

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

P. O. BOX 342768 MEMPHIS, TN 38184-2768 / VOL. 1 / JANUARY 2008



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

W4BS
REPEATER
SYSTEM
146.82, 147.36,
224.42, & 443.2

January 2008 CLUB MEETING

DATE: January 8, 2008

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

TIME: 7:00 PM

PROGRAM: "Gone Fishing", Putting a Wire in the Air, Jim Cissell

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...

Tom Fox, KA4LQW, VEC
Phone: 901-357-1663
E-mail: ka4lqw@arrl.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

Wow, is it 2008 already? I got the reminder from Roger about his needing my input and with all that has been going on this holiday season I lost track of time. I hope that your holidays were as enjoyable as mine. At this time many people make resolutions to improve themselves. I would like for everyone, members and non-members, to let any of the board members or me know how things can be improved, what we have done well, and where we may improve. This is important to the future of the club and the hobby. I have gotten some input and we will be discussing these items at future board meetings to see how we can adjust things to work better. There are a couple of ways that you can let us know your comments and suggestions. You can email one of us or tell one of us at a meeting. This is your club and we want it to be one that serves the needs of everyone.

There is an idea that has been presented regarding Field Day. I would like for the club to consider the idea and let me know what you think. Speaking of Field Day, we have several things that over the next year will be looming large for us. There are several opportunities to perform community service, contests, and operating events. Please think about marking your calendars to help out with these and participate. These can be opportunities to improve your operating skills and get to know many of the people who might be just call signs and faces at the club meetings.

73,
Hugh

VE Corner:

Well, 11 1/2 years have passed since I was first asked if I would take the VE position for Delta Club. Many officers of the club have come, and gone in that time. Many, many people have tested under this leadership. I have lost count, but, at the last meeting I had all of the CSCE's that have been issued - too many to put in just one book.

I have many very faithful VE volunteers that have come to my rescue. When I first took this position I used to have to call all of the VE's one by one and hope that I would have 2 more persons to help with the testing session. No more, however, there has been a core group that are very, very loyal to the cause of perpetuating the hobby of Ham Radio. What a great group!! You are all to be commended with your loyalty.

This being said it is time for me to step down as the VE Co-ordinator for the Delta Club. Andrew will be a senior this next year and that, as many of you have experienced, means a lot of looking at schools for his future. I do not want to have to say that we cannot visit because of a prior commitment. I have done this in the past for spring break, etc. I cannot do this next year.

And so I am handing the responsibility over to Tom Fox, KA4LWQ. Please support him as you have supported me. I will be helping with the January session to be sure that he is well on his feet, though I have no doubt that he will be.

Again, THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT in these 11 1/2 years.

73,
Joan KN4PM

VE CORNER II:

The ARRL VE page lists that I have participated in about 171 VE testing session. Of that 171 about 154 have been as the VE Liaison for Delta Club. It takes a lot of people to care for about 1292 people taking about 1450 elements. These numbers do not reflect the numbers of people that just had "paper upgrade" due to changes in the requirements for license. The following people have helped at one or many of these sessions. Many of you are VERY VERY FAITHFUL and for that I am forever grateful. Some of you were just passing through and were able to sit in and help with a session or two. One person came every summer for 3 years while visiting family to give his assistance with the testing session. Some of you have moved, some are unable to attend meetings because of location move and work constrain ts. But to all of you I say THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart. Without your help I could not have had the success with this team that we have seen in the last 10 3/4 years. I started working for you in May of 1997 and so now I am retiring as your primary VE.

Welcome Tom Fox KA4LWQ as the VE Liaison for Delta Club.

73,

Joan KN4PM

N4QW	BARRY	ATKINS
KF4GNC	BEN	BARTH
KN4GNB	ELOISE	BARTH
KE4NTI	RICHARD	BONDS
K4USN	JAMES	BROWN
WA4KC	PHILLIP	BRUCE
AC5XR	BOBBY	CHOAT
KI4I	JIM	CISSELL
AA5GX	ARLENE	CLINE
WM5Q (sk)	PAUL	CLINE
K3ORS	ED	COOKENHAM
KJ4PO	DON	COOK
KC4SXT	WILLIAM	COVINGTON
W4FP	GEORGE	CRONE
AA5N	DOM	DESIDERIO
KA4LWQ	TOM	FOX
A14BN	RICHARD	GARRETT
N4SG	STEVE	GREER
NS4B	CLIFTON	GURLEN
WA4MJM	BILL	HANCOCK
AE4YY	NATHAN	JENKINS
WD4Q	HENRY	LEGGETTE
WA4OVO	JOE	LOWENTHAL
KA4SJM	FRANK	MCDOWELL
KS2X	FRED	MILLER
AG4KM	JAMES	MONTGOMERY
AB4NH	TIM	MORROW
WD4T	JIM	NORTON
KU4AS	CHARLES	PACE
N4ZCO	JIMMY	PIERCE
K4TTA	TOM	RICHARDSON
N5EDE	WALTER	RITTER
KI4DR	DAVID	ROYER
KA4BLL	NED	SAVAGE
N5MIG	JOE	ST.COLUMBIA
KN4PM	JOAN	THORNE
KU4AW	BEN	TROUGHTON
N2WMD	JOHN	VANZANDT
N4TV	TOM	VICKERS
N4SSF	BOYD	WEBB
WA4ZYN	FRANCIS	WHITE
AA7HX	HENRY	WILLIS
K4ZFV	TOM	WILSON
N4ARH	RAY	WILSON
WV5J	JOHN	WOOD
KC7ND	WARREN	ZIMMER

DARC Board Minutes of December 4, 2007

KK4D-Darrell called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. WB4SLI-Hugh, K4POM-Lisa, N2LAZ-Dean, WA4OVO-Joe, KD4NOQ- David, KI4QTA-Bill, and KI4AJH-Roger attended.

Hugh read the treasurer's report. Lisa read the minutes. They were both accepted as read.

Darrell advised the board that KN4PM-Joan wanted to retire as VE Testing Director. He asked the board for suggestions of qualified persons to take her place.

The board also discussed needing to contact the repeater trustees to see if they are still willing to serve.

David advised the group of the upcoming programs

Joe advised the group of his upcoming classes to start on January 19 and will run for 5 Saturday's. They will be held at the Health Dept. on Mullins Station Rd.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
K4POM-Lisa Sheffield

DARC General Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2007

KK4D-Darrell called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. With the introductions of the 32 members and guests present.

Darrell then requested that the secretary's minutes be accepted as printed in SPARKS. KC4SXT-Bill motioned to accept and KB4SQV-Bill Hudock seconded the motion.

Darrell read the treasurer's report as printed in SPARKS. KC4SXT-Bill motioned to accept and KB4SQV-Bill seconded.

Darrell then advised the group that KN4PM-Joan would be retiring as the VE Training Director. KA4LWQ-Tom Fox has agreed to work with Joan and take this position over for her.

Darrell advised the group of the change in programs being used to store the club data base. We have changed from My Mail List to Microsoft Access in order for members to have easier access to information they may need via computer.

Darrell advised the group of the upcoming classes WA4OVO-Joe will be teaching starting in January. He showed the group the acrylic brick received from ARRL for our donation to the Diamond Terrace program. N2LAZ-Dean won the door prize and a wonderful meal and fellowship followed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
K4POM-Lisa Sheffield
DARC Secretary

HAM LICENSE TRAINING for 2008

By Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Director of Training

We have 68 new hams! Also 18 new Generals.

Thanks to everyone who made 2007 such a successful year for Amateur Radio in the Memphis area. We must give credit to the students, instructors, Elmers, ARRL, Joan Thorne's Delta Club ARRL VE teams, and Win Guin's WCARS VE teams. We must also thank the organizations who have provided training and testing facilities during the year - Ellendale Church of Christ, the Germantown Police Department, Baptist Hospital Collierville, Memphis-Shelby County Health Department Emergency Services Department, Germantown Baptist Church, and the VA Medical Center.

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 QRZ home 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.

According To Club Information You May Need To Update Your Ticket

Last Name	First Name	License Expires	Call Sign
Molder	Michael	2007/12/04	WB4ZAP
Stauffer	Frederick	2007/12/19	AB4HS
Shields	Darren	2008/01/02	KB9RXG
Smith	Richard	2008/01/22	KU4NZ
West	Michael	2008/01/23	KD5DCJ
Miller	Richard	2008/01/24	W0SZP

Delta Club 146.82 Net Preamble

GOOD EVENING: This is _____ calling this session of the DELTA CLUB'S TRAFFIC AND INFORMATION NET. This net is affiliated with the ARRL and the NTS and is organized to pass traffic in and out of the mid - south area, in addition to providing information about club events and amateur related topics. This net meets nightly at 8:00 p.m. CST except the second Tuesday of the month on the 146.82 W4BS repeater and requires a pl. tone of 107.2 Hz. All stations will refrain from transmitting without being acknowledged by net control. All licensed amateurs are encouraged to participate. Before we begin is there any station with emergency or priority traffic? (Take immediately)

During this net should any station have emergency or priority traffic please use a double break followed by your call sign.

Is there a NTS Liaison station on frequency?

Is there any station wishing to list formal written traffic?

Does any station have announcements for the net?

Does any station have any questions or need any fills?

We will now take checkins. Are there any stations that are mobile, on battery power, or needing to leave early, if so please come now phonetically with your suffix only and please remember to spread them out?

We will now take checkins phonetically by suffix only if your suffix begins ALPHA through HOTEL please come now and remember to spread them out.

We now will take checkins phonetically by suffix only if your suffix begins INDIA through KEE-BECK please come now and remember to spread them out?

We will now take checkins phonetically by suffix only if your suffix begins ROMEO through ZULU please come now and remember to spread them out.

The DELTA CLUB meets the second Tuesday of each month at the ELLENDALE CHURCH OF CHRIST 7365 HWY 70 in Bartlett at 7:00 P.M. V. E. Registration begins at 5:30 with testing starting promptly at 6:00. A copy of your license and CSCE is required. For V. E. Information contact Tom, KA4LWQ at 357-1663. For membership information contact Lisa K4POM at 872-3367.

We will now take late checkins from anywhere in the alphabet ALPHA through ZULU please come now and spread them out by waiting for the courtesy tone.

Is there anything that this station or the net can do for anyone before we close?

This is _____ now closing this session of the DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB'S Traffic and information net and would like to thank all _____ stations for checking in tonight. And would like to ask that everyone to check in tomorrow night at the same time. GOODNIGHT AND 73 THE NET IS NOW CLOSED. _____ CLEAR

AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE

Most of the equipment we run in amateur radio operates on 12 VDC. This means we need to buy a power supply to run our equipment. The cost of power supplies have come down as designs have improved. The newest type of power supply is the switching supply which does away with the big and heavy transformer used in the older linear designs. Imported power supplies have made them even cheaper. R&L Electronics carries a nice line of switching 12 VDC power supplies at good prices. The brand they sell is called Jetstream. They have a 14 AMP model for \$59.95 and a 35 AMP model at \$129.00 . For a switching power supply these are great prices but they have another really nice feature that sets them apart from others. They offer built in battery backup switching and automatic battery charging circuitry in the power supply. That's right just hookup a 12 volt battery and when the power goes out your equipment will keep on running off of the battery. When you have power the battery charger makes sure the battery stays fully charged automatically and is ready for use when needed. Their web address to see all their power supplies is <http://www.randl.com/shop/index.shtml>

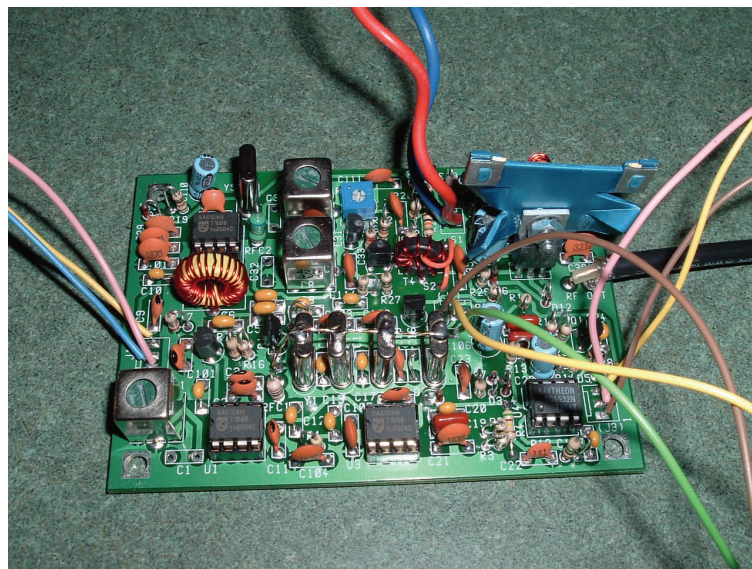
James Butler
KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Building up our on radios can be fun and save money at the same time. The cheapest CW rig I like is the SWL + series. These are CW only QRP rigs that tune about 50 KHZ of the band. You can buy kits for the 80, 40 , 30 , or 20 meter bands. The kit gives you all the instructions , PC board, and all board mounted parts. You supply the case , pots, knobs and connectors to finish the project. I have built up several or Dave Benson's SWL units and have been happy with all of them. This version I just finished is the 30 meter version. The unit puts out about 2.5 watts of power. All of the units I have built worked first time and were easy to tune up and align. Dave offers the PDF file of the manuals on his web site for free download if you want to see how to build the units. The PC board is small at 3 by 4 inches. No surface mount parts are used which makes building up the unit easier. You can see from the picture there are a few toroid coils that have to be hand wound but these are not hard to do. The instruction manual is very good. The picture show the completed unit with connectors for key, headphones, power, tuning control, and gain control ready to be put in a case. This QRP radio also has very low power consumption making it perfect for portable battery and solar operation. In the receive mode I checked the current at only 20 milliamps. The current at transmit is about 400 milliamps. You can drop the transmit power down for QRPP (less than 1 watt) with the variable resistor on the board. This will decrease transmit current for battery applications where you want longer operating times. A nice radio for just \$55.00 including shipping. To get more information on the SWL series radios check out the Small Wonder Labs website it is <http://www.smallwonderlabs.com>

There is also a website devoted to how this radio works with tons of good information about it. It is an Elmer 101 site. The web address is <http://engphys.mcmaster.ca/~elmer101/>

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)

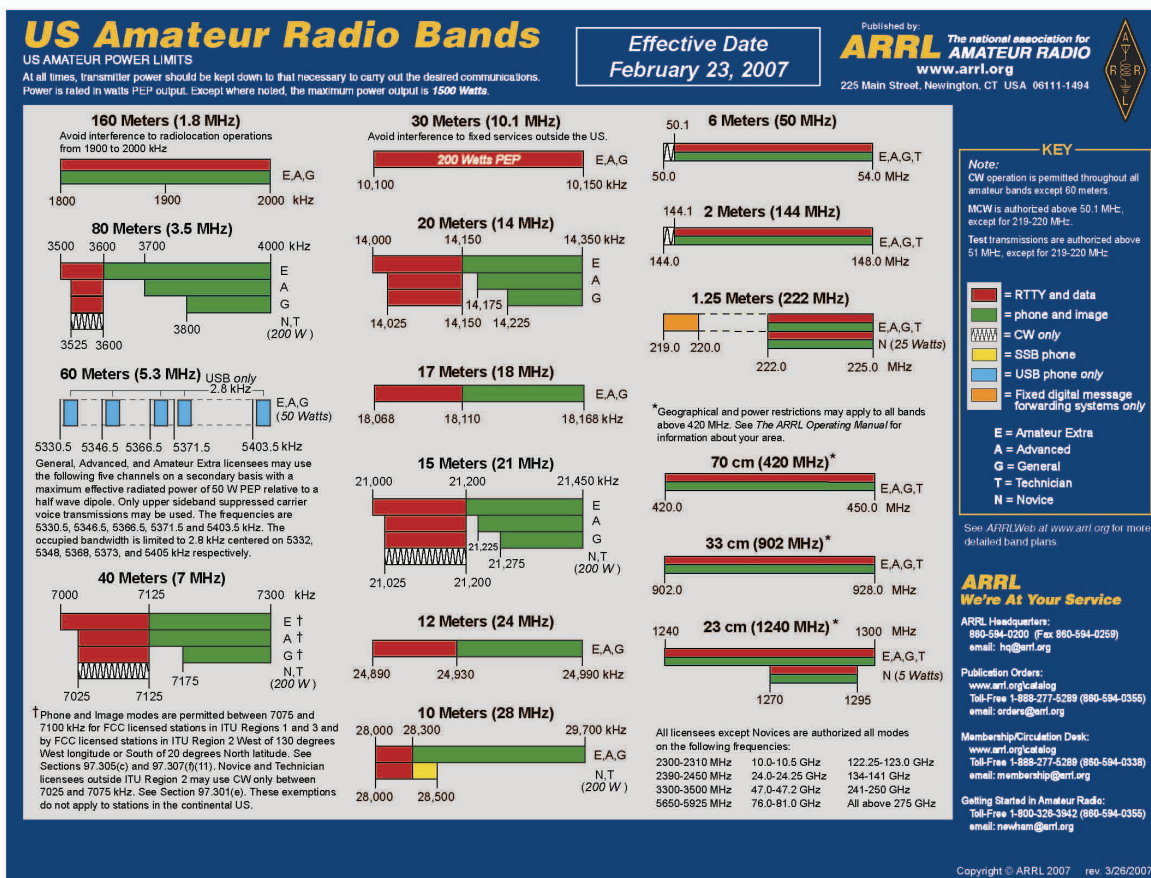
W4GMM (Extra) Ham Hilliard 372-2337
hamh@bellsouth.net (All categories)



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>

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

January 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Tony N4LKK	2	3 MARA Club Meeting (1st Thursday) Jim WD8JAO	4	5 David KI4TOP
6	7	8 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM (2nd Tuesday)	9 Hugh WB4SLI	10 Russell K5GMC	11	12 Kenneth KD5LHG
13 Uis K4BMF Darrell K14DJB	14 Stephen KI4OTB	15 Katheryn	16	17 John KE4OTI	18	19
20 Evins WB4SLJ	21	22 Shelby Cty., ARES Meeting 6:45 PM (4th Tuesday) Wayne KI4TLB Tom N4TV	23	24	25	26
27 Gina	28	29	30	31 Robert		

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.

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

Beginning Balance	as of	December 1, 2007	\$5,287.20
Expenses			
Bell South	146.82 phone		\$61.18
University of Memphis	443.2 phone		\$22.94
Memphis Amateur Elec.	Nov. meeting		
Total Expenses			\$84.12
SubTotal			\$5,203.08
Income			
Dues			\$275.00
Total Income			\$275.00
Ending Balance	as of	December 31, 2007	\$5,478.08

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:

Delta Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 342768
Memphis, TN 38184-2768

2007 Board of Directors

President

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

-

Vice President

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

-

Secretary

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

-

Treasurer

Bill Stevens, KI4TQA
901-487-6413 KI4TQA@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 Hospitality

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

-

Repeater Trustee

Suresh Kagoo, N9GSA
901-752-5900 (sureshkagoo@comcast.net)