

Delta Amateur Radio Club

SPARKS

P.O. BOX 342768 MEMPHIS, TN 38134-2768 – Vol. 3 March 2010



W4BS REPEATER SYSTEM

146.820-(107.2) 147.360+(107.2)

224.420- 443.200+(107.2)

MARCH 2010 CLUB MEETING

DATE: March 9th, 2010

PLACE: Ellendale Church of Christ
7365 HWY 70, Bartlett TN

Program: MFJ AMPLIFIER TOUR

VE TESTING: VE registration begins at 5:30pm with testing starting promptly at 6pm. A copy of your license and CSCE is required. For V. E. Information contact Tom Fox, KA4LWQ at 357-1663.

The President's Corner

What an amazing hobby! I've been in many conversations regarding new hams and how they get involved in the hobby and gather knowledge. Frankly, I'm amazed at the wide the range of opportunity available in Amateur Radio. Recently, in the same weekend, I participated in a RTTY contest, a 160M Phone contest, a few state oriented QSO parties, made a few satellite contacts - including getting to hear how well David (KD4NOQ) sounds as he blasted Amanda's HT. I don't know of another hobby that has so much variety. Today in HAM radio, we can use technologies from CW to computerized digital messaging and use equipment that is 60+ years old or very modern software defined radio that is located hundreds or even thousands of miles away. I really think everyone has plenty to learn and explore in our hobby – so the next time you think HAM radio is boring or you have done everything, start exploring. I bet all of us can find something that we previously didn't think was possible, or another and potentially better way to do the same thing. Rule of thumb, everyone can keep learning. Just think what it is going to be like in 20 more years.

73

Alan (KJ4BIX)

DELTA CLUB MEETING MINUTES FOR February 9, 2010

Alan – KJ4BIX called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and asked for introductions of the attending 45 members and guest. He then asks if there was any old or new business. An open discussion of the 146.820 repeater was brought up. Lance – N4GMT, Roger – KI4AJH and Tony – WA4KHN had been involved in correcting the immediate issues and made suggestions regarding future repairs, maintenance and replacement options.

Steve – KI4YOP was asked for minutes to be read of the last meeting. Ham – W4GMM made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in Sparks. The motion was seconded by Jeff – AJ4GY and accepted by the attending membership.

Rick – WA4NVM gave the club treasurers report. Bill – KC4SXT made a motion to accept and was seconded by Steve – KI4YOP. Club attendance accepted.

Tom – KA4LWQ Gave the VE Testing report.

Joe – WA4OVO gave his training report which was accepted by the Club attendance.

After a short break, David – KD4NOQ provided the scheduled program, a video interview with Martin F. Jue, President and founder of MFJ Enterprises.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm

Respectfully Submitted By:
Steve Smith – KI4YOP

DELTA CLUB BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR February 2, 2010

Attendee's

Alan – KI4BIX
Rosalinda – KI4ZKW
Steve – KI4YOP
Rick – WA4NVM
Joe – WA4OVO
Wayne – KI4TLB
David – KD4NOQ
Jeff – AJ4GY
Darrell – KK4D

Alan – KI4BIX called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and opened by asking if there was any old or new business. A discussion regarding the 146.820 repeater was started by Darrell – KK4D. Darrell said that he and others had been working to determine the cause of the issues and that additional testing was scheduled to be performed prior to a suggested resolution.

Rosalinda – KI4ZKW presented some additional information regarding the use of Freeman Park in Bartlett for the 2010 Field Day.

Rick – WA4NVM gave the treasurers report which was accepted by the board.

David – KD4NOQ announced that the program for the upcoming DELTA Club meeting would be a video interview with Martin F. Jue, President and founder of MFJ Enterprises.

Joe – WA4OVO gave the Training report which was accepted by the board.

Jeff – AJ4GY presented a draft copy of “Sparks” news letter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM

Respectfully submitted by Steve – KI4YOP

Treasury Report

Beginning Balance	as of February 1, 2010	\$12,456.86
--------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------

Expenses		
AT&T	(phone line)	\$62.00
University of Memphis	(phone line)	\$22.94
TN Sec. of State	Annual Report	\$40.00

Total Expense	\$124.94
----------------------	-----------------

SubTotal **\$12,331.92**

Income		
Membership Dues		\$340.00

Total Income	\$340.00
---------------------	-----------------

Ending Balance	as of February 28, 2010	\$12,671.92
-----------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------

Submitted by Rick Tillman WA4NVM

Tennessee Nets

Net Name	Freq. MHz	Local Time	Day
Tennessee CW Net	3.563	7:00p	Daily
Tennessee Slow CW Net	3.682	7:30p	T-Su
Tennessee Early Morn Phone Net	3.980	5:40a	M-F
Tennessee Morning Phone Net	3.980	6:45a	M-F
Tennessee Evening Phone Net	3.980	6:30p	T-Su
CUSEC (Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)	3.810	As needed	
CUSEC (Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)	7.180	As needed	

Memphis Area Nets

Mid-South Barefooted Bullfrog net	146.535	7:30p	Daily
Delta Club Traffic and Information Net	146.820-(107.2)	8:00p	Daily
Secret Service Net	224.780-	8:30p	M
Elmer Net	147.030+(107.2)	9:00p	M
The Short Winded Net	146.850-	8:30p	Tu
MedMERS Net	146.730-(107.2)	12:00p	W
Six Meter Tech Net	53.01-	8:30p	W
YTBN 440 Net	443.200+(107.2)	7:00p	Th
Two meter single Sideband Net	144.260 USB	8:30p	Th
ARES Training Net	146.880-(107.2)	9:00p	2 nd & 4 th Th

The Delta Amateur Radio Club sends congratulations to the following who have received their new license call sign.

Mark Cole	KF5EXT	Technician
David Boston	KF5EXU	Technician
Amy Leroux	KF5EXV	Technician
Debra Laudermilk	KJ4SAV	Technician
Cleo Peete	KJ4SAW	Technician
Gerald Adcock	KJ4SAX	Technician
Mac Mckee	KJ4SAY	Technician
Carl Gentry	KJ4SAZ	Technician
Tracy Farrah	KJ4SBA	Technician
George Czech	KJ4SBB	Technician
Ray Phetteplace	KJ4SBC	General
Clark, Dennis M.	KJ4RQP	General
Tobin, Patrick A.	KJ4SEI	Technician & General
Nason, Jonathan L.	KJ4SEJ	Technician
Tomasello, Joseph MN.	KJ4RCR	General
Smith, Danny A	KJ4SEK	Technician

I would like to invite you to come to our next meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of March so that we can congratulate you personally.

Tom Fox KA4LWQ ARRL VE Liaison

Disaster Preparedness Kits



After a natural disaster days may go by that you have no ready access to food or water. Basic services like electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones may be cut off for weeks. It is important to be prepared at your home or business with the necessary supplies and first aid kit. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has a great website (<http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/>) with helpful ideas on putting your own supply kit together.

Submitted by Rosalinda Melena, KI4ZKW

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Many times we want to work on our own equipment and build up homebrew projects. A workbench is a nice addition if you have room. It keeps you from working on the kitchen table like I used to do. My workbench has a variable voltage transformer for slowly bringing up power on older tube rigs. I have a 0 to 30 volt DC power supply to use on radios and projects I build. Over the years I have bought small parts cabinets to put surplus parts in. By labeling the drawers I can hopefully find a part when I need it. I also keep a soldering iron both small and large along with plenty of solder on the bench. A good quality digital Volt Ohm Meter also comes in handy when troubleshooting equipment. Make sure you have a bright lamp at the bench. This helps out when trying to identify small electronic parts.



James Butler
KB4LJV

PACKET UPDATE

Many times Amateurs like to build up their own QRP circuits. We build our own small QRP transmitters, Receivers, and accessories to use. Morse code transmitters and receivers are the easiest to build. On the internet there are a lot of sites that have useful information and circuits for amateurs. One site is QSL.net which has lot of good information. They have several transmitters for 80,40,20,15, and 10 meter from 400 milliwatts to 7 watts out. They also have diagrams for simple sensitive receivers you can build. On the accessories page they have a 2 amp 12 volt DC power supply you can build. They even have an antenna section for simple easy to build HF and VHF antennas. They include a HF antenna build from 300 ohm twin lead antenna line. They also have links to other QRP homebrew sites on the internet. If you want to learn about homebrew QRP check out this site. The internet address is <http://www.qsl.net/qrp/>

James Butler
KB4LJV

2010 Public Service Events

If you have any events you would like to add, please e-mail them to aj4gy@arrl.net

I am looking for volunteers to help with the March for Babies Walk on April 24, 2010. Sign up at the Delta Club meeting or e-mail me at KF4NDH@bellsouth.net.

Bob Holdford kf4ndh

Date	Event	Coordinator
April 24 th	March for Babies AKA March of Dimes Walk	Bob KF4NDH
May 23 rd	Memphis in May Triathlon	Ned KA4BLL
September 11th & 12 th	MS 150 Bike Ride	Darrell KK4D
October 2nd (1st Saturday)	Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk	Kathleen KC0HZU
December 4th	St. Jude Marathon	Roger KI4AJH
TBA	Bartlett Christmas Parade	Dennis KJ4BDU
TBA	Boy Scout Merit Badge	Hugh WB4SLI

HAM LICENSE TRAINING for 2010
By Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Director of Training

There is no charge for classes, but the student is responsible for the purchase of the license manual and the \$15 ARRL FCC examination fee.

SCHEDULED CLASSES

Technician Class 4-10 – March 20-21, 2010

Tech Class 4-10 will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 20-21 from 8am to 5pm at the Shelby County Sheriff's Training Center in cooperation with Delta Company, 51st Forward Support Battalion of the Tennessee State Guard. Danny Banks KJ4FXZ arranged the class to give the non-paid volunteer members of the Tennessee Guard another communications tool.

The class is open to anyone who desires to earn their Technician license. (On February 27th, there were only 7 seats available.) Advanced registration is required with email to Joe Lowenthal at wa4ovo@yahoo.com, or call 901-683-2701 with name, email address, and contact phone number, preferably a cell phone number. See Future Classes below for more information.

CLASSES IN PROGRESS

Technician Class 3-10 – February 15 – March 15, 2010

Twenty-one students attended the first session for Technician Class 3-10 that is being held on 5 Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm at the Memphis-Shelby County Health Department East Campus.



Photo: Tech Class 3-10 with Elmers Andrew Dandridge KC0BDX, Rick Tillman WA4NVM, Ray Wilson N4ARH pictured in the background.

Congratulations to Scott Chapman KJ4SJR and Calvin Oliphant KJ4SJS for testing on Saturday February 22nd and receiving their Technician license. Congratulations again to Calvin who earned his General upgrade at the Extra Class VE testing session on February 27th.

FUTURE CLASSES

TECHNICIAN CLASS

If you are interested in the first amateur license class, Technician, please let us know of by sending an email to wa4ovo@yahoo.com with subject line "Technician Class" and give name, email address, and a contact phone number (preferably a cell number). Or you can go to the Delta Club webpage www.deltaclub.org click on Training Classes; then click on Technician Class to send an email, or call at 901-683-2701. We usually publish class schedules a month or two in advance. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set.

There is no charge for the class, but registration is required. Advanced study of *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual* is strongly suggested as well as study of the 392 question and answer Technical Class License question pool. Barnes & Noble Booksellers sells the manual. You can purchase it online from www.arrl.org/catalog or on Amazon.com. The list price is \$24.95.

Please note that a new Technician License question pool has been submitted by the NCVEC (<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=356>) for review before publication. Testing for the new question pool starts July 1, 2010.

Practice tests are highly recommended. The www.qrz.com website is free. To access the sample tests, click on Main Menu to the right of the Search button on the QRZ Home Page. Scroll down and click on Practice Amateur Radio Exams. Click on Start Test to enter QRZ Practice Test Center. Click on Technician 35 Questions. Click on Wait For Correct. (This feature gives you the ability to answer again to get the correct answer if you miss the first time. On each answer it will either show Wrong Answer or Correct.) Click on Begin Test. Statistics are given at the top of the screen with the number of Completed questions, the Accuracy percentage, and the Overall percentage of questions completed on the test. Be sure to study multiple QRZ tests. The first test is only the first question from each of the 35 subgroups of the question pool. The second test is only the second question from each of the 35 subgroups, and so on. It is recommended to take at least 15 of the sample tests to be able to see all 392-question pool questions.

Another very good site is www.hamtestonline.com. It costs \$74.95, but it is good for 2 years for the Technician, General and Extra Class tests. There are a number of other free sample-test sites. Just Google *ham radio practice exams*.

The 35-question FCC exam will be given at the end of class by a Volunteer Examiner (VE) team. There is a \$15.00 ARRL VEC FCC exam fee.

GENERAL CLASS

If you are interested in a General License Class, please let us know by sending an email to wa4ovo@yahoo.com with subject line "General Class." Or you can go to the Delta Club web page www.deltaclub.org; click on Training Classes; then click on General Class to send me an email with name, email address and contact phone, preferably cell number, or call at 901-683-2701. The textbook is *The ARRL General Class License Manual*. Lately, we have been running a combined Technician-General class. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set.

BASIC ELECTRONICS CLASS

The Basic Electronics Class is designed to bridge the electronics-learning gap between the General and the Extra Class licenses. The class textbook is ARRL's *Understanding Basic Electronics*. The suggested calculator is the Casio fx-260 solar calculator, which can be purchased at Walmart for under \$10. There is no exam for this class. If you are interested in the Basic Electronics Class, please let us know by sending an email with name, email address and contact phone, preferably cell number to wa4ovo@yahoo.com with subject line "Basic Electronics Class" or call at 901-683-2701. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set.

EXTRA CLASS

If you are interested in an Extra Class, please pre-register by going to the Delta Club web page www.deltaclub.org; click on Training Classes; then click on Extra Class to send an email with name, email address and contact phone, preferably cell number 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. Classes have been held for 6 or 7 weeks in January and February.

COMPLETED CLASSES IN 2010

Extra Class 1-10 – January 16 – February 27, 2010

Five students completed the 6 weeks for Extra Class 1-10 on Saturday mornings from 9am-1pm at the Memphis-Shelby County Health Department East Campus. The instructors were Tom Fox KA4LWQ, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Dean Honadle N2LAZ, and Pat Lane W4OQG. The text used was *The ARRL Extra Class License Manual*.



Photo: Pat Lane W4OQG (lower right) giving the Antenna and Feedline presentation for the Extra Class 1-10. Students pictured from left to right: Mac Tidwell KJ4EHE, Jay Tomasello KJ4RCR, Danny Banks KJ4FXZ, Ken Lasester KI4AOH, and Jim Walton K4ZFQ.

Congratulations to Sonny Mounicou KF5CLC and Jim Walton K4ZZFQ for upgrading to Extra on February 27th. Due to conflicts the other three students said they would test at the Delta Club meeting test session. The ARRL VEs were Tom Fox KA4LWQ, Bill Stevens KI4TQA, Jeff Krause AJ4GY, and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO.

Technician Class 2-10 – February 3-4, 2010

Technician Class 2-10 was held for two days at Memphis International Airport for 11 students from the Transportation Security Agency (TSA). The students earned their Technician license so they can operate the TSA Memphis MARS agency station. An additional congratulation goes to Ray Phetteplace who also earned his General license. Thanks to Tom Fox KA4LWQ, Bill Stevens KI4TQA, Rick Tillman WA4NVM, and Joe Lowenthal for being the ARRL VE testing team.



Tech Class 2-10 Photo left to right: 1st row Tracy Farrah, Mac McKee, Ray Phetteplace, DARC Director of Training Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO; 2nd row-Carl Gentry, Amy Leroux; 3rd row-Mark Cole, Debra Laudermilk, 4th row-David Boston, Gerald Adcock, Cleo Peete; Not shown-George Czech.

COMPLETED CLASSES IN 2009

The Delta Amateur Radio Club had a wonderful year in 2009 with 83 students receiving licenses or upgrades in the five license classes held. Eight of the 46 Technicians were young hams who can keep our great hobby going for many years to come. One of those young hams also earned his General license. Thanks go to all of the volunteers that helped to make 2009 a great year. A special thanks goes to Bill Stevens KI4TQA, Rick Tillman WA4NVM, David Gilbert AJ4LV, Pat Lane W4OQG, Dean Honadle N2LAZ, Tom Fox KA4LWQ, Win Guin W2GLJ, and Dennis Foster KJ4BDU for their help with the classes.

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. CT except the second Tuesday of the month on the 146.82 W4BS repeater and may require 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?

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

Is there an NTS Liaison station on frequency?

Is there any station wishing to list formal written traffic?

Does any station have announcements for the net?

(If anyone asks to make an announcement after you finish handling the ones taken here ask them to hold until after the monolog. Eliminate the following sentence unless there are announcements.)

Does any station have any questions or need any fills?

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

We will now take check-ins phonetically by suffix only if your suffix begins INDIA through KEEBECK please come now and remember to spread them out.

We will now take check-ins 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 Steve KI4YOP at 493-8663. For training information contact Joe WA4OVO at 683-2701..

Are there any additional announcements?

We will now take late check-ins from anywhere in the alphabet ALPHA through ZULU please come now and spread them out.

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

February 2010 Important Dates

Delta Club Meeting – Tuesday, the 12th
MARA Club meeting – Thursday, the 21st
ARES Meeting – Tuesday, the 26th

Area Hamfests

3-6-2010 thru 3-7-2010
Alabama State Convention
(BirmingHAMFEST)
Birmingham Amateur Radio Club
<http://w4cue.com>
Birmingham, AL

3-20-2010
Middle Tennessee Amateur Radio
Society
<http://www.qsl.net/mtars>
Tullahoma, TN

3-20-2010
Ides of March Hamfest
Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.reelfootarc.com>
Union City, TN

4-10-2010
Memphis FreeFest
Mid-South Amateur Radio Association
<http://www.maraonline.org>
Bartlett, TN

Delta Amateur Radio Club's 2010 Board Members

President:

Alan Anderson – KJ4BIX
kj4bix@arrl.net

Vice President

Rosalinda Melena – KI4ZKW
ki4zkw@gmail.com

Secretary

Steve Smith – KI4YOP
ki4yop@gmail.com

Treasurer

Rick Tillman – WA4NVM
wa4nvm@comcast.net

Director of Training

Joe Lowenthal – WA4OVO
wa4ovo@yahoo.com

Director of Publications

Jeff Krause – AJ4GY
aj4gy@arrl.net

Director of Programs

David Campbell
kd4noq@arrl.net

Director of Meetings and Special Events

Wayne Monte

wjmonte@comcast.net

W4BS Repeater Trustee

Darrell Sheffield – KK4D
Darrell.Sheffield@memphistn.gov