

Delta Amateur Radio Club

SPARKS

P.O. BOX 342768 MEMPHIS, TN 38134-2768 – Vol. 7 July 2010



W4BS REPEATER SYSTEM

146.820-(107.2) 147.360+(107.2)

224.420- 443.200+(107.2)

July 2010 CLUB MEETING

DATE: Canceled

PLACE: Canceled

Program: Canceled

VE TESTING: Canceled

President's Corner

I hope everyone had a good time at Field Day 2010, *it appears* we beat our last year number of contacts and hopefully got a few more points. I know I enjoyed it, nothing like taking a weekend for some HAM Radio time. I think myself and the other Board members learned a little and have a few ideas to make next year even better - including that we need to inspect and correct any problems with the equipment in advance of the event to reduce if not eliminate the Murphy factor. Next year I would like to have a sign-up sheet for operators and maybe we can "spur" a little competition and get more people on the radio, more on that to follow. I hope everyone had a good 4th of July, I had the experience of driving to Orlando over the holiday which translated into (2) 13 hour trips with a bunch of radio time. I managed to work the 13 colonies special event stations for a clean sweep - all mobile, that was a bunch of fun. Hope to see you at the meeting.

73

Alan / KJ4BIX

DELTA CLUB MEETING

I have either misplaced or never received the minutes

DELTA CLUB BOARD MEETING

I have either misplaced or never received the minutes

Treasury

Beginning Balance	as of June 1, 2010	\$14,698.28
Expenses		
AT&T	(phone line)	\$62.14
Delta Domain Registration	(7 years)	\$112.00
2 Club Banners		\$112.03
Total Expense		\$286.17
SubTotal		\$14,412.11
Income		
Deposit for Huntsville		\$1,125.00
Membership Dues		\$50.00
Total Income		\$1,175.00
Ending Balance	as of June 30, 2010	\$15,587.11

Submitted by Rick Tillman WA4NVM

Tennessee Nets

Net Name	Freq. MHz	Local Time	Day
Tennessee CW Net	3.563	7:00p	Daily
Tennessee Slow CW Net	3.682	7:30p	T-Su
Tennessee Early Morn Phone Net	3.980	5:40a	M-F
Tennessee Morning Phone Net	3.980	6:45a	M-F
Tennessee Evening Phone Net	3.980	6:30p	T-Su
CUSEC (Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)	3.810	As needed	
CUSEC (Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)	7.180	As needed	

Memphis Area Nets

Mid-South Barefooted Bullfrog net	146.535	7:30p	Daily
Delta Club Traffic and Information Net	146.820-(107.2)	8:00p	Daily
Secret Service Net	224.780-	8:30p	M
Elmer Net	147.030+(107.2)	9:00p	M
The Short Winded Net	146.850-	8:30p	Tu
MedMERS Net	146.730-(107.2)	12:00p	W
Six Meter Tech Net	53.01-	8:30p	W
YTBN 440 Net (New Day and Time)	443.200+(107.2)	9:00p	W
Two meter single Sideband Net	144.260 USB	8:30p	Th
ARES Training Net	146.880-(107.2)	9:00p	2 nd & 4 th Th

The Delta Amateur Radio Club sends congratulations to the following who have received their new license call signs or upgrade.

Stavely, James L.	N4REU	General
Hall, Kelly W.	KJ4VUW	Tech
Krause, Stacy L.	KJ4MDA	General
Raines, John E.	WB4LPD	Extra
Foster, Cynthia H.	KJ4VUV	Tech
Borso, Joseph C.	KJ4VUU	Tech
Cox, Chadwick L.	KF5HIP	Tech

We are proud of you. I would like to invite you to come to our next meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of June 2010 so that we can all congratulate you personally.

Tom Fox KA4LWQ ARRL VE Liaison

BUS TRIP to 2010 HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST AUGUST 21st

DARC is sponsoring a 50-passenger bus to go to the Huntsville Hamfest on August 21, 2010. As of writing the article, there are only 10 seats left.

There is a graduated scale fare for the bus trip. The fare is \$50 if paid by July 20, 2010. The fare is \$60 if paid after July 20th. There will be biscuit sandwiches, water, sodas, chips, and fruit on the bus going to Huntsville and whatever is left for the trip back.

Cash or checks will be accepted for payment. Make checks payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club. You can pay at a meeting. You can also send your check to Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, 6675 Ashbridge Cove, Memphis, TN 38120. Please include your name, callsign, cell phone number, and email address. Reservations will be on a first come first paid basis.

The bus will leave Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Highway 70, Bartlett, TN at 6:00am on August 21th. A second pickup point will be at Germantown Baptist Church, 9450 Poplar Avenue at Johnson Road, Germantown, TN at approximately 6:40am. The bus will leave Huntsville immediately after the 4pm door prize drawing and return to Germantown Baptist Church approximately 7:30pm and Ellendale Church of Christ at approximately 8:15pm.

Ellendale Church of Christ has asked us to park in the larger parking lot on the west side of the building to leave the east side open for church activity parking.

The pickup point at Germantown Baptist Church will be by the northwest bus portico on the back side of the church. If there is inclement weather, the bus will pull in under the portico.

Joe
WA4OVO

PACKET UPDATE

On the HF bands we frequently use antenna tuners to match our antennas. In the past this was done with manual tuners. Now companies have come out with automatic antenna tuners. These are microprocessor controlled and are simple to use. Key the radio and push the tune button and it is done. One company that has started to make a whole line of antenna tuners is MFJ Enterprises. They have units for different power levels from QRP up to 1500 watt tuners. They also have low priced units with and without SWR meters on them. They even sell an outside weather sealed unit and a 200 watt remote unit. They also offer units that are sized to match popular radios. If you are looking for a new automatic antenna tuner check out the tuners offered from MFJ Enterprises.

James Butler
KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

In the Amateur Hardware update last month we looked at “crowbar” circuits for power supplies to monitor for an over voltage condition that can damage our radios. Another way to do this is to use a cutout relay. You can buy 24 VDC relays really cheap at hamfest because of the odd voltage they run on. Most amateurs want the 12 VDC ones. As it turns out a 24 VDC relay will normally turn on below that voltage. The one I had turned on at 17.1 VDC. This is a little high for voltage protection for my rig. However by adjusting the spring on the relay to have a lighter pull I got the relay to activate at 14.5 VDC. By hooking the power supply output to the relay coil and running the positive output of the power supply using a normally closed contact on the relay if the voltage goes above 14.5 the relay activates and disconnects power to my rig. I made sure the current rating on the relay contacts was big enough to handle the current needed by my radio. This is usually not a problem with QRP as most radios draw 1 amp or less. The relay will drop back out if the power supply power is cycled. I mounted my in a small case along with 2 LEDs to indicate power supply voltage power going out to my rig. This is just another way to keep from having over voltage conditions from damaging our radios.



James Butler
KB4LJV

2010 Public Service Events

If you have any events you would like to add, please e-mail them to aj4gy@arrl.net

Date	Event	Coordinator
September 11th & 12 th	MS 150 Bike Ride	Darrell KK4D
October 2nd (1st Saturday)	Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk	Kathleen KC0HZU
December 4th	St. Jude Marathon	Roger KI4AJH
4th	Bartlett Christmas Parade	Dennis KJ4BDU
TBA	Boy Scout Merit Badge	Hugh WB4SLI

HAM LICENSE TRAINING for 2010

By Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Director of Training

There is no charge for classes, but the student is responsible for the purchase of the license manual and the \$15 ARRL FCC examination fee.

Licenses Earned in 2010 from Delta Classes

49 Technician

5 General

3 Extra

SCHEDULED CLASSES

Technician Class 5-10 – July 17 & July 24, 2010

Technician Class 5-10 will be held on two Saturdays, July 17th and 24th, from 8am to 5pm at the American Red Cross Midsouth Chapter, 1400 Central Avenue.

Caution: The Technician question pool changed July 1, 2010. Be sure to purchase the correct license manual, *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, Second Edition*-product #0830.

Advanced registration is required with email to Joe Lowenthal at wa4ovo@yahoo.com, or call 901-683-2701 with name, email address, and contact phone number, preferably a cell phone number. See Future Classes below for more information.

Basic Electronics

A Basics Electronics class is under review for start in late September.

CLASSES IN PROGRESS

None

FUTURE CLASSES

TECHNICIAN CLASS

If you are interested in the first amateur license class, Technician, please let us know of by sending an email to wa4ovo@yahoo.com with subject line "Technician Class" and give name, email address, and a contact phone number (preferably a cell number). Or you can go to the Delta Club webpage www.deltaclub.org click on Training Classes; then click on Technician Class to send 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 if you send an email informing us of your desire to be in a class.

There is no charge for the class, but registration is required. Advanced study of *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, Second Edition, product #0830* (red manual with 2 pictures on front cover verses 3 pictures on older version) is strongly suggested as well as study of the 396 question and answer Technical Class License question pool. Barnes & Noble Booksellers may have this Second Edition manual. You can purchase it online from www.arrl.org/catalog or on Amazon.com. The list price is \$24.95.

The new Technician License question pool, which was approved by the NCVEC on February 1, 2010, can be seen at <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=356>. Testing for the new question pool started July 1, 2010.

Practice tests are highly recommended. The www.grz.com website is free. To access the sample tests, click on Main Menu to the right of the Search button on the QRZ Home Page. Scroll down and click on Practice Amateur Radio Exams. Click on Start Test to enter QRZ Practice Test Center. Click on Technician 35 Questions. Click on Wait For Correct. (This feature gives you the ability to answer again to get the correct answer if you miss the first time. On each answer it will either show Wrong Answer or Correct.) Click on Begin Test. Statistics are given at the top of the screen with the number of Completed questions, the Accuracy percentage, and the Overall percentage of questions completed on the test. Be sure to study multiple QRZ tests. The first test is only the first question from each of the 35 subgroups of the question pool. The second test is only the second question from each of the 35 subgroups, and so on. It is recommended to take at least 15 of the sample tests to be able to see all 392-question pool questions.

A very good site is www.hamtestonline.com. It costs \$74.95, but it is good for 2 years for the Technician, General and Extra Class tests. There are a number of other free sample-test sites. Just Google *ham radio practice exams*.

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 us know by sending an email to 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; then click on General Class to send me an email with name, email address and contact phone, preferably cell number, or call at 901-683-2701. The textbook is *The*

ARRL General Class License Manual. Lately, we have been running a combined Technician-General class. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set.

BASIC ELECTRONICS CLASS

The Basic Electronics Class is designed to bridge the electronics-learning gap between the General and the Extra Class licenses. The class textbook is ARRL's *Understanding Basic Electronics*. The suggested calculator is the Casio fx-260 solar calculator, which can be purchased at Walmart for under \$10. There is no exam for this class. The class has been held in the September-November time frame.

If you are interested in the Basic Electronics Class, please let us know by sending an email with name, email address and contact phone, preferably cell number to wa4ovo@yahoo.com with subject line "Basic Electronics Class" or call at 901-683-2701. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set.

EXTRA CLASS

If you are interested in an Extra Class, please pre-register by going to the Delta Club web page www.deltaclub.org; click on Training Classes; then click on Extra Class to send an email with name, email address and contact phone, preferably cell number 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. Classes have been held for 6 or 7 weeks in January and February.

COMPLETED CLASSES IN 2010

Technician Class 1-07 Continued

Congratulations to Linda Wardlaw KJ4UZW for eight hours of studies on the way to Dayton Hamvention where she earned her Technician license. This is a follow-up from Tech Class 1-07.

Technician Class 4-10 – March 20-21, 2010

Tech Class 4-10 was held on Saturday and Sunday, March 20-21 at the Shelby County Sheriff's Training Center in cooperation with Delta Company, 51st Forward Support Battalion of the Tennessee State Guard. Danny Banks KJ4FXZ arranged the class to give the non-paid volunteer members of the Tennessee Guard another communications tool.

Congratulations go to the 21 students for earning their Technician license. Congratulations again to Paul Kossik for also earning his General license.

Pictured below is Tech Class 4-10 Left to right-1st table Mike Tarkington KJ4THN, Charlie Smith KJ4THK, Jim Covington KJ4THV; 2nd table Doris Banks KJ4THA, Jane Gaschen KJ4THE, Larry Gashen KJ4THD, Sam Huggins KJ4THQ, Paul Kossik KJ4THU; 3rd table Phil Hagood KJ4THG, Kerry Beers KJ4THO, Drew Perkins KJ4THF(hidden), Lane Edmondson KJ4THT, James Coop KJ4THS, Neil Solomon KJ4THP; 4th table Tommy Porter KJ4THI, Danny Banks KJ4FXZ, Kimberlee Norwood KJ4THC, Robert Pepper KJ4THM; 5th table Jim Wilson KJ4THB; Not pictured Joseph Ruff KJ4THL, Larry Anthony KJ4THH, and Richard Threlkeld KJ4THJ



Photo: Pat Lane W4OQG informs Tech Class 4-10 on the propagation differences in 1/4 wave, 1/2 wave, and 5/8 wave 2-meter antennas.

Thanks to the WCARS VE Team of Win Guin W2GLJ, Bill Stevens KI4TQA, David Gilbert AJ4LV, Jeff Krause AJ4GY, and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO for being the VEs for the exam session.

Technician Class 3-10 – February 15 – March 15, 2010

Twenty-one students attended the first session for Technician Class 3-10, which was held on 5 Monday nights at the Memphis-Shelby County Health Department East Campus. Sixteen completed the course with all earning their Technician licenses.

Congratulations to Scott Agent KJ4TCL, Lisa Alex KJ4TCX, Danny Bishop KJ4TCH, Justin Bryan KJ4TCD, Scott Chapman KJ4SJR, Joe Ibarra KJ4TCJ, Brian Jenkins KJ4TCI, John Moriarty KJ4TCG, Howard Nelson KJ4TCC, Bruce Oliasani KJ4TCK, Calvin Oliphant KJ4SJS, Zach Pennington KJ4TCM, Stan Peppenhorst KJ4TDA, James Sterling KJ4TCE, Ray Turner KJ4TCY, and Karen Wilson KJ4TCF. Additional congratulations go to Danny Bishop, Scott Chapman, Calvin Oliphant, and Ray Turner who have also upgraded to General.



Photo: Win Guin W2GLJ giving exam instructions to Tech Class 3-10.

Thanks to the WCARS VE Team of Win Guin W2GLJ, Bill Stevens KI4TQA, Rick Tillman WA4NVM, and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO for providing the FCC test session.

Extra Class 1-10 – January 16 – February 27, 2010

Five students completed the 6 weeks for Extra Class 1-10 on Saturday mornings from 9am-1pm at the Memphis-Shelby County Health Department East Campus. The instructors were Tom Fox KA4LWQ, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Dean Honadle N2LAZ, and Pat Lane W4OQG. The text used was *The ARRL Extra Class License Manual*.



Photo: Pat Lane W4OQG (lower right) giving the Antenna and Feedline presentation for the Extra Class 1-10. Students pictured from left to right: Mac Tidwell KJ4EHE, Jay Tomasello KJ4RCR, Danny Banks KJ4FXZ, (Ken Lasester KI4AOH on camera), and Jim Walton K4ZFQ.

Congratulations to Sonny Mounicou KF5CLC and Jim Walton K4ZZFQ for upgrading to Extra on February 27th. Jay Tomasello KJ4RCR upgraded on March 9th. Due to conflicts the other two students said they would test later at the Delta Club test sessions. The ARRL VEs were Tom Fox KA4LWQ, Bill Stevens KI4TQA, Jeff Krause AJ4GY, and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO.

Technician Class 2-10 – February 3-4, 2010

Technician Class 2-10 was held for two days at Memphis International Airport for 11 students from the Transportation Security Agency (TSA). The students earned their Technician license so they can operate the TSA Memphis MARS agency station. An additional congratulation goes to Ray Phetteplace who also earned his General license. Thanks to Tom Fox KA4LWQ, Bill Stevens KI4TQA, Rick Tillman WA4NVM, and Joe Lowenthal for being the ARRL VE testing team.



Tech Class 2-10 Photo left to right: 1st row Tracy Farrah, Mac McKee, Ray Phetteplace, DARC Director of Training Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO; 2nd row-Carl Gentry, Amy Leroux; 3rd row-Mark Cole, Debra Laudermilk, 4th row-David Boston, Gerald Adcock, Cleo Peete; Not shown-George Czech.

COMPLETED CLASSES IN 2009

The Delta Amateur Radio Club had a wonderful year in 2009 with 83 students receiving licenses or upgrades in the five license classes held. Eight of the 46 Technicians were young hams who can keep our great hobby going for many years to come. One of those young hams also earned his General license. Thanks go to all of the volunteers that helped to make 2009 a great year. A special thanks goes to Bill Stevens KI4TQA, Rick Tillman WA4NVM, David Gilbert AJ4LV, Pat Lane W4OQG, Dean Honadle N2LAZ, Tom Fox KA4LWQ, Win Guin W2GLJ, and Dennis Foster KJ4BDU for their help with the classes.

Field Day Photos 2010 Photos
Courtesy of David Albert, N5COO









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?

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?

(If anyone asks to make an announcement after you finish handling the ones taken here ask them to hold until after the monolog. 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 will now take check-ins phonetically by suffix only if your suffix begins INDIA through KEEBECK 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, KA4LWQ at 357-1663. For membership information contact Steve KI4YOP at 493-8663. For training information contact Joe WA4OVO at 683-2701..

Are there any additional announcements?

We will now take late check-ins from anywhere in the alphabet ALPHA through ZULU please come now and spread them out.

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

July 2010 Important Dates

Delta Club Meeting – Tuesday, the 13th
???

MARA Club meeting – No meeting this
month.

ARES Meeting – Tuesday, the 26th

Area Hamfests

07/17/2010 | [Warrensburg Area Amateur Radio Club](#)

Location: Warrensburg, MO

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Warrensburg Area Amateur
Radio Club

07/24/2010 | [Cullman Amateur Radio Club](#)

Location: Cullman, AL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cullman Amateur Radio Club

08/21/2010 | [Southeastern Division Convention](#)

Location: Huntsville, AL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Huntsville Hamfest
Association

Delta Amateur Radio Club's 2010 Board Members

President:

Alan Anderson – KJ4BIX

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Rosalinda Melena – KI4ZKW

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