

# DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## SPARKS Web Edition

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W 4 B S R E P E A T E R S Y S T E M

146.82, 147.36, 224.42, 443.2 & 145.03 Packet

### President's Page

Almost everyone missed a good time at the Military Vehicle Preservation Society Convention in July. Although this was not an operating event, we did have a table set up with a display of some older military radio gear compliments of some of our club members. We had a sign-in sheet and approximately 25-30 hams signed the log. You DXers out there should have been there, we had hams from Belgium, Canada and Japan sign the log as well as amateurs from all over the United States. We even had a ham, that is planning on relocating to Memphis for a new job talk to us at length about the club and various aspects of ham radio that are active in the Memphis area. Thanks to those members that loaned or offered to loan their military era equipment for display. We had numerous people stop by to look and tell us more about the history behind the equipment than we knew. As a matter of fact, some of the gear that we had on display was available in the flea market section, "new" still in the original military packaging, right down to the cosmoline. Also my thanks to Tim, KF4DNA for coordinating this event and for working the booth for three solid days. Tim even took two vacation days from work in order to make this thing happen. I only wish he had gotten some offers of help from some other members.

And speaking of Tim, when he was elected as Director of Meetings and Special Events, I didn't know he was going to take the Special Events part so seriously. In the last few weeks, Tim again put the club in the public eye by setting up an operating event station to assist with communication for a fund raiser, held at the Kroger store in the Summer Ave. shopping center, benefitting MIFA and the Memphis Food Bank, among other worthwhile charities. We took the tower/trailer out, mostly for display since it was an overkill for the parking lot simplex operation, and set up a net control station to coordinate the operation. We had many members participate in this event, and according to Tim, we had favorable comments from the organizers of the event which was centered around the Kroger store in the shopping center. Tim managed to pull this thing together on only a weeks notice.

At the July board of directors meeting, I appointed a committee of three people to work with the Memfest 97 committee to coordinate our part of this year's Memphis hamfest. I am looking forward to the new location of the hamfest and we want to have everything ready long before it gets here. It is my understanding at this time, we will have the tower/trailer on the premises and, unlike last year, it will be upright and operating an HF station. Whether or not it will be a true "Special Event Station" or not will be left up to the committee and those of you that volunteer to help the committee. If you would like to volunteer to help in any capacity with DARC's part of the hamfest, contact one of the committee members, Ben - KU4AW, Kathy KE4UYU or Tim - KF4DNA. They would appreciate your help.

There are a few more great activities planned for the club later in the year like the Bartlett Festival, QRP Field Day, JOTA and our annual picnic. Another thing that you should be thinking about is "how many tickets do I have in the barrel for the drawing at the November meeting. Every person that attends a meeting gets one and there are ways of acquiring additional tickets. This year as in the recent past, DARC will be giving away over \$1500 in prizes to members attending the November meeting. The top prize for the evening will be a new Kenwood TM-V7A dual band mobile radio. For those of you that haven't seen one, come to the meeting and take a look for yourself.

How many of you are planning to attend the Huntsville Hamfest? How many would like to go to Dayton but feel like it's too far? Huntsville is the next best thing to Dayton in the Southeastern United States and it's only about a four hour drive. This year the construction on the Von Braun Civic Center is complete and the hamfest will have a new area that will allow both the new equipment dealers and the flea market dealers to be together and will also allow room for more tables than in past years. I'm looking forward to it and I hope to see you there on August 16 & 17.

Memphis has always had a very good representation at Huntsville. Let's make sure that it does again this year. Mark these dates on your calendar.

That's it for now and as always, I look forward to see everyone at the August meeting.

73

Tommy, KD4TJO

### VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Things have slowed down a bit, and I'm pretty glad that they have. The month of June was hectic to say the least, with the carport sale and Field Day almost running back to back, I was sure glad to see July 1st pass by.

I have, however, been pretty busy, in light of this fact. The first order of business that I addressed at the July board of directors meeting was discussing that now famous saying that I started in January, "a sea of blue." I arranged back in January to have a display of coats, jackets, and coffee mugs, along with numerous other things. People were ready to place their order for a jacket and/or a shirt. That's when I ran into a brick wall. We needed to have a tape created that could be used for the embroidery of the Delta Club logo. Well, I'm happy to say that this has been done and we should be able to start taking orders for jackets at the August meeting. I have met with the representative from Signet Promotions, the vendor who provided the source for the Can Coolers, and arranged to get an embroidery tape made of our logo. The tape will be the property of Delta Amateur Radio Club and can be obtained from Signet Promotions at any time we choose. So, come prepared to the August meeting. I will have prices of both the coach's jacket and the baseball jacket at that time. The turn-around time for an order will be about 2 weeks.

In addition, as most of you already know, the club purchased a generator back in June just before Field Day. This is one of those "good news, bad news" stories. The good news was that we purchased a 3.5 KW generator at a very good price, about 1/2 the retail price, the bad news is that the day before Field Day, I was testing it out and it developed an oil leak. We have not yet received it back from the service company, but should have it very soon.

Today, Monday, July 21st, I received a phone call about another generator, this time a 4.5 KW system. And again, with a very good price. I have notified Tommy, KD4TJO, of this availability and we are going to discuss it with the board of directors as soon as it is convenient for all. So, the outlook is pretty good for the club to be the proud owner of two generators.

I have also been investigating the possibility of the club obtaining a canopy. For those of you who were at Field Day, you will remember the canopy that Terry, KB4KA, loaned the club. The one that we all stood under and tried to keep dry, and at the same time tried to keep from blowing away. Well, I have found the source of that canopy at none other than the Memphis Flea Market. I can't take all the credit for finding this source, Terry, KB4KA, told me that's where he purchased his. I have learned that these canopies come in many sizes, many of which would be ideal for Delta Club. I will bring up at the next board of directors meeting a discussion about purchasing one for the club. Again, this is just in the discussion stages, but it's something that would be very beneficial to the club on occasions like Field Day, Memphis Triathlon, Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), and other special events in which we may participate.

One last thing before I close. One of the benefits of Field Day '97 was the result of all the work that Melinda, KE4DXN, did as Publicity Captain. She contacted the Bartlett Express and they came out to our Field Day site and did an interview. During this interview, I learned that because Delta Club is a "non-profit" organization, we can advertise our meeting and any events free of charge. So, for those of you in the Bartlett and Cordova area, start looking for advertisements in the Bartlett Express announcing our meeting dates and any events that we may be involved with in the future.

Well, that's it. Like I said, things have slowed down a bit but I have tried to keep going in the direction of eventually getting the "sea of blue" out there. It's like the old saying says, "good things come to those that wait." You all have had to wait nearly eight months to order a jacket, but the finish line is in sight.

73

Ben, KU4AW

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

The double whammy of Field Day and the last testing session before the question pool changed helped to produce nine new Delta Club members this month. Be sure to offer a friendly hello to these new calls when you hear them on our repeaters: K9DM Don Mills, KF4SIX Thomas Sealy, Jr., KD4WAV Brian Kassa, KF4RXC John A. Dwyer, KF4SJV Kurt Schropp, KF4SJV Julie Schropp, KF4QYS Charles Frans, KF4SJV Steve Kellett, KF4TAF Philip Anderson.

Just a reminder...I have ARRL application forms, as well as 610 forms for changes in information on your licenses.

73, Kathy, KE4UYU

### E-MAIL US

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Joan Thorne .....VE Liaison .....joant@mem.net

### W4BS REPEATER SYSTEM

146.82 net 8:00 pm

147.36 tone = 107.2

224.42 1.25 m repr

443.20 patch, 107.2

145.03 packet / bbs

### AUGUST 1997 CLUB MEETING

DATE: AUGUST 12, 1997 ( 2nd Tuesday - be there )

PLACE: Ellendale Church Of Christ, 7365 Highway 70, Memphis, Tn. ( 2 miles east of Hwy. 64-Stage Rd. )

TIME: 7:00 PM

AUGUST PROGRAM WILL BE ON ARES AND RACES

VE TESTING: Don't forget the monthly Volunteer Examiner testing session. Registration begins at 5:30p.m. and testing begins promptly at 6:00p.m. Please remember to bring two 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 p.m., so our volunteer VE team can finish in time to attend the club meeting. Call Joan Thorne 366-9722, if special testing arrangements are required.

### Delta Club Activities

146.820 Repeater

8:00 PM Traffic and Information Net, nightly (except second Tuesday)

Friendship Net, First Sunday Night (right after DARC Traffic and Information Net)

Club Meeting 2nd Tuesday

**DARC FRIENDSHIP AWARD NET**

**NOW THE FIRST SUNDAY NIGHT OF EACH MONTH**

**FOLLOWING THE TRAFFIC AND INFORMATION NET.**

### Dir. of Meeting & Special Events

One down and two to go. The first of three Special Event Stations for the Delta Amateur Radio Club was held July 10 - 13. This event was a non-operating station at the MVPA International Convention at the Cook Convention Center. The Delta club set up a display booth with WWII era vintage radio gear. The club received alot of good exposure at this event. We met quite a few out of town hams; including one from Belgium and one from Japan. I want to thank everyone that helped make this event a big success for the club. I would also like to thank everyone that offered the loan of equipment for this event. Due to unforeseen difficulties most of that gear could not be picked up and delivered to the event site. The next event will be held on July 19th in the parking lot of the Kroger Food Store in Summer Center at Summer Ave and Waring. This will be a fund raiser for the Memphis Food Bank and their associated charities. This is going to be a great public service event for the Delta club. I will have a more detailed update on this event in next month's Sparks. The third Special Event Station will be an operating event at the Memphis Hamfest. I will have more details on this station in the very near future. Once again I would like to say thanks for all of the help and support of the Delta Amateur Radio Club for these stations.

73 de KF4DNA Tim

### DELTA CLUB AND A.R.R.L.

As many of you know the Delta Amateur Club has been an A.R.R.L. Special Services Club for many years. This means that over 50% of our club membership are members of A.R.R.L. The benefits of this are numerous, one of which is that for every new member that join A.R.R.L., Delta Club received \$5.00. That means that if we get 10 new members and they all join A.R.R.L. for the first time, the club will receive a check for \$50.00. In addition, if existing A.R.R.L. members renew their membership, the club will receive \$2.00 per renewal.

We have noticed that there has been a decline in the number of members who are also members of A.R.R.L. Consequently, when the number of A.R.R.L. memberships in the Delta Club drops below the 50% mark, we loose this revenue.

At the July board of directors meeting I proposed that we offer new members to Delta Club an incentive to join A.R.R.L. The proposal was that any new member to Delta Club that also joins A.R.R.L. at the same time will receive a \$5.00 discount off their Delta Club membership. That means that instead of paying \$30.00 for membership in our club, you pay \$25.00 plus the \$31.00 for A.R.R.L. Delta Club, however, isn't losing any money. Remember, A.R.R.L. will refund \$5.00 to the club for each new member that joins. The bottom line is that Delta club wins, the new club member wins, and A.R.R.L. wins.

After some discussion, the board voted to accept this proposal. So now, all new members will receive a \$5.00 discount on dues if they join both Delta Amateur Radio Club and A.R.R.L. at the same time. If you have any friends that are hams and aren't members of Delta Club or A.R.R.L. tell them about this new membership program.

73, Ben, KU4AW

### VE Notes:

They said "If you build it they will come"! Well we have built a very fine VE Team for you the Delta Club members. We held a special session for field day, giving you the last minute opportunity to take the novice and technician exams before field day. I take this opportunity to thank Ben, KF4GNC and Eliose, KF4GNB for giving up a part of their field day setup activities to come over to the testing session - but no one else came.

On Tuesday July 8th the Delta Club had the monthly meeting and Tim AB4NH, Steve N4SG, and Francis WA4ZYN gave of their time and talent for the Delta Club testing session, and again no one came. We YOUR VE TEAM did, however, have a good time socializing.

If there is a problem with the team efforts please let me know. If there is anything that we can do to improve or change the testing sessions e-mail me or call. I am available from the home page and am listed in every newsletter. This team exists for your testing and upgrading purposes.

For those not at the last meeting I would like to let you know early that the GENERAL Class question pool will change on July 1, 1998 adding more questions on RF Safety. Those thinking of upgrading now is the time. If I am the VE Liaison next year I hope to have a last minute testing session available on field day weekend, the last change for question pool.

73, Joan KN4PM - joant@mem.net (any and all suggestions welcome)

### Hamfest's and Trains

In October, most Amateurs know that we can attend the Memphis Hamfest, "Memfest". This year it will be in a new location, at the "Big One" flea market building on N. Hollywood & I-240. As always, the hamfest will be a two day event held on the second week-end of October, the 11th and 12th. Delta Club is planning to conduct a Special Event Station during the Hamfest.

This year there will be another event sharing the building, but not in the same space, on Saturday. The other event, in the past, has also been attended by a few amateur radio operators. This event will be a Model Railroad Swap Meet & Show, sponsored by The Memphis Bluff City Division of the National Model Railroad Association. This event usually has tables set up selling all kinds of railroad items, antique model trains, real railroad equipment items, new & used model trains in all scales, books, videos, and T-shirts. In addition, there will be several operating model railroad layouts, that always fascinate that kid in all of us. There will be a small fee to attend this event, but there is usually a door prize drawing hourly. I hope many of our amateurs will take advantage of this opportunity to attend both events on Saturday, October 11, 1997.

73, Ned KA4BLL

### AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE ....

TEN-TEC has come out with many kits in the past couple of years to fill the gap left by Heathkit when they quit making kits for the Amateur community. One of the kits they now offer is the UTILITY AUDIO AMPLIFIER Part number 1252. This unit can be used for a test bench audio amplifier, audio signal tracer, audio center for QRP equipment and handhelds, and listening to near field RF energy. The kit is a high gain 1.5 watt audio amplifier with a volume control, high and low impedance inputs and outputs, and an input pre-amp for further gain. The kit includes a first class assembly manual along with a companion book on listening to various energy sources. With the proper sensor hooked up you can listen to changing magnetic fields, light, and RF sources. The kit comes with a first class metal case to put the completed project in. The kit also includes plugs and sensors for monitoring magnetic fields and RF. The unit has a jack to run on 12 volts D.C. or internal batteries. I modified the unit to use nicads by adding a charging circuit to allow nicad charging from the power jack. The printed circuit board supplied is of very good quality. The kit took about 4 hours to construct and has already become one of my favorite pieces of test equipment. The cost of the kit is \$ 44.00. I will have the TEN-TEC UTILITY AUDIO AMP at the meeting to show and answer questions on for those who wish to build their own units.

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING .... James Butler KB4LJV

### AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE ...

The ARRL has come out with several new publications with information on digital modes. The book, Personal Computers in The Ham Shack, contains information on Logs and Contesting, digital modes, Internet use, antennas, and circuit design. The ARRL also has a new book out on the APRS ( Automatic Packet Reporting System). This book has information on commands and a glossary of terms to get you started with using APRS. Several books on Packet Radio are also being offered which include Practical Packet Radio and Your Packet Companion. Check the ARRL bookstore for other publications they offer.

James Butler KB4LJV