DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

P.O. Box 750482

Memphis, Tennessee 38175-0482

Volume 17

November 2011



Welcome to the Delta Amateur Radio Club!

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

W4BS

REPEATER SYSTEM

146.820^{-107.2} 147.360^{-107.2} 224.420 443.200

NEXT CLUB MEETING

DATE: November 8, 2011 (2nd Tuesday of each month)
PLACE: Ellendale Church Of Christ, 7365 Highway 70

Memphis, TN (1½ miles north of Hwy. 64 – Stage Road)

TIME: 7:00 PM

PROGRAM: Election of Officers and Raffle

VE TESTING: Don't forget the monthly Volunteer Examiner testing session. Registration begins at 5:30 PM and testing begins promptly at 6:00 PM. Please remember to bring two (2) forms of identification and copies of any existing licenses or CSCE's you might have. Please be on time for registration, as you will not be allowed to enter the testing session after 6:00 PM. This is to allow our volunteer VE team to finish in time to attend the club meeting. For more VE testing information, please contact:

Bill Stevens, WC9S, VEC Phone: 901-603-3448 Email: WC9S@att.net

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By: Rosalinda Melena KI4ZKW

I hope this article finds everyone well. With regrets, it's been awhile since my last President's Corner. Too many projects; too many "Honey-dos"; and far too many "momma, would you mind helping me...".

The project on the front burner these days is a radio tower. We've been doing the preliminary work, i.e., "research and measurements". We've taken time to think through what we want vs. what we can afford vs. what we can live with. We began getting ideas and recommendations from seasoned hams and by searching

the internet for examples. WOW!! The amount of literature and opinions out there is phenomenal and, for the most part, informative. We've settled on a Rohn 25g; 40 or 45 foot with a beam. Of course, the final height determination will be based on what the city of Bartlett will allow.

I'll continue to provide updates but for now, we are off and running to City Hall...let the bureaucracy begin!

As always, be safe and 73 to all.

TREASURER'S REPORT Submitted By: Rick Tillman WA4NVM	

Beginning Balance	as of	October 1, 2011		\$16,084.59
		Expenses		
Main Traiding Co.		Nov. Gift - Kenwood		\$524.99
CheapHam.com		Nov. Gift - Jetstream		\$144.95
JAMS Enterprises LLC		Nov. Gifts - 2 HT's, et	c.	\$443.40
			Total Expense	\$1,113.34
			SubTotal	\$14,971.25
		Income		
Membership Dues				\$7.50
Nov. Ticket Sales				\$243.00
Donated Equipment				\$850.00
Repeaters				\$200.00
Club Patches				\$10.00
			Total Income	\$1,310.50
Ending Balance	as of	October 31, 2011		\$16,281.75

Submitted by Rick Tillman WA4NVM

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 4, 2011 - Presented by: Bill Stevens WC9S, Secretary

The October board meeting was called to order by President Rosalinda Melena KI4ZKW.

- Treasurer Rick Tillman WA4NVM went over the treasurer's report and said the Kenwood 710 radio has been ordered which will be the main prize at the November raffle.
- David Campbell KD4NOQ reported that the program for October will be on APRS tracking on airplanes at the air show and HF antennas.

- Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO reported that the basic electronics class is going well and that there will probably be a tech class starting in January. He also said that he would put together a thank you letter to be sent to anyone who donates equipment to the club which can be used for taxes.
- There was a general discussion about the antenna trailer and the need for new tires.
- Bill Stevens WC9S made a motion seconded by David Campbell KD4NOQ that the board recommend to the membership that we spend up to \$2,000.00 for a new Icom repeater to replace the 443.20 repeater. All of our Icom repeaters are capable of being set to wide or narrow band operation.

Meeting adjourned

GENERAL CLUB MEETING MINUTES

October 11, 2011 - Presented by: Bill Stevens WC9S, Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of DARC was called to order by President Rosalinda Melena KI4ZKW.

- Ham Hilliard W4GMM made a motion, seconded by Bill Covington KC4SXT to approve the minutes of the last meeting as published in Sparks. Passed
- Rick Tillman WA4NVM gave the treasurer's report. Motion to approve as read by Roger Schlichter WR4R, seconded by Jeff Krause AJ4GY. Passed
- Richard Martin K4DXF gave an update on nominations for 2012 officers. He stated that there is only one person for each office so far but that anyone else wanting to run for an office could contact him to be included on the ballot
- Danny Banks KJ4FXZ presented certificates to people that volunteered to work the Bluff City Blues Bike Ride
- It was also stated that people who volunteered for the MS 150 bike ride received thank you notes from the MS Foundation.
- Roger Schlichter WR4R stated that he still needs volunteers for the St. Jude Marathon.
- Dennis Foster KJ4BDU stated that he also still needs more volunteers for the Bartlett Christmas Parade.
- Tim NcNeil KF4DNA asked that anyone who would like to become a member of The Dixie Alley Storm Chase Team see him. President Rosalinda Melena KI4ZKW stated that this group is not associated with DARC and DARC will not be liable.
- Hugh Wardlaw WB4SLI reported on the Boy Scout Expo and also about the Boy Scout Jamboree on the air which is next weekend.
- Howard Runion W4HLR won the bids for both of the old 2 meter repeaters.

- Bill Stevens WC9S reported that the Board voted to recommend to the body that we spend up to \$2,000.00 for a new 443.20 repeater and controller.
- Motion by Ham Hilliard W4GMM to approve the purchase of a new repeater and controller at a cost of up to \$2,000.00, seconded by Jeff Krause AJ4GY. Passed.
- David Campbell presented a program on APRS on airplanes at the air show and on building a 20 meter dipole antenna.
- Motion to adjourn by Ham Hilliard W4GMM, seconded by Jeff Krause AJ4GY. Passed

Meeting Adjourned.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM TEST

By: Rosalinda Melena KI4ZKW

The first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System, or EAS, will take place at 2:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on November 9, 2011. The purpose of the test is to assess the reliability and effectiveness of the system in alerting the public. With FCC, FEMA will participate in this test.

If you're interested in reading more, see the following web link; http://transition.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/eas_test.pdf

AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE

Submitted By: James Butler KB4LJV

Many times when running digital modes, like CW, we build up our own equipment. Many kits are on the market for QRP operation. One amateur has taken a different approach at a design for the QRP market. He is Steve K1EL. He has set up a website for a transceiver design that is being designed by the amateur community. He calls it open source QRP. The hardware and software design is developed by ideas presented on the website. The tools used for software design, along with hardware tools like circuit drawing and PC board layout, is done with free programs. Steve is documenting design, development and debug of the project on the website. This is a microprocessor controlled 40 meter CW transceiver. He also has a blog section for comments. When the project is completed Steve will offer PC board and parts for the kit. This is a unique way to develop ham radio equipment. To check progress on his project the website is http://openqrp.org/

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Submitted By: James Butler KB4LJV

Many amateurs are starting to use digital modes using the computer. One problem I had was getting older computers that did not have a sound card. This is a requirement to receive the radio audio and convert it and to send out encode audio for the mode you want. With several computers I could not justify \$24.95 sound cards for the machines. I found a new type of sound card on Ebay. It is a USB sound card that plugs into the USB port of the computer. These sell for about \$1.00, which is way too cheap. They work fine with my old windows XP machines and do not even need to install a driver. Windows just sees it as a sound blaster compatible sound card. The unit looks like a small thumb drive and has the standard jacks for



the microphone and headphone output. The little USB sound cards work great for digital work and are cheap to boot. I have bought several already.

ELECTION OF 2012 OFFICERS

Submitted by: Kenneth Laseter KI4AOH, Director of Publications

If you would like to be considered for one of the following offices on this month's ballot, please contact Richard Martin K4DXF at 901-372-3722 or k4dxf@att.net. Two prerequisites exist, you must be a member of Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) and you must have attended at least six (6) regular club meetings during the past year (counting backwards from November 2011).

Currently, the nominations are:

PresidentRosalinda Melena
Vice-President Richard Martin
Secretary Tom Raggett
Treasurer Rick Tillman
Director of Publications Kenneth Laseter
Director of Programs David Campbell
Director of Training Joe Lowenthal
Director of Meetings & Special Events David Gilbert

ARRL ELECTIONS – "You Still Have Time"

Submitted by: Kenneth Laseter KI4AOH, Director of Publications

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!

For those of you who are ARRL members, you should have received two ballots by now.

One ballot for election of our Delta Division Director. The candidates are David A. Norris K5UZ, and Mickey D. Cox K5MC.

The other ballot is for the election of our Delta Division Section Manager. The candidates are R. Lowell Bennington WD4DJW, Jack R. Green AD4LP, and Keith Miller, Sr. N9DGK.

To be valid, your ballot must be received at the ARRL accountant's office before November 18th, 2011. The candidate for each office who receives the majority of the votes will take office January 1, 2012.

ST. JUDE MARATHON

Submitted by: Roger Schlichter WR4R

Still looking for a few more operators to support the kids at St. Jude by providing communications for the marathon. The marathon is scheduled for the morning of December 3, 2011. You will be providing communications from the aid stations to net control passing on necessary information. This event is run downtown Memphis utilizing the 145.45 repeater. Most of the aid stations can be worked with an HT so there isn't a need for a lot of equipment to work this event. If you have the time contact Roger at WR4R@bellsouth.net and let him know.

2011 TRAINING CLASSES

Submitted 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 2011 from Delta Classes
29 Technician
15 General
6 Extra

CLASSES PLANNED

If you are interested in any of the classes, send an email to Joe Lowenthal at <u>wa4ovo@yahoo.com</u> with your name, email address, and phone number, preferably cell with subject line of the class you are interested in.

Technician Class 2-12 – January 14th & 21st, 2012

The next Technician class, Tech Class 2-12, will be held in Millington in conjunction with the First Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard on two Saturdays from 8am-9pm on January 14 & 21, 2012. As of the release of this SPARKS we are not sure how many seats will be available to non-State Guard students. If anyone is interested in this class, send an email to way-ow-wa

Extra Class 1-12 – January 14 – February 25, 2012

The next Extra Class will be held on six Saturdays from January 14th through February 25th, except January 28th (Jackson MS hamfest). The classes will be from 8am-1pm at the Memphis-Shelby County Health Dept east complex at 1075 Mullins Station Road. Pre-registration is required. If you are interested in attending this class, send an email to wa4ovo@yahoo.com with you name, email address, and phone number, preferably cell, with subject title Extra Class 1-12.

Dean Honadle N2LAZ, Alan Proffitt AE5RX, Pat Lane W4OQG, and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO are to be the instructors.

CLASSES IN PROGRESS

None

CLASS INFORMATION

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, product* #0977 / *ISBN 978-0-87259-097-7* (red-brick colored cover) is strongly suggested as well as study of the 396 question and answer Technical Class License question pool. Barnes & Noble Booksellers may have this manual. You can purchase it online from www.msars.com, www.arrl.org/catalog or on Amazon.com. The list price is \$29.95 (which includes a CD). The older ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, Second Edition, was priced at \$24.95, but did not have a CD.

The current 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 this 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.

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. A new question pool became effective July 1, 2011. The new textbook is *The ARRL General Class License Manual, Seventh Edition*, item #8119, ISBN 978-0-87259-811-9. This edition with its question pool is valid through June 30, 2015. 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, Second Edition*. The suggested calculator is the Casio fx-260 solar calculator, which can be purchased at Wal-Mart for about \$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 on Saturdays for 6 or 7 weeks in January and February.

COMPLETED CLASSES

Basic Electronics Class 5-11 – September 24 – October 29, 2011
Technician Class 4-11 – July 11-August 15, 2011
Technician Class 3-10 Revisited
Technician Class 3-11 – April 17, 2011
Technician-General Class 2-11 – March 26, 2011
General Class 5-08 Revisited
Extra Class 1-10 Revisited
Technician Class 5-10 Revisited
Extra Class 1-11 - February 19, 2011
Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge – January 22, 2011

SPARKS NEWSLETTER & DELTA CLUB INFORMATION

SPARKS is published monthly by the Delta Amateur Radio Club and emailed to club members. All information published in this newsletter is provided as a service. While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the Delta Amateur Radio Club nor its officers assume any liability resulting from errors or omissions. All correspondence may be mailed to:

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

2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Vice-President: Secretary:

Rosalinda Melena – KI4ZKW Richard Martin – K4DXF Bill Stevens – WC9S

 901-921-4474
 901-372-3722
 901-603-3448

 ki4zkw@gmail.com
 k4dxf@att.net
 wc9s@att.net

Treasurer: Director of Training: Director of Publications:
Rick Tillman – WA4NVM Joe Lowenthal – WA4OVO Kenneth Laseter – KI4AOH

901-268-7047 901-683-2701 901-853-0400

wa4nvm@comcast.net wa4ovo@yahoo.com kmlaseter@laseterinc.com

Director of Programs: Director of Meetings & Special Events:

David Campbell – KD4NOQ Danny Banks – KJ4FXZ

 901-388-6166
 901-861-3229

 kd4noq@arrl.net
 kj4fxz@arrl.net

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

If you are a coordinator for any of these events, please review the listed information. If it is incorrect or changes need to be made, please provide me with the correct information. Please email corrections to me at kmlaseter@laseterinc.com.

DATE	EVENT	COORDINATOR	CONTACT INFO.
January			
16 th	Swamp Stompers	Danny– KJ4FXZ	kj4fxz@arrl.net
March			
4 th weekend	City Slickers Equestrian Event	Richard – NF5B	(No Contact Information)
April			
$\begin{matrix} 30^{th} \\ 30^{th} \end{matrix}$	Tour de Cure March for Babies (March of Dimes)	Denise – KJ5DG Bob – KF4NDH	kj5dg.denise@gmail.com kf4ndh@bellsouth.net
May			
22 nd	Memphis in May Triathlon	Ned - KA4BLL	ka4bll@arrl.net
September			
10 th & 11 th	MS 150 Bike Ride	Darrell - KK4D	kk4d@xipline.com
December			
3 rd 3 rd	St. Jude Marathon Bartlett Christmas Parade	Roger – WR4R Dennis – KJ4BDU	wr4r@bellsouth.net dcvv3714@aol.com
TBA TBA	Boy Scout Merit Badge University Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk	Hugh – WB4SLI Kathleen - KC0HZU	hwardlaw@bellsouth.net (No Contact Information)

MEMPHIS AREA VHF/UHF NETS

Net Name	Freq. MHz	Local Time	Day
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
Collierville CERT Net	444.125+107.2	7:00p	\mathbf{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

TENNESSEE HF 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	

DELTA CLUB 146.82 NET PREAMBLE (Rev. 2)

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 meet nightly at 8:00 p.m. CT 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 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 unti 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 pleases 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 P.M. with testing starting promptly at 6:00 P.M. A copy of your license and CSCE is required. For V. E. Information contact Bill, WC9S at 603-3448. For membership information contact Bill, WC9S at 603-3448. 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

DELTA CLUB ADVERTISEMENTSSee Advertisement Order Form for Instructions.

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB P.O. Box 342768 Memphis, TN 38134-2768 DARC Meeting: Second Tuesday of every month at Ellendale Church of Christ 7365 Hwy 70, Bartlett TN W4BS REPEATER SYSTEM 146.82- 147.36+ (107.2Hz tone) 224.42- 443.20+ (107.2Hz tone)	Savage Commercial & residential ceramic, quarry, marble & slate tiles Company (901) 363-9607 or Fax (901)365-1992 5579 Federal Avenue Memphis, TN 38118-7918 35 YEARS of EXPERIENCE

ADVERTISEMENT ORDER FORM

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*	DELTA)
	TITUR RADIO GE	

	Delta Amateur Sparks Advertisir		
DELTA			Date:
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB		Name:	
Call Sign:	Phone:	Email:	
	TO PLACE A	N ORDER	

- 1. Mark the box below indicating the ad size you are purchasing and the three (3) months you want your ad to appear in Sparks.
- 2. Submit this completed order form, your camera ready ad, and your check payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) to Kenneth Laseter KI4AOH via mail at 684 Oasis Cove, Cordova, TN 38018 or give it to him at the monthly Delta Club meeting. Camera ready means that the ad you submit is exactly as you want it to appear in your ad and fits within the dimensions specified below. Ads may be submitted in gif or jpg format or submitted as a hard copy and we will scan and place your ad for you.
- 3. Your ad order must be received on or before the first Tuesday of the **month before** you want it to appear in Sparks.

SPARKS ADVERTISING											
FULL PAGE HALF PAGE		1/4 PAGE			BUSINESS CARD						
\$50.00 \$25.00 for 3 Months 7" w X 8 ½" h 7" w X 4"				\$15.00 or 3 Monta '2" w X 4			\$10.00 or 3 Mont a" w X 2				
Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.
2011	2011	2011	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012