DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

Web Edition

SPARKS P.O. BOX 750482 MEMPHIS, TN 38175-0482 / VOL. 12 / JULY 2000

W4BS REPEATER SYSTEM

146.82, 147.36, 224.42, 443.2 & 145.03 Packet

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief. One more Field Day was over. We all went through a whole lot of planning, more planning, arranging, and rearranging, scrounging for equipment, long hours of setting up, fixing, rigging, sweating until we thought we were totally desiccated, working on Plan A, hoping luck or nature doesn't make us move to Plan B, operating, operating, only to have to turn around and tear it all down. Whoever it was in the ARRL who thought this event up couldn't have been from the South!

In spite of all that, I think everyone enjoyed it. We saw some new faces, and some familiar faces from years past, and I know some folks got to spend time on the HF bands that normally would not have (more about that later). I think the reason Field Day 2000 was successful this year was because of teamwork. To say that I was in charge of Field Day is just not true. I did not have the expertise to pull this off on my skills alone. Ben, KU4AW, could tell when I felt overwhelmed with the tasks in front of me, and stepped in with his easy decision-making ability. His help was substantial and significant. Each captain on the Field Day Committee took charge of his or her station in the planning phase, and also helped out when they saw something that needed to get done. Thanks go to Tom, K4TTA, on the CW Station, Ben, KU4AW, on the Phone Station, Melinda, KE4DXN, and Gerry, N9SCJ, on the Novice/Tech Station, Freddy, KF4ZGJ, on the Publicity/VHF Station, Tommy, KD4TJO, on the Powerand Shelter Station, Melinda, KE4DXN and Julie, KF4SJW, for providing all the food, David, KD4NOQ, for demonstrating Slow Scan TV, Alex, KE4GYR, for getting the NTS messages sent off, Ken, K4DIT, for copying the W1AW message, Tommy, KD4TJO, for getting the Publicity announcement out to the TV stations, Bob, KF4NDH, for making the baffling around the generators.

But those mentioned above weren't the only players on the team. Thanks to all those hams who volunteered their canopies, tents, equipment, antennas, ladders, extension cords, food, water, snacks, time, time, and more time, and especially their energy and enthusiasm. You were all team players and your assistance helped make Field Day 2000 the success it was.

We had a lot of folks helping us set up the trailer tower that Bill, KC4SXT, brought out on Friday night. Thank you so much. We were able to set the tower, assemble the beam, as well as effect some needed repairs to it, and get it mounted on its mast, just before dark. Rick Bonds, KE4NTI, brought his newly acquired military vehicle (which will become a mobile radio station eventually), intending it to be used as the Phone Station. As it turned out, it was not, but it was useful in other ways. David, KF4PFY, volunteered to spend the night Friday to make sure tower and truck weren't tampered with.

Saturday morning, the bleary-eyed, as well as the bushy-tailed, assembled to start putting all the pieces together. Canopies were put up. Coffee was made. Hot fresh doughnuts were served. The stations were put together, and Field Day 2000 was ready to roll well before 1 p.m. We had our own archer in Bill, WA4MJM, to assist in getting at least 3 antennas strung up in the trees. Computers were installed with a logging program that Ben, KU4AW, had found. Kirsten Hancock, granddaughter of the above-mentioned archer, came prepared with lemonade that was most appreciated by many.

We had a lot of hams and not-quite-yet hams come out to operate. But the two operators that stole the show were the youngest ones. Philip, KF4TAF, was encouraged by his dad, Barry, WA4MFF, to log at the Phone Station. Pretty soon Philip was saying he'd like to try making a few contacts. Well, with just a little coaching, he started making contacts left and right. Then, Kirsten of the lemonade fame, sat down at the Novice/Tech Station and had a ball making contacts. She plans to take her exam at the next testing session.

I feel we've accomplished one of the main goals of Field Day if we have gotten at least one person excited about the hobby. I know we did just that three or four times over this weekend.

It took many people to pull this event off, and I thank every one of you, even if I didn't mention your name in this article. So many good things can be accomplished if we all work together and toward the same goals. This was the teamwork I remember Delta Club displaying when we were new in the hobby. Teamwork is why it all came together so nicely and made it one of the most enjoyable Field Days I can remember.

73, Kathy, KE4UYU

JULY MEETING: PSK31

The July meeting will be on PSK31, the latest new digital rage. Digital has certainly had a strong following lately but this mode has blown them all out of the water. Everyone who has tried it has raved about it incessantly. It is so reliable that there have been talks of even military organizations looking at it to replace RTTY. Imagine contacting someone you can't even hear!!!!!

One of the strong points of Delta Club has always been its people. There is something for everyone in ham radio and Delta Club is fortunate to have someone for everything!!! Our diversity of interest and talents is one of the greatest things we have going for us. Our people are our resource.

PSK31 is no exception to our rule. Ken, K4DIT, and Tom, K4TTA have been exceptionally active and are leading the cutting edge with this in Delta Club. They have both been using it extensively and both can't say enough good about it. They will host our meeting and will be set up for a "hands on" demonstration of the new mode. This is extremely fortunate for our membership. We will get to see and be a part of this first hand and actually take part in the operation.

I hope that by the time you get this bulletin that many of you will have had the opportunity to read the articles in QST about PSK31. Some of you may have even gotten a jump by watching and working it yourself at Field Day. I certainly hope to be among that group. I downloaded Digipan, one of the better software programs for PSK31 from the web. It is there for the taking and there is no charge. Any questions you would like to ask before the meeting can be directed to K4DIT and K4TTA. Their phone numbers are in the bulletin as both are board members.

73, Freddy, KF4ZGJ

MEMPHIS IN MAY SPECIAL EVENT

On May 27 and 28 the Delta Club participated in the Memphis in May festivities. We had a full operating station on HF with VHF and UHF set aside for local communications. On Friday the mobile tower was erected by Tommy (KF4TJO) Tony (WA4KHN) and Gerry (N9SCJ). Even though the area in Tom Lee Park was windy, we managed to erect a tent for shelter and the tower vertical.

Bright and early on Saturday they started to arrive and we began by starting on 28 MHz. At 2:30 PM, in the height of contacts piling up and trying to sort out the calls, we were forced to shut down the Special Events station because of weather. Actually, the MIM Festival came to a halt, and the Park was closed.

Sunday started out with a bang. First we had to do some reconstruction and some setup caused by the weather on Saturday. Then the contacts came rolling in about 10:00 A.M. and faded fast starting about 11:30 AM until disappearing at about 2:00 PM. Then it started up again about 4:30 PM and was doing well when we closed the station at 6:00 PM.

We had a great time. Those that had not ever made any contacts on HF were delighted to have this opportunity to find out what they were missing. We had contacts from coast to coast and from Canada to Puerto Rico. We made a total of just over 200 contacts on HF, most on the 20-meter band. We also were instrumental in passing weather information to the Memphis in May staff. They appreciated our capabilities of giving accurate information so decisions could be made concerning the event.

Those of us who were present were more than appreciative of fine cuisine furnished and assembled by the Master Chef Tony Brignoli. I would also like to extend my thanks to Tony for helping me to put this Special Event into place and making

it a success.

I would like to also thank all those who participated in the Special Events Station: Tom K4TTA, (who got us started on Saturday AM), Paul KG4GYV,

Freddy KF4ZGJ. Terry KD5JTY, Ed KD5IEI, Dave KF4PFY, Barry WA4MFF, Philip KF4TAF, Melinda KE4DXN, as well as Tony and Tommy. Several people who were either hams or trying to decide what we were there to do visited with us. We were able to encourage a few people to return to the hobby, as well as attract some prospects. All in all I feel that the Memphis in May Special Events Station was a success.

Submitted by Gerry Bailey N9SCJ

Director of Meetings and Special Events

VE CORNER

This, as usual, has been a very busy week. Delta Club meeting was on Tuesday and as always we, the VE Team, were available for upgrading and testing for new hams. There were 14 people at the Tuesday session who took 7 elements. Two (2) new technicians, six (6) generals and three (3) extra class licenses were earned that evening.

During the Delta meeting and on the net later that week, it was announced that there would be a Saturday session by request of a young lady that would be coming through Memphis from North Carolina. We met again on Saturday and four (4) people took seven (7) elements and earned the following: three (3) technician (one with H/F), and one (1) general class license. Congratulations to all who came and were so very successful in their attempts. Those having problems should KEEP ON WORKING. You will find it very rewarding.

A BIG THANK YOU to the following VEs who helped me on Tuesday: Ben Troughton KU4AW, Steve Greer N4SG, Jim Pierce N4ZCO, Tom Richardson K4TTA, and to Arlene AA5GX and Paul WM5Q Cline who helped both on Tuesday and Saturday. Without all you wonderful people this VE Team would not be possible.

And now a reminder from NEWSLINE: FCC: USE YOUR CALL -- NOT YOUR PHONETICS

-- The nations top ham radio cop is putting the Amateur Radio Community on notice. He says that you must use your full callsign -- not just phonetics to identify your station. And in his weekly audio column on RAINREPORT.COM, FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement, Riley Hollingsworth says that there is a proper way to identify and the FCC expects everyone to abide by the rules: "We have been getting some questions, and I think you have too about identifying with phonetics. Now I just wanted to point out that phonetics are to assist the intended operator in understanding the callsign. They are not a substitute for identifying. The identification rule is very simple, and requires that the callsign be used in English. But now phonetics are not callsigns, they are just facilitators. And it is particularly

disturbing to hear signals that are 30 and 40 over and the operator is using phonetics that are repeated. Or only phonetics." Hollingsworth says that not only does identifying only with phonetics not comply with the Amateur Service Rules, but excessive use of phonetics is entirely unnecessary. This is not the first time that Hollingsworth has brought the matter of proper identification to the attention of the nations ham community. Last year a number of DX net operators became openly agitated after Hollingsworth told them that partial callsign recognition was OK -- but only if all stations identified properly according to the FCC's rules.

(Webmasters note: It is my understanding that this opinion by Mr. Hollingsworth has been publicly withdrawn. Reprinted from the ARRL Letter Vol. 19 #20 is the following retractment:

Riley Hollingsworth: Is my face red? FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth says he was just trying to see if the amateur community was paying attention when he suggested on his recent Radio Amateur Information Network enforcement news report (http://www.rainreport.com) that the use of phonetics during station identification was contrary to the amateur rules. As Hollingsworth has since conceded, after being challenged from several quarters, the applicable FCC station ID rule--§97.119(b)(2)--specifically encourages "use of a standard phonetic alphabet as an aid for correct station identification" [emphasis added]. "I plead temporary insanity," Hollingsworth told the ARRL. "I was working too close to my antennas the evening before.")

Congratulations to the following:

Robert Augustine - WB8SDL - General Michael Cooley - KG4IBU - Tech David Counce - N5YLS - Extra Douglas Cross - WB4OIV - General Michael Esposito - WA2AW - Extra Marvin Euchner III - NH6EF - Extra Samuel Fitzpatrick - KG4IBV - Tech George Gallarno - KU4AR - Extra Clyde Getman - KG4HNQ - General Lewis Lechleiter - AF4XW - Extra Patricia Lechleiter - WB4YHP - General Britt McClain - KG4IBW - Tech George Moore - WB4LGH - Extra Lance Morris - KG4IBT - Tech Elvean Mullins - WA4ODW - General Richard Page - WB4ZWV - Extra David Painey - N4DVC - Extra Lionel Thornley - KG4CZJ - Extra

These people were at the testing session of May 9th and their upgrades and call signs were issued on June 10th. Be careful of your license and CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE or you too may have to take all of the exams over as did one of the people in the above list. Since April 15th the ARRL alone has logged in more than 12,000 General and more than 9,500 Extra upgrades. They have logged approximately 3800 test sessions since the beginning of the year. That is a lot of paper work, typing and verifying all that the field VEs send them. They are much more efficient in the timing than I ever expected. They have definitely surpassed by miles the six month leeway that I had anticipated. GOOD WORK ARRL!!!

Until next month 73,

Joan KN4PM ARRL VE LIAISON <u>kn4pm@arrl.net</u>

From The ARRL Letter, Vol 19, No 22

ARRL-VEC SEEING LIGHT AT END OF TUNNEL

ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says staff members and volunteers are making substantial progress processing the flood of amateur applications resulting from FCC restructuring. Jahnke says the initial surge of applications already has been processed, and fewer applications remain in the pipeline.

"We're making headway fast now, as the number of applications diminishes the further we get away from April 15," Jahnke said. He reports the ARRL-VEC sent some 6700 applications to the FCC last week and has been averaging a pace of well over 1000 per day. "Last Friday was our strongest day ever--at 1966 applications transmitted to FCC," he said. Since April 15, the ARRL-VEC has logged more than 12,000 General and more than 9500 Extra upgrades. The ARRL-VEC has logged in approximately 3800 test sessions since the beginning of the year.

Jahnke said he anticipates the time from exam session to license grant to continue to diminish from the current five weeks or longer to just over three weeks by next week. On June 8, applications were being processed from May 12 test session receipts. Typically, the FCC processes applications within 24 hours of receipt, although there were some delays last weekend. Still remaining in the queue are applications from another 507 test sessions. Jahnke estimates these will yield 600 new Technicians, 2100 new Generals, and 1400 new Extras. By the time ARRL-VEC personnel work their way through that stack, Jahnke said, the wait should be down to less than 10 days.

Jahnke reminded applicants that the best license grant information is available from the FCC's Universal Licensing System site, <u>http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls</u> (click on "License Search"). Typical Web call sign servers are at least 24 hours behind the FCC in updating license data, he said. ARRL-VEC staff members and volunteers have been working nights and weekends--including Memorial Day weekend. Seven VEC staff members, two temporary employees, and a half-dozen or more HQ staff volunteers from other departments have been whittling down the stacks of applications. "We're just about ready to lift the moratorium on sick days," Jahnke joked. Test session processing status is available on the ARRL-VEC Web site, http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/status.html.

Vol 19, No 23

AMATEUR RADIO INDUSTRY MULLS IDEAS TO BOOST HOBBY GROWTH

Meeting June 8 in conjunction with HAM-COM in Dallas, representatives of the Amateur Radio industry focused much of their discussions on ideas to attract younger licensees. Some of the conversation also centered on ways to boost the number of amateurs. HAM-COM hosted the meeting and provided dinner. Moderating the session were Gordon West, WB6NOA, and Evelyn Garrison, WS7A. Those on hand included contingents from the ARRL and from major Amateur Radio manufacturers, suppliers, other publishers and instructors. Representing the League were President Jim Haynie, W5JBP; Field and Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, K1STO; Media Relations Manager Jennifer Hagy, N1TDY; and Advertising Manager John Bee, N1GNV. Bee, who also attended a similar industry gathering earlier this year in Wisconsin, said he thought the Dallas meeting was, in general, positive. "The industry recognizes that it needs to take an active approach and to undertake, or at least fund, new approaches to increase participation," he said.

During the session, President Haynie spoke on the need for an intensified youth-recruitment campaign--now dubbed "The Big Project." He reiterated his intentions to raise \$1 million in corporate and foundation donations for the project this year. White reviewed recent Amateur Radio upgrade statistics and discussed various efforts under way in her department that focus on young people and schools. Hagy outlined the League's extensive public relations efforts, including those associated with the April release of the Amateur Radio-related movie Frequency and the Willem van Tuijl story earlier this year. The concept to award amateur equipment as prizes to clubs that developed the most creative Amateur Radio promotions associated with Frequency had been a product of the Wisconsin industry gathering. Top prize is an ICOM IC-746 HF/VHF transceiver. Activity descriptions must be submitted no later than 5 PM Eastern Time on June 30, 2000, to Marjorie Bourgoin, KB1DCO, Field and Educational Services, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111.

In an effort to promote greater activity by school clubs, Rick Ruhl, N4GDO, of Creative Services Software offered to donate a copy of LogWindows to any school club that wants it. Those represented at the Dallas industry gathering included: ADI/Pryme/Premier; Alinco; Alpha Power; Aluma Towers; Amateur Radio Trader; Am-Com; ARRL; Austin Amateur Radio; C.G.A. Enterprises; CQ Publications; Creative Services Software; Gordon West; Houston Amateur Radio Supply; ICOM; M2 Antennas; MAHA; Master Publishing; NCG Companies; Radio City; 73 magazine; W5YI Group; and Yaesu. Another industry meeting is set to take place at the Huntsville Hamfest in August.

PHASE 3D TENTATIVE LAUNCH DATE RESET

AMSAT now says the next-generation Phase 3D Amateur Radio satellite will launch in September at the earliest. Under the latest tentative Arianespace launch schedule, P3D could go up on the Ariane Flight 507 as early as mid-September, but the launch could be as late as the end of October.

PACKET UPDATE

APRS (Amateur Packet Reporting System) is one of the new areas in amateur radio that is rapidly growing. If you have a TNC for 1200 Baud VHF work you

can look in on this new way of using packet by just tuning in. The frequency is 144.390 Mhz. By tuning to this frequency you will hear the tone bursts of the packets being transmitted. Some packets simply are beacons sending a location. There are also Memphis amateurs that have the complete setup to transmit their location as they drive around the city. Packets also come in from all over the country showing beacons and short text messages attached. With a standard communications program you can view the text parts of the APRS messages to see what is going on. The location and symbol data will appear as random characters in the text.

However if you like what you see you can get the newest version of the APRS program and load it in you computer. Running this program with your TNC will allow you to see maps on the screen with cars, houses, trucks, and planes popping up along with the callsign of the amateur transmitting. The program shows any text that goes with the packet and if positioning info is received they will be put on a map showing where they are located. There is a lot of activity on the frequency so if you are interested, get on and monitor the activity

James Butler, KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Many times we have to reference back to the ARRL Handbook or other technical publication for formula information to solve a problem we have . It can be antenna length calculations, Ohm's Law , or many other formulas we use. For the last few years I have received many free CDs. These usually are free software for internet access, AOL, or another service provider. These CD-ROMs can be used for a good purpose instead of going in the garbage. By putting them in a CD holder and putting paper cutout on them they can be made into a nice CIRCULAR CALCULATOR. By putting on the scale you want simple calculations can be made. The drawing is to scale and can be copied and cut out. It can then be glued to the CD-ROM. By placing pointers on the CD-ROM case at 180 degrees apart the CD-ROM can be rotated in the case to read the answer to the equations you have placed on the scale. Multiple CD-ROM CIRCULAR CALCULATORS can be built up for different problems and stored in a CD-ROM rack. The CIRCULAR CALCULATOR is easy to build and is a time saver when needed.

I will have the CIRCULAR CALCULATOR at the meeting to show and answer questions on for those who wish to build up their own units.

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 Arlene at A5GX@aol.com or 385-0995.

K4TTA (Extra) Tom Richardson 386-6268 <u>k4tta@arrl.net</u> (1,3,4,6,8,9,13,14) KA4BLL (Gen) Ned Savage 363-9607 <u>nssavage@juno.com</u> (1,5,8,14, MARS, ARES/RACES, net control, traffic handling, emergency service) KB4LJV (Extra) James Butler 294-2540 (2,7,9,11,13,14) KD4NOQ (Adv) David Campbell 388-6166 <u>kd4noq@juno.com</u> (1,2,3,5,9,10,14, slow scan TV, ATV minor) KU4AW (Extra) Ben Troughton 372-8031 <u>bktrough@mem.quik.com</u> (2,4,8) N9ACQ (Extra) Bill Kuechler 368-0532 <u>wkuechl1@midsouth.rr.com</u> (1,8,13) WA2IQC (Gen) Gary Blinckmann 794-5289 <u>garyblin@midsouth.rr.com</u> (1,7,10,14) WA4MJM (Extra) Bill Hancock 853-7192 <u>billwa4mjm@aol.com</u> (1,2,8, emergency communications, ARES,MARS) WM5Q (Extra) Paul Cline 385-0995 <u>wm5q@arrl.net</u> (7,8,10,14, RF safety, spread spectrum, trouble shooting, soldering, electromagnetic compatibility, CFR47 rules/regs.) K4DIT (Gen) Ken Gregg 853-7384 <u>k4dit@arrl.net</u> (4,6,8,11) Codes:

Antennas
APRS
Contesting
CW Operating
Direction Finding(fox hunting) 6. DXing
Experimenting/Circuits/etc. 8. .HF Phone
Packet
Repeater Operation
QRP
Satellite

13. RTTY

14. VHF

CONTEST CALENDAR

Here are some of the contests coming up in the next few weeks...

IARU HF World Championship. See April QST page 106.

QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint, sponsored by QRP ARC International 2000-2400Z July 9, CW only. <u>http://www.qrparci.org/</u>

CQ WW VHF Contest, sponsored by CQ Magazine, from 1800Z July 8 until 2100Z July 9.6 and 2 meters. <u>http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/vhfcontest.html</u>.

Six Club Six-Meter Sprint, sponsored by the Six Club, 2300Z July 15 to 0400Z July 16, 6 meters only. <u>http://6mt.com/contest.htm</u>.

Pacific 160-Meter Contest, sponsored by the Wireless Institute of Australia, 0700-2330Z July 15, 160 meters phone and CW. vk3did@eudoramail.com

North American QSO Party, RTTY, sponsored by the National Contest Journal. 1800Z July 15 to 0600Z July 16. <u>http://www.ncjweb.com/</u>

Georgia QSO Party, sponsored by SECC and SEDXC. Two periods: from 1800Z July 22 to 0359Z July 23 and 1400Z July 23 to 2359Z July 23. <u>http://secc.contesting.com/</u>.

RSGB Islands-On-The-Air Contest, sponsored by the RSGB, 1200Z July 29 to 1200Z July 30. <u>http://www.g4tsh.demon.co.uk/HFCC/Rules-2000/iota.htm</u>.

Flight of the Bumblebees QRP Contest, sponsored by Adventure Radio Society, CW only, July 30 1800-2200Z. <u>http://www.natworld.com/ars/pages/bumblebees/bb_rules.html</u>.

For more information on these and other contests in July, please visit the ARRL contest page on the internet at: www.arrl.org/contests/months/july.html

JULY 11

CLUB MEETING

7365 HWY. 70

BARTLETT, TN

MEETING STARTS AT 7:00 PM

The July program will on PSK31 presented by Ken Gregg, K4DIT and Tom Richardson, K4TTA

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 the original 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.

W4BS REPEATER SYSTEM

146.82 net 8:00 PM

147.36 tone = 107.2 (BACK ON THE AIR AT A TEMPORARY LOCATION)

224.42 1.25 m reptr

443.20 patch, 107.2

145.03 packet

Other Important Contacts

VE Liaison Joan Thorne, KN4PM 737-5795 joant@mem.net

Membership Chairpersons Ben Barth, AF4TV Eloise Barth, AF4TW eloiseb@aol.com

2000 Board of Directors

E-Mail Us...

Kathy Troughton	President	<u>ktrou@nb.utmem.edu</u>
Melinda Thompson	Vice President	<u>melindat@mem.net</u>
Tommy Thompson	Secretary	. <u>kd4tjo@arrl.net</u>
Bob Holford	Treasurer	<u>kf4ndh@bellsouth.net</u>
Tom Richardson	Dir. of Training	<u>k4tta@arrl.net</u>
Ken Gregg	Dir. of Publications	<u>k4dit@arrl.net</u>
Freddy Bratton	.Dir. of Programs	. <u>ftbratton@mailcity.com</u>
Gerry Bailey	.Dir. of Meetings & Special Events	<u>n9scj@juno.com</u>
Bill Hancock	Repeater Trustee	<u>billwa4mjm@aol.com</u>