DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

P.O. BOX 750482 MEMPHIS, TN 38175-0482 / VOL. 17 / DECEMBER 2005



Happy Holidays from the Delta Amateur Radio Club!

Visit our home on the web at: http://www.deltaclub.org

W4BS REPEATER SYSTEM 146.82, 147.36, 224.42, & 443.2

DECEMBER 2005 CLUB MEETING

DATE: December 13, 2005 (2nd Tues day - 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: POT LUCK DINNER AND AWARDS PRESENTATION

VE TESTING: Don't forget the monthly Volunteer Examiner testing session. Registration begins at **5:30 P.M.** 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. The ARRL FEC exam application is \$14. 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: joanthorne@bellsouth.net

Please Remember: Deadline for Reports and Articles for the next issue of SPARKS is Friday, December 30th. 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 end of the year is arriving soon. Our last meeting for this year is December 13th, the second Tuesday and at the Ellendale Church as usual. This meeting will be a POT-LUCK DINNER. The club will provide the soft drinks, cups, plates, and utensils. Come and join our gathering.

We will be presenting our annual awards, twelve plaques, which will include Ham of the Year, New-Comer, Officers' Plaques, and a special presentation. So come see who receives what, could you be one of those who receives an award?

Our ARRL Toy Drive is still going on, and if you can give some time to help, they will be needing help to sort and load the toys into the trucks for the trip down to the Katrina Effected Region. The Plan is to load the trucks on December 15th or 16th, and have the trucks travel on the 17th, with the deliveries being made on the 18th.

Some amateur operators have stated that they plan to escort the trucks down and back, returning on Monday, the 19th.

If you need more information on this project contact WA4OVO, Joe, or Bob, KF4NDH, or Tony, WA4KHN, or Henry Leggette, WD4Q, (757-0444), all of these folks have spent numerous hours at the receiving location.

As you may have already heard, they have received a large quantity of toys from all over the United States, including Alaska.

By the way, VE Testing will resume on the 13th, prior to the meeting.

I want do thank All The Delta Club Members for allowing me to serve the Club as Your President, for the last two years.

Ned Savage, KA4BLL

DARC BOARD MEETING November 1, 2005

KA4BLL-Ned Savage called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 5 members and 1 guest present.

KA4BLL-Ned read the treasurer's report for Bill Torkell-KG4VAW. John Zempel-KG4OLG motioned to accept and Lisa Sheffield-

KI4DIL seconded.

Lisa then presented the October minutes to the board. KD4TJO-Tommy Thompson motioned to accept the minutes as printed. John-KG4OLG seconded.

John-KG4OLG then gave his report on training. The board accepted as given.

Old Business:

KD4TJO-Tommy reported on the status of the ARRL toy drive. He also gave what details he had on the St. Jude marathon scheduled for December 3, 2005.

New Business:

KK4D-Darrell Sheffield presented information on the Cordova Holiday parade scheduled for November 19, 2005.

KI4DIL-Lisa presented 2 new member applications. She then motioned to accept and KG4OLG-John seconded and the board unanimously accepted them.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by, KI4DIL-Lisa Sheffield DARC Secretary

DARC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING November 8, 2005

KA4BLL-Ned Savage called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. with the introduction of the members present. There were 50 members and 5 guests.

KA4BLL-Ned read the treasurer's report as printed in SPARKS and KI4DIL-Lisa requested for the membership the accept the secretary's report as printed. Ned called for any changes. Bill-KC4SXT motioned to accept and Dean-N2LAZ seconded to accept as printed. The membership unanimously voted to accept.

Old Business:

KG4OLG-John Zempel gave his report on the class and testing session held in September.

KD4TJO-Tommy Thompson gave information on the ARRL Toy drive and the St. Jude marathon calling for volunteers from the membership for both events.

WA4OVO-Joe Lowenthal reported on the warehouse to be used for the ARRL toy drive and he thanked all the people who could work at the warehouse.

KK4D-Darrell Sheffield asked for volunteers to work the Cordova Holiday parade on November 19, 2005.

New Business:

KI4I-Jim Cissell asked for volunteers to work the Bartlett Christmas parade scheduled for December 10, 2005.

KA4BLL-Ned Savage called for nominations from the floor for the 2006 Delta Amateur Radio Board.

He presented the nominations for each position as follows:

President KK4D-Darrell Sheffield

Vice President KD4TJO-Tommy Thompson

Treasurer KE4DXN-Melinda

Thompson Secretary KI4DIL-Lisa Sheffield

Director of Training-KG4OLG-John Zempel

Director of Publications K4KCU-Roger Paulson

Director of Programs KU4AW-Ben Troughton

Director of Meetings & Special Events N2LAZ-Dean Honadle

Danastar Trustaa

Repeater Trustee N9GSA-Suresh Kagoo

The membership voted unanimously to accept those presented as the 2006 DARC Board.

After a 10 minute break at 8:00 pm, KA4BLL-Ned gave out the yearly awards to the members present.

After drawing for the yearly prizes, the membership voted to have a potluck dinner at Ellendale Church of Christ for our December meeting. Sarah Garrett won the door prize and KC4SXT-Bill Covington won the grand prize.

KD4TJO-Tommy Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 and KG4LOG-John Zempel seconded.

Respectfully submitted by, KI4DIL-Lisa Sheffield DARC Secretary

!!!!!POT LUCK!!!!!

The December 13th meeting is our yearly pot luck. Please email Lisa at SassGirlsMom@aol.com or Melinda at ke4dxn@bellsouth.net and let them know what you're planning on bringing (don't want 23 green bean casseroles).

HOW TO LOOK UP THE FCC ID NUMBER

Need More Information About a Radio or Appliance?

This is a web site where any one can look up a FCC ID number. There are ID numbers on the nameplates of just about anything that emits a RF signal such as TVs, car remotes, commercial and amateur radio transceivers, and wireless routers. The FCC requires any country that has a product that comes into this country to go through an RF emission test to be legal and to be compatible with

FCC standards. However, that's not to say there may be some items that don't go through testing. The name brand guys will submit their emission tests. If they submit, file, and pass with the FCC and it is then accepted as "FCC TYPE ACCEPTED."

These files can have everything from full schematics to full blown manuals, and photos inside and out. It also may have a full description of how the product works. The web site is http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prd/oet/lt/eas/reports/GenericSerch.cfm.

The way to use this site is really very simple. First, there is a place to put the generic code, which is the first three characters of the code. Second, to get more specific, you enter in the other characters in the next space to get the specific product. Besides all the other info, it will list the frequency the product is using.

I have found that anything earlier than 1998-2000 probably will not be available. Most the files are in Adobe Acrobat so you'll need to have it on your computer. The most used feature is to replace a lost manual for a radio or appliances. When you need to find additional information about a product that the users manual does not cover, you can probably find it on this site.

David, KD4NOQ

FROM THE ARRL NEWSLETTER

2005 HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE ON A ROLL!

Hams are finding even more ways to pitch in and boost the ARRL/The Salvation Army 2005 Holiday Toy Drive http://www.arrl.org/pio/ #toy>. The League has partnered with The Salvation Army in an effort to bring some holiday cheer to children along the US Gulf Coast left homeless or displaced in the aftermath of this year's devastating hurricanes. Likewise, many individual radio amateurs and ham radio groups are partnering with others and even providing some incentives to spread the joy of giving.

Chiropractor Dr Frank Vesci, W1NK, has offered free evaluations to any patients who bring a toy with them to their appointments. Joe Guvman, KB1DVG, has been encouraging customers with a special display at his Meineke Muffler shop to bring in toys for the drive. The Hampden County Radio Association in Massachusetts has urged members to bring toys to the club's annual holiday party this week. The club already collected and shipped off a batch of toys gathered during its yearly auction early this month. Many others around the country are similarly enthusiastic.

Charles Kosman, WB2NQV, reports that the toy drive's public service announcement featuring country music star Patty Loveless,

KD4WUJ, aired all last week during the 5:30 PM time slot on KSWO-TV, which serves southwestern Oklahoma and northern Texas. "That's between the early local news and ABC Network news," Kosman enthused. "I guess we got some prime time for it!"

Between "testing" the many toys, ARRL Delta Division Vice Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, and the crew of ham radio volunteers have otherwise been busy at the Memphis, Tennessee, warehouse where the toys are collecting for delivery. Volunteer coordinator Joe Lowenthal. WA4OVO, concedes that the warehouse crew sometimes has to resist the temptation to play with the toys. He says the crew has inventoried close to 2800 toys already, and more are in the offing as the final weeks of the 2005 Holiday Toy Drive approach.

"Things are definitely picking up," Lowenthal told ARRL this week, noting that some 500 toys arrived November 29 alone. While many of the toys--perhaps 1000 or more--are stuffed animals, he says there's quite a variety among the remaining donations, including a lot of athletic gear. "We've got soccer balls, we've got basketballs, we have footballs," he reports. And there's more. "We have a number of dolls, doll sets, jewelry, makeup kits, we have a number of crayons and coloring books, we even have some computer programs, quite a few puzzles and games," Lowenthal added. One donor sent

an educational toy that lets the youngster set up various electronic circuits. "He's probably hoping whoever gets it will become a ham," he said.

There's still a big need for toys suitable for older children, Lowenthal said. He suggested that ARRL members write a check to help cover those needs unless they have a specific donation in mind. One individual has donated a new bicycle. "That will probably be the biggest item," he said.

Radio amateurs are invited to send new unwrapped toys for boys and girls aged 1 to 14 to: ARRL Toy Drive/The Salvation Army, 1775 Moriah Woods Blvd--Suite 12, Memphis, TN 38117-7125. Include a QSL card or a card bearing your call sign.

ARRL invites its members to send checks if they prefer, made out to "ARRL Toy Drive." Send these donations to: ARRL Toy Drive, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

At the warehouse, volunteers log in each contribution, then sort the toys and record the donors, if known. Lowenthal notes that in some shipments QSL cards have not been attached to a particular toy. He advises donors to tape cards to the gifts. Many hams have indicated, however, that they're less concerned about getting credit or even a "thank you" for their contribution as long as they know the toys are going where they'll

bring smiles.

Lowenthal says the toys have been arriving via a number of carriers, but he recommends FedEx, UPS or DHL for the most expeditious delivery, although shipments have been arriving via the US Postal Service as well.

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP--the League's point man for the drive, says the final two weeks are critical. "This is when we make or break it," he said. He encourages groups, clubs and individuals to send their toy packages by December 10.

DAYTON HAMVENTION® SAYS BETTER COMMUNICATION A KEY GOAL FOR 2006

Well in advance of the 55th Dayton Hamvention next spring, event organizers report they're implementing strategies to improve communication and provide more and better information about the show. Part of the plan is a complete makeover of the Dayton Hamvention Web site <http:// www.hamvention.org/>, still a work in progress. Hamvention 2006 takes place May 19-21 at Hara Arena in Trotwood, Ohio. Dayton Hamvention volunteers this past spring asked many vendors and visitors alike what they could do to improve the world's largest Amateur Radio gathering, and "better communication" was the most common response.

"People told us what they wanted, and we are going to do our best to deliver," says Dayton Hamvention 2006 General Chairman Jim Nies, WX8F. "We have set several goals for this year, and one of the most important is to respond to requests more quickly than we did during the 2005 show." Nies took over the reins from Gary Des Combes, N8EMO, who headed up the 2004 and 2005 events and brought back an all-volunteer staff. The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) has sponsored Hamvention since the early 1950s.

The goal of the 2006 Dayton Hamvention staff will be to at least acknowledge all requests within 24 hours and, if possible, provide the information or assistance needed within the same time frame, Nies said. "I know that we won't be able to answer every question or deal with every problem immediately, but we will definitely make every effort to do it as soon as possible," he added.

Hamvention organizers say that while feedback from those who attended the 2005 show generally was very positive, a number indicated that more advance information would be helpful. For example, Hamvention will post information on traffic patterns and access points on its Web site well in advance of the 2006 show, said Assistant General Chairman Carl Rose, K8CPR, who served as security chair for Dayton Hamvention 2004 and 2005.

"We tried some things with traffic flow and vendor access in 2005, and some worked very well and others need improvement," Rose said. "We will use the feedback we received, particularly about vendor access, to see if we can make it quicker and easier to get into the arena for setup."

Rose urged Dayton Hamvention visitors to check the Web site before leaving to see if there are any last minute changes due to construction or other unforeseen events. Hamvention also will continue golf cart shuttles and benches in the flea market for the convenience of attendees, Rose said.

Some things won't change for the 55th Hamvention. Tickets prices will remain the same as the 2005 show, and so will show hours. Dayton Hamvention 2006 is expected to draw some 25,000 visitors from all over the US and around the world. The Dayton/ Montgomery County Convention & Visitors Bureau has estimated Dayton Hamvention's annual economic impact at close to \$4 million for Montgomery County and nearly \$10 million regionally.

ARRL, FCC CONTINUE BPL INTERFERENCE RESOLUTION DATABASE DEBATE

The acting chief of the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) is standing foursquare behind the recently opened Broadband over Power Line (BPL) Interference Resolution Web site <http://www.bpldatabase.org/>. The deadline for BPL operators to populate the database, provided by the United Power Line Council (UPLC) and the United Telecom Council (UTC), was November 19. In October, the ARRL took strong exception to limitations UTC, the site's administrator, has imposed on the number of allowable licensee searches and to the use of ZIP codes as the only search key. Acting OET Chief Bruce Franca defended the BPL database November 22.

"Your concern, limiting access to the database, does not constitute a violation of the rules," said Franca, citing verse and chapter of Part 15 to back up his assertion. Franca said §15.615(d) "clearly states" that the database is intended to identify possible sources of harmful interference thought to emanate from a BPL system. "Permitting individuals who are using a licensed service that operates on the same frequencies as are used by a BPL system to query for pertinent information in the geographic area of that interference fully fulfills this function," he concluded.

A note on the BPL database site cautions that users are "allowed to search a limited number of times each month." It further advises users not to conduct random database searches, lest their access to the database be further restricted. In his initial complaint, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, characterized the notice as an attempt to "ration access" to the site.

Franca also defended the use of ZIP codes as the only means to query the database, saying they are easily understood and identifiable and will provide the information the rules require on BPL systems deployed within a ZIP code. Sumner had argued earlier that requiring users to enter a ZIP code before gaining access to the database was "clearly contrary" to the requirement that the database be available to the public.

Responding November 30, Sumner gamely took another stab at getting the League's point across. Part 15 is unambiguous that the information in the database must be publicly accessible approximately 30 days before a BPL system begins operation, he said. Using a ZIP code to gain entry, Sumner continued, "renders the advance notification requirement meaningless to the public" unless someone were to regularly visit the Web site and repeatedly enter a particular ZIP code. But since that practice "is specifically discouraged by the UTC's notice," Sumner pointed out, it's impossible for the public to know about a BPL startup in advance, something the BPL Report and Order seems to require.

As a result, Sumner said, the benefit of a prior notification requirement, while limited as an interference-prevention measure, is lost to BPL operators as well as to licensed radio services that may suffer harmful interference that could have been avoided.

Sumner said the UTC-administered database "provides less than was promised" in the FCC's October 2004 Report and Order. "For advance notification to be meaningful, the public must know when additions and changes to the database occur," he contended. "That is functionally impossible if the 'publicly accessible' database is actually maintained behind an opaque curtain and is only revealed one ZIP code at a time."

One workaround, Sumner suggested, would be to require UTC to make publicly available a list of ZIP codes and the date of the most recent data entry for each. "This also would make it clear when a specific BPL system serves more than one ZIP code area, information that is required by §15.615(a)(3) but that is not available to the public at present except by individual query of each ZIP code."

Sumner said Franca failed to respond to his point regarding the error message that appears when a database user enters a ZIP code where no BPL system apparently has been deployed. At that point, users are asked to provide "written details" about the nature of the interference and the user's licensed operations as well as location--"complete address and coordinates"--operating frequencies, whether mobile or fixed and a brief description of the interference.

"Frankly, UTC has no authority to require the submission of such information from an FCC licensee prior to sharing information that the public is entitled to as a matter of right," Sumner concluded-reiterating a point made in his initial correspondence. "If the database were appropriately accessible the question would never arise."

On November 23, the League told the FCC that the Manassas, Virginia, BPL system was not in compliance with FCC Part 15 rules because its operator failed to provide full information to the public BPL database by the November 19 deadline and the system should be shut down. The letter came barely six weeks after the ARRL called on the FCC to turn off the Manassas BPL system because of unresolved interference complaints to Amateur Radio.

Since the League's letter, a search under ZIP code 20110 indicates the Manassas system has provided a contact name, address, telephone number and e-mail address. Its entry still lacks details about the equipment in use, however.

FCC LIFTS AUTOMATIC CONTROL PRIVILEGES OF BUSY LA-AREA REPEATER

The call sign and owner have changed again, but the FCC alleges that problems persist on the Los Angeles area's 147.435 MHz repeater, now operated by Jeffrey Stieglitz, AE6NZ, of Torrance. The FCC Los Angeles District Office

recently informed Stieglitz that it was suspending automatic control privileges for the repeater. That means the licensee or a designated control operator must be at the repeater's control point whenever the machine is operational.

"Your amateur station AE6NZ is under review by the Enforcement Bureau for numerous and continued apparent violations of the Commissions rules," FCC LA Office District Director Catherine Deaton wrote Stieglitz November 18. The Commission alleges inadequate station control, deliberate interference, failure of users to identify and use by unlicensed operators.

Stieglitz told ARRL he encourages users of the busy repeater to comply with Part 97 rules and to make a reasonable effort to identify unlicensed operators. "I believe that the 147.435 repeater attracts people to the hobby and, overall, is consistent with the purposes of Amateur Radio," he said.

"Sometimes the talk on the repeater may resemble that of a boys locker room," Stieglitz conceded, "but I think we more than make up for it with charitable activities and technical sophistication."

Deaton says if AE6NZ is operated under automatic control prior to notification from her office, enforcement action up to and including a license revocation and suspension hearing, a fine or both could follow. Deaton also asked Stieglitz to submit in advance the names and contact numbers of other licensees who serve as control operators. "During any times that no control operator is available, the repeater must be shut down," Deaton stated.

The odd-split 147.435 MHz repeater (the primary input is 146.400 MHz) has been a lightning rod for controversy. In 2001, the FCC terminated the automatic control privileges of the then-W6NUT repeater while it was reviewing its operation. Since then the repeater has changed hands a few times, and enforcement issues seem to have followed. Stieglitz believes "heat from the FCC" was behind the frequent ownership changes.

"As the Jack Gerritsen case shows, there is very little the FCC can actually do against a determined bootlegger," Stieglitz said.
Gerritsen is set to appear in federal court next week. "In my opinion, shutting down a repeater because a third party breaks the rules just penalizes the honest operators."

FCC Enforcement Bureau Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth had another perspective: "The repeater has been out of control long enough, and we have been too patient too long," he told ARRL.

SPACEWALKS "THRILLING," ASTRONAUT TELLS STUDENTS DURING HAM RADIO CHAT

International Space Station Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, told students gathered in Geneva, Switzerland, November 22, that taking a spacewalk is a thrilling experience. Speaking the following day with middle schoolers in upstate New York, McArthur described space exploration as the new frontier. Both contacts were arranged by the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. During the Geneva contact--part of the "Science on Stage" program for European science teachers--McArthur rhapsodized about the spacewalk experience.

"It's an absolute delight, it's thrilling to be outside, it's being truly in a totally alien environment," McArthur said, "and you realize the only thing between you and vacuum is the small little spaceship that you call your spacesuit. And it is truly the most thrilling thing I've ever done."

Responding to a question involving human physiology in space, McArthur said it's theorized that bone tissue is replaced more slowly in space because it does not get stressed in microgravity.

"On Earth, when you walk, when you run, every time your foot strikes the ground there is stress on your skeletal system, and this aids in bone development," McArthur said. He told another student that getting used to weightlessness was the biggest adjustment for ISS crew members. He noted that he and crewmate Valery Tokarev will have spent some 182 days in space by the time they return to Earth next April. In the meantime, much of the research conducted aboard the ISS will help determine how well human beings will be able to handle long-term space travel beyond Earth orbit, McArthur said.

Some 300 science teachers from 25 countries gathered at the European Nuclear Research Center (CERN) in Geneva for the conference. Eighteen students from Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Norway and Portugal took part in the space QSO.

NN1SS at Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland served as the Earth station for the CERN event. MCI donated a two-way teleconferencing link between NN1SS in Maryland and the ISS. Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, was the ARISS-Europe mentor.

On November 23, youngsters at Central Park Middle School in Schenectady, New York--a NASA Explorer School--focused most of their questions on spaceflight training, preparation and safety. McArthur told the youngsters that it was hard to get into the space program.

"It was very difficult because there simply are so few astronauts--there are only slightly more than 100 astronauts in the US space

program, and each time we ask for new volunteers, we get thousands of applications from very, very qualified people," McArthur explained. "So, to be quite honest, not only do you have to have a good resume, you have to be very, very lucky."

An astronaut for 15 years, McArthur said he trained four and a half years for his current mission onboard the ISS. The most challenging aspect of his job is "to be patient," he said in reply to another question. "I've spent much, much more time training and on the ground than flying in orbit."

McArthur said he believes the most important thing society can gain from missions like his is a continued belief in and commitment to space exploration. "Humans by their very nature want to go to the next frontier," he added, "and we think the next frontier is the one you see when you look straight up."

W6SRJ at Santa Rosa Junior College in California served as the Earth station for the Central Park contact, and MCI donated a teleconferencing link between W6SRJ and the school.

ARISS <http://www.rac.ca/ariss> is an international educational outreach with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

PACKET UPDATE

One of the digital modes we need to stay in practice with is morse code. I have found a new freeware program on the internet which allows you to practice receiving morse code and play in a simulated contest on your computer. The program is called Morse Runner. The whole program is less than one meg in size and installs easily on your computer with installation wizard. The virtual radio setting is adjustable for filtering bandwidth. You can set the code speed at which the stations transmit. You can also adjust for band conditions while you are playing. This is a really nice program which you can have a lot of fun with. This program lets you practice and improve your CW skills. What I really like is the free price for such a nice program. The program runs on Windows 95 up to Windows XP. You can download and get information about the program from the website. The website address is www.dxatlas.com/morserunner/

James Butler, KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Many amateurs continue to run CW as one of their communication modes. Amateurs getting into morse code need to find a key to hook up to the radio and practice with. Nice keys are harder to find at a good price as the number of companies left producing keys is going down. I found a nice used key at the hamfest for about \$5.00. This key is nothing special as it is an old standard AMECO model. The new version of this key sells for about \$20.00. I like the older version because the metal is a little thicker. Originally for this price the key was very plain with cheap black plastic knobs for the key and the shorting bar. You also had no base sold with the unit. The action of the key is really pretty good as it does have full adjustability and little ball bearings in the fulcrum. By going to Home Depot and picking up some nicer knobs for the unit and mounting it on a good base, the key can be upgraded. The white ceramic knob I used on the key came from the cabinet knob section and cost about 3 dollars. The small white knob used on the shorting bar is from the ceiling fan pull chain. They have lots of colors, styles and

materials that you can pick from for these. I painted the base white to color match the knobs. The knob turned out really nice and works great. I now have it ready to go when I want to use a straight key on older equipment or for straight key night.

James Butler, KB4LJV



December

2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Joyce Hughes	James, WA4RW	Jim, KI4I			J.T., KI4AJG NV4Z, Mary	
11	12 Jim, K4ZFQ	Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM POT LUCK DINNER	14 John, K3LK Sylvia, KE4WOT	15 Jimmy, KG4TKY	16	17
18 James, N5WFF	19	20 Mark, WB4RRT Jason, KI4BXX	21 Patsy Lane	22	23	24 Marion, N4VTB
25	26 Darrell, KK4D Brenda, KE4MKK	27 Shelby Cty., ARES Meeting 6:45 PM	28	29 James Pace	30 Bob, KF4NDH	31 Don, KA4BMI

January

2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Tony, N4LKK	2 Marjorie Torkell	3 Jim, WD8JAO	4	5 MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM Janet, KD4DWW	6	7
8	9 Hugh, WB4SLI	Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM	11	12 Kenneth, KD5LHG	Darrell Jr., KI4DJB	14
15 Kathryn McLemore	16	17 John, KE4OTI	18	19	20 Evins, WB4SLJ	21
22 Tom, N4TV	23	Shelby Cty., ARES Meeting 6:45 PM	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



CONTEST CALENDAR

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

ARRL 10 Meter Contest-0000Z Dec 10-2400Z Dec 11. (See Nov *QST*, p 105, or www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2005/10-meters.html.)

Great Colorado Snowshoe Run--CW, sponsored by the Colorado QRP Club

from 0200Z -- 0359Z Dec 10. Frequencies: 40 meters only. For more information: www.cqc.org/contests/snow2005.htm

North American Meteor Scatter Contest—any mode, sponsored by the WSJTGROUP from 0000Z Dec 10-0700Z Dec 18 (the Geminids meteor shower). Frequencies (MHz): 50, 144, 222, 432, via meteor scatter. For more information: www.ykc.com/wa5ufh/Rally/NAHSMS.htm.

OK DX RTTY Contest--sponsored by the Czech Radio Club, 0000Z -2400Z Dec 17. Categories: SOAB (LP, HP >100 W), SOSB, MOAB, SWL. Frequencies: 80-10 meters according to IARU band plan. For

information: www.crk.cz/ENG/DXCONTE.HTM.

Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge--CW, sponsored by the Boring Amateur Radio Club, 1500Z Dec 17-1500Z Dec 18. For more information: http://jzap.com/k7rat/stew.rules.txt.

PSK31 Death Match--PSK31 and PSK63, sponsored by the Michigan DX Association, 0000Z Dec 17-2400Z Dec 18. Frequencies: 80-6 meters, PSK31 and PSK63 count as separate "bands." For more information: www.mdxa1.org/deathmatch.html.

Russian 160-Meter Contest--CW/SSB. sponsored by *Radio* Magazine, from 2100Z-2300Z Dec 16 in two 1-hour segments. For more information: www.radio.ru/cq/contest/rule-results/index11.shtml.

Croatian CW Contest--sponsored by Hrvatski Radioameterski Savez (HRS), from 1400Z Dec 17-1400Z Dec 18. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For more information: www.qsl.net/ctc.

RAC Winter Contest--CW/Phone, sponsored by the Radio Amateurs of Canada, 0000Z-2359Z Dec 17. Frequencies (MHz): CW--25 kHz up from the band edge (check on the half hour), Phone-1.850, 3.775, 7.075, 7.225, 14.175, 21.250, 28.500, 50 and 144 MHz. For information: www.rac.ca/downloads/canwi n2004.pdf.

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party--all modes, sponsored by the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society, 0001Z Dec 17, 2005-2359Z Jan 1, 2006. 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, plus VHF and repeaters. For more information: http://arlhs.com.

DARC Christmas Contest-CW/SSB, sponsored by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club, 0830Z--1100Z Dec 25. Frequencies (MHz): CW--3.510-3.560, 7.010-7.040, SSB--3.610-3.650 and 3.700-3.775, 7.040. For more info: www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcx.htm.

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.

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 (1,2,3,5,9,10,12,14, 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)

Codes:

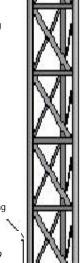
- 1.Antennas
- 2. APRS
- 3. Contesting
- 4. CW Operating
- 5. Direction Finding (fox hunting)
- 6. DXing
- 7. Experimenting/Circuits/etc.
- 8. HF Phone
- 9. Packet
- 10. Repeater
- Operation
- 11. QRP 12. Satellite
- 13. RTTY
- 13. KII'
- 14. VHF 15. PSK31
- 16. Computer logging

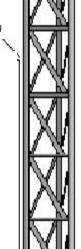
WA2I QC (Gen) Gary Blinckmann 794-5289 garyblin@midsouth.rr.com (1, 7, 10, 14)

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)





2005 *QST*, p 89.

New Year's Snowball Contest-sponsored by the Activity Group of Belarus (AGB) -- www.qsl.net/ eu1eu/index_e.htm.

HA Happy New Year Contest-sponsored by the Budapest Society of the Hungarian Radio Amateur Society and the Puskás Tivadar Radio Amateur Club-- http://radioklub. puskas.hu/ha5khc/web/.

SARTG New Year RTTY Contest--sponsored by the Scandinavian RTTY Activity Group (SARTG)-www.sartg.com/contest/nyrules. htm.

AGCW Happy New Year Contest--sponsored by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft CW-- www.agcw.de.

ARRL RTTY Roundup-1800Z Jan 21.270-21.300, 28.470-28.500 MHz. 7-2400Z Jan 8, see Dec 2005 *QST*, p 87.

Kids Day--Phone, sponsored by the ARRL and the Boring Amateur Radio Club from 1800Z to 2400Z Jan 8. **Hunting Lions in the Air**--CW/ See Dec 2005 *QST*, p 45.

DARC 10-meter Contest--CW/ SSB, sponsored by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club from 0900Z -1059Z Jan 8. Frequencies: CW 28.000-28.200 MHz, SSB 28.300-28.700 MHz, work stations once only. For more information: www. darc.de/referate/dx/fedcz.htm

Worldwide QRP Federation QSO Party-- CW/SSB/Digital, sponsored by the RU QRP Club from 0000Z-2400Z Jan 6. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For more information: http:// ruqrp.narod.ru/index_e.html.

EUCW 160 Meter Contest--CW, sponsored by the Union Française des Telegraphistes from 2000Z -2300Z Jan 7 and 0400-0700Z Jan 8. For more information: www.uft.net/ articles.php?lng=fr&pg=123.

ARRL Straight Key Night -- see Dec Original QRP Contest -- sponsored by the QRP Contest Community, from 1500Z Jan 7-1500Z Jan 8. Frequencies: 80-20 meters. For more information: www.qrpcc.de/ contestrules/oqrpr.html.

> North American QSO Party--CW, sponsored by the National Contest Journal from 1800Z Jan 14-0600Z Jan 15. Frequencies: 160-10-meters. For information: www.ncjweb.com/ nagprules.php.

> MI QRP Club January CW Contest--1200Z Jan 14-2400Z Jan 15. Frequencies: 160-6-meters. For information: www.qsl.net/miqrpclub.

Midwinter Contest--CW/SSB, sponsored by the Dutch YL Committee, CW from 1400Z-2000Z Jan 14, SSB from 0800Z-1400Z Jan 15. Frequencies: 80-10-meters, SSB 3.600-3.650, 7.080-7.090, 14.270-14.300, For more information: www.qsl.net/ pi4ylc/Engels/midwinter% 20contest.htm.

Phone, sponsored by the South African District 410B of the Int'l Association of Lions Clubs from 0000Z Jan 14-2400Z Jan 15. Frequencies: 80-10 meters, work stations once per band regardless of mode. For more information: www.sarl.org.za/ public/contests/lionita.asp.

HA DX Contest--CW, sponsored by the Hungarian DX Club from 1200Z Jan 14-1200Z Jan 15. Frequencies: 160-10-meter bands. For more information: www.mrasz.hu/engver/ mraszen.html.

070 PSKFest--sponsored by the Penn/OH DX Society (PODXS) from 0000Z-2400Z Jan 14. Frequencies: 80-10-meters. For more information: www.podxs.com/html/ pskfest.html.

ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes--1900Z Jan 21-0400Z Jan 23, see Dec 2005 QST, p 89.

North American QSO Party--Phone, 1800Z Jan 21-0600Z Jan 22 (see Jan 14-15).

80-Meter Straight Key Sprint-sponsored by the North American QRP Club, from 0130Z-0330Z Jan. 21 (Thursday evening). Frequencies (MHz): 3.560, 7.110. For more information: www.arm-tek.net/~yoel.

LZ Open Championship--CW, sponsored by the LZ Open Contest Club from 0400Z-1200Z Jan 21. Frequencies: 3.5 and 7 MHz. For more information: www.linkove.com/lzopen-contest/rules/rules.htm.

BARTG RTTY Sprint--sponsored by the British Amateur Radio Teletype Group from 1200Z Jan 21-1200Z Jan 22. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: www. bartg.demon.co.uk.

International United Teenager Contest-- CW/SSB, sponsored by "Radio-TLUM" Ukraine from 0600Z-1400Z Jan 21 in four periods for operators 18 or younger and Ukraine veterans. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For information: www.qrz. ru/contest/detail/17.html (select "Translate to English").

UK DX RTTY Contest--sponsored by the Scottish-Russian ARS from 1200Z Jan 21-1200Z Jan 22. Frequencies: 80-10-meters. For more information: www.ukdx.scotham. net

CQ WW 160-Meter Contest--CW, sponsored by CQ Magazine from 0000Z Jan 28-2359Z Jan 29 (Phone is Feb 25-26). For more information: www.cg-amateur-radio.com/index. html.

REF French Contest--CW, sponsored by the Reseau des Emetteurs

Français, 0600Z Jan 28-1800Z Jan 29 (Phone is Feb 25-26). Contact French stations including Corsica, Overseas Territories, and EU Council station TP2CE. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: www.ref-union.org/concours.

UBA Contest--Phone, sponsored by the Royal Union of Belgian Amateur Radio from 1300Z Jan 28-1300Z Jan 29 (CW is Feb 25-26). Frequencies: 80-10-meters, according to the IARU band plan. For more information and KU4BP, 2105 D Fiddlers Ct, a list of EU entities: www.uba.be.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Dec 9-Dec 17, 1400Z-0100Z daily, Wheeling, WV. Northern Panhandle Amateur Radio Club, W8ZQ. Winter from Bethlehem, New Mexico. Festival Of Lights at Oglebay Park. General phone bands. QSL. Joe McCready, WB8CTC, PO Box 192, Blaine, OH 43909.

Dec 10, 0001Z-2359Z, Warrensburg, MO. Warrensburg Area Amateur Radio Club Inc, W0AU. 15 year anniversary of Warrensburg Area Amateur Radio Club. 28.370 21.378 14.270 7.250. QSL. Dennis Gedeon, KB0NHW, 1811 Hillside Ct, Oak Grove, MO 64075. www.WAARCI. org.

Dec 10, 1200Z-2400Z, Rutland, VT. Green Mountain Wireless Society, W1GMW. To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the club's founding. 14.240 7.240 7.050 3.840. QSL. Green Mountain Wireless Society, PO Box 84, Rutland, VT 05701. www.gmws.net.

Dec 10-Dec 11, 1400Z-0200Z, Na zareth, PA. Christmas City Amateur Radio Club, WX3MAS. Christmas Greetings from Nazareth and Bethlehem PA. 21.365 14.265 7.270 3.970. Certificate. Christmas City ARC WX3MAS, Graystone Building, Gracedale Complex, RR8, Nazareth, PA 18064. www.dlarc.org.

Dec 16-Dec 18, 0000Z-2359Z, Cam- Jan 7-Jan 8, 1200Z-2100Z, Bethpeche, CA. Radio Club Cancun, XF3NN. DX pedition to Carmen Island IOTA NA-135. 28.460 28.085 21.260 14.085 . QSL. N6AWD, 6000 Hesketh Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93309. www.radioclub.cancun.com.mx/.

Dec 17, 1200Z-2200Z, Winston-Salem, NC. Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, W4NC. 75th birthday of The Forsyth Amateur Radio Club. 21.320 14.270 7.250. QSL. Ed Swiderski, Winston Salem, NC 27107. home. triad.rr.com/ku4bp/main.html.

Dec 17-Dec 25, 1300Z-2359Z, Bethlehem, NM. Valencia County Amateur Radio Association, KC5OUR. Celebrating the Christmas season 28.273 21.273 14.273 7.273. QSL. VCARA, PO Box 268, Peralta, NM 87042. www.qsl.net/kc5our/. Dec 23-Dec 24, beginning 0700Z, Dead Sea, Israel. Holyland DX Group, 4X411A. From Holyland squares M25BS and M26BS. 80-10 m CW and SSB. QSL. Shalom Barak-Bacalu, 4Z4BS, PO Box 43101, Tel Aviv 61430, Israel . www.4z5la. net/4z411a; www.qrz.com/4x411a.

Dec 31-Jan 1, 0400Z-1600Z, West Memphis, AR. M&M Amateur Radio Club, KB5ZMU. Celebrating the coming of the New Year. 14.300 7.330 7.275 3.925. QSL. Marc Gwin, Jan 28-Jan 30, 1400Z-0200Z, Wil-1402 Stratford Dr, West Memphis, AR 72301. http://geocities.com/ marca2gwin.

Jan 1-Jan 31, 0000Z-2400Z, Brant Rock, MA. Fessenden Amateur Radio Society (W1FRV), AA1A/BO. 100th year commemoration of transoceanic 2-way communications. 18.075 14.055 10.118 7.055. QSL. RAF.NESCO, Box 686, Brant Rock, MA 02020. Participating stations use /BO suffix. www.radiocom.net/ Fessenden/.

page, NY. NLI Section, W2V. Ham Radio University 2006, our 7th annual day of education, at the ARRL NYC/LI Section Convention. 14.273 7.273. QSL. Phil Lewis, N2MUN, 22 Belle Terre W, Lindenhurst, NY 11757. www.hudson.arrl.org/nli/.

Jan 7-Jan 16, 1400Z-0000Z, Wall Township, NJ. Ocean Monmouth ARC, N2MO. From the historic Diana Site, to commemorate "Project Diana," the first ever successful moon bounce experiment. Gen and Nov/Tech subbands 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m. QSL. OMARC Inc, PO Box 267, Oakhurst, NJ 07755. www. omarc.org.

Jan 21-Jan 22, 1300Z-2300Z, Moscow, PA. Northeast Pennsylvania Special Event Club, KV3T. Remembering the Knox Coal Mine Disaster. 21.240 14.240 14.045 7.240. QSL. David Samsell, W3LOW, 923 Clearview Rd, Moscow, PA 18444. http:// kv3t.tripod.com.

Jan 28, 1400Z-2100Z, Punxsutawney, PA. Punxsutawney Area Amateur Radio Club, K3HWJ. Commemorating Groundhog Day 2006. 14.240 7.240 7.125 147.390. Certificate. Mike Miller, N3HBH, 1097 Wishaw Rd, Reynoldsville, PA 15851. www.qsl.net/k3hwj.

sona Gardens, CA. BioRem RAC (Edwards AFB), AL7LS. Jan 27, 1967 release of Hot Rods to Hell filmed at Wilsona Gardens. Packet on 14.105 7.105 3.740. Certificate. Bruce Rossi, 2127 Sierra Stone Ln, Las Vegas, NV 89119.

T-Su

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

3980

0030

AREA HAMFESTS OF INTEREST

Net Name

Tennessee Evening Phone Net

MARA Christmas Hamfest

Minden Amateur Radio Association Minden Civic Center 520 Broadway Street Minden, LA December 17, 2005

Mississippi State Convention (Capital City Hamfest)

Jackson Amateur Radio Club State Fairgrounds Jackson, MS February 3&4, 2006

Lawrence County ARC Winterfest

Lawrence County Amateur Radio Club Walnut Ridge Fire Department Fireman's Hall 218 East Main Street Walnut Ridge, AR 72476 February 11, 2006

Delta Amateur Radio Club

November 2005 Treasurers Report

Balance 10/31/2005	\$6,374.01		
Expense			
Memphis Amateur Electronics 11/03 Ned Savage—Plaques 12/05	1200.00 324.00		
<u>Income</u>			
Ticket Sales 11/09 Annual Dues 11/09	535.00 137.50		
Balance 12/05/2005	\$5,522.51		

SPARKS is published monthly by the Delta Amateur Radio Club and is emailed 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:

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