

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

P. O. BOX 342768 MEMPHIS, TN 38184-2768 / VOL. 8 / AUGUST 2007



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

W4BS
REPEATER
SYSTEM
146.82, 147.36,
224.42, & 443.2

AUGUST 2007 CLUB MEETING

DATE: August 14, 2007

PLACE: Ellendale Church Of Christ, 7365 Highway 70,
Memphis, Tn. (1.5 miles east of Hwy. 64-Stage Rd.)

TIME: 7:00 PM

PROGRAM: Into to satellites presented by David Campbell KD4NOQ

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 VEC exam examination fee 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 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

Presidents Corner

I hope everyone had a good July it seems like it flew by. I have been out of town or out of pocket the past month with a mission trip and work related issues, I have not had much Ham time. It looks like Joe is continuing with training and service opportunities. I hope everybody is getting ready for the MS 150 and prepared to come out and help. Eddie will be heading up the event so if you are interested or have questions please give Eddie KF4QFW a holler.

I have had several calls and e-mails with leads for a Club operating trailer. I appreciate the suggestion and those of you that are keeping your eyes open. I have checked the suggestions and ruled out some based on information from membership and am still looking into others. So keep your eyes open for a deal.

It may seem early to start thinking about it but October will be here before we know it if the year keeps rolling by like it has. The 2008 Board nomination are coming up so if you are interested let us know and get ready.

We are in the process of changing the membership database and hope when it is done we can keep up with our folks better so if you need a new member packet or have membership questions let me know.

I hope to see a good turn out for the next meeting, until then 73.

Darrell, KK4D
73, Darrell KK4D

There was no DARC Board meeting the month of July due to several board members being out of town.

DARC General Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2007

KK4D-Darrell called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm with the introduction of the members and guests present—40 per the sign in sheet.

KK4D-Darrell called to accept the secretary's minutes as printed in SPARKS. KI4AJH-Roger motioned to accept and there were several seconds to the motion. The treasurer's report was also accepted as printed and unanimously accepted by all present.

WA4OVO-Joe Lowenthal gave a VE report on testing done on June 30th. He also showed the group the new General License manuals. He is also planning on having an Extra Class training session in the fall. If you are interested, contact WA4OVO-Joe.

Old Business:

KK4D-Darrell gave a report on 2007 Field day. There were only 25 participants total—the lowest participation ever.

New Business:

KK4D-Darrell made the group aware of a letter received from the Red Cross requesting the Delta Club's assistance if necessary in the future. N4GMT-Lance Morris advised the group that the Red Cross requires not only a criminal background check, but also requires a financial check and lifestyle check.

Darrell also advised the group of the upcoming MS150-Fed Ex Rock and Roll Bike tour.

KK4D-Darrell advised the membership to start looking at nominations for next year's DARC Board.

N4GMT-Lance advised the group to email him at N4GMT@comcast.com if interested in power poles.

VE Report:

KN4PM-Joan advised of 3 new Extra Class Licenses and 3 new General Licenses.

KD4NOQ-David introduced Rick Tillman whose presentation was on Sky Command with THD-7 and TS-2000.

KF4QLM-Roscoe Bellows won the door prize and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

K4POM-Lisa Sheffield

DARC Secretary

According To Club Information You May Need To Update Your Ticket

last name	First name	License expires	Call sign
Albert	David	2007/08/13	N5COO
Klein	Marvin	2007/09/09	WA4OXP
Howell	Bill	2007/09/26	W4KGN

HAM LICENSE TRAINING for 2007

By Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Director of Training

TECHNICIAN LICENSE TRAINING AT THE VETERANS HOSPITAL-MEMPHIS

We are currently working in conjunction with the FedEx Retirees Club on setting up Technician License training classes for interested patients at the VA-Memphis Medical Center. There have been no dates set, but I envision the classes to be an hour or two between 10am and 3pm weekdays for one or two days a week. The first class will probably be for out patients. If anyone is interested in helping me facilitate the classes, please call me at 683-2701.

NEW GENERAL CLASS LICENSE QUESTIONPOOL

Effective July 1, 2007

For those interested in upgrading to General license, be sure to study from the new General Class License Question Pool which became effective for testing on July 1, 2007 and after until June 30, 2010. It seems that there are more operational questions than in the last question pool.

CLASSES IN SESSION

TECHNICIAN CLASS 5-07

The current 5-week Technician Class started July 12, 2007. There are 18 students in class at Germantown Baptist Church on Thursday nights from 6:30-9:00pm at 9450 Poplar Avenue, Germantown, TN. Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO and Rich Garrett AI4BN are the primary facilitators. Pat Lane W4OQG added his thoughtful insights for the Antenna and Feedlines section. The instruction is primarily from the ARRL Technician Class DVD. The class will complete on August 9th. FCC Testing will be held the following Tuesday evening at the August 14th regular Delta Club testing session.

FUTURE CLASSES

TECHNICIAN CLASS

A 2-day 16 hour weekday Technician Class is in the planning stages for late September or late October. If interested, please pre-register by sending me an email at wa4ovo@yahoo.com with subject line "Technician Class." Or you can go to the Delta Club webpage www.deltaclub.org; click on Training Classes; and then click on Technician Class to send an email to Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, or call at 901-683-2701. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set.

EXTRA CLASS

We contemplate an Extra class if 10 or more hams are interested in the training. Currently, planning is for a class to be held in the Fall for 4 Saturdays. Please pre-register by going to the Delta Club webpage www.deltaclub.org; click on Training Classes; and then click on Extra Class to send an email to Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, at wa4ovo@yahoo.com or call at 901-683-2701. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set.

GENERAL CLASS

If you are interested in a General License Class, please let me know of your interest by sending me an email at wa4ovo@yahoo.com with subject line "General Class." Or you can go to the Delta Club webpage www.deltaclub.org; click on Training Classes; and then click on General Class to send me an email, or call at 901-683-2701. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set.

HAM LICENSE TRAINING for 2007

By Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Director of Training (cont.)

CLASSES IN THE RECENT PAST

WCARS FCC LICENSE TESTING

Held Saturday, June 30, 2007

There was a WCARS VE FCC testing session held on Saturday, June 30th at the Health Department Mullins Station Training Room across from the Penal Farm. It gave a last chance for testing from the expiring General Class question pool. Jeffrey Schlichter, KI4AJG, upgraded to General. Lydia Campbell earned Technician and became KI4WUD. Congratulations to both.

GENERAL CLASS 4-07

A General License class was held for three days on Saturday, April 28; Sunday, April 29 and Saturday May 5th at the Memphis-Shelby County Health Department's Mullins Station Training Room. There were 13 students. Since then ten (10) hams upgraded. They are Rich Mayfield KC8KJB-now KI4, John Proffitt KI4BXZ, Steve Pyle KI4OGY, David Cristil KI4RRM, Gilbert Cronin KI4VCN, Jerry Klein KI4TKZ, Karen Loyd KE5MFX, Roscoe Bellows KF4QLM, and Wayne Monte KI4TLB. Devin St. Clair made Tech and General.

Thanks to Barry Moore KE4KAG and the Health Department for the use of the training room.

SO YOU WANT AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT YOUR SKILLS TO WORK, HAVE SOME FUN, AND WORK ON YOUR TAN?

CALLING ALL HAMS

It's time to start thinking about bicycling and the folks that ride for a reason. The FEDEX "Rock-n-Roll" bike tour for the MS Society is just around the corner. It will be held on September 15th and 16th. Amateur Radio will once again be called upon to provide communications for this 150 mile bike ride from Graceland to The Grand Casino in Tunica. We need

22 to 25 operators to cover all of the rest stops and SAGs, as well as, our net controls. I spoke with the MS folks about the free hotel at the Grand Casino and, as always, if you work both days you get a room for free.

I need to know as soon as possible if you can work the event and Whether you are going to work only one day or both and if you will want a room. We need to get this info into the MS folks as soon as possible. Thanks for all you do for Amateur Radio and great institutions like the MS Society.

Please note the new location for Saturday night. We will be at the Grand Casino which means that the route will have to be modified somewhat; I will get maps as soon as possible.

More Info to follow

Thanks Again

'73

Eddie

KF4QFW

AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE

Many times we look for radios that are small and lightweight to run digital modes. A lot of companies have come with first class kits lately to meet this demand. Most of these are for CW but some are for SSB and PSK31 also. One kit due to come out soon is the ATS-3B from Steven Weber. He has some of the smallest radio transceiver kits that do amazing things for the money. Steven's new kit when it comes out in late summer 2007 will be surface mount components and have 6 band capabilities. The entire rig will fit inside of an Altoids tin and run on a set of AA batteries. The rig also will receive AM shortwave radio and SSB transmissions along with CW. The rig only transmits in CW with about 3 watts output maximum. This radio is an improvement earlier versions of this radio. This rig is the smallest qrp radio with the most features available. The cost of the new kit should be under \$200.00. To keep track of when this will become available and see all the features here is the website. <http://kd1jv.qrpradio.com>

James Butler
KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Many times we like to build up components for our radios using surplus equipment. One easy area today is for power supplies for QRP radios and accessories. These usually run on 11 to 14 VDC and need currents ranging from 300 milliamps to 1.5 amps. Lots of power supplies today convert the 115 VAC to a lower voltage with a small power supply outside the case. Many old power supplies for electronic equipment can be modified to meet the specifications of 11 to 14 volts DC. The one I used was an old laptop power supply that put out 16 VDC no load. Since this voltage was high I mounted a board with a power LED, capacitor, and a three terminal 12 VDC voltage regulator. This gave me the perfect supply for the QRP rig. If the output of the power supply was AC voltage I could have added some diodes to rectify and convert it to DC voltage like I would need. The key here is to keep all those old power supplies when you throw away old electronics that way you have those available to reuse when you need a supply to run a rig or accessory.

James Butler
KB4LJV



The W4BS Elmer Shack

Please feel free to contact any of our ELMERS to help you enhance your amateur skills. Anyone wishing to be added to the Elmer list please contact 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@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)

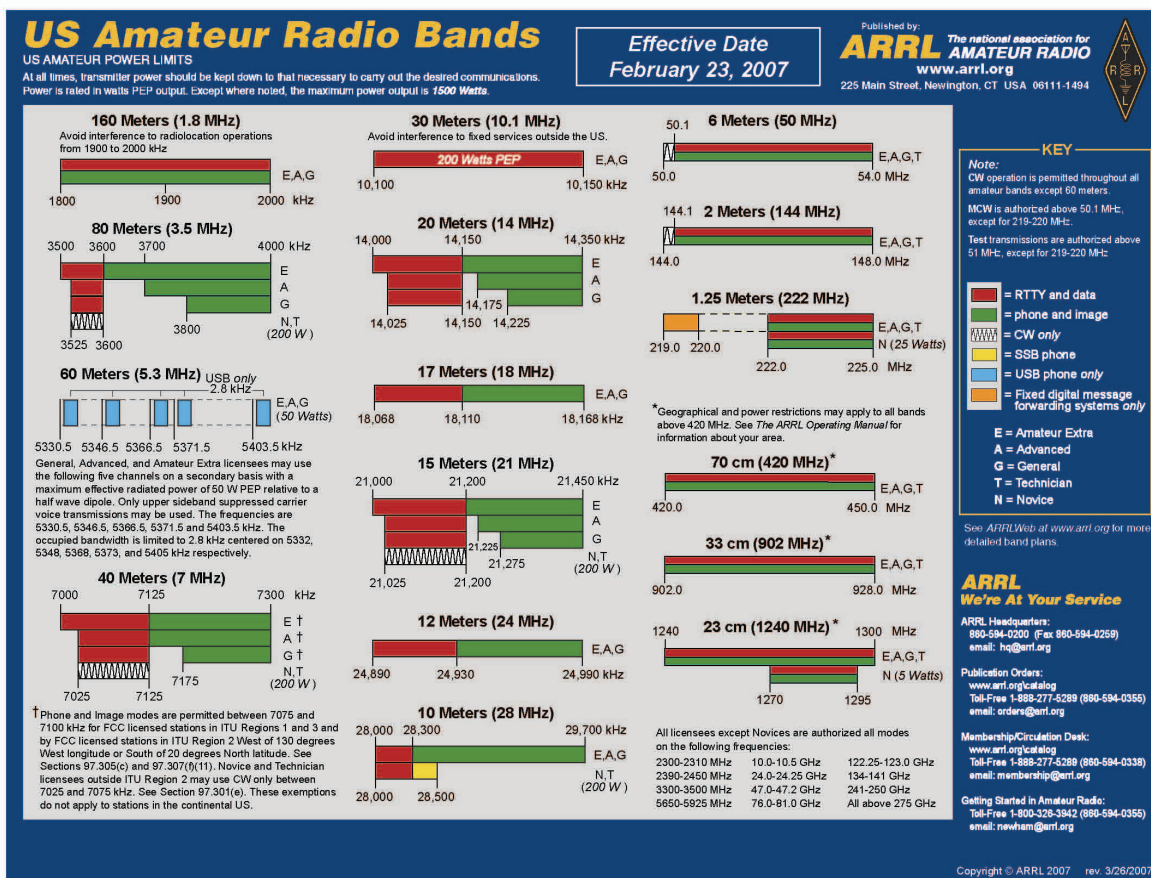
W4GMM (Extra) Ham Hilliard 372-2337
hamh@bellsouth.net (All categories)



Frequency Changes as of February 23, 2007

Here is the link for the frequency chart effective 2/23/07 in color:
http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/Hambands_color.pdf

Here it is for the black and white version:
http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/Hambands_bw.pdf



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

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

August

2007

<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 MARA Club Meeting	3	4
5	6 Benjamin Woodruff	7 Aaron KI4OTH	8 Heidi KC4AOU	9	10	11
12	13 Bill KC4SXT	14 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM	15 Gregory KI4QEN	16 Norman KA4AEF	17 Art K4SHJ	18
19	20	21 David KC5GGE	22	23 Suresh N9GSA Ben KU4AW	24 Scott K5SJ	25
26 Patrick K4LIM	27	28 Shelby Cty., ARES Meeting 6:45 PM	29	30 David KD4NOQ James AG4KM Paulette KE5MFW	31 Rex KB2WGP	

TENNESSEE NETS

Net Name	Freq.	UTC	Day
Tennessee CW Net	3663	0100	Su-Sa
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
CUSEC (Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)	3810		as needed
	7180		as needed

AREA HAMFESTS OF INTEREST

ARRL National Convention
Huntsville ARC & Huntsville Hamfest
Huntsville, AL
August 18-19, 2007

Cedars of Lebanon Short Mountain Hamfest
Short Mountain Repeater Club
Lebanon, TN
August 25, 2007

Arkansas State Convention
Queen Wihelmina Hamfest Association
Mansfield, AR
September 7-8, 2007

MFJ 35th Anniversary Celebration!
ARRL Day in the Park
Starkville, MS
September 7-8, 2007

**Delta Amateur Radio Club
July 2007 Treasurers Report**

Balance 07/01/2007 **\$7,365.09**

Expense

Bell South 146.82 phone	58.94
University of Memphis 443.2 phone	22.94
Field Day	<u>254.85</u>
Total Expense	\$336.73

Income

Dues	<u>60.00</u>
Total Income	\$60.00

Balance 07/31/2007 **\$7088.36**

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 342768
Memphis, TN 38175-0482**

2007 Board of Directors

President

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

-

Vice President

PENDING SPECIAL ELECTION

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
901-683-2701 (wa4ovo@yahoo.com)

-

Director of Publications

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

-

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 (sureshkagoo@comcast.net)