# **DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

# **SPARKS**

P.O. BOX 342768 MEMPHIS, TN 38184-2768 / VOL. 2 / FEBRUARY 2008



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

W4BS REPEATER SYSTEM

146.82, 147.36, 224.42, & 443.2

# February 2008 CLUB MEETING

DATE: February 12, 2008

PLACE: Ellendale Church Of Christ, 7365 Highway 70,

Memphis, Tn. (1.5 miles east of Hwy. 64-Stage Rd.)

**TIME:** 7:00 PM

PROGRAM: "Cheep Antennas 2m-2.4gHz", David Campbell, 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...

Tom Fox, KA4LWQ, VEC Phone: 901-357-1633

E-mail: ka4lwq@comcast.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

# **Presidents Corner**

January is history and the winter weather is upon us. While we are thinking about weather, this is a good time for those of us who have not taken Skywarn Training to do so. The training usually is a matter of a couple of hours, but will let you know what the National Weather Service is looking for when severe weather hits. Here is the internet address for the training sessions <a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/meg/skywarncalendar.php">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/meg/skywarncalendar.php</a>. Skywarn is a very important part of the public service aspect of our hobby.

Public Service events will be coming up over the next several months. These can be great training opportunities for strategic and tactical communications. Elsewhere in Sparks will be the calendar. Look at the calendar and let Eddie, KF4QFW, know which ones you can work. If you have never done an event, do not let that slow you down. We are all ready to get you started and provide any pointers for a given event. Additionally, there is the Shelby County ARES Training Net on 146.88 minus offset with a 107.2 tone that meets on Thursday nights at 9:00 PM. Many hamfests will have seminars for Emergency Communications and we should all avail ourselves to that.

While we are thinking about hamfests, we have one coming up in April. This is FreeFest. If you would like to help out, let one of the club officers or Bill, KD4SQV, know of your interest. These are fun events and a chance to put faces with calls that you have worked. You will also be able to look at some new and not so new equipment. I believe that everyone involved was impressed with the participation last year. I cannot let the opportunity go that the proceeds will benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

If you want any additional information on anything that is mentioned here, come to the meeting and ask about it. I know that there are several of us who would be glad to answer your questions or get you in touch with someone who can. I hope to see at the meeting!

73, de Hugh, WB4SLI

## VE Corner:

The Delta Amateur Radio Club sends congratulations to all of you listed below. You have received your new license call signs as follows:

Anderson - KJ4BIX General

Earnheart - KJ4ABU Extra New AJ4EM

Hube - KJ4BIW Tech Lipscomb - KJ4BIU Tech Whittlesey - KJ4BIV Tech

We are proud of you all. I would like to invite each of you to come to our next meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of February so that we can all congratulate you personally.

Tom Fox KA4LWQ ARRL VE Liaison

# DARC Board Minutes of January 8, 2008

WB4SLI-Hugh called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. K4POM-Lisa requested to accept the minutes as printed. Hugh then read over the treasurer's report.

#### **New Business:**

KB4KA-Terry Cox has offered to sell his 27 foot Travel Trailer to the club. He requested \$3500.00 plus a donation letter of \$3500.00. \$7000.00 would be the actual price.

KI4TQA-Bill Stevens advised that Free Fest will be held April 12, 2008.

WB4SLI-Hugh advised that MARA has offered to combine with DARC for Field Day this year.

KD4NOQ-David advised the board members present that the 147.36 repeater was almost down.

WBSLI-Hugh adjourned the meeting at 6:52pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

K4POM-Lisa Sheffield DARC Secretary

# **DARC General Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2008**

WB4SLI-Hugh called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the introduction of the members present. He then let KB4SQV-Bill give information on MARA's offer to combine Field Day with them at their club house.

Bill also mentioned the Free Fest to be held on April 12, 2008 at the Bartlett Community Center on Stage Rd. (The old Bartlett Baptist Church building.)

WB4SLI-Hugh advised the members that KA4LWQ-Tom Fox has agreed to take over as the VE Director.

He then advised the group that we need to replace a repeater Trustee. Suresh has requested we find someone to replace him. He also advised the group of the offer of the Travel Trailer for sale from Terry Cox.

KI4I- Jim Cissell advised that there was an 85 year old requesting help with his tower. He also gave a presentation on hanging antennaes by different means.

KA4LWQ-Tom gave the VE report. 3 TECHs, 1 General and 1 Extra passed.

KD5LHG-Ken Burnam won the door prize and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

K4POM-Lisa Sheffield DARC Secretary

# **HAM LICENSE TRAINING for 2008**

By Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Director of Training

# **CLASSES IN SESSION**

# Technician Class 2-08 – January 22 – February 21, 2008

A second Technician License Class in conjunction with FedEx Retirees Club started on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, a week later than originally scheduled. The classes will go through February 21<sup>st</sup> at the VA Medical Center, 1030 Jefferson Avenue. The class will be for 5 weeks from 1:00 to 3:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The attendance has fluctuated from 3 to 6 students with 2 of the students rolled into the classroom in their beds. Bill Stevens KI4TQA, Russ Myers WD4JHD, Rick Tillman WA4NVM, and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO are the facilitators,



Technician Class primary instructor Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

Photo by Russ Myers WD4JHD



From Left to Right: Charles Clemons (in bed), Robert Lalum, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Othis Gibson, Robert Odom, James Karr, Irby Shears (in bed), Russ Myers WD4JHD, Bill Stevens KI4TQA, and Rick Tillman WA4NVM

Photo by Ken Pfohl KI4VCL

# HAM LICENSE TRAINING for 2008 (cont.)

# ExtraAmateur 1-08 - January 19 - February 23, 2008

An Amateur Extra class started with 12 students on Saturday January 19, 2008. The classes are from 9am-1pm for 5 Saturdays to end on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Memphis-Shelby County Health Department training room on Mullins Station Road. There was no class on February 2<sup>nd</sup> so all could have the option to attend the Jackson, MS hamfest. Tom Fox KA4LWQ, is the primary instructor. Pat Lane W4OQG will lead the Antenna and Feedline chapter instruction.



Instructor Tom Fox KA4LWQ

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO



Pictured left to right: First row-Bill Stevens KI4TQA (off picture), Jeff Krause KI4OTE; Second row-Tim Jones N5PYQ, Gilbert Cronin KI4VCN, Ken Burnum KD5LHG, Ken Johnson KB0ZTX; Third row-David Cristil KI4RRM, Pervis Milnor KI4ZDD, Carl Tood (off picture); Forth row-Steve Rutledge N4JQQ, Jerry Klein N4POY, Keith Shook KI4OTB (off picture).

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

# **FUTURE CLASSES**

# TECHNICIAN CLASS

If you are interested in a Technician License Class, please let me know of your interest by sending me an email at <a href="wa4ovo@yahoo.com">wa4ovo@yahoo.com</a> with subject line "Technician Class." Or you can go to the Delta Club webpage <a href="www.deltaclub.org">www.deltaclub.org</a>; click on Training Classes; and then click on Technician Class to send me an email, or call at 901-683-2701. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set.

# HAM LICENSE TRAINING for 2008 (cont.)

## **EXTRA CLASS**

Please pre-register by going to the Delta Club webpage <a href="www.deltaclub.org">www.deltaclub.org</a>; 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.

## **GENERAL CLASS**

If you are interested in a General License Class, please let me know of your interest by sending me an email at <a href="wa4ovo@yahoo.com">wa4ovo@yahoo.com</a> with subject line "General Class." Or you can go to the Delta Club webpage <a href="www.deltaclub.org">www.deltaclub.org</a>; click on Training Classes; and then click on General Class to send me an email, or call at 901-683-2701. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set.

# **COMPLETED CLASSES**

During 2007 we had 6 Technician classes with 68 new hams and a General class with 18 new Generals. Thanks to everyone who made 2007 such a successful year for Amateur Radio in the Memphis area. We must give credit to the students, instructors, Elmers, ARRL, Joan Thorne's Delta Club ARRL VE teams, and Win Guin's WCARS VE teams. We must also thank the organizations that have provided training and testing facilities during the year - Ellendale Church of Christ, the Germantown Police Department, Baptist Hospital Collierville, Memphis-Shelby County Health Department Emergency Services Department, Germantown Baptist Church, and the VA Medical Center.

# FreeFest 2008

by Keith Price WA5LPW, ham@wa5lpw.com

It is hard to believe the we are coming up on FreeFest 2008. Our event in 2007 helped to raise over \$2,500 for St Jude Children's Research Hospital (http://www.stjude.org). The outcome of the event was featured in "Up Front in QST" page 21 of the November 2007 issue of QST. As a reminder, FreeFest is our dream of the way Hamfests around the country should be. Vendors, Flea market Tables, Club Tables, and entry into the event are all free! All (100%) of the proceeds from ticket donations go to support this wonderful children's hospital.

This year's event will take place on April 12, 2008. We have secured the same venue and are currently contacting vendors to confirm their attendance. We had over 600 hams attend last year and only expect that number to grow as more people find out about FreeFest.

# A New Look At The Planet We Live On

by Astronaut Sunita Williams provided by Tom Fox, KA4LWQ

If you don't have PowerPoint or downloaded a PowerPoint viewer you may not be able to view the link below.

Earth Our Planet

# **Ides of March Hamfest**

by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

# MARCH 15,2008 9AM OBION COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS UNION CITY, TN

VE SESSION

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

POSSIBLY ARRL DXCC QSL CHECKING

ADMISSION.....FREE

INDOOR TABLE SPACE.....\$5

OUTDOOR TAILGAITING UNDER ROOF

TALK IN......146.700 THE POWERFUL WA4YGM REPEATER

NO TONE.....

COME AND BUY OR SELL OR JUST ENJOY MEETING OTHER

LOCAL HAMS

INFO: K9IL... GREENACRES113@AOL.COM OR

WWW.REELFOOTARC.COM

# According To Club Information You May Need To Update Your Ticket

Last Name	First Name	License Expires	callsign	
Shields	Darren	2008/01/02	KB9RXG	
Smith	Richard	2008/01/22	KU4NZ	
WEST	MICHAEL	2008/01/23	KD5DCJ	
Miller	Richard	2008/01/24	W0SZP	
Parnell	Jack	2008/02/05	K4BSI	
Wilson	Ray	2008/03/03	N4ARH	
JOHNSON	SAM	2008/03/31	WB4KWF	

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 amature related topics. This net meets nightly at 8:00 p.m. CST except the second Tuesday of the month on the 146.82 W4BS repeater and requires a pl. tone of 107.2 Hz. All stations will refrane 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? (Take immediately)			
During this net should any station have emergency or priority traffic please use a double break followed by your call sign.			
Is there a NTS Liaison station on frequency?			
Is their any station wishing to list formal written traffic?			
Does any station have announcements for the net?			
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 your 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 pleases come now and remember to spread them out.			
We now will take checkins phonetically by suffix only if your suffix begins INDIA through KEE-BECK 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 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 Lisa K4POM at 872-3367.			
We will now take late checkins from anywhere in the alphabet ALPHA through ZULU please come now and spread them out by waiting for the courtesy tone.			
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 AMATURE RAIDO CLUBS 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			

# AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE .....

Many times we look to buy new equipment for the shack. It might be a new model or and older used unit. Sometimes it is hard to find out if a unit performs well or may have a few problems in the design. If we are lucky we can find someone that already has one and ask them how they like it. As it turns out there is a place on the internet that does just that for amateur radio gear. The website is called EHAM. They have reviews for all sorts of amateur radio equipment from QRP kits to antenna tuners. By looking up equipment you are interested in you can find out any problems with items. You also find radios and equipment that have performed well for the price and are highly recommended by others who actually own and use those pieces of gear. Every time I see a piece on EBAY I am interested in I go the EHAM to see how others rate it. They have reviews for thousands of pieces of gear both old and new. If you are planning on buying take a minute to check out this great ham resource. Their web address is <a href="http://www.eham.net/">http://www.eham.net/</a>

James Butler KB4LJV

## AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE .....

Many times when we build up our own amateur radio equipment we have to come up with a case to put it in. Many kits include the case ,knobs, and connectors needed to complete a project but some do not. You can buy knobs and a new case from several venders but this can add a lot to the cost of a project. One way to save money is to reuse older project cases. One of my favorite is the Heathkit HD15 phone patch. These are not in demand that much anymore and on EBAY you see a lot of them for sell untested or not working. Since I am going to strip out the components anyway that does not matter. The phone patches run from \$10.00 to \$15.00 on EBAY and have a lot of parts I can use for my QRP rigs. I get the nice case I can repaint to any color I want. I also get three Heathkit style knobs to use on the controls of the project. The included VU meter can be hooked up to the audio of my QRP rig for an audio derived S-meter. On the back there are two RCA jacks I wire up for the 12 DC power to supply the rig. I also wire up the slide switch on the back as a tune switch to key the rig so I have my hands free to adjust my antenna tuner on my 40 meter version. The hole on the back that has access to a screwdriver adjustment level resistor that I remove is just the right size for my BNC connector I mount for the antenna. This case if perfect for my SWL series QRP radios. I have put both a 30 meter and 40 meter kits in this case. Just make sure the case size is large enough for your project. I am currently looking at other older Heathkits to see if I can reuse the cases on those.

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 Ned at ka4bll@arrl.net or 363-9607.

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) Codes:

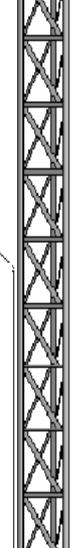
- 1.Antennas
- 2. APRS
- 3. Contesting
- 4. CW Operating
- 5. Direction Finding (fox hunting)
- 6. DXing
- 7. Experimenting/ Circuits/etc.
- 8. HF Phone
- 9. Packet
- , 10. Repeater Operation
- 11. QRP
- 12. Satellite
- 13. RTTY
- 14. VHF 15. PSK31
- 16. Computer logging

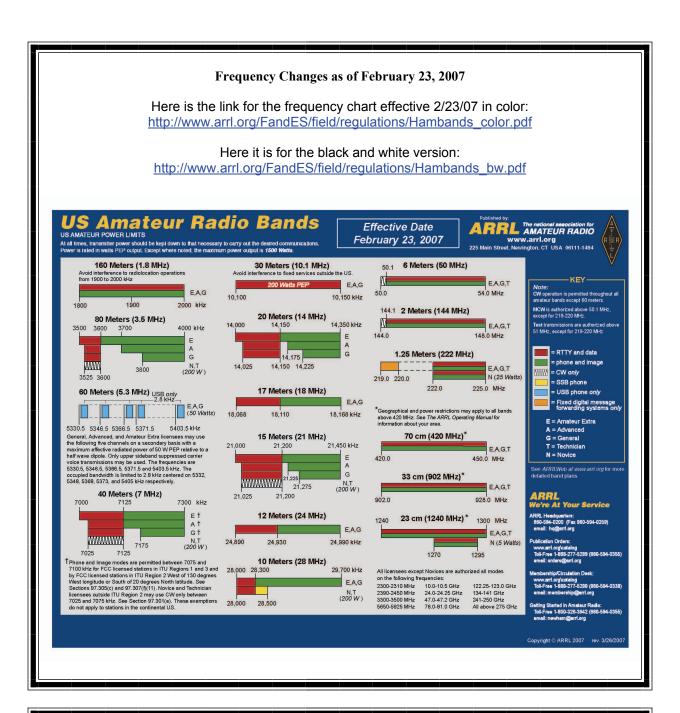
WA2IQC (Gen) Gary Blinckmann 794-5289 garyblin@midsouth.rr.com (1, 7, 10, 14)

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)





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

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

# DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Lance N4GMT	2
3	4 Pat W4OQG	5	6 Jim KG4QDD John KD4EUZ	7 MARA Club Meeting (1st Thursday	8	9
10 Lisa K4POM Geron K4GAC	11	12 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM (2nd Tuesday)	13 Nancy Bobby KC4NBS	14 Sharon N4ZCS	15 Nancy Bill KI4BIY	16
17	18	19	20	21 Ken DC5IX	22 John KE4WEV	23
24 Tom WT4TOM	25 Aaron KG4QDO	26 Shelby Cty., ARES Meeting 6:45 PM (4th Tuesday)	27	28 Adam KI4GIU	29	

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			
CUSEC (Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)	3810	As needed				
CUSEC (Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)	7180	As needed				

# MedMERS moves East (submitted by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO)

The MedMERS net has changed primary frequency to the 146.73 repeater which gives better handheld coverage. The net is on Wednesdays at 12 noon CT.

The repeater is at St. Francis Hospital on Park Avenue. The secondary frequency is the 145.130, -600kHz, 107.2 tone on Methodist North.

	Delta Amateur Radio Club January 2008 Treasurers Rep		
Beginning Balance	as of January 1, 2008		\$6,417.40
	Expenses		
AT&T		1092	\$59.38
		Total Expense	\$59.38
		SubTotal	\$6,358.02
	Income		
Membership Dues			\$560.00
		Total Income	\$560.00
Ending Balance	as of February 5, 2008		\$6,918.02
	Subm	nitted by Bill Stever	ns KI4TQA

# AREA HAMFESTS OF INTEREST

Mississippi State Convention Jackson, MS Feb 1-2, 2008

Arkansas Section Convention Hoxie, AR Feb 16, 2008

Arkansas River Valley AR Foundation Russellville, AR Mar 1, 2008

> Middle Tennessee ARS Tullahoma, TN Mar 15, 2008

The Ides of March Hamfest Union City, TN Mar 15, 2008

# **FYI Analog TV Shutoff**

You're probably aware of the big analog (non-digital) signal shutoff on February 17, 2009. But this month is important too. The government vouchers to go towards the purchase of a digital converter box are now available, as of January 1. Here are some quick facts in case you get questions. We'll do a more detailed digital tv presentation for you later in January.

Every household can receive 2 vouchers.

The vouchers are \$40 each.

You must request them by visiting ntia.doc.gov/dtvcoupon or by calling 1-888-388-2009.

They are available beginning Janaury 1, 2008.

Each voucher may be used for one box only-- you cannot put two vouchers toward the purchase of one box.

The boxes are not yet in the stores. Last word says it will be mid-February.

Last word also puts the boxes at between \$50 and \$80.

This web page is better for you to use to get your converter box coupon: <a href="https://www.dtv2009.gov/">https://www.dtv2009.gov/</a>

**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:

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

## 2008 Board of Directors

#### President

Hugh Wardlaw, WB4SLI 901-487-3820 (hwardlaw@bellsouth.net)

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