DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



SPARKS



P.O. Box 750482

Memphis, Tennessee 38175-0482

Volume 17

December 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: December 13, 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: Christmas Party – Pot Luck

Remember to bring a covered dish (cake, cookies, ice cream, brownies, etc.) Oh! I'm sorry, you can also bring something more substantial if you like.

What was I thinking???

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

Holiday Fire Safety



The holidays are a great time to come together with family and friends. And if you're anything like me, gatherings center around cooking. I know at my house the kitchen always seems to be the place where family and friends congregate, share stories and enjoy each other's company.

With a few easy safety tips you can enjoy your time with good friends and good food.

- 1. A watched pot may never boil, but it can catch fire if left unattended!
- 2. When in doubt call the fire department for help and get out of the house.
- 3. Do not attempt to disable smoke alarms. Have them repaired or replace the batteries.

For more tips you can visit the <u>US Fire Administration's website</u>.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a happy and joyous holiday season. Have fun and be safe!

Ps. My tower project has been put on hold for the season. I can't have the "OM" (or Santa or me for that matter) falling off any roof tops.

Blessings to all!!
Rosalinda Melena
2011/2012 DARC President

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted By: Rick Tillman WA4NVM

Beginning Balance	as of November 1, 2011		\$16,281.75	
	Expenses			
Repeater Repairs	Two Lighting Arresters		\$60.00	
Post Office	DARC PO Box		\$100.00	
SERA	Rept. Coodinating		\$30.00	
		Total Expense	\$190.00	
		SubTotal	\$16,091.75	
	Income			
Membership Dues	Year 2012		\$167.50	
Nov. Ticket Sales			\$810.00	
Donated Equipment			\$50.00	
Club Patches			\$5.00	
		Total Income	\$1,032.50	
Ending Balance	as ofNovember 30, 2011		\$17,124.25	
	Subm	nitted by Rick Tillma	an WA4NVM	

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 1, 2011 - Presented by: Bill Stevens WC9S, Secretary

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

- Treasurer Rick Tillman WA4NVM went over the current treasurer's report.
- There was a discussion about picking a new repeater trustee. Darrell Sheffield KK4D our present trustee has asked to be replaced because his heavy work schedule. President Rosalinda Melena KI4ZKW appointed Bill Stevens WC9S as the new trustee.
- Vice President Richard Martin K4DZF reported that nobody has expressed any interest in positions on the board other than the slate presented by the nominating committee. He will nominate this slate at the November meeting.
- There was a general discussion on updating the web site but no decisions were made.
- It was decided to ask the membership what kind of meat they wanted for the December Pot Luck.

- It was discussed about doubling the club's annual donation to Ellendale Church of Christ. The church furnishes all of our meeting rooms free of charge.
- Rick Tillman discussed the donation letter for the equipment donated by Pat Bomar.
- It was also brought up that we need to put the cost of 4 new tires for the antenna trailer in the 2012 budget.

Meeting adjourned

GENERAL CLUB MEETING MINUTES

November 8, 2011 - Presented by: Bill Stevens WC9S, Secretary

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

- Bill Covington KC4SXT made a motion, seconded by Hugh Wardlaw WB4SLI 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 Ham Hilliard W4GMM, seconded by Stacey Krause KJ4MDA. Passed
- Bill Stevens WC9S reported that 6 people passed testing: 2 technicians, 1 general, and 3 extra.
- Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO reported on new classes coming up in the new year.
- Rosalinda Melena KI4ZKW reported that Darrell Sheffield KK4D has resigned as repeater trustee because of his heavy work schedule. She then appointed Bill Stevens WC9S as the new trustee.
- Bill Hudock KB4SQV reported that there was a great article about all the hams that help out at the MS 150.
- Rosalinda Melena KI4ZKW read a portion of an article from a medical publication about being prepared.
- Richard Martin K4DXF gave an update on nominations for 2012 officers. He stated that there is only one person for each office. He then nominated the following members for officers in 2012:

0	President:	Rosalinda Melena	KI4ZKW
0	Vice-President:	Richard Martin	K4DKF
0	Secretary:	Tom Raggett	KJ4LMH
0	Treasurer:	Rick Tillman	WA4NVM
0	Director of Publications:	Kenneth Laseter	KI4AHO
0	Director of Programs:	David Campbell	KD4NOQ
0	Director of Training	Joe Lowenthal	WA4OVO
0	Director of Meetings & And Special Events:	David Gilbert	AJ4LV

- Richard Webb made a motion that the entire slate be elected by acclamation, seconded by Ham Hilliard W4GMM
- 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
- The program for the month was the annual fund raiser raffle. Fun was had by all.

Motion to adjourn

AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE

By: James Butler - KB4LJV

Many times when running digital modes we want to use antenna designs that work the best for our communications needs. We always have a trade off of style, size, cost and performance to look at. Loop antennas can be used for both receiving and transmitting on the ham bands. They generally have a tuning capacitor to peak them on the bands. You can by factory built loop antennas or you can build up your own. These antennas are directional and do not take up a lot of space. If you are an ARRL member, just go to the ARRL home page (www.arrl.org) and type loop antenna in the search box to see all the articles available for you.

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

By: James Butler - KB4LJV

Many times we want to record audio from our radios, scanners or other sources. Usually, we have hookup to the speaker output of the radio. Some radios have a line level output jack we can also use. On newer computers, especially laptops, the only input available is the microphone input jack. This is made for microphone level input. Hooking speakers or line level here would overload the input and could damage the microphone input port on the computer. What is needed is a way to attenuate the signal before we put it in the microphone input. This can be done by building an attenuator circuit. There are lots of sites on



the internet that show how to do it. The one I like is http://www.epanorama.net/circuits/line_to_mic.html
This site has lots of information as well as the wiring diagram I used to build mine. Since my computer has stereo microphone inputs on it, I built up two of the circuits, one for each channel. You can buy the standard RCA female connector to 3.5 MM microphone jack cables on EBAY. I bought one and cut the cable in half to mount the circuit parts. The circuit works well and allows me to get line level audio to the computer and not destroy my microphone inputs.

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@arrl.net</u> with your name, email address, and phone number, preferable cell with subject line of the class you are interested in.

General Class 3-12 – February 2012

The next General class is in the planning stage. It will probably be in February on four or five Saturdays from 9am to 1pm. If anyone is interested in this class, send an email to wa4ovo@arrl.net with you name, email address, and phone number, preferably cell, with subject title General Class 3-12.

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

The next Technician class, Tech Class 2-12, will be held at the Memphis-Shelby County Health Dept east complex in conjunction with the First Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard on two Saturdays from 8am-5pm on January 14 & 21, 2012. If anyone is interested in this class, send an email to ww4ovo@arrl.net with you name, email address, and phone number, preferably cell, with subject title Tech Class 2-12. I will send you an email if there is room in the class. If not, I will send you an email to notify you when the next Tech class is scheduled.

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 9am-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@arrl.net 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, go to www.qrz.com. From the QRZ home page click on RESOURCES in the blue band on the top right. Then click on 2010 Technician Exam Practice Test. When you start answering the questions, it will show you if you answered correctly or not with CORRECT! or SORRY BUT THAT ANSWER IS NOT CORRECT. Statistics are kept below the test question at This Quiz with the number of questions answered correctly and the percentage correct. Also shown is the number of questions answered correctly from the 396 questions of the question pool. It keeps track of your correct answers on subsequent tests. Below the This Quiz line is Questions In This Test, that is a list of the 35 question numbers of the current test. If answered correctly, the question number radio button turns green. If answered incorrectly, it turns red.

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@arrl.net 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@arrl.net 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@arrl.net 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 it's 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

I NEED UPDATED 2011 DATES FOR ALL THE FOLLOWING EVENTS. IF THE DATES SHOWN ARE NOT CORRECT PLEASE EMAIL THEM TO ME AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

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 2012	2			
15 th	Swamp Stompers	Danny- KJ4FXZ	kj4fxz@arrl.net	
	WE NEED YOUR HELP! (Danny needs volunteers for the Swamp Stompers	ve questions, don't hesitate to email him.)		
March				
4 th weekend	City Slickers Equestrian Event	Richard – NF5B	(No Contact Information)	
Anvil				
April 30 th	Tour de Cure	Denise – KJ5DG	kj5dg.denise@gmail.com	
2 oth	M 1 C D 1' and and	D 1 VEANDII	1.04 11.01 11.41	
30 th	March for Babies (March of Dimes)	Bob – KF4NDH	kf4ndh@bellsouth.net	
May 22 nd	Memphis in May Triathlon	Ned - KA4BLL	ka4bll@arrl.net	
22	Wempins in May Thaunon	Neu - RA4DLL	Ka4011(Watti.iict	
September 10 th & 11 th	MC 150 D'I D'I	D 11 WWAD	11.410 : 1	
10 % 11 %	MS 150 Bike Ride	Darrell - KK4D	kk4d@xipline.com	
December				
3 rd	St. Jude Marathon	Roger – WR4R	wr4r@bellsouth.net	
3^{rd}	Bartlett Christmas Parade	Dennis – KJ4BDU	dcvv3714@aol.com	
			<u>-</u>	
TDA	Day Coout Monit D- 4 Unit	Hards WD 401 I	horomallous @h allatht	
TBA	Boy Scout Merit Badge University	Hugh – WB4SLI	hwardlaw@bellsouth.net	
TBA	Juvenile Diabetes Research	Kathleen - KC0HZU	(No Contact Information)	
	Foundation Walk			

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+(107.2)	9:00p	W	
Collierville CERT Net	444.125+(107.2)	7:00p	W	
Two Meter Single Sideband Net	144.260 USB	8:30p	Th	
ARES Training Net	146.880-(107.2)	9:00p	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 meets 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 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 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
CLL/III

DELTA CLUB ADVERTISEMENTS

See 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

AMA.	DELTA FUR RADIO CUM	

	Sparks Advertisi	
AMATEUR RADIO CLUM		Name:
Call Sign:	Phone:	Email:
	TO PLACE A	AN ORDER
Mark the box below indic	eating the ad size you are purch	asing 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											
FU	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" h			\$15.00 for 3 Months 3 ½" w X 4" h		\$10.00 for 3 Months 3 ½ " w X 2" h					
Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug	Sept
2011	2011	2011	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012