

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

P. O. BOX 342768 MEMPHIS, TN 38184-2768 / VOL. 12 / DECEMBER 2007



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

W4BS
REPEATER
SYSTEM
146.82, 147.36,
224.42, & 443.2

December 2007 CLUB MEETING

DATE: December 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: **Pot Luck Dinner**

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

Looks like it's the end of another year. I hope that everybody had a good year in the ham world. I know that there are always things that cause difficulties and hope that you have had few this year. I also hope that you have found that you have some old and new friends through the Club and that you continue to be active or become more active in Club activities.

Congratulations to all that were winners last month and I hope that you will get some use from the items that you took home. Thanks to all that supported the Club last year through your service on the Board, participation in the Club sponsored events, The VE's and attendance at the meetings.

I hope that my 2 years as the Club president has been good for the Club. I have enjoyed most of the time spent serving there. I will continue to serve the Club to the best of my ability as the Vice-President and will support Hugh in every way possible. I welcome the new hams and members to the Club and hope that you will get involved.

I hope to see many of you at the December Meeting which is going to be a Pot-Luck dinner with the Club providing drinks, utensils and paper ware. Bring what you like or a favorite and share it with the group.

73, Darrell KK4D

Board Minutes for November 6, 2007

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

KK4D-Darrell and several members of the board present requested to accept the October minutes as to be printed. There were no objections/

WB4SLI-Hugh gave the treasurer's report. It was accepted as to be printed--unanimously--by the board members present.

The board voted in K4ZFQ-James Walton-(Jim).

The board discussed what prizes to purchase for the November meeting.

WA4OVO-Joe advised the board of the progress of his classes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
K4POM-Lisa Sheffield
DARC Secretary

General Meeting Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club for November 14, 2007

KK4D-Darrell called the meeting to order at 7:18 with the introduction of the 47 members and guests present.

Darrell requested that the secretary's minutes be accepted as printed in SPARKS. N4GMT-Lance motioned to accept the request and KA4BLL-Ned seconded this motion.

WB4SLI-Hugh read the treasurer's report. KK4D-Darrell motioned to accept and NF5B-Richard seconded the motion.

Darrell then thanked the present DARC Board members publicly and called for nominations from the floor for the 2008 DARC Board. There being none, he then presented the nominations that the nominating committee had to present as follows:

President-----WB4SLI-Hugh Wardlow	Director of Programs-----KD4NOQ-David Campbell
Vice-President-----KK4D-Darrell Sheffield	Director of Publications-----KI4AJH-Roger Schlichter
Treasurer-----KI4TQA-Bill Stevens	Director of Hospitality-----N2LAZ-Dean Honadle
Secretary-----K4POM-Lisa Sheffield	Director of Training-----WA4OVO-Joe Lowenthal

m ,./

NF4B-Richard motioned to accepted the nominations as presented. N4GMT-Lance seconded the motion.

KK4D-Darrell thanked KN4PM-Joan Thorne for serving as the VE Testing Director. He then recognized all the VE Assistants present.

Darrell then thanked KF4QFW-Eddie Trammell for handling all of the public service events this year.

KD4NOQ-David advised the group that he is working on the programs for next year already.

WA4OVO-Joe advised that his classes at Baptist Collierville were a success. 6 people tested and passed. He also touched on the progress of his ongoing class at the VA hospital.

Joe then gave information on the upcoming St. Jude marathon for KF4QFW-Eddie. It will be held on December 1, 2007. He asked that the volunteers be there prior to 7:30 and advised that it would be supported until 3 pm.

KK4D-Darrell thanked N4GMT-Lance for managing the Net Controllers this year. He gave plaques or certificates to the 2007 Board members thanking them for their service. (Several board members opted for the certificate.)

WA4OVO-Joe Lowenthal received a plaque for Ham of the Year/Director of Training 2007.

KI4TQA-Bill Stevens received the Newcomer of the Year Award.

KI4I-Jim Cissell gave asked for volunteers interested in helping with the Bartlett Christmas Parade to contact him and let him know.

KK4D-Darrell then called for anyone still holding tickets to place them in the barrel so the prize drawing could begin.

KA4BLL-Ned won a head lamp.	KA4BLL-won a computer donated by Roger-KI4AJH
KC4SXT-Bill won a radio light.	KG4YZW-Aubrey won a DSP unit
WA4VXH-Larry won a head lamp.	KC4SXT-Bill won a VX170 hand held radio.
KD4EYW-Billy won a radio component book.	WA4VXH-Larry won a FT 2800 M.
KA4BLL-Ned won and Antenna Book.	KB4ZLQ-Carol also won a FT 2800 M.

KD4NOQ-David won the grand prize-an 857D

KK4D-Darrell advised the members present that the December meeting would be a potluck dinner.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

K4POM-Lisa Sheffield
DARC Secretary

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

SCHEDULED CLASSES

Technician Class 2-08 – January 15 – February 14, 2008

A second Technician License Class in conjunction with FedEx Retirees Club is scheduled for January 15 through February 14, 2008 at the VA Medical Center, 1030 Jefferson Avenue. The class will be for 5 weeks from 1:00 to 3:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Registration is required. Advanced study of *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual* is highly suggested as well as study of the 392 question and answer Technical Class License question pool. Send registration email to Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO at wa4ovo@yahoo.com giving your name, phone number(s) and email address. Practice tests should be taken on the www.qrz.com website. Scroll down to Practice Tests on the left side of the page.

Amateur Extra 1-08 – January 19 –February 16, 2008

An Amateur Extra class is to start Saturday January 19, 2008, from 9am-1pm for 5 Saturdays. Tom Fox KA4LWQ, will be the primary instructor. A student will need to already know the FCC rules and regulations. The text, *The ARRL Extra Class License Manual* (ISBN: 9-87259-865-9, Eighth Edition) will be used. A scientific calculator (Casio Scientific Calculator, fx-260 Solar [at Wal-Mart for \$8.76] or equivalent) is required for the class. 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.

FUTURE CLASSES

TECHNICIAN CLASS

If you are interested in a Technician License Class, please let me know of your interest 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 me an email, or call at 901-683-2701. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set.

EXTRA CLASS

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.

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.

HAM LICENSE TRAINING for 2007 (cont/)

**2007 TRAINING IN REVIEW
67 Techs/18 Generals/ 0 Extras**

**TECHNICIAN CLASS 7-07
6 Techs/ 1 General
at Baptist Hospital Collierville**

Seven students attended the 2-day Technician Class at Baptist Hospital Collierville on November 5th and 6th. The successful students are Dale Burt KJ4AJB from Baptist Collierville; Timothy Costict KJ4AJD from Baptist Corporate; Scott Vanlandingham KE5RHL from Baptist Desoto. The other students were Jim Kook KJ4AJC, Jim Sanders KE5RHM and Carl Todd KJ4AJE.

The instructors/facilitators were Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Rick Tillman WA4NVM, and Bill Stevens KI4TQA. Win Guin's WCARS VEC Team administered the FCC exams on the last day of the class. Henry Leggett WD4Q, ARRL Delta Divison Director, welcomed the students to ham radio.

**TECHNICIAN CLASS 6-07
4 Techs/ 1 General
at The Memphis Veterans Hospital**

From seven students testing, 4 obtained Technician and one of those passed General. Congratulations to Techs Chris Elmore KE5RAK, Ernest Gray KI4ZVA, David Specking KE5RAL, and General Art Franklin KI4ZUZ.

The course instructors/facilitators were Tom Fox KA4LWQ, Russ Myers WD4JHD, Bill Covington KC4SXT, Bill Stevens KI4TQA, and Pat Lane W4OQG. The course director was Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO. Henry Leggette WD4Q, ARRL Delta Divison Director, welcomed the students to ham radio.

The FedEx Retiree Club provided the ARRL Technician License Manuals and FCC exam fees for the veterans. Thank you FERC for your support in getting ham radio to the Veterans.

Win Guin's WCARS VEC Team administered the FCC exams on the last day of the class. Several of the students were aided by VEs since they could not write. Rick Tillman WA4NVM, Tom Fox, Russ Myers, and Bill Stevens were the VEs. As always, Win gets the new Tech licenses back from the FCC in a hurry. For this class, it was the same day. Thanks Win for your support.

**TECHNICIAN CLASS 5-07
15 Techs/ 5 Generals
at Germantown Baptist Church**

From the 19 students, 15 have received their Technician license and 5 upgraded to General. Eight (8) year old Griffin Butler is now KE5QEK.

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

HAM LICENSE TRAINING for 2007 (cont/)

**GENERAL CLASS 4-07
1 Tech/ 10 Generals
at Health Department East Training Room**

From the original 14 students, 7 upgraded to General. One outside person passed Tech and General at the exam session. Two others upgraded at the next Delta Club test session.

**TECHNICIAN CLASS 3-07
16 Techs/ 1 General
at Baptist Hospital Collierville**

From the 17 students, 15 obtained Tech and one passed Tech and General. Fourteen students were from the Baptist Hospital system. Seven of those were in Memphis; one from Columbus, MS; two from Covington, TN; one from Huntingdon, TN and three from Union City, TN.

**TECHNICIAN CLASS 2-07
7 Techs
at Germantown Police Training Room**

From the 13 students finishing the class, 7 obtained their Tech license.

**TECHNICIAN CLASS 1-07
19 Techs
at Germantown Police Training Room**

From the 40 students who started, 24 students were in the last class. Of those, 19 obtained their Tech license.

CONGRATULATIONS to JACOB BURNUM, KD5NUH

By Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Director of Training

Jacob, son of Ken Burnum KD5LHG, upgraded to General on Saturday, November 23rd while he was home for Thanksgiving from the US Air Force Academy. The upgrade came as a result of a challenge his basic electrical engineering professor extended after a lab project.

Jacob used Morse code to "create a tune the instructor would recognize" in the electrical engineering lab project designed to show that the students could solder. Jacob soldered a circuit from a hand full of components he had been given. The other cadets demonstrated their devices with different song tunes played. Jacob generated CQ KB8JJD de KD5NUH. When he played his tune, the instructor asked Jacob to do it again. The instructor copied the code and congratulated Jacob on his creative response to the project. The instructor asked Jacob what ticket he held. After saying he was a Tech, Jacob received a challenge: Upgrade to General. Jacob returned to the Academy with a CSCE in hand.

AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE

Many times we want to take our radio equipment into the field for field day or emergency use. We also want to make sure that our equipment is protected during transport and use in these conditions. I have seen everything from cardboard boxes to suitcases used for this purpose. A company has come up with a protective cover for you amateur equipment. The company called tac-comm has developed an adjustable aluminum bracket that your radio mounts in to offer portability and protection. The aluminum is about .090 inch thick which makes it very rugged and has a carrying handle built on it. It also has sides that are adjustable in height to allow it to fit different size radios and other equipment. The cover also has front tilt out legs to raise the front of the radio a couple of inches to make it easier to see and use. They also put slots all along the bottom of the unit to allow you to mount your radio without having to drill holes. The covers have rubber feet to set on a table but also will stack on top of one another to allow radio stacking to take up less space. Their website shows lots of pictures of different radios , batteries, and other equipment that can be put in the enclosures. If your looking for a way to protect your equipment when going to the field check out this cover. Their website is www.tac-comm.com

James Butler
KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

When we go to the field we need to carry tools to use for repairs in case they are needed. One tool we have learned to love over the years is the cordless drill / screwdrivers. These have rechargeable batteries to run them. Although they work well after a few years when the batteries will not hold a full charge or just go bad we have to decide whether to pay \$40.00 to \$60.00 for a new battery or just throw the drill away and buy a new drill. I have seen many good drills thrown away because the battery pack shorted out or just would not last a long time like it did when it was new. This month's project is the FIELD DRILL made from an older cordless drill. I disassembled the bad 14.4 volt battery pack and by drilling out the pack and removing the old batteries inside I was able to hook up an old extension cord. One end was soldered to the connections on the old pack that hooked up to the drill and the other end made with some jumpers to hook up to a 12 volt car battery or other 12 power connection in the field. Now the drill can be hooked up and used like a screwdriver in the field or used to drill holes. I can still use my good battery I recharge just by swapping my good rechargeable battery pack. This makes good use of cordless drills that the packs go bad on and allows them to keep on being used instead of being thrown away.

James Butler
KB4LJV



[How to Convert a Computer ATX Power Supply to a Lab Power Supply](#)

First I would like to say thanks to James for all his hard work writing the articles for the Sparks and to say I am NOT trying to take over his position. I just found this project on the web and thought I would share it with the readers. All you have to do is click on the link above an it will take you to the web site.

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)



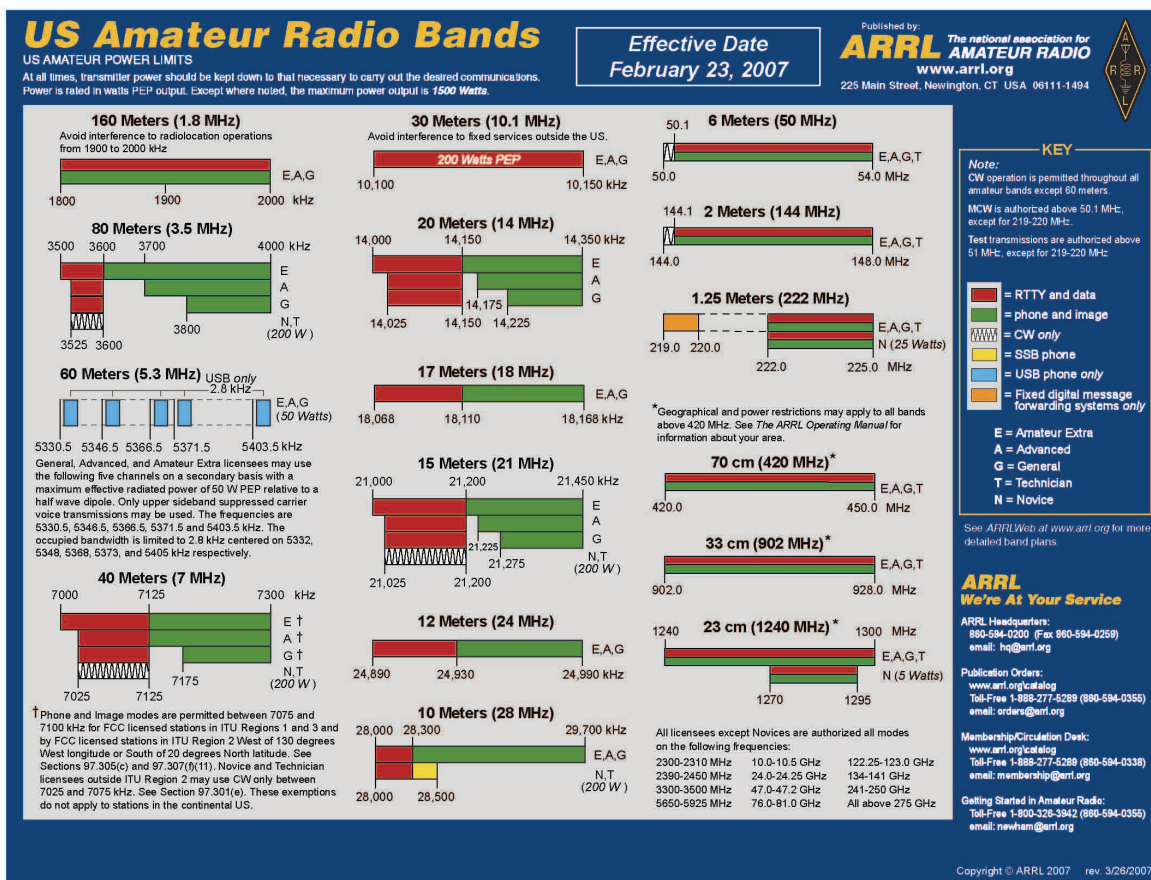
Club Membership is Due

If you haven't renewed your membership for the 2008 year please do so at the next meeting. Your donations and membership dues are what allows the club to run. The New 2008 membership form can be downloaded from the Delta Club website deltaclub.org

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>

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

December 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Mike KD4IHT	5 Ronnie WA4RW	6 MARA Club Meeting (1st Thursday) Jim KI4I	7	8
9 J.T. KI4AJG Kathleen KC4HZU Mary NV4Z	10	11 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM (2nd Tuesday)	12 Frederick AB4HS	13	14 John K3LK Hooper KI4TPL	15
16	17 Johathan	18 James N5WFF	19	20	21	22
23 Richard NF5B	24 Marion N4VTB	25 Shelby Cty., ARES Meeting 6:45 PM (4th Tuesday)	26 Darrell KK4D Brenda Kay KE4MKK	27	28 Jeffrey KI4OTE	29
30 Bob KF4NDH	31 Don KA4BMI					

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	
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

Winterfest 2008
Collinsville, IL
Jan 26, 2008

Mississippi State Convention
Jackson, MS
Feb 1-2, 2008

Arkansas Section Convention
Hoxie, AR
Feb 16, 2008

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

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)

Beginning Balance as of November 1, 1007	\$5,639.81
Expenses	
BellSouth	\$61.64
U of Mem	22.94
Plaques for Nov Meeting	83.03
Prizes for Nov Meeting	1,055.00
Total Expenses	\$1,222.61
SubTotal	\$4,417.20
Income	
Dues	\$35.00
Fund Raiser	835.00
Total Income	\$870.00
Ending Balance	\$5,287.20
Delta Amateur Radio Club November 2007 Treasurers Report	