

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

P. O. BOX 342768 MEMPHIS, TN 38184-2768 / VOL. 9 / SEPTEMBER 2007



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

W4BS
REPEATER
SYSTEM
146.82, 147.36,
224.42, & 443.2

September 2007 CLUB MEETING

DATE: September 11, 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: Intro to VHF Part #1 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

First of all, I hope all is well with our members, friends and family's. I am sorry about the quick departure last month and hope this will be much better. My job situation is little consuming right now. I have not had much time to play radio but hope everybody else is enjoying the hobby. It has been a good time to stay in the A/C and talk.

I hope to see the regular MS 150 group and some new faces to help with the race. If you have not checked in with Eddie KF4QFW about the MS150 please do so.

Hugh WB4SLI is trying to get up some help for JOTA this year and believe they intend on using Bartlett Park. If you can assist Hugh give him a call or look him up at the meeting.

Hope to see you all and stay till the end this month

73, Darrell KK4D

DARC Board Minutes of August 7, 2007

KK4D-Darrell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. WB4SLI-Hugh, K4POM-Lisa, WA4OVO-Joe, KD4NOQ-David, KI4AJH-Roger and N2LAZ-Dean were in attendance.

The secretary's report was approved after clarification of the wording concerning the information on the Red Cross' request.

The treasurer's report was also modified and approved as printed in SPARKS.

WA4OVO-Joe-Director of Training advised the board that he has a class starting at the VA hospital sometime in September. He also advised the board of the changes to the General Class license question pool.

KD4NOQ-David advised that the program for the meeting would be on Introduction to Satellite.

The board voted in the following new members—

KI4VUZ-Rick Mayfield
KI4TKZ-Jerry Klein
WA4VXH-James McMillin
KI4UJS-Dave Cranfill

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
K4POM-Lisa Sheffield
DARC Secretary

DARC General Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2007

KK4D-Darrell called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm with the introduction of the 41 members and guests present.

Darrell read the treasurer's report for WB4SLI-Hugh who had advised he would be late to the meeting. N4GMT-Lance motioned to accept and NF5B-Richard seconded.

Darrell asked if there were any questions concerning the secretary's minutes and requested to accept as printed in SPARKS. KC0HZU-Kathleen motioned to accept and KC4SXT-Bill seconded.

KF4QFW-Eddie informed the members of the upcoming MS150 and asked for volunteers.

KK4D-Darrell informed the members of a couple of leads on a trailer for the club. After checking on them he advised they were too expensive.

KD4NOQ-David asked for volunteers to come up with a couple of programs. (Please contact him if you are interested.)

WA4OVO-Joe announced that the General Class study guide has changed. He advised to make sure you have the correct book. He advised that one of his classes just finished and tested-13 people took the test and 13 passed the test.

There was no new business.

KK4D-Darrell turned the meeting over to KF4NDH-Bob Holdford. Bob showed the members his bicycle he rides in the MS150 and how he placed the radio on the bike.

KD4NOQ-David showed a video presentation on Satellite radio.

WA4OVO-Joe advised he has batteries for sale for ARES.

KC4SXT-Bill Covington won the door prize and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by-
K4POM-Lisa Sheffield
DARC Secretary

According To Club Information You May Need To Update Your Ticket

license expires lname	fname	license expires	callsign
Klein	Marvin	2007/09/09	WA4OXP
Howell	Bill	2007/09/26	W4KGN
Morris	Craig	2007/10/08	KN4FC
Vanlandingham	Teddy	2007/10/08	WA4VTZ
Lucas	Mike	2007/10/15	W5CHR
Hilliard	Alexander (Ham)	2007/10/15	W4GMM
Amateur Radio Assn.	Paducah	2007/10/30	W4NJA
Vickers	Tom	2007/10/30	N4TV

HAM LICENSE TRAINING for 2007
By Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Director of Training

GRIFFIN BUTLER-KE5QEK

Eight year old Griffin Butler, son of Mark Butler KA5PEA, passed his Technician Class license exam at the Huntsville Hamfest on Saturday, August 18th. He was a student in our Tech Class 5-07 at Germantown Baptist Church. In addition to earning his Tech ticket, Griffin won a Yaesu FT-60R dual band handheld and an MFJ dualband magmount antenna at the ARRL Youth Forum at the hamfest. What a way to start in ham radio! Congratulations to father and son.

TECHNICIAN CLASS 6-07
TECHNICIAN LICENSE TRAINING AT THE MEMPHIS VETERANS HOSPITAL

DARC is working in conjunction with the FedEx Retiree Club in establishing Technician License training classes for interested veterans at the VA-Memphis Medical Center. The first class will begin September 11th for four weeks. The classes will be from 10am to 12 noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are 12 students registered for the first class. The course instructors/facilitators are Tom Fox KA4LWQ, Russ Myers WD4JHD, Bill Covington KC4SXT, and Rick Tillman WA4NVM. The course director is Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO.

The FedEx Retiree Club is providing the ARRL Technician License Manuals and FCC exam fees for the veterans. Win Guin's WCARS VEC Team will administer the FCC exams on the last day of the class.

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 (cont/)

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 THE RECENT PAST

TECHNICIAN CLASS 5-07

The 5-week Thursday night Technician Class ended August 9th. There were 18 students in the class at Germantown Baptist Church. From those students, 13 took their Technician exam at the end of the class and all passed. Congratulations go out to KI4YON Bill Thorne, KI4YOO Angie Garrett, KI4YOP Steve Smith, KI4YOQ Jason Fisher, KI4YOR Mike Hefner, KI4YOS Clark Finch, KI4YOT Harry Jamerson, KI4YOU Larry Sistrunk, KI4YOV Ken Malone, KI4YOW Adrian Moseley, KI4YOX Trandafir Moisa, KI4YOY Ted Stratton, and KE5PXJ Dick Garrett.

Bill KI4YON, Angie KI4YOO, and Dick KE5PXJ also passed their General exam that night. Win Guin W2GLJ provided the WCARS VEC Team for testing at the end of the class.

Jason KI4YOQ and Trandafir KI4YOX passed their General exam the following Tuesday at the DARC test session before the club meeting.

The instruction was primarily from the ARRL Technician Class DVD with some additional General License propagation and antenna theory. Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO and Rich Garrett AI4BN were the facilitators. Pat Lane W4OQG added his thoughtful insights for the Antenna and Feedlines section.

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.

HAM LICENSE TRAINING for 2007

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

**Listen Up Veterans, FYI
(submitted by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO)**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) today praised the passage by unanimous consent of his bill (S.1877) clarifying U.S. law to allow veterans and servicemen not in uniform to salute the flag. Current law (US Code Title 4, Chapter 1) states that veterans and servicemen not in uniform should place their hand over their heart without clarifying whether they can or should salute the flag.

"The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service," Senator Inhofe said. "Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform. Unfortunately, current U.S. law leaves confusion as to whether veterans and service members out of uniform can or should salute the flag. My legislation will clarify this regulation, allowing veterans and servicemen alike to salute the flag, whether they are in uniform or not. "I look forward to seeing those who have served saluting proudly at baseball games, parades, and formal events. I believe this is an appropriate way to honor and recognize the 25 million veterans in the United States who have served in the military and remain as role models to others citizens. Those who are currently serving or have served in the military have earned this right, and their recognition will be an inspiration to others."

This Bill was passed July 25, 2007. Please pass the word to your fellow veterans.

Ham Radio Welcomes Young Blood
(submitted by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO)

Griffin Butler, KE5QEK, passed his Technician license exam in Huntsville this past weekend and callsign issued today.

He was in the Germantown Baptist Church Tech Class 5-07 which ended on August 9th. Congratulations to Griffin and father Mark, KA5PEA.

I believe he is the youngest in the Memphis area to have received his ticket, 8 years 2-1/2 months young.

An article and picture is in the ARRL National Convention blog (2nd page 7th picture "The Butler Did It!") at Aug 18, 2007 15:32 ET:

<http://www.arrl.org/blog/Huntsville%202007?ofst=5>

Griffin Butler received congratulations from ARRL President Joel Harrison W5ZN in Huntsville after he passed his Technician exam.

MedMERS moves East
(submitted by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO)

The MedMERS net has changed primary frequency to the 146.73 repeater which gives better handheld coverage. The net is on Wednesdays at 12 noon CT.

The repeater is at St. Francis Hospital on Park Avenue. The secondary frequency is the 145.130, -600kHz, 107.2 tone on Methodist North.

AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE

Many Computer programs have been written for Ham Radio over the years. Newer programs take advantage of the internet to allow for another way to communicate by using it as the pathway for data or voice instead of the airwaves. A program called CW communicator has been written that allows you to send and receive morse code on your computer with others on the internet. This program allows you connect to a server to see who else is running the program. By setting up a virtual frequency you can then send and receive CW with others. The interface to hook up the key is the DB15 connector which is the joystick port on the computer. If you want to try this for CW practice and communication on the internet check out the information and free program at www.mrx.com.au/

James Butler
KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Many amateurs that run Morse Code realize that over the years sending code has changed. The first way was the straight key. This worked well but led to fatigue for some and a condition known as "GLASS ARM". Today we know it as repetitive motion syndrome. Of course the bug was a great advancement over the straight key allowing sending to be faster and easier. Iambic or dual paddle operation with an electronic keyer is the method of choice today. One of the other earlier methods used was called "tapper style". This used two straight keys side by side. Using two fingers you sent dits with one finger and dahs with the other. You can easily build up your own tapper style key easily. I used two doorbell buttons mounted on a board. I wired mine up to run to my electronic keyer with one switch hooked to the dit input and the other hooked to the dah input so I would have automatic dihs and dahs. You can wire up the switches in parallel if you want to do the tapper style to old way manually creating all the dihs and dahs. Give this a try and see if you like it. It makes a good alternative to the straight key.

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@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)

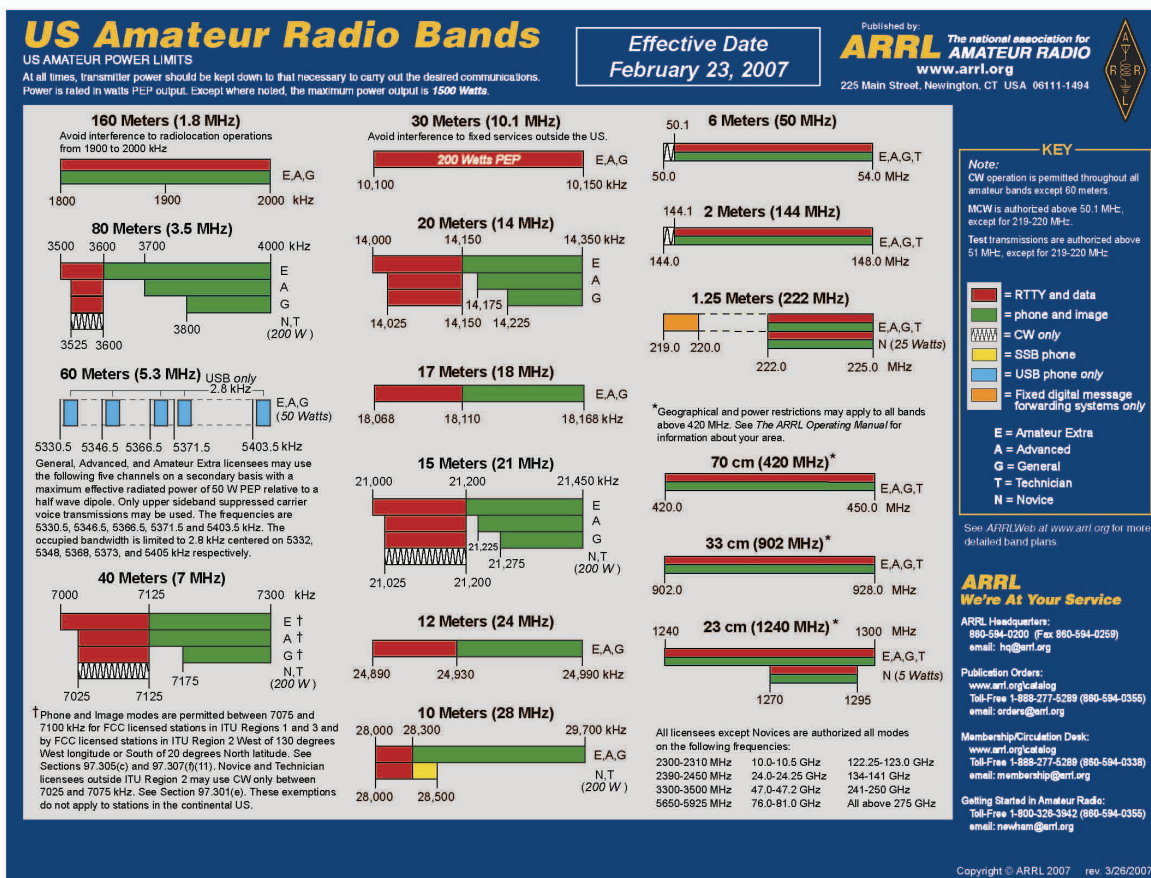
W4GMM (Extra) Ham Hilliard 372-2337
hamh@bellsouth.net (All categories)



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.arrl.org/search/bigindex.html>

September

2007

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
2	3 KI4AJH Roger	4	5	6 MARA Club Meeting (1st Thursday)	7	8
9	10 KB4KA Terry	11 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM (2nd Tuesday) KI4YUF David	12 Benjamine KI4SZM	13 KG4VES Jody John KA4RXP	14	15
16	17 Jeff KI4OTF	18	19 KN4F Jim KG4YKY James AA4DM Danny	20 KF4NZA Marjorie	21	22
23 KG4VAW Bill W5CHR Mike	24 K4DIT Ken	25 Shelby Cty., ARES Meeting 6:45 PM (4th Tuesday)	26	27 AK4MF Mark	28 James WA4VXH	29
30						

Delta Amateur Radio Club

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

- 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
- Ozarks Regional Hamfest/Homeland Security Convention
Southwest Missouri ARC
Springfield, MO
12-13 Oct 2007
- Little Egypt Amateur Radio Society (LEARS)
Sesser, IL
October 13, 2007
- Clarksville Amateur Transmitting Society
Clarksville, TN
20 Oct 2007
- 16th Halloween Hamfest
Saint Louis ARC
Fenton, MO
October 27, 2007

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

Balance 08/01/2007	\$6,434.36
Expense	
Bell South 146.82 phone	58.94
University of Memphis 443.2 phone	22.94
Marsh Insurance (Liability)	320.00
Marsh Insurance (Equipment)	334.00
Total Expense	\$735.88
Income	
Dues	125.00
Donation	150.00
Total Income	\$275.00
Balance 08/31/2007	\$5,973.48

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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Memphis, TN 38184-2768**

2007 Board of Directors

President

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

-

Vice President

PENDING SPECIAL ELECTION

Secretary

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901-277-8144 (SassGirlsMom@aol.com)

-

Treasurer

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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

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901-752-5900 (sureshkagoo@comcast.net)