater to save phone charges. After quite a few members pointed out reasons why we should not do this, the idea was dropped. Suresh, N9GSA stated that he and Tommy, KD4TJO were looking into new options to get the phone company to either change our rate to a residential rate since precedents have been set in some neighboring states or the possibility of changing phone companies to get a lower rate.

A member of the board suggested that an investigation be conducted to ascertain whether changing banks would lower our monthly service fee or would allow us free checking with no fee at all. It was pointed out with bank statements in hand that our current bank already gives us free checking and does not charge us any kind of monthly fees. This idea was also subsequently dropped.

Ned recognized all members having birthdays in the month of July by reading everyone’s names to the meeting attendees.

Bill, KC4SXT reminded everyone in attendance that he is taking orders for hats and jackets and that he still has four jackets that were ordered and not paid for yet. If you have ordered a jacket and not received it yet, please get in contact with Bill at your earliest opportunity. He can be found on the 146.82 machine almost every morning around 8 am or earlier.

Program: Ned introduced Barbara, KE4BUU, the

Shelby County ARES Emergency Coordinator. Barbara presented a very nice program outlining all of the local efforts of the local ARES group and her efforts to recruit more members from the large number of licensed amateurs in Shelby County. In addition to working with the local hospitals for backup communications, ARES recently worked directly with the Memphis & Shelby County Health Department to survey local schools, churches and other locations that might be utilized to hold mass inoculations in the event of a small pox outbreak or other biological emergency, particularly related to a terrorist attack using those agents. Barbara is also working with the local hospitals to train as many of their in house personnel to become licensed operators so that they can operate the hospital radios until the ARES members can arrive after making sure that their own homes and families are safe and taken care of.

Ned presented Roger, KI4AJH and Tom, K4TTA with Presidential Service awards.

The monthly door prize was won by Bill, KG4VAW.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 pm.

**VEC Report
July 13, 2004**

July - hot, humid, new question pool, after field day blues! Not this time - no blues to be had. Present at the July 13th testing session were the following VEs:

Bill KC4SXT, Francis WA4ZYN, Jim AG4KM, Ray N4ARH, Richard AI4BN, and Rick KE4NTI.

We had 4 persons take and pass all 5 elements administered.

Congratulations to:

James Adams KI4GIV - Technician

Adam Chomyk - KI4GIU - Technician
Mark Forrest - AI4GD (KB4MFD) Extra
Jason Smith - KI4GIT - Technician

73,
Joan KN4PM
ARRL VE Liaison

Huntsville Hamfest Bus Trip

MARA has chartered a tour bus for a day trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on Saturday August 21. The bus is a near new air conditioned 56 passenger bus with a restroom on board. The bus will leave from the Country Club Estates Clubhouse at 2417 Lacosta Drive in Bartlett promptly, absolutely, with certainty at 6 am, arriving at Huntsville around 9:30 am. The bus will leave Huntsville at 4:30 pm and return to Bartlett just before dark. There is plenty of storage space on the bus where the luggage would go to bring back large items. A repeater cabinet will fit in the luggage area if needed. Coffee and donuts will be provided from about 5:30 am till the bus leaves and Cokes and water will be provided on the bus going and coming. Those going can safely leave their cars at the Clubhouse while they are gone. Cost for the trip is \$35 per person until August 5; after August 5, it is \$40. Please contact Tony Brignole WA4KHN at 372-2738 or John Parish KD4EUZ at 363-7704 for reservations or more information. We are talking with the Huntsville folks about special parking and advance admission tickets if there is interest. Everyone is welcome.

73
Tony Brignole WA4KHN

Tracking Satellites on the Internet

I decided to get into satellites one day when I found a place on the internet that had real time tracking. Part of the problem working these amateur radio satellites is knowing where they are at a given time.

Also, finding the correct frequencies that the satellites are on can be a problem (I found the frequencies on the AMSAT web page, www.amsat.org).

After collecting this information I found that I could work the FM satellites with ease using my 14 element 2 meter beam and my 18 element 440 beam set at 65-70 feet (I already had these beams up for weak signal work). I think that most anyone could work the FM satellites with a ground plane of modest height above ground.

The web site is <http://liftoff.msfc.nasa.gov/realtime/jtrack/Amateur.html> . This site is a java applet site. You may have to make adjustments to your web browser to get it to work properly. The website shows the track of the satellites. This web site also has weather satellites and spacecrafts that you can click on to track. The only set up necessary is on the main page where you put in your zip code and jtrack does the rest. The way I use this site is that I click on the satellite that I want to work, then click on my location and this will give me the time and date of the satellite pass. Also, you can push ctrl+left click on your mouse on the satellite you want to work and it will show you the next several passes it will make. Local time is displayed on the right lower corner of the web page and in GMT time on the lower left. When you click on the satellite then click on your location it will show the time of the pass in the lower right side. It will also show the "footprint" of the coverage area of the satellite. If all you have up is a ground plane, then this satellite footprint is correct. It should be noted that this tracking web site does not have all the amateur radio satellites listed.

If you click on the satellite then click on your location, you will want to click on a location above and below where the pass will occur, then check the time to see if the pass will be coming from the north or from the south. This will give you an advantage knowing when and where the satellite will be coming from and comes in handy if you have a beam. As for working the satellites, it will be very

crowded, but I have heard people with handhelds with a small beam work these "birds." I have made over a hundred contacts working satellites including ISS. I have even worked ISS on voice and got the QSL from ARRL.

I have worked most of the satellites from coast to coast and from the Mexico City area to the northern most Canadian borders with my beams at 70 feet. I have no elevation rotor so the overhead passes are tough to work for me. However, someone with a mobile or a ground plane antenna could work these satellites with as little as 5 watts. I have heard myself on the satellite downlink, working satellites mobile, so it is possible.

As for the time you can work satellites, some passes are as long as 15 minutes. I have been working the International Space Station on packet. Some of these passes are only 10 minutes or less. There is a constant moving of the rotor with the shorter passes. The FM satellites aren't too bad about Doppler shift. Doppler shift means that the frequency moves a little as the satellite passes overhead. I always leave the transmit frequency alone and adjust the receive frequency 5 kilohertz at a time. When the receive begins to get a little fuzzy, I move it up frequency. The easiest way to think about Doppler shift is to envision how a train moves past you. The sound is at a higher pitch as it comes toward you and at a lower pitch as it passes you. This is one example of Doppler shift. The frequency is high as the satellite comes toward you and the frequency goes lower as it passes over you. The frequency that AMSAT gives you for the satellite will be in the middle of the pass. You will need to compensate + and - of that frequency as the satellite passes over.

I was working RS-13 on 2 meters downlink, 15 meters uplink till it quit working. That was a nice satellite to work. It was hardly ever crowded and had a 15 minute or better passes. The Doppler shift was tough on SSB, it's not as broad a signal as FM, so you had to turn the rotor and adjust the receive vfo constantly. Anyway, as I have said before, this is just my experience with this portion of amateur

radio. Your mileage may vary. I have the web site running while I work the satellites, so I know where they are at and can point the beam accordingly. This web site is nice if you want to play around with satellites. But, if you are serious you may want to buy a genuine tracking program from AMSAT. A dual band radio or a 2meter radio that can monitor 435 frequencies will do. These are my experiences, I hope more of you will share yours.

David, KD4NOQ

FROM THE ARRL WEBPAGE

FCC NO LONGER ISSUING CERTAIN 2x3-FORMAT VANITY CALL SIGNS

The FCC has ceased issuing 2x3-format Amateur Radio vanity call signs that begin with the prefixes WC, WR, WK and WT (eg, WR1AAA, WC4ZZZ). The Commission has acknowledged that it erroneously granted more than 150 WR and WC-prefix 2x3 vanity call signs from 1997 through September 2003, when it began rejecting such call sign requests.

In the late 1970s, the FCC announced a new Amateur Service call sign assignment system. It provided four standard call sign groups, designated Group A, B, C and D, delineated by license class and issued sequentially with no backfilling. The FCC's Bill Cross, W3TN, recently told the nation's volunteer examiner coordinators (VECs) that the FCC also had a "Group X." These included WC (RACES), WR (repeater), WK and WT-prefix 2x3-format call signs reportedly reserved for special-use licenses.

The FCC stopped issuing repeater call signs in 1983 and ceased renewing RACES licenses in 2000. After the current vanity program began in 1996, several ham clubs sought new and formerly held repeater and RACES-type call signs. When the Universal

Licensing System came along in August 1999, however, the FCC encountered some licensing system programming shortcomings, including the anomalous assignments of WC and WR-prefix 2x3 call signs as acceptable formats.

When the FCC implemented programming corrections that halted the issuance of Group X call signs in September 2003, it did not advise the amateur community. As a result, several amateurs who filed for 2x3 WC or WR-prefix call signs had their applications dismissed without any explanation beyond saying that the applicant's call sign choice was unavailable. That remains the case. The FCC has not indicated whether it plans to address the WC and WR-prefix 2x3 call signs it's already issued.

In a related matter, the FCC's new Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee of \$20.80 for the 10-year license term goes into effect Friday, August 6. All applications received at the FCC on or after that date must be accompanied by the new, higher fee.

HAMS MUSTER IN WAKE OF FLORIDA CAPITAL BLACKOUT

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) teams and local amateurs in the Tallahassee, Florida, area volunteered to assist after electrical power went out in about half of the capital city July 13. The region was affected for about three hours before power was restored. More than a dozen amateurs participated in the blackout response.

"We have a very active ARES group here in the Capital District, and all the local hams as usual responded immediately," said Gadsden County Emergency Coordinator Bill Mapoles, KG4LFT. At the request of local authorities, hams helped during the blackout by reporting traffic difficulties, non-operating traffic signals and other power failure-related problems, he said. The 2 PM blackout during hot, humid weather, killed air conditioning, snarled traffic and led Florida A&M University to close for

the rest of the afternoon.

Former Capital District EC Kent Hutchinson, KC4TOC, started up an informal Tallahassee blackout net, subsequently picked up by Paul Eakins, KJ4G. Amateurs staffed the local emergency operations center and also assisted the American Red Cross, which opened a shelter and three aid stations.

"I'm proud to be a part of our local ARES group," Mapoles said, "and I can say that we, in the Capital District, are prepared for anything."

AMSAT "ECHO" SATELLITE OPENS FOR FM VOICE TRIAL RUN

AMSAT-NA's new "Echo" satellite (AO-51) has been turned on for general use in FM repeat mode for a trial period of about three weeks. During that time, command stations on Earth will monitor AO-51's power budget and adjust the UHF Transmitter B (TX B) power as needed for good battery management. They'll also be watching the AMSAT Bulletin Board e-mail reflector, amsat-bb@amsat.org, for reports of how Echo is working.

"We are most interested in hearing about how well Echo hears you and how well you hear it," said the Echo Command Team--Jim White, WD0E, and Mike Kingery, KE4AZN--in an AMSAT bulletin. White and Kingery note that this is a trial period of the FM voice repeater. The digital portion of Echo is not yet open for use.

AMSAT Vice President for User Services Bruce Paige, KK5DO, says reports of successful QSOs on Echo's first day of operation came from all over the world, including the US, Brazil, New Zealand and Germany.

A Russian Dnepr LV rocket carried AO-51 and several other payloads into orbit June 29 from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The 10-inch-square microsat, circling some 800 km above Earth

in a sun-synchronous orbit, will permit voice communication using handheld transceivers.

The digital transponder and the store-and-forward BBS, are not yet open for general use.

Initially, the AO-51 downlink transmitter was running at about 0.5 W. At that power level, AMSAT says, Earth stations will need a small directional antenna to hear it. If onboard power permits, ground controllers will slowly increase the transmitter's output during the trial period.

The Echo FM voice uplink frequency is 145.920 MHz, and the downlink is 435.300 MHz. The downlink transmitter will come on when it hears an uplink signal with a 67 Hz CTCSS (PL) tone for about 1 second, and it will stay on for 10 seconds after that signal goes away. "This operation is just like a terrestrial FM repeater with a 1 second 'kerchunk' filter and a 10 second hang time," AMSAT noted. Transmitter A (TX A), now sending telemetry, generally will continue to operate on 435.150 MHz.

AMSAT points out that Echo, which launched June 29, is still "wobbling a great deal," so the downlink polarization sense will vary.

The Echo Command Team says it expects Echo will be heavily used during the first few days of the trial period. "It is good amateur practice and common courtesy to let everyone have a chance," they said. "Echo will hear you as well as or better than any previous amateur FM repeater satellite."

With hundreds of stations trying out AO-51, ground controllers say they expect the transmitter will be on continuously when the spacecraft is over populated areas.

The Echo satellite project is still some \$8000 short of the \$110,000 that was needed to launch the spacecraft. AMSAT guaranteed the full fare by borrowing from its dedicated funds, which now must

be repaid. AMSAT--a 501(c)(3) organization--welcomes additional donations to bridge the funding gap. Visit the AMSAT AO-Echo Web page for additional details.--AMSAT News Service

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER COORDINATORS DISCUSS QUESTION POOLS, RESTRUCTURING

The size, scope and comprehension level of Amateur Radio examination questions occupied much of the discussion as 11 of the nation's 14 Volunteer Examiner coordinators gathered this month in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. But those attending the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) annual meeting July 23 reached no firm conclusions as they await FCC action on Amateur Radio restructuring. The FCC's Bill Cross, W3TN, told the VECs that the commission--with help from some law school interns--is reviewing the approximately 6000 comments filed on 18 petitions addressing the Morse code as an exam element and Amateur Radio restructuring. Cross informed the VECs that a decision on restructuring or the Morse code issue is not imminent.

"He indicated that some time will be necessary to review all the comments to glean some consensus on the number of license classes, whether or not to retain Morse code as a licensing requirement for HF operation, the proposed auto-upgrading of certain license classes and what to call any new beginner's license," said ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ.

FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth told the VECs he's "really aggravated" to still be dealing with enforcement issues resulting from several 1999 examination sessions in Yucaipa, California "where Ves apparently sold licenses." The situation occurred, Hollingsworth said, because "VEC management was asleep at the wheel."

"It was a failure of imagination--a failure to think on the part of the manager about what he was there for in the first place," said Hollingsworth--borrowing a phrase from the recent 9/11 Commission report. In the Yucaipa case, he said, several volunteer examiners signed off on 250 examinations in a 26-month period. Following a 2000 FCC audit into exam sessions in Puerto Rico, Hollingsworth said, the FCC recalled 100 applicants for retesting, and only one showed up. Although Hollingsworth did not identify the VEC, both the Yucaipa and Puerto Rico cases involved the W5YI VEC, which referred the California exam session irregularities to the FCC after investigating on its own. In Puerto Rico, the W5YI VEC discontinued the services of all Puerto Rico VEs but those associated with the Arecibo Observatory Amateur Radio Club after irregularities came to light there.

"I can tell you that so far I have been a fan of the VEC program," Hollingsworth said. "But if we have one more case of the magnitude of the Puerto Rico or Yucaipa cases, that's going to change fast." He pointed out that the FCC does not have to accept the services of any given VEC, and he said if any VECs are uncomfortable with taking responsibility for oversight, following up and random reviews of their test sessions, they can stop being VECs.

"You have an obligation to remain awake at the wheel, and the point is not how fast or easily you can do your job, but how well you can do it." He said today's applicants will determine the character of the Amateur Radio Service in the future. "If your own VEs are running a license factory right in front of you, we are going to hold you responsible."

Hollingsworth concluded by saying that he expects the VECs to "add integrity to the process" and be vigilant to avoid future embarrassments and problems.

Filling in for Question Pool Committee Chairman Scotty Neustadter, W4WW, Jahnke reported on the past year's QPC activities, which included release of a new General class (Element 3) examination

pool. Jahnke repeated a call for input to the Amateur Extra class (Element 4) syllabus, but he noted that any Element 4 review may be suspended if and when the FCC proceeds toward restructuring and establishment of a new beginner's license.

Chosen to serve on the Question Pool Committee were Larry Pollock, NB5X, of the W5YI VEC, Neustadter, Wiley and Jahnke. Wiley will chair the committee.

ARRL Amateur Radio Education and Technology Program (ETP) Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, wrapped up the conference with a presentation covering youth initiatives, instruction, motivating teachers and schools, and related ETP activities. He also displayed various project boards designed for classroom use.

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COURSE

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course registration: Registration for the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level II on-line course (EC-002) opens Monday, August 9, at 12:01 AM EDT and will remain open through the August 14-15 weekend or until all available seats have been filled--whichever comes first. Class begins Tuesday, August 24.

Thanks to our grant sponsor--the United Technologies Corporation--the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the course. During this registration period, seats are being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/cce>>. For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, cce@arrl.org; 860-594-0340.

PACKET UPDATE

The conditions for radio communications are always changing. The time of day, sunspots, ETC make communications on the bands to different parts of the world change constantly. The world beacon network was set up to allow you to monitor the bands of 20 to 10 meters and listen for beacons around the world to check propagation. Each beacon broadcasts in a 10 second window to make sure two stations do not transmit at the same time. I really nice windows based program can make that easier. The program is called BEACONMAP VER1.2 . The program displays a flat picture of the earth with time of day information, current light and dark parts of earth with grayline shown. The important thing the program does is to display the beacon currently transmitting on the map. That makes it easy to listen and check conditions to other parts of the world. The program is easy to use and can be downloaded off the internet.

James Butler
KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

When I got a copy of the morse code training program called MORSECAT I found it was a lot of fun to play around with. I noticed it had a mode where you could use the joystick to enter morse code manually to the program. One of the interfaces used was the joystick port. By just plugging in a joystick the fire button could be used to enter code. As you send the program shows the text received as well as the speed sent. The joystick button worked great to play with but I wanted to use my own morse code keys to enter the code. The month's hardware mod is simple to do and allows you to use any key to enter code into MORSECAT. I took my old joystick apart and found the contacts for the joystick switch on the board. By hooking a 1/8 inch phono jack in parallel with the contacts and mounting it on the joystick I had a place to plug in my favorite keys and play with them. Since MORSECAT also has sound output you can use it as a morse code practice oscillator. The mod works great and now I can try out morse code key designs by just plugging it in.

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING

James Butler, KB4LJV

AUGUST

2004

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 Dana, WI3B	2	3	4	5 MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM	6	7
8 Heidi, KC4ZOU	9	10 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM	11	12	13 Bill, KC4SXT	14
15	16 Norman, KA4AEF Michael, WB4ZAP	17 Art, K4SHJ James, KB4SGY	18 Malcolm, KM4L	19	20	21 David, KC5GGE
22 Comelia Richardson	23 Suresh, N9GSA Ben, KU4AW	24 Vicki, KF4DJS Scott, K5SJ Jack, K4BSI	25 Adam, KE4EYQ	26	27	28
29	30 David, KD4NOQ James, AG4KM	31 Rex, KB2WGP				

SEPTEMBER

2004

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1	2 MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM Wil Pace	3 Roger, KI4AJH	4 Steve, KF4LUR
5	6	7 George, KG4SMH	8 Gary, KE4WOS	9 Arlene, AA5GX	10 Terry, KB4KA	11
12	13 Jody, KG4VES John, KA4RXP	14 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM Brian, KD5OZD	15	16	17	18
19 James, KG4YKY Jim, KN4F	20 Marjorie, KF4NZA David, KU4AS	21	22	23 Mike, W5CHR Bill, KG4VAW	24 Ken, K4DIT	25
26	27 Mark, KB4MFD Leslie, KE4GNI	28	29 Gary, WA2IQC Tony, WA4KHN	30		



CONTEST CALENDAR

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

ARRL UHF Contest, 1800Z Aug 7-1800Z Aug 8 (see Jul *QST*, p 107.)

North American QSO Party--CW--sponsored by the *National*

Contest Journal, 1800Z Aug 7-0600Z Aug 8. (see Jan *QST*, page 98 or www.ncjweb.com)

SARL HF DX Contest--SSB--sponsored by the Bloemfontein Radio Amateur Club from 1330Z-1730Z Aug 8 (CW is Aug 29). Frequencies: 80-20 meters. For more information: www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/contestrules.asp#HFCWPHONE.

Ten-Ten International Summer Phone QSO Party--sponsored by

Ten-Ten, International, 0010Z Aug 7-2359Z Aug 8, 10 meters only. For more information: www.ten-ten.org.

European HF Championship--CW/SSB--sponsored by the Slovenian Contest Club, 1200Z-2359Z, Aug 7. EU to EU contacts only. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For more information: <http://lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhfcrules-04.htm>.

TARA "Grid Dip" Contest--PSK and RTTY--sponsored by Troy ARA from 0000Z-2400Z Aug 7. Frequencies: 80-6 meters, work stations once per band, work Ro-ers again from new locators. For more information: www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_grid_rules.html.

National Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend--all modes--sponsored by the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society from 0001Z Aug 7-2359Z Aug 8. Frequencies (MHz): CW--1.830, 3.530, 7.030, 14.030, 21.030, 28.030; SSB--1.970, 3.970, 7.270, 14.270, 21.370, 28.370. For more information: <http://arlhs.com/NLLW-2004-guidelines.html>.

50th Anniversary Worked All Europe DX Contest--CW--sponsored by the Deutscher ARC from 0000Z Aug 14-2359Z Aug 15 (phone is Sep 11-12; RTTY is Nov 13-14). Frequencies: 80- 10 meters according to Region I band plan. For more information: www.waedc.de.

Maryland-DC QSO Party--CW/Phone--sponsored by the Antietam

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 Ned at ka4bll@arrl.net or 363-9607.

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
15. PSK31
16. Computer logging

K4TTA (Extra) Tom Richardson 386-6268
k4tta@arrl.net (1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15)

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

KB4LJV (Extra) James Butler 294-2540
jbutler@bigriver.net (2, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14)

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

KU4AW (Extra) Ben Troughton 372-8031
bktrough@mem.quik.net (2, 4, 8, 15)

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

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

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

K4DIT (Extra) Ken Gregg 853-7384
kgregg@c-a-c.com (4, 6, 8, 11, 15)

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



Radio Association, 1600Z Aug 14-0400Z Aug 15 and 1600Z-2359Z Aug 15. Frequencies (MHz): CW--3.643, 7.060, 14.060, 21.060, 28.035, Phone--1.895, 3.920, 7.230, 14.270, 21.370, 28.370, VHF/UHF--50.150, 52.525, 144.15, 146.55, 146.580, 432.15, 446.000. For more information: www.w3cwc.org/rules.html.

ARRL 10 GHz Cumulative Contest, 0600 local-2000 local Aug 21-2000 local Aug 22 (see announcement this issue, p 107).

North American QSO Party--SSB, 1800Z Aug 21-0600Z Aug 22 (see Aug 7-8).

SARTG WW RTTY Contest, sponsored by the Scandinavian Amateur Radio Teleprinter Society, 0000Z-0800Z and 1600Z-2400Z Aug 21 and 0800Z-1600Z Aug 22. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: www.sartg.com.

Keymen's Club of Japan Contest--CW--sponsored by the Keymen's Club of Japan, 1200Z Aug 21-1200Z Aug 22. Frequencies: 160-6 meters (JA allocations on 160 are 1.810- 1.825, 1.908-1.912 MHz). For more information: www.jarl.com/kcj.

New Jersey QSO Party--CW/Phone--sponsored by Englewood ARA, 2000Z Aug 21-0700Z Aug 22 and 1300Z Aug 22-0200Z Aug 23. Frequencies (MHz): 1.810, 3.535, 7.035, 14.035, 21.100, 28.100, SSB--3.950, 7.235, 14.285, 21.355, 28.400, VHF/UHF 50-50.5 and 144-146 MHz. For more information: www.qsl.net/w2rj.

SEANET Contest--CW/SSB/Digital--sponsored by the SEANET Convention, 1200Z Aug 21-1200Z Aug 22. Frequencies (MHz): CW--3.525, 7.025, 14.025, 21.025, 28.025, SSB--7.090, 14.220, 21.320, 28.320. For more information and list of SEANET countries: www.seanet2004.com.

Summer VHF/UHF QSO Party--sponsored by the Colorado QRP Club, from 1600Z Aug 22-2200Z Aug 22. Frequencies: 2 m and 70 cm FM, 5 W output max, use recognized simplex frequencies accord-

ing to the ARRL band plan; do not use the national simplex frequencies of 146.52 or 446.000 MHz. For more information: www.cqc.org/contests/summer04.htm.

Ohio QSO Party--CW/SSB--sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club, 1600Z Aug 28-0400Z Aug 29. Frequencies (MHz): CW--3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045; SSB--3.850, 7.225, 14.250, 21.300, and 28.450. For more information: www.oqp.us.

TOEC WW Grid Contest--CW--sponsored by the Top of Europe Contesters (TOEC), 1200Z Aug 28-1200Z Aug 29. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For more info-- www.qsl.net/toec/contest.htm.

Hawaii QSO Party--CW/Phone/RTTY/PSK31 --sponsored by the Koolau ARC, 0700Z Aug 28-2200Z Aug 29. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For more information: www.karc.us/hi_qso_party.html.

YO-DX Contest--CW/SSB--sponsored by the Romanian Amateur Radio Federation (RARF), 1200Z Aug 28-1200Z Aug 29. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: www.hamradio.ro/contests/yodx_eng.htm.

SARL HF DX Contest--CW--from 1330Z-1730Z Aug 31 (see Aug 7-8).

SCC RTTY Championship, sponsored by the Slovenian Contest Club, 1200Z Aug 28-1159Z Aug 29. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: <http://lea.hamradio.si/~scc/rtty/htmlrules.htm>.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Grand Haven, MI: North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, W8CSO. 1200Z **Aug 5**-1600Z **Aug 6**. Honoring Grand Haven's Coast Guard Festival. 14.240 7.200. QSL. NOARC, Box 44, Ferrysburg, MI 49409. www.ghcgfest.org <http://www.qsl.net/noarc/>.

Door Peninsula, WI: Wisconsin Lighthouse Expedition, N9L. 1400-2100Z daily **Aug 5-Aug 14**. Activation of Wisconsin Lighthouses, including Eagle Bluff Lighthouse (USA-252). 14.270 7.270. Certificate. Jim Martin, W5AZN, 637 Newberry Dr, Richardson, TX 75080-5622. www.w5azn.com

Bernegat Light, NJ: Old Barney Amateur Radio Club, N2OB. 1300Z-2200Z **Aug 7**. ARLHS Lighthouse #USA-039, IOTA NA-111, USI-NJ001S. 14.280 7.280. QSL. Old Barney ARC, PO Box 345, Tuckerton, NJ 08087. Raindate August 8. <http://www.obarc.org/>

Burnett, WI: Rock River Radio Club, W9A. 1600Z **Aug 6-2100Z Aug 8**. 36th Annual Dodge County Antique Power Show. 14.275 7.250. Certificate. Rock River Radio Club, W9TCH, PO Box 26, Juneau, WI 53039.

Canton, OH: Canton Amateur Radio Club, W8AL. 1300Z **Aug 6-0200Z Aug 8**. Annual Pro Football Hall of Fame Festival. 28.365 21.365 14.265 7.265. Certificate. Donald E. Perry, WQ8J, 968 Culverne Ave NW, Massillon, OH 44647.

Lexington, KY: Aviation Museum of Kentucky, KY4AMK. 1800Z **Aug 6-2200Z Aug 8**. Historic Fly-In. 21.320 21.070 14.070 7.238. QSL. Aviation Museum of Kentucky, PO Box 4118, Lexington, KY 40544. www.aviationky.org

Ancona, Italy: Associazione Radioamatori Italiani, IY6GM. 0600Z **Aug 6-2200Z Aug 10**. Centenary of experiments by Marconi Cappuccini Mount Ancona (ARLHS Lighthouse ITA104). 28.000 21.000 14.000 7.000. QSL. QSL via Bureau or direct to: Associazione Radioamatori Italiani, PO Box 122, Ancona, ITALY 60100. <http://antares.fastnet.it/ent/ari-an/>

Hawley, PA: Science Camp Watonka Amateur Radio Club, KB3BUM. 1330Z-2130Z **Aug 7**. 7th Annual Event. 28.440 21.340 14.240 7.240. Certificate. Camp Watonka ARC, PO Box 127, Hawley, PA 18428.

Indianapolis, IN: Indianapolis Repeater Association, W9Z. 1300Z-1900Z **Aug 7**. Broad Ripple Hamfest, youth operators from Kids only Net (146.700). 28.500 21.375 14.265 7.285. Certificate. Steven Wendt, 9559 Neptune Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46229. kb9rds@arrl.net

Thompson, OH: Geauga Amateur Radio Association, N8T. 1300Z-2200Z **Aug 7**. 20th anniversary of the TRIVA NET. 14.270 7.270 146.940. QSL. Dennis Brostek AB8NI, 7187 Maple St, Mentor, OH 44060.

Townshend, VT: West River Radio Club, K1KU. 1400Z-1900Z **Aug 7**. Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Days--55th year of founding. 14.270. QSL. Darrel Daley, PO Box 445, Putney, VT 05346. www.westriverradio.net

Alexandria, VA: Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club, K4CG. 1300Z-2400Z **Aug 7**. 214th anniversary of the Coast Guard. 14.250 10.110 7.250 7.045. QSL. US Coast Guard, K4CG, Telecommunication and Information Systems, 7323 Telegraph Rd, Alexandria, VA 22315. <http://www.mvarc.org/>

Mathews County, VA: Middle Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, N4P. 1300Z **Aug 7-1800Z Aug 8**. Pan-American Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend, Commemorating New Point Comfort Lighthouse, USA-543. 21.370 14.270 7.270 3.970 145.37. Certificate. MPARC/QSL Manager, Carter Clements/WA4CC, PO Box 1121, Gloucester Point, VA 23062. www.qsl.net/mparc

St Augustine, FL: St Augustine Amateur Radio Society, N4AUG. 1400Z **Aug 7-2200Z Aug 8**. Activation of St Augustine Lighthouse #789 for NLLW. 21.270 14.270 14.035. QSL. SAARS, PO Box 860084, St Augustine, FL 32086-0084. www.saars.net

Zoar, OH: Tuscarawas Amateur Radio Club, W8ZX. 1400-2100Z daily **Aug 7** and **Aug 8**. 31st Zoar Harvest Festival. 14.275 7.275 146.73 Dpx. Certificate. Tim Ashcraft, 502 Oakdale Dr, Dover,

OH 44622. www.zca.org.

East Tawas, MI: Hazel Park ARC, K8S. 0000Z

Aug 7-0000Z Aug 9. National Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend from Tawas Point Lighthouse, Tawas Point State Park. 28.370 21.370 14.270 7.270. Certificate. Gary I. Sklar, K8IKW, 7296 Green Farm Rd, West Bloomfield, MI 48322.

Lincoln, MI: Alcona County Amateur Radio Group, K8A. 1600Z **Aug 7-0400Z Aug 15.** 33rd Annual Alcona County Fair. 21.345 14.245 7.245 3.945. QSL. Stanley L. Darmofal, W8SZ, PO Box 15, Harrisville, MI 48740. www.alconaradio.org.

Sycamore, IL: Northern Illinois Steam Power Amateur Radio Operator's, W9S. 1300Z **Aug 10-2300Z Aug 16.** 48th Annual Show commemorating Steam Power on the Farm. 28.390 14.245 7.245 3.980. Certificate. Bob Yurs, W9ICU, PO Box 341, Sycamore, IL 60178. <http://www.w9icu.com/>

Rush Springs, OK: FAA Aeronautical Center ARC, W5F. 1400Z-2200Z **Aug 14.** The Rush Springs Watermelon Festival. 10/15/20/40/80 M. QSL. David Begue, K5FOZ, 2155 County Rd, Tuttle, OK 73089-3112. www.w5paa.org.

West Union, OH: DeForest Amateur Radio Club, W8S. 1400Z-1900Z **Aug 14.** Ohio Covered Bridges On The Air--Adams County, Ohio. 14.250 7.233. QSL. DeForest Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 73, West Union, OH 45693. www.qsl.net/ohio-covered-bridges.

Hagerstown, MD: Antietam Radio Association, W3CWC. 1600Z-1930Z **Aug 14.** Leitersburg Peach Festival in conjunction with MDC QSO Party. 20/40 m phone 146.55. Certificate. Antietam Radio Association Certificate, PO Box 52, Hagerstown, MD 21740. www.w3cwc.org.

Russellville, OH: Grant Amateur Radio Club, W8B. 1500Z **Aug 14-2000Z Aug 15.** Ohio Covered Bridges-Brown County. 14.275 possibly 15/40 m gen bands. QSL. Carolyn Donner, PO Box 158,

Hamersville, OH 45130. <http://www.geocities.com/garcoho/>

Boxborough, MA: FEMARA, K1A. 0000Z **Aug 14-2359Z Aug 15.** 2004 ARRL New England Division Convention. 21.250 14.250 7.250. QSL. Mike Bernock, N1IW, 22 Redfield Circle, Derry, NH 03038.

Kankakee, IL: Kankakee Area Radio Society, W9AZ. 1400Z **Aug 14-2000Z Aug 15.** Celebrating KARS 80th anniversary. 14.280 7.280. QSL. James Schreiner, K9BIG, 436 S Prairie Ave, Bradley, IL 60915. www.w9az.com.

Newton Falls, OH: Western Reserve Amateur Radio Association, W8T. 1200Z **Aug 14-2100Z Aug 15.** Ohio Covered Bridges on the Air. 10 20 49. QSL. Gail Wells, 708 Delaware SW, Warren, OH 44485. www.qsl.net/ohio-covered-bridges/. [Work 6 bridges for certificate.]

Window Rock, AZ: Navajo Amateur Radio Club, N7C. 1400Z **Aug 14-0200Z Aug 15.** Commemorating Navajo Code Talkers Day. 14.260 14.033 7.260 7.033. QSL. N7HG, PO Box 3611, Window Rock, AZ 86515.

Baltimore, MD: Social Security Employees Amateur Radio Club, W3SSA. 1300Z-2200Z **Aug 15.** 69th Anniversary of The Social Security Act. 14.280 7.280. Certificate. Greg Stec, K3ANG, 1624 Pickett Rd, Lutherville, MD 21093.

Pikes Peak, CO: Colorado 14er Event Task Force, Various. 1500Z-1800Z **Aug 15.** Colorado 14er Event. 147.42 21.330 14.260 14.060. QSL. Bob Witte, 21060 Capella Dr, Monument, CO 80132. <http://14er.org/forum/portal.php>. Contact 10+ summits for award.

Wrightstown/Grange Fair, PA: Warminster Amateur Radio Club, K3DN. 1600Z **Aug 18-2000Z Aug 22.** 50th anniversary of the Agricultural Research Service and 90th ARRL anniversary. 21.280 14.280 7.280 3.880. Certificate. Warminster ARC, Box 113,

Warminster, PA 18974.

Marshfield, MA: Marshfield Fair Radio Club, NN1MF. 1600Z **Aug 20**-2359Z **Aug 29**. 137th annual Marshfield Fair. 18.160 14.260 7.260 3.860 2 m 70 cm. QSL. Robert F. Burns, K1RB, 27 George St, Apt 3, Whitman, MA 02382.

Alliance, OH: Alliance Amateur Radio Club, W8LKY. 1600Z-2100Z **Aug 21**. 100th Anniversary of Scarlet Carnation and Carnation Days. 28.405 14.295 14.045 7.045. Certificate. AARC-W8LKY, PO Box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601.

Saranac Lake, NY: North Country Chapter American Red Cross, W2B. 1400Z-2000Z **Aug 21**. Celebration of Flight, Lake Clear Air Show. 14.257 14.030 7.250 7.045. QSL. Roland Patnode, W2WIZ, 162 Neil St, Saranac Lake, NY 12983.

Buffalo, NY: Western NY DX Association, W2DXA. 1300Z **Aug 21**-1600Z **Aug 22**. International Lighthouse Weekend K2L ARLHS-US-090. 21.040 14.040 HF bands CW and SSB. QSL. Robert Nadolny, WB2YQH, PO Box 73, Springbrook, NY 14140.

Burnt Island Lighthouse, ME: Yankee ARC, KA1RFD. 0001Z **Aug 21**-2359Z **Aug 22**. International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend. 21.270 14.270 7.270. QSL. Rod Scribner, KA1RFD, RR 4 Box 6770, Gardiner, ME 04345.

Dunkirk, NY: Dunkirk Lighthouse/Lancaster Amateur Radio Club, W2SO. 0001Z **Aug 21**-2359Z **Aug 22**. International Lighthouse Weekend--USA 248 Lake Erie. 21.350 14.250 7.225 3.950. Certificate. Via <http://dunkirkighthouse.com> or Lancaster Amateur Radio Club, 525 Pavement Rd, Lancaster, NY 14086.

Fire Island National Sea Shore, NY: Great South Bay ARC, W2GSB/LH. 1400Z **Aug 21**-2000Z **Aug 22**. International Lighthouse Weekend at Fire Island Lighthouse ARLHS #286. 7.240 14.260 21.260 28.460. QSL. GSBARC, W2GSB/LH, PO Box

1356, West Babylon, NY 11704. www.gsbarc.org.

St Augustine, FL: St Augustine Amateur Radio Society, N4AUG. 1400Z **Aug 21**-2200Z **Aug 22**. Activation of St Augustine Lighthouse #789 for ILLW. 21.270 14.270 14.035. QSL. SAARS, PO Box 860084, St Augustine, FL 32086-0084. www.saars.net.

Sioux City, IA: Sooland ARA, K0D. 0001Z **Aug 21**-2359Z **Aug 22**. Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery. 14.250 7.250. Certificate. Mike Clayton, WD0CJZ, 3600 Transit Ave, Sioux City, IA 51106.

Tuckerton, NJ: Old Barney Amateur Radio Club, W2T. 1300Z **Aug 21**-2200Z **Aug 22**. ARLHS Lighthouse #USA-911 and 4th Annual Classic Boat Festival. 14.280 7.280 146.835. QSL. Bob Schenck N2OO, PO Box 345, Tuckerton, NJ 08087. <http://www.obarc.org/>

Eagle Harbor, MI: International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend, K8E. 0001Z **Aug 21**-2359Z **Aug 22**. Lighthouse and two range lights. 14.275 14.030 7.275 7.030. Certificate. QSL via bureau or direct to: N8MR, 14071 Fairway, Livonia, MI 48154. www.kc8nah.com/Interests/illw04.htm

Spirit Lake, IA: Iowa Great Lakes Amateur Radio Club, W0DOG. 1400Z **Aug 24**-0200Z **Aug 28**. To celebrate 50 years of Club charter. 21.350 14.260 7.250 3.965. Certificate. Bryce Denker, 1818 350th St, Spencer, IA 51301.

Ringoes, NJ: Cherryville Repeater Association II, W4H. 1400Z **Aug 25**-2200Z **Aug 29**. 2004 Hunterdon County 4H & Agricultural Fair, since 1840. 28.375 21.375 14.275 7.275. Certificate. W4H Cherryville Special Event, PO Box 308, Quakertown, NJ 08868-0308. www.qsl.net/w2cra/.

TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT July 2004 Date: 28-July-04

Beginning Balance \$6,361.36

INCOME

Jacket Sales	\$100.00
Hat Sale Profit	\$5.00
Misc.	\$3.00

TOTAL INCOME \$108.00

EXPENSES

Kathy Troughton (Field Day)	\$148.59
Darryl Sheffield (Field Day)	\$16.39
Ann Cissel	\$29.93
University of Memphis	\$22.94

TOTAL EXPENSES \$217.85

Ending Balance \$6,251.52

TENNESSEE NETS

Net Name Freq.	UTC	Day
Tennessee CW Net 3635	0100	T-Su
Tennessee Slow CW Net 3682	0130	T-Su
Tennessee Early Morn Phone Net 3980	1145	M-F
Tennessee Morning Phone Net 3980	1245	M-F
Tennessee Morning Phone Net 3980	1400	Sa-Su
Tennessee Evening Phone Net 3980	0030	T-Su

SPARKS is published monthly by the Delta Amateur Radio Club 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, the Delta Amateur Radio Club and its officers assume no liability resulting from errors or omissions. All correspondence may be mailed to:

**Delta Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 750482
Memphis, TN 38175-0482**

2004 Board of Directors

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

-

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901-373-6262 (kc4sxt@arrl.net)

-

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901-743-1949 (kd4tjo@arrl.net)

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(wtork@aol.com)

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901-294-2540 (jbutler@bigriver.net)

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-

Repeater Trustee

Gary Blinckmann, WA2IQC
901-794-5289 (garyblin@midsouth.rr.com)

-

Past President

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