

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

P.O. BOX 342768 MEMPHIS, TN 38184-2768 / VOL. 2 / FEBRUARY 2009



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

W4BS
REPEATER
SYSTEM
146.82, 147.36,
224.42, & 443.2

FEBRUARY 2009 CLUB MEETING

DATE: February 10, 2009
PLACE: Ellendale Church Of Christ, 7365 Highway 70,
Memphis, Tn. (1.5 miles east of Hwy. 64-Stage Rd.)
TIME: 7:00 PM
PROGRAM: Winlink (Email via ham radio) presented by Pat Lane W4OQG

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 \$15. 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 just flew by for me. There has been quite a bit going on. One of those things is the Swamp Stompers events. Thanks to all who helped with this. It was an interesting activity. Less than ideal conditions with up and down hills for quite a distance. The participants had some interesting get-ups on as well. If you get a chance jump in. It is an interesting event.

I have been busy with getting EchoLink to work out of my house and finally got that working. It took putting a bridging hub between my Wireless Access Point and the Broadband Modem. The WAP wanted to be a router and was very picky about what ports to pass and to what address. The other activity has been soundcard packet.

The soundcard packet works well using MultiPSK. Now if I can get AGWPE to cooperate with the soundcard, I will have it made. If some of you have any ideas bring them to the meeting and I will note that down and try them. Speaking of the meeting – I hope to see everyone there. Until then take care.

73,
Hugh, WB4SLI

Do you have some time to help out a Ham?

Looking for some able bodies to assist as crew getting a tri-band beam and a vhf beam into place atop our tower in Somerville.

Flexible any day weather cooperates. We just don't have enough people between us that are able.

If willing to assist, contact NF5B, or even better, contact Ray N4ARH as he's been doing a great job moving this project along. We just need about 3 or 4 more able bodies to get things up there safely.

Thanks,
Richard Webb
73 de nf5b

City Slickers Equestrian Event

We have received notice from the event coordinators that the public service event has been cancelled for 2009. The information that we received is that the park requested the event be cancelled so that they would have some time to work on the trails and crossings this year. The event is being planned for a two day event in 2010. Richard NF5B is still planning on coordinating the event in 2010. Thanks to those of you that had volunteered to help out.

DARC Board Minutes of January 6, 2009

Informal Start Time: 7.30 p.m. CT

In Attendance: Hugh - WB4SLI Joe - WA4OVO
Bill - KI4TQA Allen - KJ4BIX
David - KD4NOQ Roger - KI4AJH (early departure)
Wayne - KI4TLB Richard - NF5B
Katherine - KC0HZU

Visitors / Guests: Rosalinda Melena (KI4ZKW) filling in for club secretary.

Repeater Update Hugh W.

- Still sourcing a replacement repeater through "Marshal".
- An additional purchase of wire (~600') may be required.

Repeaters and Repeater Managers Bill S.

- Authorized maintenance on repeaters
- The establishment of a 'maintenance log book' was discussed
- The need for 'back up maintenance personnel' was discussed
- The need to foster an "open forum" for learning the repeater functions / service
- Gather a list of volunteers for future repeater work
- A short review of current repeater managers was given by David (KD4NOQ)
- A short discussion on the eventual linking of un-used repeaters to cover the entire Memphis weather service area.

Treasurer's Report Bill

- No expenses in December or January??
- Current bank balance was provided
- Audit will be completed by February

Web Site All

- A general review
- Specific review of the club history

Training Update Joe

- An Extra class will begin January 10
- Tom, Dean and Pat will be the instructors for the class

Community Events All

- City Slickers event has been canceled for 2009
- Swamp Stompers event will take place in January
- Bartlett Christmas Parade still needs a net control

General Discussion Items All

- The club received a certificate of thanks from the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation
- Presentation Topics for January and February Delta Club Meetings
 - Digital TV
 - Winlink
- An invoice for Tom Fox was submitted for payment ("Instructor's Guide")
- Bill Stevens KI4TQA and Steve Smith (KI4YOP) plan to work on updating the members list.
- Bill moved to remove the telephone patch
- Discussion · No accord reached
- Club interest in an "EP Appreciation Week" event was presented by Joe
- Discussion · There is interest

Adjourned at: ~8.50 p.m. CT

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rosalinda Melena (KI4ZKW)

DARC General Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2009

WB4SLI-Hugh called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. He then turned the floor over to WD4Q-Henry who gave a short talk regarding his recent retirement from ARRL and his appreciation for the support he received from the DARC. The group gave Henry a well deserved standing ovation.

KI4TQA-Bill read the treasurer's report. WA4VXH-Larry made a motion to have the minutes accepted as printed in SPARKS. KI4ZKW-Rosalinda. The members unanimously accepted.

Hugh then called for the introductions of the 41 members and guests present.

KA4BLL-Ned commented that there were some issues with the club repeaters which need some attention as weather permits. Along those lines, WB4SLI-Hugh advised the group of his continuing efforts to get with Marshall at Memphis Amateur Radio Electronics to acquire a replacement repeater machine.

WB4SLI-Hugh and KI4TQA-Bill presented to the group, a "Thank You" Certificate received from The JDRF, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

W4OQG-Pat Lane gave a very informative presentation on Digital TV
WA4VXH-Larry won the door prize.

Respectfully submitted by:
KI4YOP-Steve Smith

Photos submitted by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO



DARC General Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2009 (cont.)



I would like to thank each one of you that volunteered to coordinate one of the public service events in 2009. As you can see from the list below there is only one event that still needs a coordinator. That event is the Bartlett Christmas Parade. Those of you that were at the meeting last week heard Jim KI4I state that he has done this event for many years and would like to be able to step down and let someone else take over that event. That being said I feel certain to say to the person that steps up to coordinate that event you will not be left alone and you will have fun.

73's
Roger
KI4AJH

2009 Public Service Events

Historically Delta has been providing support for ten events annually which means we need ten people to step up and volunteer to be the coordinator for those events. The good news is that we already have eight of the events covered. Look at the table below to see a list of events and the coordinators that have already volunteered to cover those events. If you see an event listed without a coordinator and you are interested in becoming the coordinator for that event let Roger KI4AJH@bellsouth.net know. If the weekend is listed and not the exact date it means at this time the exact date isn't know but historically it has been held on that weekend. Each of us that have volunteered to coordinate an event will certainly give it up if you had your heart set on being the coordinator for that event, Just let us know. If you volunteer to coordinate an event I will help you by sending out a mass email to the Sparks distribution list to help you get volunteers to help with the event. I will not however coordinate the event for you. When I send out the email I will be directing them to contact you directly via email or phone, whichever you want.

Date	Event	Coordinator	Website
January 18th	Swamp Stompers	Eddie KF4QFW	http://memphisultra.blogspot.com/2008/01/swamp-stomper-2008.html
March Cancelled for 2009	City Slickers Equestrian Event	Richard NF5B	http://www.midsouthhorsereview.com/articles/2007/05/12/news/news05.txt
TBA	Boy Scout Merit Badge University	Hugh WB4SLI	http://walkwas.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=WLK_WAS_homepage&gclid=CJCC-K7JxpYCFRKLxwodzDwxyQ
April Delta not Coordinating	MS Walk		http://tns.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=TNS_homepage
25th	March for Babies AKA March of Dimes Walk	Bob KF4NDK	http://www.marchforbabies.org/
May 17th	Memphis in May Triathlon	Ned KA4BLL	http://www.mimtri.racesonline.com/
September 12th & 13th	MS 150 Bike Ride	Darrell KK4D	http://biketns.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=BIKE_TNS_homepage
October 3rd	Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk	Kathleen KC0HZU	http://walk.jdrf.org/
December 5th	St. Jude Marathon	Roger KI4AJH	http://www.stjudemarathon.org
5th	Bartlett Christmas Parade		http://tn-bartlett.civicplus.com/index.asp?NID=629

HAM LICENSE TRAINING for 2009

By Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Director of Training

Again, thanks to everyone who made 2008 such a successful year for Amateur Radio in the Memphis area!! There were 36 new Techs, 23 new Generals, and 11 new Extras added to the ham community this past year from classes.

SCHEDULED CLASSES

None at this time. However, I am trying to schedule a Technician class for this winter.

CLASSES IN PROGRESS

Extra Class 1-09 – January 10- February 28, 2009



Extra Class 1-09 in session.

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

HAM LICENSE TRAINING for 2009 (cont.)

An Extra Class course started January 10, 2009 and will continue until February 28th for seven Saturdays except for January 31st (which is Jackson, MS hamfest). Tom Fox KA4LWQ developed an instructor's guide from the new Extra Class question-pool that became effective July 1, 2008.

Tom presented the introduction. Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO presented the Operating Practices chapter as well as the FCC rules and regulations.

Dean Honadle N2LAZ provided his outstanding instruction on the calculator, and understanding the trigonometry and the mathematics helpful in the Extra Class license exam. (Remember the 3-4-5 right triangle? 53 or 37 degree angles in a right triangle? What is the hypotenuse for an equal sided right triangle?)



Dean N2LAZ providing instruction in Extra Class 1-09.

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

Dean is the primary instructor for Electronic Principles, Components, and Electrical Circuits. Pat Lane W4OQG will cover Antenna and Feedlines. And, Tom Fox will cover Radio Signals, Radio Modes, Radio Propagation, and Safety.

HAM LICENSE TRAINING for 2009 (cont.)

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 wa4ovo@yahoo.com with subject line "Technician Class." Or you can go to the Delta Club webpage www.deltaclub.org; click on Training Classes; and then click on Technician Class to send me 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.

There is no charge for the class, but registration is required. Advanced study of *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual* is highly suggested as well as study of the 392 question and answer Technical Class License question pool. Memphis Amateur, 1465 Wells Station Rd, 683-9125 is a local ham radio store that sells the manuals.

Practice tests are highly recommended. The www.qrz.com website is free. To access the sample tests, scroll down and click on Practice Tests on the left side of the QRZ home page. Another site is www.hamtestonline.com. It costs \$49.95, but it is good for 2 years for the Technician, General and Extra Class tests.

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 me know of your interest by sending me an email at 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; 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.

EXTRA CLASS

Please pre-register by going to the Delta Club web page 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.

COMPLETED CLASSES IN 2009

To date in 2009, we have not completed a class.

Memphis FreeFest

*April 18, 2009 9am-
3pm*

Bartlett Station Municipal
Center

5868 Stage Road, Bartlett, TN
38134

More information on MARA website

[http://sites.google.com/a/maraonline.org/
mara-online/freefest](http://sites.google.com/a/maraonline.org/mara-online/freefest)

AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE

Many of us are using some of the newer digital modes. These are computer keyboard to keyboard on the HF bands. Any encoding scheme that can be thought up can be used to transmit data. Two tones of any frequency to represent a "0" or "1" can be used. One of the newer modes coming into use is MFSK16. This mode has several advantages over PSK31. MFSK16 as the names suggests generates 16 different tones on the bands to transmit the typed characters. Yes it is different but if you have been using PSK31 with your radio and computer you can try out this new mode just by running new software on your computer. The main advantage of MFSK16 is in its ability to get through under poor band conditions. This mode is slower than RTTY or PSK31 but will get through when they do not. It is used on the lower portion of the digital allocation of each band. MFSK is about 350 HZ wide on the band. This is narrower than some digital signals but it is wider than PSK31. Note that all MFSK transmissions are on USB. Software and information can be downloaded from the website. It is <http://xoomer.alice.it/aporcino/Stream/index.htm>

James Butler
KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

I have ended up with a few broken off telescoping antennas from old radios over the years. This month's project is the telescoping receive antenna. I have needed an antenna to hookup radios to when working on the bench. I usually just hang on a piece of wire to the coax connector and let it hang off the desk. This sort of works but reception is not that good. By taking a block of wood and drilling it to mount an old surplus telescoping antenna I can set it on the bench and extend it up. By hooking a wire between the antenna and radio I get great reception when testing and I can collapse the antenna and put it back on the shelf when it is not needed. This has worked out well for my bench testing of radios. It is easy to build and really useful in troubleshooting.

James Butler
KB4LJV



TENNESSEE NETS

Net Name	Freq.	UTC	Day
Tennessee CW Net	3563	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 moved East
(submitted by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO)**

The MedMERS net has changed primary frequency is the 146.73 repeater with a 107.2 tone which gives good handheld coverage in east Memphis. The net is on Wednesdays at 12 noon CT. The repeater is at St. Francis Hospital on Park Avenue.

The secondary frequency is the 147.360, +600kHz, 107.2 tone on Methodist North.

**Delta Amateur Radio Club
January 2009 Treasurers Report**

Beginning Balance	as of January 1,2009	\$8,309.11
Expenses		
Tom Fox	copying	\$36.98
AT&T	2 months 146.85 phone	\$123.80
U of M	2 months 443.200 phone	\$45.88
		Total Ex- pense \$206.66
		SubTotal \$8,102.45
Income		
Membership Dues		\$625.00
		Total Income \$625.00
Ending Balance	as of February 1,2009	\$8,727.45

Submitted by Bill Stevens KI4TQA

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Julia Lance N4GMT Jonathan KF4DJT	2 Ernest KG4ZTV Todd N4DNI	3	4 Pat W4QGG	5 MARA Club Meeting (1st Thursday) Curtis W4WP	6 Ben AF4TV John KD4EUZ John KA4CJL Jim AF4WQ Jim KG4QDD	7 Amanda John AD4ME Wayne KB4GFK
8 Carol KF4KYR Jon KC4ZOS	9 Steven W4UCA	10 Delta Club Meeting (2nd Tuesday) Lisa K4POM Geron K4GAC	11 Charles KF4QYS	12 Douglas K4DBR	13 Bobby KC4NBS Nancy	14 Sharon N4ZCS Terry N4RES Tom N4TPH
15 Nancy Michael KD5DCJ Bill KI4BIY	16 Jim W0SK	17 Tom K4TTA Rebecca Brad	18 Aaron KB5SRZ	19 Frank KC4SXV Ben KF4LES Barry N4QW	20 Daniel KI4KRM Doug WX9B	21 Ken KC5IX
22 John KE4WEV	23 Jean KE4OKN Mark KE4ZHL	24 ARES Meeting (4th Tuesday) Donald KJ4PO Tom WT4TOM	25 Sally KI4AUD Aaron KG4QDO	26 David KC5JYZ	27	28 Richard KA4NET Adam KI4GIU

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.

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

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)

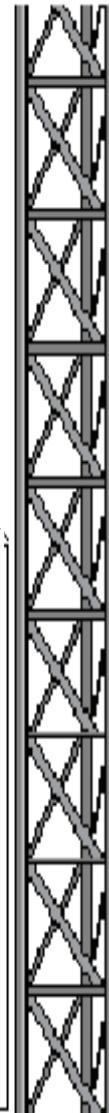
N9ACQ (Extra) Bill Kuechler 368-0532
n9acq@arrl.net (1, 8, 13)

WA2IQC (Gen) Gary Blinckmann 794-5289
realgary2@yahoo.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)

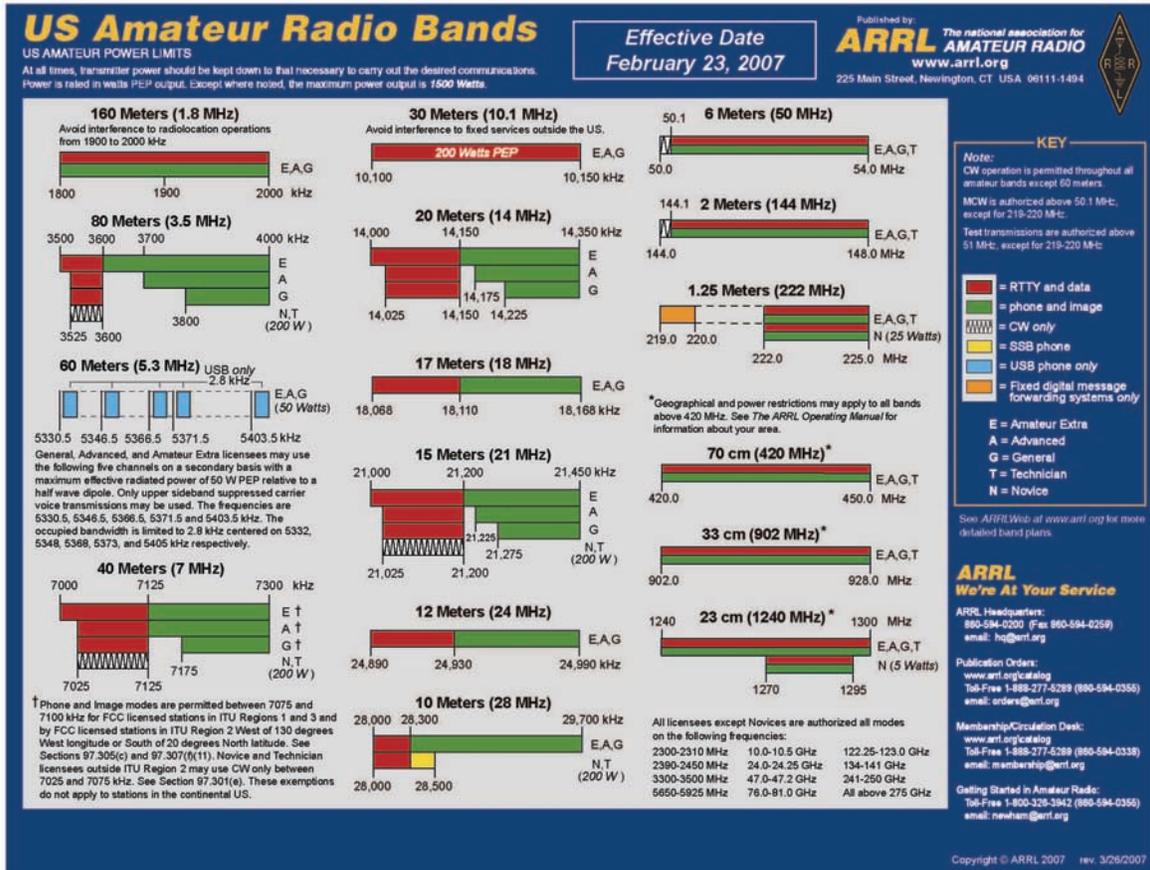
W4GMM (Extra) Ham Hilliard 372-2337
hamh@bellsouth.net (All categories)



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



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

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

2009 Delta Club Membership

If you haven't already done so it is time to renew your club membership. You can go to the [Delta Club](#) website and print off a 2009 membership form and submit it with your cash, check, or money order.

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 amateur related topics. This net meets nightly at 8:00 p.m. 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? (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 an NTS Liaison station on frequency?

Is there any station wishing to list formal written traffic?

Does any station have announcements for the net?

(Eliminate the following sentence unless there are announcements.)

Does any station have any questions or need any fills?

We will now take check-ins. 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 check-ins phonetically by suffix only if your suffix begins ALPHA through HOTEL please come now and remember to spread them out.

We now will take check-ins phonetically by suffix only if your suffix begins INDIA through QUEBEC please come now and remember to spread them out?

We will now take check-ins 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 Fox, KA4LWQ at 357-1663 . For membership information contact Steve Smith KI4YOP at 493-8663. For training class information contact Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO at 683-2701..

We will now take late check-ins 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 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

AREA HAMFESTS OF INTEREST

Arkansas Section Convention
Feb 28, 2009
Hoxie, AR

Arkansas River Valley AR Foundation
Mar 7, 2009
Russellville, AR

Middle Tennessee Amateur Radio Society
Mar 21, 2009
Tullahoma, TN

Reelfoot Amateur Radio Cub
Mar 21, 2009
Union City, TN

Net Control Operators Needed

We are in need of a net controller for Saturday nights. The net is a big part of our Delta Club activities and also serves as training for NCO s to help out in case of a disaster. Please consider serving in this excellent and enjoyable activity. You may contact me at n4gmt@comcast.net

Lance R Morris
N4GMT

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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901-465-9921(elspider@bellsouth.net)

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Steve Smith
901-493-8663 (ki4yop@gmail.com)

-

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Bill Stevens, KI4TQA
901-603-3448 (KI4TQA@bellsouth.net)

-

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901-683-2701 (WA4OVO@yahoo.com)

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901-386-8457 (KI4AJH@bellsouth.net)

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901-377-5132, wjmonte@comcast.net

-

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