

# DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# SPARKS

P. O. BOX 342768 MEMPHIS, TN 38184-2768 / VOL. 10 / OCTOBER 2007



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

**W4BS**  
**REPEATER**  
**SYSTEM**  
146.82, 147.36,  
224.42, & 443.2

## October 2007 CLUB MEETING

**DATE:** October 9, 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 #2 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

It seems like the year is quickly slipping by now. We made the MS150 a couple weeks ago and I hope those involved enjoyed the two days for the most part. Lisa and I did. There are several other events coming up so keep listening for the announcements.

The elections are approaching for the 2008 Board, if you have attended 6 meetings in the past year you are eligible. So if you have interest in a position on the board please let Ned, KA4BLL, Dick, K3ORS or Bob, KF4NDH know so they can check the eligibility and put you on the ballot.

Hugh announced JOTA on the 20<sup>th</sup>, I am going to try to set the tower up to use for the station. I believe the scouts intend on setting up in Bartlett's Freeman Park. If you need information contact Hugh, WB4SLI.

I hope to see all at the meeting the 9<sup>th</sup> so until then 73.

Darrell, KK4D

## DARC Board Minutes of September 4, 2007

KK4D-Darrell called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. WB4SLI-Hugh, K4POM-Lisa, KD4NOQ-David, and KI4AJH-Roger attended.

The board accepted the secretary's report as it was to be printed in the SPARKS per the SPARKS rough draft.

WB4SLI-Hugh went over the treasurer's report. It was unanimously approved as given by the board.

The board voted in two new members as follows:

KI4YOU-Larry Sistrunk and KI4YUF- David Galloway

KD4NOQ-David advised that the September program would be on VHF-Part 1 of 2 parts. Part 2 will be shown sometime in the future.

KK4D-Darrell advised that WA4OVO-Joe gave him the information on upcoming classes—a TECH class Starting on September 4 and ending on October 4, 2007 at the VA Hospital. Joe is planning an EXTRA class to be held in early November.

WB4SLI-Hugh advised there will be a Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air on October 20, 2007.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:  
K4POM-Lisa Sheffield  
DARC Secretary

## **DARC General Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2007**

KK4D-Darrell called the meeting to order at 7:12 with the introduction of the 42 members and guests present.

He then asked the members to accept the secretary's minutes as printed in SPARKS. NF5B-Richard seconded. WB4SLI-Hugh gave the treasurer's report. NF5B-Richard motioned to accept and KC0HZU-Kathleen seconded the motion.

KC4SXT-Bill asked about the phone patch and if anyone still used it. He was advised that it controlled our repeaters.

WA4OVO-Joe gave a report on the TECH class he started at the VA Hospital.

WB4SLI-Hugh gave the group information on the upcoming Boy Scout Jamboree on the air to be held on October 20. He requested volunteers to help. It will be held at Freeman Park.

KI4AJH-Roger gave an update on SPARKS and advised that if you are not receiving it via email, please contact him.

K4POM-Lisa advised the membership that they could buy tickets for the November meeting at anytime.

KF4QFW-Eddied gave the members information on the upcoming MS 150 and several upcoming service events.

WD4Q-Henry Leggette gave information on an upcoming ARRL election to be held and that the National convention will be held in Huntsville, AL.

He also gave information on the BPL problems that several clubs are having. ARRL has a lawsuit pending in court concerning several issues. Oral arguments will be given on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

KK4D-Darrell advised the members that the K3ORS-Dick Cookenham, KA4BLL-Ned Savage, and KF4NDH-Bob Holdford were the nominating committee and to contact them if they were interested in serving on the DARC Board in some capacity.

K3ORS-Dick made a motion that the club make a donation of \$250 to the ARRL legal fund mentioned by WD4Q-Henry. KC4SXT-Bill seconded the motion and there was no opposition from the membership.

KD4NOQ-David made his presentation on CQ's Ham bands for TECHs—Intro to VHF part 1.

KA4SJM-Frank McDowell won the door prize after KK4D-Darrell called for a moment of silence in honor of all service men and women in remembrance of 9/11.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
K4POM Lisa Sheffield  
DARC Secretary

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

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

The Delta Amateur Radio Club is working in conjunction with the FedEx Retiree Club in Tech Class 6-07 at the VA-Memphis Medical Center. The FedEx Retiree Club coordinator is Ken Pfohl, KI4VCL.

The first day was held September 11<sup>th</sup> and will end October 4<sup>th</sup>. The classes are from 10am to 12 noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are 12 students registered in the class. Delta Division Director Henry Leggett WD4Q spoke on the ARRL. The course instructors/facilitators are Tom Fox KA4LWQ, Russ Myers WD4JHD, Bill Covington KC4SXT, and Pat Lane W4OQG. 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 W2GLJ'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 Technician Class, Tech Class 7-07, will be held Monday and Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 5pm at Baptist Hospital Collierville.

If interested, please pre-register by sending an email to [wa4ovo@yahoo.com](mailto:wa4ovo@yahoo.com) with subject line "Technician Class" with your name, phone number(s), and email address. Or you can go to the Delta Club webpage [www.deltaclub.org](http://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 registered.

**EXTRA CLASS**

We are planning an Extra class for January and/or February 2008. The class outline is being written by Tom Fox KA4LWQ, who will be the primary instructor. When the outline is completed, we can then schedule the number of Saturdays for the course. We contemplate 4 to 6 days. Please pre-register by going to the Delta Club webpage [www.deltaclub.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:wa4ovo@yahoo.com) with subject line "General Class." Or you can go to the Delta Club webpage [www.deltaclub.org](http://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, 15 have received their Technician license. Eight (8) year old Griffin Butler is now KE5QEK. Rosalinda Melenda is KI4ZKW. Angie Garrett KI4YOO is now W4ZJY.

Win Guin W2GLJ provided the WCARS VEC Team for testing at the end of the class.

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.

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

license expires	lname	fname	lic expires	callsign
	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
	Cline	Starke	2007/11/04	K4BLO
	Sadler	Fred	2007/11/11	WA4VDB
	HAIRE	DAN	2007/11/13	WD4KWE
	Johnson	Uis	2007/11/13	K4BMF

## AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE .....

One product that came out years ago for digital modes was the AEA PK-232 . This unit hooked up to the serial port of the computer and decoded lots of different modes like RTTY , CW, Packet , ASCII, weather FAX and more. The unit even had a signal identification mode where you could tune in a signal and it would tell you what the format was. Timewave Technology has come out with a new version of this old classic decoder. The new unit has a built in digital signal processor ( DSP ) along with an isolation transformer for hookup to your computer sound card for digital programs that use that. The DSP allows for better filtering which allows copy in bad band conditions and tighter bandwidth than old analog filtering did. They are also offering the PK-232 with a USB connector to hook to your computer. Newer computers are now coming with USB connections and a lot do not even have an RS-232 serial port on them anymore. To look at this unit and read on all the new features go to [www.timewave.com](http://www.timewave.com)

James Butler  
KB4LJV

## AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE .....

I have been finding a lot of old cell phone chargers in the garbage cans lately. I guess with everyone getting new designs and the fact they can be so cheap means they are now throw away items. I wanted a small housing to put a switch in to make a portable morse code key. I stripped out all the circuitry from the housing and I mounted a small pushbutton switch in one end of the charger. Instead of running a wire or cord out the back end I mounted a ¼ inch plug so I could just plug a standard ¼ inch male connector cable in and connect it to my key input. I soldered the wires from the normally open contacts of the switch to back to the ¼ inch jack. Now I can just plug a cable when needed and hook to my radio key input. This can easily be carried in your pocket or in an emergency radio parts kit to be used when needed. If your primary key ever gets lost or broken this one would come in handy.

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)

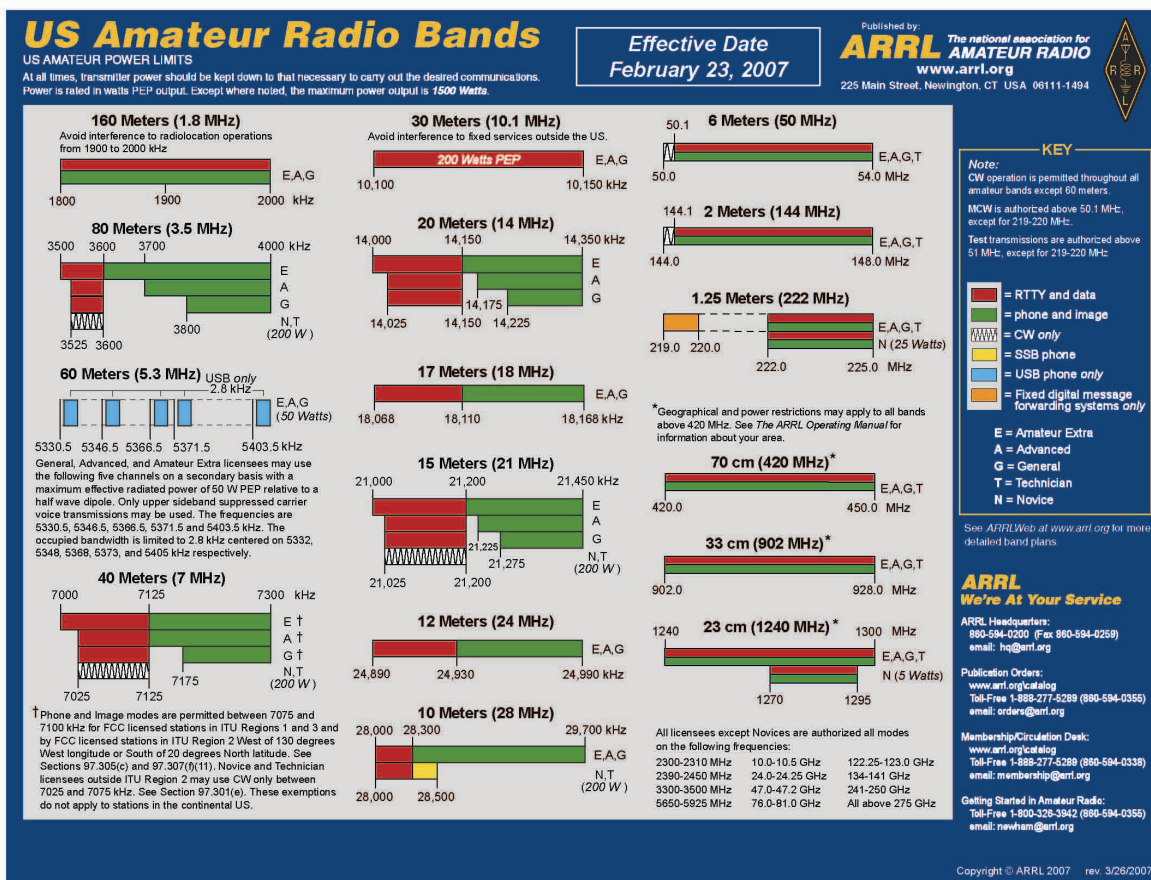
W4GMM (Extra) Ham Hilliard 372-2337  
hamh@bellsouth.net (All categories)



## 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](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](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>



# DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# October 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Jeanette KC4VYJ	2 Karen KC4VRL Ann WB4FAA	3	4 <b>MARA Club Meeting (1st Thursday)</b>	5	6
7 Barbara N.	8 Paul KC4VSM	9 <b>Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM (2nd Tuesday)</b>	10	11 Frank KA4SJM	12 Charles KI4MWV	13 Keith WA5LPW
14	15	16	17	18 Charlie KE4NTM	19 Earshel WK4KRA Melinda KE4DXN Aubrey KG4YZW Barney KI4QAQ	20
21	22	23 <b>Shelby Cty., ARES Meeting 6:45 PM (4th Tuesday)</b>	24 Ray N4ARH	25 Beverly W4BBJ	26	27
28 Mark G. Daniel KI4COW Angie G.	29	30	31			

**TENNESSEE NETS**

<b>Net Name</b>	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>UTC</b>	<b>Day</b>
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	
CUSEC (Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)	7180	As needed	

**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.

**AREA HAMFESTS OF INTEREST**

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

White River Tailgate Party  
 Batesville, AR  
 October 13, 2007

Clarksville Amateur Transmitting Society  
 Clarksville, TN  
 20 Oct 2007

16th Halloween Hamfest  
 Saint Louis ARC  
 Fenton, MO  
 October 27, 2007

Monroe Regional Hamfest  
 Monroe, LA  
 Nov 10, 2007

Midwest Division Convention  
 Lebanon, MO  
 Nov 10, 2007

EARS (Electronic Applications Radio Service)  
 Evansville, IN  
 Nov 24, 2007

**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 38184-2768**

**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)

**Delta Amateur Radio Club**

Beginning Balance	as of September 1, 2007	<b><u>\$5,973.48</u></b>
	<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	
AT&T	146.82 Phone	58.91
Univ. of Mem	443.2 Phome	22.94
ARRL	Brick	250.00
Mem Amateur	Jun/Jul Meeting	<u>40.00</u>
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$371.85</b>
	<b><u>Revenues</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>
Ending Balance	as of September 30, 2007	<b>\$5,601.63</b>