

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

P. O. BOX 342768 MEMPHIS, TN 38184-2768 / VOL. 5 / MAY 2007



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

W4BS
REPEATER
SYSTEM
146.82, 147.36,
224.42, & 443.2

MAY 2007 CLUB MEETING

DATE: May 8, 2007

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

TIME: 7:00 PM

PROGRAM: "The International Space Station, Every thing I know about it" By KD4NOQ

VE TESTING: Don 't forget the monthly Volunteer Examiner testing session. Registration begins at 5:30 P.M. and testing begins promptly at 6:00 P.M. Please remember to bring **two forms of identification** and **copies of any existing licenses or CSCE 's** you might have. The ARRL VEC exam examination fee is \$14. Please be on time for registration, as you will not be allowed to enter the testing session after 6:00 p.m. This is to allow our volunteer VE team to finish in time to attend the club meeting. For more VE testing information contact...

Joan Thorne, KN4PM, VEC
Phone: 901-737-5795
E-mail: joanthorne@bellsouth.net

Please Remember: Deadline for Reports and Articles for the next issue of SPARKS is the last day of the month prior to the meeting. All articles **MUST** be in to me by the deadline in order to be published in the next issue. Please forward all articles and items of interest to:

KI4AJH@bellsouth.net

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings All,

I hope everyone has had a good month. If all are like mine it was busy and went by quickly. I am glad to announce to all that did not know, my son Darrell Jr. KI4DJB returned from Iraq the last of March. We were surprised and made an appearance on The Oprah Winfrey Show when they returned. Thank all for thoughts and prayers and care packages sent I know he received one from Marc Gwin and possibly others.

I hope all got a chance to go to the FreeFest the 14th. I saw lots of people there and it looked like a good turn out. Thanks to all that went out and all that helped with the setup and take down.

There were a couple of special events this month and I hope we gave Eddie the support needed. The special events are an important part of the Delta Club. Please sign up and come out to those events. Speaking of events the Field day will be here before we know it. I need a couple members to step up and chair the event. If you are interested please call or e-mail me.

We do not have a vice President yet and I would like to see someone take the position soon. Please let a board member know if you are interested.

Thanks go out to Joe and his assistants again, He has a General class going that started April 28th and 29th and on Saturday, May 5 8am-3pm with FCC testing from 3-5pm at the Health Department East Training Room W-204/206 on the 2d floor, 1075 Mullins Station Road.

I have not located a Club trailer yet and have contacted a number of outlets for a low cost or donated trailer for an Emergency Operating station project. I would like to hear from somebody that might steer us to a usable solution.

We would still like to get a list of members that need the Sparks in paper form, If you are aware of somebody please let Roger or me know. Also if you have changed your e-mail address and are not getting the Sparks give Roger or me your new e-address.

I look forward to seeing all at the meeting May 8th.

73, Darrell KK4D
901-872-3367
darrell.sheffield@memphistn.gov

Information on News, Contests, Special Events, and Hamfests Can All Be Found At:

<http://www.arrl.org/search/bigindex.html>

New Net

There is a new net being held on the 224.42 repeater on Monday nights at 8:30pm. The repeater uses a negative offset and does not require a PL tone.

**DARC Board Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2007**

KK4D-Darrell called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. KK4D-Darrell, WB4SLI-Hugh, K4POM-Lisa, WA4OVO-Joe, KD4NOQ-David, KI4AJH-Roger, and N2LAZ-Dean were present.

The board unanimously accepted the secretary's minutes and treasurer's report as printed in SPARKS.

New Business-

KD4NOQ-David advised the board of possible upcoming programs. Then the board voted on and accepted the following new members:

KG4QDN-Christine Mathis, KI4TPK-Geron Craig, KE5MFV-Paulette Weible, KE5MFW-Robert Weible, KE5MFX-Karen Lloyd, KI4TPL-William Jon, KI4TGQ-Mark McCormick, KI4TQA-Bill Stevens.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
K4POM-Lisa Sheffield
DARC Secretary

SPARKS Input

If you have any suggestions to be included or removed from the newsletter please let me know. It has been suggested to me that we might include pictures of your home or mobile station setups. If you would like yours to be included in the upcoming issue just send me the pictures. Depending upon the response for this they may not all be able to be included in the next SPARKS.

Roger Schlichter, KI4AJH
(KI4AJH@bellsouth.net)

**DARC General Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2007**

KK4D-Darrell called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm with the introduction of the members and guest present. There were 40 people present.

Darrell read the treasurer's report as printed in SPARKS. N4GMT-Lance moved to accept as printed and there were several seconds to his motion. KC0HZU-Kathleen moved to accept the secretary's report as printed in SPARKS and it also was seconded by several people.

Darrell called for the officers reports. KD4NOQ-David advised the group of a possible ISS program for the next club meeting. KK4D-Darrell advised the members of the upcoming public events-Walk America and MS Walk.

W4RMV-Randy gave the club information on the Free Fest to be held at the old Bartlett Baptist Church building.

There was no old or new business.

KD4EYW-Billy Freeman gave a presentation on Urban Search and Rescue.

WD8JAO-Jim Olberding won the door prize.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
K4POM-Lisa Sheffield

News Release

STARS AND STRIPES SPECIAL EVENT HONORS AMERICA'S MILITARY

The historical Stars and Stripes Museum in Bloomfield, Missouri, birthplace of the Stars and Stripes Military Newspaper in 1861, will join forces with area amateur radio clubs to honor America's military around the world. Two local amateur radio clubs plan to operate a special event amateur radio station on June 8th and 9th and have received a special call sign "W0S" from the FCC for this event. The station will be calling "CQ", the internationally known signal to alert other amateur radio operators around the world to call in. Stations that respond to the "CQ" will have the opportunity to learn about the museum, its activities, and the newspaper which is sent to military personnel around the world. Operators making contact with the special event station can receive a special certificate with a picture of the museum and information about its programs. Amateurs collect these certificates as part of their personal history with amateur radio and to confirm their contact with the Stars and Stripes Special Event Station. It is not uncommon for amateur radio operators to make contacts with far away places as Africa, Australia, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. The museum hopes that some of the military personnel stationed around the world will get to talk to the folds back home and become more aware of the Museum's support of our troops. The boothel and the SEMo Amateur Radio Clubs invite the public to come by the museum on highway 25 South of Bloomfield to tour the museum and see amateur radio in operation.

According To Club Information You May Need To Update Your Ticket

First Name	Last Name	License Expires	Callsign
VESTER	MOORE	2007/05/09	WD4MXT
Kevin	Akers	2007/05/19	KC4BFH
Mark	Kapley	2007/05/20	KD5ARO
Tony	Brignole	2007/05/29	WA4KHN
Mary	Carter-Tomlinson	2007/06/10	NV4Z
STEVE	KELLETT	2007/06/12	KF4SJU
Kurt	Schropp	2007/06/12	KU4NH
Julie	Schropp	2007/06/12	KF4SJW
Philip	Anderson	2007/06/28	KF4TAF

HAM LICENSE TRAINING for 2007

By Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Director of Training

GENERAL CLASS 4-07

A General License class was held for three days on Saturday, April 28; Sunday, April 29 and Saturday May 5th at the Memphis-Shelby County Health Department's Mullins Station Training Room. The electronic Teamboard was a new adventure in training aids. There were 13 students. Since this article was written before May 5th, I will report those upgrades in next month's report. Thanks to Barry Moore KE4KAG and the Health Department for the use of their comfortable spacious training facility. Also thanks to Pat Lane W4OQG and Hugh Wardlaw WB4SLI for their classroom assistance. A special thanks goes to Timmy Jones N5PYQ and the Chickasaw Amateur Radio Association for the loan of the ARRL Technician Class Video Course DVDs which have been used in all four license classes this year.

TECHNICIAN CLASS

Since last month's article there are 5 new hams from the training classes. Tech Class 2-07 tested on April 2nd with 5 passing the Technician License exam. Besides Bill Stevens KI4TQA and David Cranfill KI4UJS who tested early, those passing were KI4VCL, Ken Pfohl; KI4VCM, Teresa Larsen; KI4VCN, Gilbert Cronin; KI4VCO, Robert Bledsoe; and KI4VCP, Fred Bihler.

Thanks to the VE Team of Joan Thorne KN4PM; Steve Greer N4SG, Tom Fox KA4LWQ, and John Wood WV5J for the VE test session for Tech Class 2-07.

Congratulations to the 42 new hams who have received their Technician licenses in 2007.

EXTRA CLASS

We contemplate an Extra class if 10 or more hams are interested in the training. Currently, planning is for a class to be held in July and/or August for 4 Saturdays. Please pre-register by going to the Delta Club webpage www.deltaclub.org; click on Training Classes; and then click on Extra Class to send an email to Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, at wa4ovo@yahoo.com or call at 901-683-2701. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS
Eddie Trammell KF4QFW Coordinator
KF4QFW@arrl.net

FUTURE EVENTS

MEMPHIS IN MAY TRIATHLON
Edmund Orgill Park (North Shelby County)
Sunday, May 20, 2007
6:30am-1pm

The Delta Club will provide communications for the Memphis In May Triathlon on Sunday, May 20, 2007. This swim, run and bike race will be held at Edmund Orgill Park north of Millington. The race starts at 7:30am. It continues to be a fun event for the hams. We will need 6-10 hams to help this event run smoothly. Three or four hams will need to be mobile in pickup trucks to provide sag vehicles for the bicycle ride. Lunch will be provided by MIM. If you are interested in volunteering, email Eddie Trammell, KF4QFW at kf4qfw@arrl.net or check into the 146.82 net at 8pm to volunteer.

PAST EVENTS

MARCH OF DIMES 5K WALK

The Delta Club provided communications for the March of Dimes 5K Walk on Saturday, April 28, 2007 at Shelby Farms/Plough Park. The walk started at the Ranger Station, wound along the paths on the northeast side of Shelby Farms' Plough Park and back to the Ranger Station. Lunch and children's activities were in the field between the Ranger Station and Patriot Lake. . We had 11 hams staff several water points and shadow the MOD directors. They were Eddie KF4QFW; David KU4AS; 3 generations of the Holdford family-Bob KF4NDH, Teresa KI4VCM, and Madeline KI4AJI; AI KI4PGK; Brenda KE4MKK; Sri KG4YLB; Greg KI4OTG; Keith KI4OTB; and David WK2B.
Thanks to all who helped.

The MS WALK

The Club provided communications for the MS Walk on Saturday, April 21, 2007 at Shelby Farms/ Plough Park. The walk around Shelby Farms Patriot Lake started at 9am and finished with lunch. Thanks to the following 9 hams this event was a success: Eddie KF4QFW, David KU4AS, Bob KF4NDH, AI KI4PKG, Sri KG4YLB, Greg KI4OTG, Mark KB5ZMY, Gilbert KI4VCN, and Keith KI4OTB.

MARS CROSSBAND EXERCISE

May 12, 2007 8am-8pm

Corps of Engineers' Huxtable Pumping Station
on the banks of the St. Francis River near Marianna, AR

All hams are invited to participate in the Armed Forces Day Crossband Exercise on May 12th at the Corps of Engineers Huxtable Pumping Station, Marianna, AR. Four different transmitters/stations will operate from 0800-2000 local time. This MARS exercise in conjunction with amateur radio operators provides a fun training activity/contest in Amateur/MARS inter-operability. (You do not have to be a MARS member to operate at Huxtable.) The MARS station operators will transmit on MARS frequencies announcing the respective Amateur frequency they will be listening on. An exchange will be made and the contacts will be logged. QSL certificates will be issued to the hams that make contact with the MARS station.

Please sign up for this event with Pat Lane W4OQG (w4ogg@bellsouth.net) or Ham Hilliard W4GMM (901-413-6390 or w4gmm@arri.net). They will lead the event with a work day on Friday, May 11th to set up equipment and then operate on Saturday, May 12th. Lunch will be provided both days. Hamburgers and hotdogs are on tap for Friday. Lance Morris will be chef for Saturday's excellent charcoal cooked noon time meal. If you want, you can campout at the site Friday night.

A caravan will leave the Kroger filling station parking lot at Poplar Plaza at 8am on Friday and return around 5pm. Saturday the crew will leave at 6am on Saturday and return about 9pm. If you want to come at a different time, Ham Hilliard has a map for you.

The Huxtable callsign is WUG-231. The following frequencies will be used:
STATION: WUG-231

FREQUENCY	EMISSION	AMATEUR BAND
4032.0 kHz	LSB	80M
6826.0 kHz	LSB	40M
14484.0 kHz	USB	20M
14663.5 kHz	USB	20M
20973.5 kHz	USB	15M

The other MARS stations and their respective frequencies can be found on the ARRL website at <http://www.arri.org/news/stories/2001/05/01/2/afday-2001.html>.

Here are some websites with pictures of the Huxtable Pumping Station:
<http://www.mvm.usace.army.mil/floodcontrol/fcs/wghuxtable/huxtable.htm>
<http://www.eapdd.com/huxtable.htm>
<http://users.aristotle.net/~russjohn/engineering/hxtble.html>.

As a footnote, Evin Wardlaw WB4SLJ, father of Hugh Wardlaw WB4SLI, was a principal design engineer (mechanical and electrical) with the Army Corps of Engineers for the design and construction of the Huxtable Pumping Station.

PACKET UPDATE

AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE

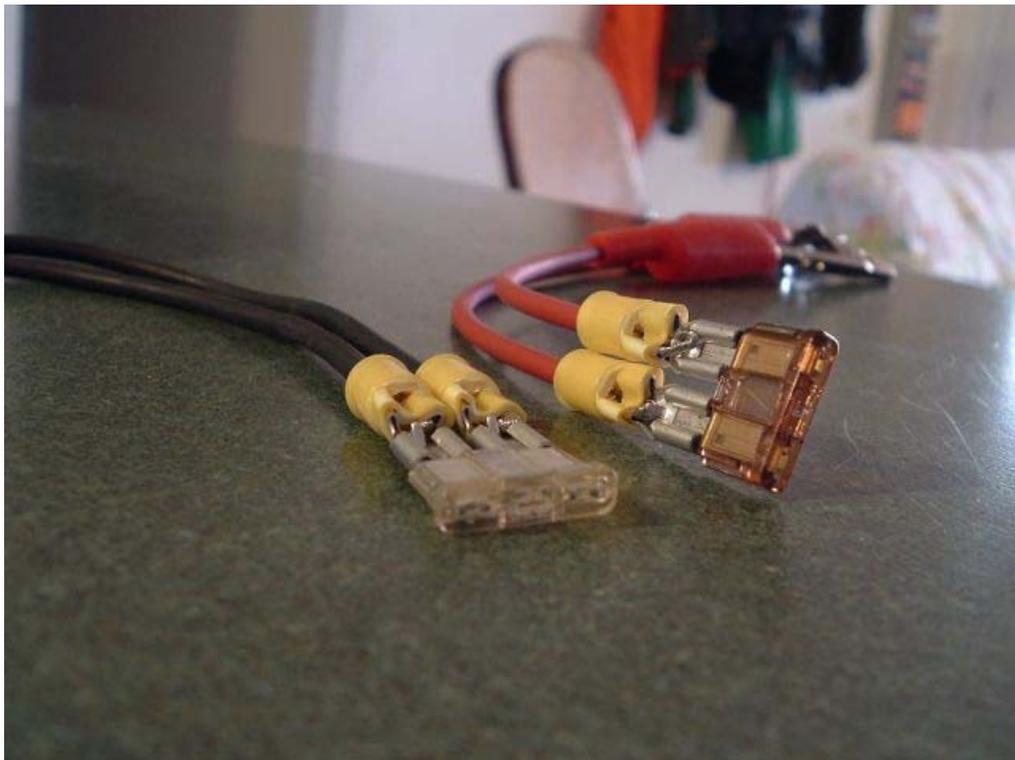
Many times when we run digital modes we have problems with noise. In the old days we ran filters in the rigs or external analog filters to help out. Once digital signal processing computers came out audio was taken in by the computer and processed to do filtering operations. New transceivers now come standard with DSP (digital signal processing) in their high end units. Older rigs never had this option and relied on external analog methods. GAP has an audio speaker system which we can hookup to any amateur radio. They call it "HEAR IT". The system consists of an external speaker in a case with the DSP computer built in. There are no dials or knobs to adjust. On the back is a dip switch that lets you set the level of noise reduction you want. You can experiment with the different levels to decide which one you like. Every thing else is automatic. The hookup is also simple. Just plug into the audio output jack of the radio and hookup a 12 volt power supply to it and you are ready to use the noise reduction system. The speaker does a great job of noise reduction on the bands. To find out more about the system check out their web site at www.gapantenna.com

James Butler
KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Many times in the field we hook up our equipment to power supplies and batteries. In order to protect temporary hookups like these we need to make sure and fuse our equipment. Of course the fuse size depends on the load we have on that circuit. An inexpensive way to do this is to use automotive style fuses. Actually Ten Tec has been putting these on their equipment for years now. The two big advantages of automotive fuses is they are cheap and come in a lot of different current ratings. You can buy a fuse assortment of lots of current ratings at the automotive store. These new fuses are the blade style and are color coded for the fuse rating. By just making up wires with alligator jumper clips on one end and a female fast on push on style connector on the other end we can have a universal fuse system we can hook up in the field. The push style connector will fit the blade fuse perfectly. We can then just change to any current rating we want. The picture shows a couple of units I built up to keep with my portable stuff. I also have a package of assorted current rated fuses to use.

James Butler
KB4LJV



A little rain did not dampen the spirits at FreeFest 2007

(photos provided by Nina Stone WB4CHH and Pat Lane W4OQG)



FreeFest 2007 photos (cont.)



FreeFest 2007 photos (cont.)



The W4BS Elmer

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

Codes:

1. Antennas
2. APRS
3. Contesting
4. CW Operating
5. Direction Finding (fox hunting)
6. DXing
7. Experimenting/ Circuits/etc.
8. HF Phone
9. Packet
10. Repeater Operation
11. QRP
12. Satellite
13. RTTY

K4TTA (Extra) Tom Richardson 386-6268
k4tta@arrl.net (1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15)

KA4BLL (Extra) Ned Savage 363-9607
ka4bll@arrl.net (1, 5, 8, 14, MARS, ARES/
RACES, net control, traffic handling,
emergency service)

KB4LJV (Extra) James Butler 294-2540
jbutler@bigriver.net (2, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14)

KD4NOQ (Adv) David Campbell 388-6166
kd4noq@bellsouth.net (1,2,3,5,9,10,12,14,
slow scan TV, ATV minor)

KU4AW (Extra) Ben Troughton 372-8031
bktrough@bellsouth.net (2,4, 8, 15)

N9ACQ (Extra) Bill Kuechler 368-0532
wkuechl1@midsouth.rr.com (1, 8, 13)

WA2IQC (Gen) Gary Blinckmann 794-5289
garyblin@midsouth.rr.com (1, 7, 10, 14)

WA4MJM (Extra) Bill Hancock 853-7192
billwa4mjm@aol.com (1, 2, 8, emergency
communications, ARES, MARS)

K4DIT (Extra) Ken Gregg 853-7384
kgregg@c-a-c.com (4, 6, 8, 11, 15)

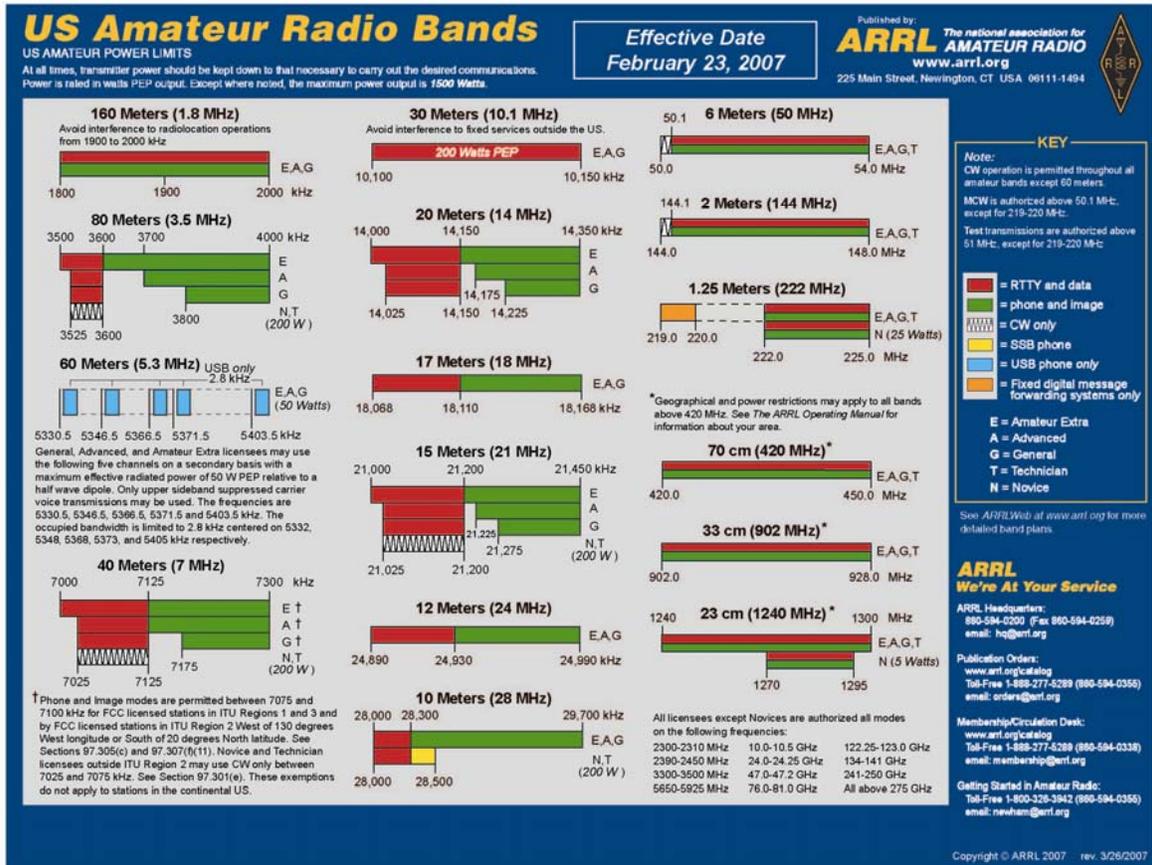
W4GMM (Extra) Ham Hilliard 372-2337
hamh@bellsouth.net (All categories)



Frequency Changes as of February 23, 2007

Here is the link for the frequency chart effective 2/23/07 in color:
http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/Hambands_color.pdf

Here it is for the black and white version:
http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/Hambands_bw.pdf



May

2007

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	Dan N4QLK	1	2	3 MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM Mary AC4GF Timothy N4TFZ	4 Jane Tallant	5 David KI4TAN
6	7	8 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM	9 Jeffery KI4NDR	10 Scott N3XFD	11	12
13	14	15 Wesley W3EDW Dan N9PNA	16 Andy K4ZLC	17	18	19 Kathrine Savage Jennifer KG4RTV
20 Christian KN4CK	21	22 Shelby Cty., ARES Meeting 6:45 PM	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Tommy KD4KJO	31 Billy KD4FTS		

TENNESSEE NETS

Net Name	Freq.	UTC	Day
Tennessee CW Net	3663	0100	Su-Sa
Tennessee Slow CW Net	3682	0130	T-Su
Tennessee Early Morn Phone Net	3980	1145	M-F
Tennessee Morning Phone Net	3980	1245	M-F
Tennessee Morning Phone Net	3980	1400	Sa-Su
Tennessee Evening Phone Net	3980	0030	T-Su

AREA HAMFESTS OF INTEREST

There are not any hamfests scheduled within 250 miles for the months of May or June. If you are interested in hamfests outside the 250 mile range go to the following web site for information.

<http://www.arrl.org/search/bigindex.html>

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

Balance 04/01/2004 **\$7,367.31**

Expense

Bell South 146.82 phone	181.97
University of Memphis 443.2 phone	22.97
Memphis Amateur Electronics Mar meeting	<u>20.00</u>
Total Expense	\$224.94

Income

April Dues Received	<u>\$87.50</u>
Total Income	\$87.50

Balance 04/30/2007 **\$7229.87**

SPARKS is published monthly by the Delta Amateur Radio Club and is emailed to club members and other interested parties. All information published in this newsletter is provided as a service. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the Delta Amateur Radio Club and its officers assume no liability resulting from errors or omissions. All correspondence may be mailed to:

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Memphis, TN 38175-0482**

2007 Board of Directors

President

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

-
Vice President

PENDING SPECIAL ELECTION

Secretary

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901-277-8144 (SassGirlsMom@aol.com)

-
Treasurer

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901-487-3820 (hwardlaw@bellsouth.net)

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