

Delta Amateur Radio Club

SPARKS

P.O. BOX 342768 MEMPHIS, TN 38134-2768 – Vol. 11 November 2010



W4BS REPEATER SYSTEM

146.820-(107.2) 147.360+(107.2)

224.420- 443.200+(107.2)

November 2010 CLUB MEETING

DATE: November 9th, 2010

PLACE: Ellendale Church of Christ
7365 HWY 70, Bartlett TN

Program: 2011 Elections / Prizes

Break Open Your Piggy Banks!!!!

The Annual raffle for the Delta Club is this month. Please remember to bring your piggy banks to the club meeting so you can buy tickets and increase your chances of winning some of the great prizes this year which includes a Yaesu

FT-857D and two Wuxun HT's.

VE TESTING: VE registration begins at 5:30pm with testing starting promptly at 6pm. A copy of your license and CSCE is required. For V. E. Information contact Tom Fox, KA4LWQ at 357-1663.

DELTA CLUB MEETING MINUTES FOR October 12, 2010

Alan – KJ4BIX called the meeting to order at 7:05PM and asked for introductions of the attending 52 members and guest. He then asks if there was any old or new business. There was no new business. Alan announced that ticket sales for the annual drawing held during the November meeting were taking place. Tickets were on sale for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

Steve – KI4YOP was asked for minutes to be read of the last meeting. Ham – W4GMM made a motion to accept as printed in Sparks. Bill – KC4SXT seconded and was accepted by the attending membership

Rick – WA4NVM presented the treasurers report. Larry – WA4VXH made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as printed in Sparks and was seconded by Ham – W4GMM. Club attendance accepted.

Dennis – KJ4BDU announced that volunteer operators were needed for the Bartlett Christmas Parade. Those interested should contact Dennis.

Roger – WR4R announced that volunteer operators were needed for the St. Jude Marathon. Those interested should contact Roger.

After a short break, David – KD4NOQ presented a very informative program on Fox Hunting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted By:
Steve Smith – KI4YOP

DELTA CLUB BOARD MEETING

Attendee's

Rosalinda – KI4ZKW
Rick – WA4NVM
Steve – KI4YOP
David – KD4NOQ
Jeff – AJ4GY

Rosalinda called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and opened by asking if there was any old or new business.

Rick – WA4NVM gave the treasurers report which was accepted by the board. He presented the final draft of the budget for the remainder of the year. It was reviewed by the board and accepted.

Jeff – AJ4GY presented a draft copy of "Sparks" news letter.

Rick presented suggestions for the prizes to be given away for the annual drawing to be held at the November meeting. It was discussed and accepted by the board.

A nomination committee was discussed and decided upon a list of members who are eligible to be board members were made available to the committee.

David – KD4NOQ announced that the program this month would be on Fox Hunting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM

Respectfully submitted by Steve – KI4YOP

Treasury Report

Beginning Balance	as of October 1, 2010	\$12,195.85
--------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------

Expenses

AT&T	(phone line)	\$61.93
U of M	(phone line)	\$22.94

Total Expense	\$84.87
----------------------	----------------

SubTotal **\$12,110.98**

Income

Membership Dues	\$70.00
Donations	\$10.00
Nov. Ticket Sales	\$307.00

Total Income	\$387.00
---------------------	-----------------

Ending Balance	as of October 31, 2010	\$12,497.98
-----------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------

Submitted by Rick Tillman WA4NVM

VE Report

The Delta Amateur Radio Club sends congratulations to the following who have received their license call sign.

Wood, John T. KJ4YVS Tech

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

Tom Fox KA4LWQ ARRL VE Liaison

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Many times we have small batteries that we want to keep charged up. One way is to use a constant current power supply to feed them. The current limit is set and any battery can be hooked up and over time if good it will take a charge and stay topped off. Constant current battery chargers have been around a long time. By using a three terminal adjustable voltage regulator and a resistor a constant current source can be built. The regulator is an LM317 adjustable unit. The resistor I chose was a 22 ohm resistor for a maximum current of 60 milliamps. This means I can charge any battery pack from 1.2 volts up to 12 VDC that has a capacity of 600 milliamps or greater and leave the unit hooked up all the time. I put mine in a small box with input voltage and output of 60 milliamps labeled. It works well and only requires the two parts and a DC power supply. To find out more just lookup the data sheet for the LM317 regulator chip on the internet.

James Butler
KB4LJV



PACKET UPDATE

Many times when we like to build up our own equipment. They have some QRP rigs for digital modes like CW and PSK31. One thing these pieces of equipment need is a small 12 VDC power supply to run them. You can go out and buy a power supply or build up your own. Power supplies are needed with most new equipment. Learning about how power supplies work and how to repair them can be helpful. RSGB books, (CQ magazine) has a book you can get called the Power Supply Handbook. At 288 pages it contains lots of good information on how power supplies work and how to

build, modify, and repairing power supplies. They also show how to test power supplies. They even have sections on batteries, chargers, and test equipment. If you want to learn about power supplies check out this book from RSGB books. The website is www.cq-amateur-radio.com

James Butler
KB4LJV

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
The 440 Net	443.200+(107.2Hz)	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
Sunday Niner Net	927.6125(147.2)	after delta net	S

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
December 4th	St. Jude Marathon	Roger KI4AJH
4th	Bartlett Christmas Parade This public service event requires 25-30 volunteers. HT's are fine to use but, speaker mikes are very handy to use at this event. An earphone is best for hearing due to loud background noise. There are 6-8 non-walking assignments. Walking positions are given the day of the parade. Should weather cause a cancellation of the parade Saturday, the rain date is the next day.	Dennis KJ4BDU 73's Dennis
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

61 Technician

5 General

3 Extra

SCHEDULED CLASSES

The Extra Class License Class is in the planning stage for January-February time frame.

CLASSES IN PROGRESS

Basic Electronics Class 6-10 – September 25-November 6, 2010

The Basic Electronics class, which is a bridge between the General Class license and the Extra Class license, began on September 25th with 10 students and continued on Saturdays until November 6th at the Memphis-Shelby County Health Department East Complex.



Basic Electronics Class 6-10

Photo by Dennis Foster KJ4BDU

Dean Honadle N2LAZ opened the class with instruction on understanding the metric system and calculator functions. Dennis Foster KJ4BDU is facilitating. Alan Proffitt AE5RX is observing.

FUTURE CLASSES

TECHNICIAN CLASS

If you are interested in the first amateur license class, Technician, please let us know 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 versus 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.qrz.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 396-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. The following are some other ham radio practice exam sites:

- www.aa9pw.com
- <http://kb0mga.net/exams>
- <http://copaseticflow.blogspot.com/2010/06/technician-class-practice-test-gadget.html>
- www.qrz.com
- <http://www.hamradioclass.org>

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 5-10 – July 17 & July 24, 2010

Technician Class 5-10 was held on two Saturdays, July 17th and 24th, from 8am to 5pm at the American Red Cross Midsouth Chapter, 1400 Central Avenue. Nineteen students began with 14 completing the two days. Congratulations to Ted Parrish KJ4WOQ, Larry Reid KJ4WOR, Winston Cross KJ4WOS, Terry Donald KJ4WOT, Larry Hawkins KJ4WOU, Neha Tewari KJ4WOV, Ronald Warf KJ4WOW, Pam Ross KJ4WOX, Dean Eicher KJ4WOY, David Brumley KJ4WOZ, Earnestine Walk KJ4WPA, and Tod Underhill KF5IAI for earning their Technician license.



Tech Class 5-10 at the American Red Cross, Midsouth Chapter building. Photo by Bill Stevens KI4TQA

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.

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

November 2010 Important Dates

Delta Club Meeting – Tuesday, the 9th
MARA Club meeting – Thursday, the 18th
ARES Meeting – Tuesday, the 23rd

Area Hamfests

11/13/2010 | Alabama Section Convention

Location: Montgomery, AL
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Montgomery Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://www.w4ap.org>

11/27/2010 | Evansville Hamfest

Location: Evansville, IN
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Electronic Applications Radio Service (EARS) & The Ham Station
Website: <http://w9ear.org/hamfest.htm>

Delta Amateur Radio Club's 2010 Board Members

President:

Alan Anderson – KJ4BIX
kj4bix@arrl.net

Vice President

Rosalinda Melena – KI4ZKW
ki4zkw@gmail.com

Secretary

Steve Smith – KI4YOP
ki4yop@gmail.com

Treasurer

Rick Tillman – WA4NVM
wa4nvm@comcast.net

Director of Training

Joe Lowenthal – WA4OVO
wa4ovo@yahoo.com

Director of Publications

Jeff Krause – AJ4GY
aj4gy@arrl.net

Director of Programs

David Campbell
kd4noq@arrl.net

Director of Meetings and Special Events

Wayne Monte
wjmonte@comcast.net

W4BS Repeater Trustee

Darrell Sheffield – KK4D
Darrell.Sheffield@memphistn.gov