

# DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# SPARKS

P. O. BOX 750482 MEMPHIS, TN 38175-0482 / VOL. 1 / JANUARY 2007



*Happy New Year*

*from 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

## JANUARY 2007 CLUB MEETING

**DATE:** January 9, 2007 (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:** "David's Lab"

**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](mailto:joanthorne@bellsouth.net)

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year,

I hope all had a good year and great holidays. I look forward to the coming year and serving in 2007. I am pleased that we had a number of new faces show up the past few months and some new faces on the Board. I am eager to start the planning of our Club events for 2007 and working with the new board. I again thank all those who served and participated in Club events in 2006.. keep up the good work!

Roger, KI4AJH is started in the production of the Sparks and is looking for your support and would like your timely submission of articles and information. He has a number of ideas for the newsletter and I look forward to his production.

Joe, WA4OVO has taken off in the training position and has a Tech class scheduled to start January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Please Remember: Deadline for Reports and Articles for the next issue of SPARKS is the last day of the month prior to the meeting. 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:**

[KI4AJH@bellsouth.net](mailto:KI4AJH@bellsouth.net)

The Free Fest is still being planned and we are looking forward to the event. Tony Brignole is scheduled to give information at the January meeting.

David, KD4NOQ is working on the program schedule and I look forward to the ideas he will present.

Come on out to the meetings and socialize with new and old friends. Remember to renew your membership and do not hesitate to forward ideas or questions to your Board.

73, Darrell KK4D

**DARC BOARD MEETING  
BOARD MEETING  
December 5, 2006**

KK4D-Darrell called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. KK4D-Darrell gave the new board members CD's with their position information and club history on them. There were 9 members present.

He then read the treasurer's report and made a motion to accept them as read. K4POM-Lisa seconded. KA4BLL-Ned made a motion to accept the secretary's report as written. KI4DR-Dave seconded the motion.

**Old Business:**

KK4D-Darrell advised the board that he was withdrawing the motion made in November to purchase a trailer for the club. The motion had not been seconded at

the November meeting and there would be no more discussion.

Darrell then advised the board that WA4OVO-Joe Lowenthal would like the training director position and would be presented to be voted on by the members at the December meeting.

**New Business:**

KK4D-Darrell updated the board on the 147.360 repeater. The board then unanimously voted to accept Stephen Shook as a new member.

Darrell then presented the 2007 budget to the board to review. It was unanimously accepted as presented.

KI4DR-Dave advised the board of some of his plans to raise funds for the club.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
K4POM-Lisa Sheffield  
DARC Secretary

**DARC GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
December 12, 2006**

KK4D-Darrell called the meeting to order with the introductions of the members and guests present. He then released everyone to get a plate and enjoy dinner before getting on with club business.

After eating, Darrell presented the treasurer's report and motioned to accept the secretary's report as printed in SPARKS. Pat Lane seconded the motion.

Darrell then pulled the trailer motion from the table as there had been no second on the original motion to purchase the trailer.

He then called for any nominations for the training director from the floor. After no response from the floor, he presented WA4OVO-Joe Lowenthal to the members to see if there were any objections to his being the training director. There being none, the members unanimously accepted Joe as the 2007 director of training.

KK4D-Darrell then presented the 2007 Board of directors to the membership. He then presented KA4BLL-Ned Savage his Past President jacket from the club. He gave out plaques to Joan Thorne, Eddie Trammell, and Aaron Alexander.

Darrell then advised the members that Roger Schlichter requests that any articles be sent to him by the last day of the month to be printed in SPARKS.

Pat Lane advised the members that he and Nina Stone had won awards for the Tennessee QSO party.

Bob Holdford won the door prize and the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
K4POM-Lisa Sheffield  
DARC Secretary

**JANUARY PRESENTATION**  
**"David's Lab: Things I've Built In The Shack"**

Any thing I've had to modify, build from scratch, and cables that aren't available commercially. Also circuits that I've had to build from scratch.

KD4NOQ

**FCC ELIMINATES MORSE CODE AS EXAM REQUIREMENT!**

Early next year, the US will join the growing list of countries that no longer require Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code test as the entry ticket to HF. Announcement of the pending historic rule change arrived with no fanfare December 15 in an FCC public notice. A full-blown Report and Order (R&O) in the proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, followed December 19. The best estimate of when the Morse code requirement will go away officially is sometime in February -- 30 days after the R&O appears in the Federal Register.

"We . . . believe that the public interest is not served by requiring facility in Morse code when the trend in amateur communications is to use voice and digital technologies for exchanging

messages," the FCC said in its R&O. "Rather, we believe that because the international requirement for telegraphy proficiency has been eliminated, we should treat Morse code telegraphy no differently from other Amateur Service communications techniques."

The FCC says it deems the current regime of written examinations "sufficient to determine whether a person is qualified to be issued an Amateur Radio operator license."

The FCC cast aside arguments that Morse ability is advantageous in emergencies, concluding that most emergency communication is handled using voice, data, or video techniques.

The Commission also turned away assertions that retaining a Morse requirement would help keep out the bad apples.

"The record is devoid of a demonstrated nexus between Morse code proficiency and on-the-air conduct," the FCC observed. It concurred with one commenter's observation that "maintaining the code requirement does not purge Amateur Radio of bad operators. Education and self-policing does."

The FCC also ordered that all Technician licensees present and future

--

whether or not they've passed a

Morse code test, will get privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters identical to those of Novice licensees. "In eliminating this disparity between Technician and Technician Plus licenses, we are simplifying the Amateur Service licensing structure and promoting regulatory parity," the FCC said.

The FCC took advantage of the occasion to act on the League's Petition for Partial Reconsideration in the "omnibus" proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, calling on the Commission to retain 3620 to 3635 kHz for automatically controlled digital stations by moving the Extra class phone band edge to 3635 kHz. The FCC decided instead to authorize 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, and leave the newly expanded phone band intact.

The Commission further amended Part 97 "to authorize Amateur Extra class privileges to all individuals who have been issued a CEPT radio-amateur license by their country of citizenship, and who satisfy other requirements in the Commission's rules."

Although the FCC's Morse code decision came as no surprise, it nonetheless revived debate on the issue. The FCC had proposed more than a year ago to drop the Morse code requirement for all license classes. The record in the proceeding, the FCC said, "reflects a division of views in the Amateur Radio community." After

reviewing the more than 3500 comments and counter-proposals radio amateurs had filed, the Commission stuck with its initial proposal.

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, had this reaction: "While the Commission's decision to delete the Morse code requirement for an Amateur Extra Class license departs from the ARRL's recommendation, it is helpful to have the matter resolved so we can move forward."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, expressed a similar viewpoint. "Now that the debate is over, we can focus on learning Morse code simply for its own sake," he said. Sumner pledged that the League would maintain its traditional support of Morse code as an operating mode and would continue to offer Morse training materials as well as such incentives as bonus credit for CW contacts in ARRL-sponsored operating events. ARRL's Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will keep its schedule of Morse code practice and bulletin transmissions.

Since World Radio communication Conference 2003, the UK, Canada, Germany and other countries have dropped their Morse requirements. Sumner said other countries have successfully made the transition to a codeless testing regime, and he doesn't anticipate problems in the US.

The pending disappearance of the Morse code requirement seems to have rejuvenated the urge to upgrade. ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, says distribution of General Class license training materials have skyrocketed in the week after the FCC announcement.

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The ARRL has posted information relevant to the FCC action in WT Docket 05-235, including an FAQ, on its Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>>.

### **TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS**

An Amateur Radio Technician License class will be given by the Delta Amateur Radio Club in the Germantown Police Training Room at Germantown City Hall, 1730 So. Germantown Road, Germantown, TN. The classes will start Monday, January 8, 2007, from 6:30pm-9:00pm and be held for 5 consecutive Monday nights ending February 5, 2006.

The last class will be a review and then FCC Technician Class License testing by a Federal Communications Commission

(FCC) approved ARRL Volunteer Examiner team. ARRL, the American Radio Relay League, is the national Amateur Radio organization headquartered in Newington, CT. The ARRL website is [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

For those interested in obtaining their introductory license into Amateur Radio (Morse Code not required), contact Joe Lowenthal at 901-683-2701, or through the Delta ARC website [www.deltaclub.org](http://www.deltaclub.org).

To register, please have interested students send Joe Lowenthal their name, phone number, and email address (if they have one). He can be reached at [wa4ovo@yahoo.com](mailto:wa4ovo@yahoo.com), home at 901-683-2701, or cell at 901-628-4318

There is no cost for the class except for the \$14 FCC exam, but it is recommended the student buy the book, "The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual" (ISBN: 0-87259-963-9). This manual includes FCC rules, regulations, theory, and safety, as well as, 395 test questions with the answers. The FCC exam is 35 questions from this pool of 395 questions.

I will have 15 manuals available for purchase for \$22.50 on a first come first serve basis. It is also available locally from Memphis Amateur Electronics for \$22.50 plus tax if you tell them it is for the Delta Club class. Normally, the manual is \$24.95 plus tax.

*(Continued from page 4)*

Memphis Amateur is at:  
1465 Wells Station Road  
Memphis TN, 38108-3695  
voice: (800)238-6168 or (901)683-9125  
fax: 901)682-7165  
Doug@memphisamateur.com

The manual (Item #9639) is also available from the ARRL for \$24.95 plus shipping and handling. You can order it online from the ARRL website at <http://www.arrl.org/search/?exp=1&q=manuals&x=7&y=7>.

The FCC exam is \$14.00 payable by cash or check to ARRL VEC at time of testing. A copy of a state (driver's license) or US government (passport) ID is required to take the FCC exam. If you fail the test, you can take it a 2nd time for another \$14.00. I look forward to seeing a full class.

Joe Lowenthal

### SPARKS Input

If you have any suggestions to be included or removed from the newsletter please let me know. It has been suggested to me that we might include pictures of your home or mobile station setups. If you would like yours to be included in the upcoming issue just send me the pictures. Depending upon the response for this they may not all be able to be included in the next SPARKS.

Roger KI4AJH

### General Review Class

Anyone interested in attending a review class to prepare for the General licensing exam contact Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO. He has anticipated that the class will begin mid to late February if there is enough interest in the class.

### According To Club Information You May Need To Update Your Ticket.

Iname	lic expires	callsign
Kagoo	2007/01/21	N9GSA
Hudock	2007/01/30	KB4ZLQ
Fulkerson	2007/02/07	KB0ZOQ
Hudock	2007/02/10	KB4SQV
Cole	2007/02/17	KA4ACD
Pullen	2007/02/20	AF4ZT
Smith	2007/02/20	KF4PFY
Johnson	2007/02/25	KB0ZTX
Lawson	2007/02/27	KC5ZEZ

### Information on News, Contests, Special Events, and Hamfests Can All Be Found At:

<http://www.arrl.org/search/bigindex.html>

### PACKET UPDATE .....

Morse Code is the only digital mode that can be sent and decoded by the human brain. We constantly look for ways to make sending code as easy as possible. Over the years we have gone from straight keys to the paddle and on to iambic operation with two paddles. There are lots of examples of paddles that are being built now or have been in the past. Over the past few years groups and companies have begun to offer keys and paddles in kit form. You get all the parts for the project and put it together and do the finish work yourself. The Norcal group came out with their paddle kit a few years back and now it is available built as the Code Warrior Junior by Vibroplex. The Arizona QRP group can out with the Scorpion Iambic paddle kit also. Now another manufacturer has come out with a nice affordable paddle kit. Jerry Haigwood has designed a new iambic paddle kit called the Black Widow. This kit is made of brass that you put together and do the finishing yourself. It is a nice set of paddles for under 70 dollars. Check out the kit at [www.w5jh.net/black\\_widow.htm](http://www.w5jh.net/black_widow.htm)

James Butler, KB4LJV

### AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE .....

Many of us leave our morse code keys connected to the radio an setting on the desk ready to go when we want to run Morse Code. One of the problems we encounter is dust and dirt buildup on our keys. A lot of expensive keys and paddles come with a cover to protect them from dust and dirt. There are also companies which sell covers for the keys. The military has long had covers on their keys because of where they have to operate. Dust can affect the contact points of a key and make you have to clean more often for proper operation. Most key covers are just plastic pieces which protect the key from this dirt and dust build up. One thing a noticed was when buying laundry detergent is they always give me a free scoop to measure with. I have my own heavy duty scoop and did not want to just throw these away. Mine are a translucent green color and are made from thin plastic. By cutting the handle off with a pair of scissors and cutting out for the operating arm and shorting arm I found I could make a cover for standard straight keys. The picture shows an unmodified scoop along with one that is being used as a dust cover. It does a great job of keeping the key clean on the desk and was easy to modify. Keep and eye out for everyday plastic items that can be used for key covers.

James Butler, KB4LJV



# January

2007

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	<b>1</b> Tony N4LKK Tanya KI4LYA	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Jim WD8JAO	<b>4</b> <b>MARA Club Meeting</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>5</b> Janet KD4DWW	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Hugh WB4SLI  <b>Delta Club Meeting</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>10</b> Russell K5GMC	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Ken KD5LHG	<b>13</b> D.J. KI4DJB
<b>14</b> Stephen KI4OTB	<b>15</b> Kathryn McLemore	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> John KE4OTI	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Evins WB4SLJ
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Tom N4TV	<b>23</b> Shelby Cty., <b>ARES Meeting</b> <b>6:45 PM</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Gina Alexander
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

# 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 (1,2,3,5,9,10,12,14,  
slow scan TV, ATV minor)

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

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

WA2IQC (Gen) Gary Blinckmann 794-5289  
garyblin@midssouth.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)





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**Delta Amateur Radio Club**

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**TENNESSEE NETS**

<b>Net Name</b>	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>UTC</b>	<b>Day</b>
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

**AREA HAMFESTS OF INTEREST**

**Winter Fest 2007**

145.49 Repeater Group  
Willard Rec Center  
133 North Highway Z  
Willard, MO  
Jan 13, 2007

**Winterfest 2007**

St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club  
Gateway Convention Center  
Collinsville, IL  
Jan 27, 2007

**Delta Amateur Radio Club  
December 2006 Treasurers Report**

<b>Balance 12/05/2006</b>	<b>\$5,814.19</b>
<b><u>Expense</u></b>	
Memphis Amateur 12/13/06	\$110.00
U of M 12/11/06	<u>22.94</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$132.94</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>	
2006 Annual Membership Dues 12/13/06	<u>265.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$265.00</b>
<b>Balance 01/02/2007</b>	<b>\$5,946.25</b>

**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:

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

**2007 Board of Directors**

***President***

Darrell Sheffield, KK4D  
901-277-8122  
(Darrell.Sheffield@Memphistn.gov)

-

***Vice President***

Dave Royer, KI4DR  
901-604-1350 (dnmroyer@bigriver.net)

-

***Secretary***

Lisa Sheffield, K4POM  
901-277-8144 (SassGirlsMom@aol.com)

-

***Treasurer***

Hugh Wardlaw, WB4SLI  
901-487-3820 (hwardlaw@bellsouth.net)

-

***Director of Training***

Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO  
901-628-4318 (wa4ovo@yahoo.com)

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***Director of Publications***

Roger Schlichter, KI4AJH  
901-386-8457 (KI4AJH@bellsouth.net)

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***Director of Programs***

David Campbell, KD4NOQ  
901-388-6166 (kd4noq@arrl.net)

-

***Director of Meetings and Special Events***

Dean Honadle, N2LAZ  
901-353-1207 (dean@honadle.com)

-

***Repeater Trustee***

Suresh Kagoo, N9GSA  
901-752-5900 (skagoo@midsouth.rr.com)