

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

P.O. Box 750482 * Memphis, Tennessee 38175-0482 * Volume 17 * February 2011



**Welcome to the
Delta Amateur Radio Club!**

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

W4BS

REPEATER SYSTEM

146.820^{-107.2} 147.360^{-107.2}
224.420 443.200

NEXT CLUB MEETING

DATE: February 8, 2011 (2nd Tuesday of each month)
PLACE: Ellendale Church Of Christ, 7365 Highway 70
Memphis, TN (1 ½ miles north of Hwy. 64 – Stage Road)

TIME: 7:00 PM

PROGRAM: Antennas and Feed Lines
Presented by: Pat Lane – W4OQG

VE TESTING: Don't forget the monthly Volunteer Examiner testing session. Registration begins at 5:30 PM and testing begins promptly at 6:00 PM. Please remember to bring two (2) forms of identification and copies of any existing licenses or CSCE's you might have. Please be on time for registration, as you will not be allowed to enter the testing session after 6:00 PM. This is to allow our volunteer VE team to finish in time to attend the club meeting. For more VE testing information, please contact:

Bill Stevens, WC9S, VEC
Phone: 901-603-3448
Email: WC9S@att.net

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By: Rosalinda Melena KI4ZKW

With the recent bad weather in the Memphis area, I'm reminded of the timeless yet modern words: "*Keep Calm and Carry On.*"

The expression originated in England in 1939 as a morale boosting poster for the British public under the threat of an impending Nazi invasion. Produced by the British government, many posters were printed but never used. After the war they were forgotten until 2000, when a single poster was discovered at a second-hand book shop. Since that time the design has been re-issued as a popular decorator item.



Many days I need to hear that message over and over!

Take today for instance. As a "worker bee", I have a PowerPoint presentation to "juice" by adding three dimensional effects, color images, and catchy transitions. Several travel expense accounts are waiting to be processed. I have to arrange travel for a new executive and to top everything off...it begins to SNOW.

As I sip coffee, the "Keep Calm and Carry On" message calms and cheers me. It's a comforting touchstone, reminding me that I CAN perform with style and expertise during times of heavy workload or tight deadlines.

The message "Keep Calm and Carry On" translates into the tone of my emails and the smile in my voice as I answer yet another ringing phone call. It helps me remain positive and receptive when people walk into my workspace with new requests, too.

Bad weather and emergencies are nothing new to ham radio. In times of emergency remember "Keep Calm and Carry On". Whether reporting damage to a weather net or reporting an accident with injuries, stay calm. A calm, clear voice will make your report easier to understand by the NCS. Your actions during an emergency demonstrate your expertise as a radio operator.

So, no matter how your week and weather goes, remember this: *Keep Calm and Carry On!*

TREASURER'S REPORT Submitted By: Rick Tillman WA4NVM

Beginning Balance	as of January 1, 2011	\$12,528.73
Expenses		
AT&T	(phone line)	\$63.52
U of M	(phone line)	\$22.94
TN Sec of State	(annual report)	\$20.00
Jams Enterprises	(door prizes)	\$59.84
Food - Ham	(Dec. club meeting)	\$67.50
Roll of Tickets	(monthly meetings)	\$11.24
		Total Expense
		\$245.04
		SubTotal
		\$12,283.69
Income		
Membership Dues		\$810.00
Donation		\$20.00
		Total Income
		\$830.00
Ending Balance	as of January 31, 2011	\$13,113.69

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 2010 - Presented by: Bill Stevens WC9S, Secretary

The January 2011 board meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club was called to order by president Rosalinda Melena KI4ZKW.

- There was a general discussion about needed bylaw revisions, especially with the dropping of the phone line on the .82 repeater.
- Rosalinda reported that Delta Club had officially been invited by Tri State Repeater Association to participate in their field day in Collierville, TN. She will bring this up at the meeting.
- Rosalinda will also bring up the trailer and rotator repairs.
- The new/old member information needs to be updated.
- Rosalinda and Steve will donate the membership cards again this year.
- We need to work on ways to get new members, retain old members, and bring back former members.
- The sound equipment has been repaired by David Campbell KD4NOQ.

Meeting adjourned

GENERAL CLUB MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2010 - Presented by: Bill Stevens WC9S, Secretary

The January 2011 meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:05 by president Rosalinda Melena KI4ZKW.

- Rick Tillman WA4NVM presented the treasurer's report.
- Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO gave a report on training classes and the Boy Scout merit badge classes.
- Rosalinda reported that Delta Club had officially been invited by Tri State Repeater Association to participate in their field day in Collierville, TN. Motion by Ham Hilliard W4GMM, 2nd by Jeff Krause AJ4GY to accept the invitation.
- There was a discussion on what to do about the rotators for the antenna trailer. Motion by Larry McMillin WA4VXH, 2nd by Bill Covington KC4XST to send the Ham 4 rotor off for repair.
- The program, a space station tour, was presented by David Campbell KD4NOQ.
- There was a report on the new repeater which was put into service on 146.82. If there are no major problems, the phone line will be disconnected.

Meeting adjourned.

AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE

By: James Butler – KB4LJV

Many times we want to put up cheap effective wire antennas for the HF bands. Since we build them we can set them up for resonance on any part of the bands we want. Other than wire, the main components are the center insulator and the end insulators. These are usually made from an insulator like glass or plastic. The Jetstream company has come out with a line of insulators for wire antennas. They have a new center insulator for about \$16.00 and they also have a new line of end insulators in white, gray or black for \$1.00

each. These would make a good start for building up your own custom wire antenna. To get more information go to their website at www.jetstream-usa.com

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

By: James Butler – KB4LJV

Many amateurs like to operate QRP (low power) in the field or at home. One of the characteristics of a QRP rig is low power use. They are usually designed to be battery friendly. This includes the audio amplifier output that drives the small speaker or headphones. The standard headphone today is the small walkman style headphones for use with these rigs. The left and right channel connections are connected together in the rig to let sound come out of both sides of the headphone even though it is mono not stereo. This places the left and right headphone speakers in parallel which lowers resistance and puts more load on the audio output amp. This means lower volume with these rigs. You can get more volume by just rewiring the headphones so the left and right speakers are in series. Some radios work better than others with this modification. This can be done by removing the stereo jack on the radio, drilling out the hole, and mounting a non grounded jack that can now be rewired. I did not want to mess up the radio panel so I built a QRP HEADPHONE ADAPTER. It plugs in the radio and gives the option of switching from normal to series connection by flipping a switch. I used a plastic case with a regular jack to isolate the ground. In the normal position the headphones are in parallel. In the series position the ground and left channel are disconnected and the ground is connected to the left channel wire to put the elements in series. The switch works well and helps out on the volume on these QRP rigs. The nice part is no modification to the radio.



TENNESSEE HF 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	

2011 TRAINING CLASSES

Submitted 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.

Licenses Earned in 2011 from Delta Classes

0 Technician

0 General

0 Extra

CLASSES PLANNED

If you are interested in any of the classes, send an email to Joe Lowenthal at wa4ovo@yahoo.com with your name, email address, and phone number, preferable cell with subject line of the class you are interested in.

Technician-General Class 2-11 – March 4- 5, 18-19 and 25-26, 2011

A remedial Technician and General license class is scheduled for three Friday nights and three Saturdays from March 4th through March 26th at the Mid-South Chapter, American Red Cross, 1400 Central Ave. The Friday night sessions are from 6:30-9:30pm. The first Saturday session, March 5th, will be 7 hours from 9am to 4pm. The second and third Saturdays will be from 9am-3pm with FCC testing in the afternoon of the 26th.

Technician Class 3-11 – To Be Determined

A Technician class is proposed for late February or early March for 6 Monday nights if interest is shown from at least 15 students.

CLASSES IN PROGRESS

Extra Class 1-11 – January 15-February 19, 2011

Extra Class 1-11 began on January 15th for six Saturdays from 9am to 1pm at the Memphis-Shelby County Health Department East Complex. Seven students are in the class. Dean Honadle N2LAZ, Alan Proffitt AE5RX, and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO are the instructors.



Extra Class 2-11 Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO
Pictured from left to right: back row-Jerry Klein N4POY; middle row-Don Gilmore WB4ZTE, Mac Tidwell KJ4EHE, Al Freeman KD4TJM, Dustin Maki KD0HBJ, Calvin Oliphant KJ4SJS; front row-Dennis Foster KJ4BDU.

FUTURE CLASSES

Technician Class

If you are interested in the first amateur license class, Technician, please let us know 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 if you send an email informing us of your desire to be in a class.

There is no charge for the class, but registration is required. Advanced study of *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, Second Edition, product #0830* (red manual with 2 pictures on front cover verses 3 pictures on older version) is strongly suggested as well as study of the 396 question and answer Technical Class License question pool. Barnes & Noble Booksellers may have this Second Edition manual. You can purchase it online from www.arrl.org/catalog or on Amazon.com. The list price is \$29.95 (which includes a CD). The old price of \$24.95 did not have a CD.

The new Technician License question pool, which was approved by the NCVEC on February 1, 2010, can be seen at <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=356>. Testing for the new question pool started 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 396-question pool questions.

There are a number of other free sample-test sites. The following are some other ham radio practice exam sites:

- www.aa9pw.com
- <http://kb0mga.net/exams>
- <http://copaseticflow.blogspot.com/2010/06/technician-class-practice-test-gadget.html>
- www.qrz.com
- <http://www.hamradioclass.org>

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, Sixth Edition*. This edition with its question pool is valid

through June 30, 2011. 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, Second Edition*. The suggested calculator is the Casio fx-260 solar calculator, which can be purchased at Wal-Mart for about \$10. There is no exam for this class. The class has been held in the September-November time frame.

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 on Saturdays for 6 or 7 weeks in January and February.

COMPLETED CLASSES

Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge – January 22, 2011

A Radio Merit Badge class was held on January 22, 2011 as a part of Troop 457's Merit Badge College for the Chickasaw Council at St. Benedict Auburndale School. The two scouts in the class completed their merit badge requirements. Aaron Alexander KI4OTH was on 146.82 repeater for the 10 minute QSOs with both scouts. One of the students was from Topeka, KS. He is an Eagle scout trying to earn all of the 120+ merit badges. Thanks go not only to Aaron, but also Hugh Wardlaw WB4SLI and Rick Tillman WA4NVM for their help in conducting the class.

COMPLETED CLASSES IN 2010

The Delta Amateur Radio Club had a good year in 2010 with 69 students receiving licenses or upgrades in the five license classes held plus a Basic Electronics class and a Radio Merit Badge class. Thanks go out to all of the volunteers that helped to make 2010 a great year. A special thanks goes to Bill Stevens KI4TQA, Rick Tillman WA4NVM, David Gilbert AJ4LV, Andrew Dandridge KC0BDX, Clyde Getman AF4ZS, JT Schlichter KI4AJG, Alan Anderson KJ4BIX, Pat Lane W4OQG, Dean Honadle N2LAZ, Tom Fox KA4LWQ, Win Guin W2GLJ, Dennis Foster KJ4BDU, and Alan Proffitt AE5RX for their help with the classes.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

If you are a coordinator for any of these events, please review the listed information. If it is incorrect or changes need to be made, please provide me with the correct information. Please email corrections to me at kmlaseter@laseterinc.com.

DATE	EVENT	COORDINATOR	CONTACT INFO.
January 16 th	Swamp Stompers	Danny- KJ4FXZ	kj4fxz@arrl.net
March 4 th weekend	City Slickers Equestrian Event	Richard – NF5B	(No Contact Information)
April 2 nd 30 th	MS Walk March for Babies (March of Dimes)	Denise – KJ5DG Bob – KF4NDH	kj5dg.denise@gmail.com kf4ndh@bellsouth.net (Bob is already looking for volunteers. The walk will be held at Shelby Farms and he needs between 16 and 18 volunteers to help. If you have questions don't hesitate to email or call him at 901 -382-5467.)
May 22 nd	Memphis in May Triathlon	Ned - KA4BLL	ka4bll@arrl.net
September 10 th & 11 th	MS 150 Bike Ride	Darrell - KK4D	kk4d@xipline.com
December 3 rd 3 rd	St. Jude Marathon Bartlett Christmas Parade	Roger – WR4R Dennis – KJ4BDU	ki4ajh@bellsouth.net dcv3714@aol.com
TBA	Boy Scout Merit Badge University	Hugh – WB4SLI	hwardlaw@bellsouth.net
TBA	Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk	Kathleen - KC0HZU	(No Contact Information)

MEMPHIS AREA VHF/UHF NETS

Net Name	Freq. MHz	Local Time	Day
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
The 440 Net	443.200+(107.2Hz)	9:00p	W
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

SPARKS NEWSLETTER & DELTA CLUB INFORMATION

SPARKS is published monthly by the Delta Amateur Radio Club and emailed to club members. All information published in this newsletter is provided as a service. While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the Delta Amateur Radio Club nor its officers assume any liability resulting from errors or omissions. All correspondence may be mailed to:

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

2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Rosalinda Melena – KI4ZKW
901-921-4474
ki4zkw@gmail.com

Vice-President:

Richard Martin – KJ4DXF
901-372-3722
kj4dxf@att.net

Secretary:

Bill Stevens – WC9S
901-603-3448
wc9s@att.net

Treasurer:

Rick Tillman – WA4NVM
901-268-7047
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Joe Lowenthal – WA4OVO
901-683-2701
wa4ovo@yahoo.com

Director of Publications:

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901-853-0400
kmlaseter@laseterinc.com

Director of Programs:

David Campbell – KD4NOQ
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kd4noq@arrl.net

Director of Meetings & Special Events:

Danny Banks – KJ4FXZ
901-861-3229
kj4fxz@arrl.net

W4BS Repeater Trustee:

Darrell Sheffield – KK4D
901-872-3367
Darrell.Sheffield@xipline.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mid-South Amateur Radio Supply is sponsoring a “Wire Antenna Class”, February 26th, 2011, 9:00 am til 1:00 pm at Christ Church Bartlett (5955 Yale Road). Please enter on the Yale Road side of the building. The class will cover 4 of the most common types of wire antennas.

There is no cost for this class.

Please RSVP via email to Ham Hillard W4GMM at w4gmm@bellsouth.net to reserve your seat. Make sure to include your name, call sign, and email address.

DELTA CLUB 146.82 NET PREAMBLE (Rev. 1)

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 pm. 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 checkins. Are there any stations that are mobile, on battery power, or needing to leave early, if so please come now phonetically with you 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 will now take checkins phonetically by suffix only if your suffix begins INDIA through KEEBECK 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 P.M. with testing starting promptly at 6:00 P.M. A copy of your license and CSCE is required. For V. E. Information contact Bill, WC9S at 603-3448. For membership information contact Bill, WC9S at 603-3448. For training information contact Joe WA4OVO at 683-2701.

Are there any additional announcements?

We will now take late checkins 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

2011 DELTA CLUB PROPOSED BUDGET

OPERATING COSTS

EXPENSES for 2011

Corporation Fee	\$20.00
Total Operating Cost	\$20.00

MEETING COSTS

Meeting Space (Donation)	\$100.00
Meeting Refreshments	\$150.00
Food (Dec. meeting)	\$100.00
Door Prizes (monthly)	\$240.00
Attendance Incentives (Nov.)	\$1,250.00
Certificates & Awards	\$100.00
Total Meeting Cost	\$1,940.00

MAILING COSTS

P. O. Box (yearly rental)	\$100.00
Total Mailing Costs	\$100.00

INSURANCE

Liability	\$320.00
Equipment	\$334.00
Total Insurance	\$654.00

TRAINING

Projector bulb	\$250.00
Supplies	\$50.00
Total Training Costs	\$300.00

REPEATERS

Phone line AT&T	\$63.52	(final payment)
Phone line U of M	\$275.28	
New Repeater for 147.36	\$1,050.00	
Two tone encoders for repeaters	\$150.00	
Total Repeater Costs	\$1,538.80	

SPECIAL EVENTS

Field Day	\$300.00
Bus to Huntsville Hamfest	\$100.00
Total Special Events	\$400.00

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Trailer Repairs, etc. (rotors)	\$500.00
Total Maint. Costs	\$500.00

Total Costs	\$5,452.80
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INCOME for 2011

Donations	\$50.00
Membership	\$2,000.00
Ticket Sales (Nov. meeting)	\$1,265.00 (based on 2010 sales)
Bus Trip	\$0.00 (break even)
Total Income	\$3,315.00

DELTA CLUB ADVERTISEMENTS

See Advertisement Order Form for Instructions.

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 342768

Memphis, TN 38134-2768

DARC Meeting: Second
Tuesday of every month
at Ellendale Church of Christ
7365 Hwy 70, Bartlett TN



W4BS REPEATER SYSTEM
146.82- 147.36+ (107.2Hz tone)
224.42- 443.20+ (107.2Hz tone)

ADVERTISEMENT ORDER FORM



Delta Amateur Radio Club Advertising Form

Date: _____

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

TO PLACE AN ORDER

1. Mark the box below indicating the ad size you are purchasing.
2. Submit your completed order form, a copy of your camera ready ad, and your check payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) to Rick Tillman WA4NVM via mail at Post Office Box 750482, Memphis, TN 38175-0482 or at the monthly Delta Club meeting.
3. Attach a copy of your camera ready ad to this order form or email it to Kenneth Laseter at kmlaseter@laseterinc.com . Camera ready means that the ad you submit is exactly as you want it to appear in your ad and fits within the dimensions specified below. Ads may be submitted in gif or jpg format or submitted as a hard copy and we will scan your ad for you.
4. Your ad must be received on or before the first Tuesday of the **month before** you want it to appear in Sparks.

SPARKS ADVERTISING

FULL PAGE	HALF PAGE	¼ PAGE	BUSINESS CARD
<p>\$50.00 for 3 Months 7" w X 8 ½" h</p> <input style="width: 40px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;" type="checkbox"/>	<p>\$25.00 for 3 Months 7" w X 4" h</p> <input style="width: 40px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;" type="checkbox"/>	<p>\$15.00 for 3 Months 3 ½" w X 4" h</p> <input style="width: 40px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;" type="checkbox"/>	<p>\$10.00 for 3 Months 3 ½" w X 2" h</p> <input style="width: 40px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;" type="checkbox"/>