DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB founded 1961

P.O. Box 342768

Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768

Volume 21

August 2015



Welcome to the Delta Amateur Radio Club

Visit our home on the web at: http://www.deltaclub.org EMAIL: darc4you@gmail.com

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/darcmem

W4BS

REPEATER SYSTEM

 $146.820^{\text{-}107.2}$ $147.360^{\text{-}107.2}$ $146.625^{\text{-}107.2}$ 443.200-107.2

224.420

CLUB MEETINGS (7:00 PM, 2nd Tuesday of each month)

August 11, 2015 **NEXT DATE:**

PLACE: Ellendale Church Of Christ, 7365 Highway 70

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

PROGRAM: Generators – Getting and keeping your equipment safely

(and dependably) running - Jim Cissell, KI4I

FCC Amateur Radio License Testing: Delta Club FCC testing sessions are held every month except December. Registration begins at 5:30 PM and testing begins by 6:00 PM. Please remember to bring two (2) forms of identification, at least one a photo ID, and copies of any existing licenses or CSCE's you might have. You need to know your FCC Registration Number (FRN) if one has been issued. Please be on time for registration; this is to allow our Volunteer Examiner (VE) team to finish in time to attend the club meeting. 2015 test fee is \$15 (cash or check). Individuals who successfully test for their initial FCC license grant at a Delta Club test session or through a Delta Club training class will receive a complimentary individual club membership for the remainder of the current calendar year; when they also show proof of ARRL membership. For more information, please contact:

> Jeff Krause, AJ4GY - VE Liaison Phone: 901-301-6776 Email: AJ4GY@comcast.net

Congratulations to a trio of successful Technician license candidates at our July club meeting night test session: Raul Longoria, KM4LZY; Michael Downey, KM4LZZ; Joseph Nowag, KM4MAA. Well done gentlemen!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Submitted by: Joe Wray, WD4GXI

I was just looking back on last year's President's Corner. It is really funny how time and weather change. I was commenting on how nice the weather had been, and that it was one of the coolest July's on record. I sure wish we had some of that now. Don't you?

You know that you can take a cool bus trip and enjoy some eyeball rag chewing? All you have to do is sign up for the Huntsville bus trip. For you newer Hams, that's some old ham lingo meaning - enjoy face-to-face conversation with friends and leave the driving concerns to Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO. If you are not aware, Huntsville is one of the larger and better Hamfests in the Southeast. It is just around the corner (DARC bus trip leaves/returns on Aug 15th; Hamfest event itself runs two days - Aug 15 & 16), so make plans to go.

Don't forget the 2015 Bike MS: FedEx Rock-N-Roll fundraising event is coming Sept 12 & 13. Darrell Sheffield, KK4D - darrell.sheffield@memphistn.gov (901) 277-8122, would sure appreciate your help. That is also the weekend of the September VHF contest. Some of us will be trekking up to Mt. Nebo, AR again to participate. Our contest call is NE5BO (now ain't that special!) If you have some VHF gear, look for us on the calling frequencies. We will be operating 6, 2, and 432 bands for sure. I am not sure how many years we have been doing this but it goes back to sometime in the late 1970's.

Please remember we have elections coming up and we need some people to step up to the plate and run for office. Someone may be contacting you soon about running; however, if you do not hear from anyone and would like to run, let me know. That is perfectly acceptable. I will see you at the meeting and as always be sure to check into the net as often as you can.

73 - Joe Wray

CLUB SERVICE OPPORTUNITY – VOLUNTEER(S) 57711 NEEDED

Submitted by David Webb, KV4QI

Delta Club has a very favorable balance sheet largely due to the generous donations of radios and related equipment and supplies from estates of retiring or Silent Key amateur radio operators. In years past, the work involved with retrieval, evaluation, storage, and sale of this equipment has been largely headed up by Bill Stevens, WC9S. Bill has notified the DARC Board of Directors that he'd like to pass the mantle of leadership in this area of activity to one or more members of the club who are willing to carry this vital work forward into the future.

If you're willing to answer the call, Bill's more than willing to share his knowledge and insights with you. Please send related EMAIL to wc9s@att.net



TREASURER'S REPORT Submitted by: Rick Tillman, WA4NVM

Beginning Balance	as of 7/1/2015			\$11,87336
	Expenses			
MARA	Field Day			\$228.39
Cline Tours	Huntsville Bus			\$1,750.00
			Total Expense	\$1,978.39
			SubTotal	\$9,894.97
	Income			
2015 Membership Dues				\$70.00
Year 2015 November Drawing Ticket Sale	S			\$65.00
Bus Trip 2015				\$630.00
Donated Gear				\$20.00
			Total Income	\$785.00
Ending Balance	as of 7/31/2015			\$10,679.97
		Subm	nitted by Rick Tillma	n WA4NVM
Certificate of Deposit #1	Balance			\$10,280.23
Certificate of Deposit #2	Balance			\$5,025.00
Total DARC Assets	Balance			\$25,985.20

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

7:00p - August 4, 2015 - Submitted by: Barri Munday, WB4SWP

Officers and Directors Present: Joe Wray, WD4GXI – Michael Knight, KK4IOH - Barri Munday, WB4SWP – Rick Tillman, WA4NVM – Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO - Jim Cissell, KI4I - Jim Sheats, KK4VGL - David Webb, KV4QI – Bill Stevens, WC9S. DARC Member Richard Martin, K4DXF was also in attendance.

- 1. Meeting called to order by J.Wray at 7:00pm
- 2. Board of Directors meeting location returned to the Ellendale Church of Christ.
- 3. Treasurer's Report presented by R.Tillman. Motion to approve by D.Webb, seconded by M.Knight. Report approved by acclamation.
- 4. July BOD meeting minutes Motion to approve as posted in July SPARKS newsletter by D.Webb, seconded by J.Sheats. Report approved by acclamation.
- 5. J.Wray confirmed that Tom Dichiara, AC5MR and Art Barnett, WA4PSS have been asked to perform duties on the 2016 Board of Directors nominating committee. A third club member in good standing will be approached to serve.
- 6. J.Cissell confirmed that he would make the August 11th member meeting presentation on the subject of generator maintenance and operating safety.
- 7. J.Lowenthal reported Huntsville bus reservations ahead of last year. Space is still available.
- 8. J.Lowenthal reported that the current Technician training class would test on August 6th with a DARC VE Testing crew. Final class will be held August 13th.
- 9. There was follow-up discussion regarding the acquisition of business card style club membership receipts for use beginning in 2016. M.Knight approved to procure 500 cards through VistaPrint.
- 10. There was more discussion on proposed prizes for the upcoming November drawing. Prize list tentatively targeted for total of approximately \$2,000, with Yaseu FT-857D grand prize; Main prizes likely including MFJ269C antenna analyzer; Kenwood TH-F6A radio; and other. Final details are still under development.
- 11. B.Stevens confirmed he is proceeding with repeater maintenance program and related acquisitions as previously approved by DARC membership vote on the yearly budgeting process.
- 12. Move to adjourn made by J.Sheats and seconded by R.Tillman. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30pm.

GENERAL CLUB MEETING MINUTES

July 14, 2015 - Submitted by: Barri Munday, WB4SWP

- 1. President Joe Wray, WD4GXI called meeting to order, and asked for attendee introductions. Joe purposely skipped over Jeff and Stacey Krause, AJ4GY and KJ4MDA who announced that they are expecting their second child. (That's saving happiest announcements for last!)
- 2. June meeting minutes Ham Hilliard, W4GMM made motion to approve the minutes as published in the SPARKS Newsletter & Bill Covington, KC4SXT seconded. Minutes approved by member acclamation.
- 3. Treasurer's report H. Hilliard made motion to approve and B. Covington- seconded. Report approved by member acclamation.
- 4. J. Wray asked attendees to join him in thanking David Webb, KV4QI for his work on publishing our SPARKS newsletter. (Editor's Note: I in turn, would like to thank everyone who contributes to the content for their continued efforts!)
- 5. Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO made several announcements:
 - a. latest Technician training class started with 15 students attending
 - b. bus trip has 26 people signed up to date
 - c. three individuals passed their FCC licensing test at the meeting
- 6. Bill Stevens announced that the 146.625 repeater is up and running with very good coverage/range.
- 7. Howard "Jelly" Thompson, N4HLT Captain with the Germantown Fire Department announced that on October 1-3, 2015, there would be an AuxComm (Auxiliary Communications) drill that continues the Spring, 2015 scenario of a large scale New Madrid seismic event in West Tennessee. Jelly indicated his belief that Mr. Dale Lane (recently named Director of the Shelby County Office of Emergency Preparedness for Homeland Security) appears to be very favorable regarding the role of amateur radio operators during emergencies. Jelly said more information would follow.
- 8. Field Day-great turnout. News Channel 3 reported from the scene with Elise Preston making a contact on the Get On The Air (GOTA) station. H. Hilliard announced that at the Millington MARS station, there were 9 people who stayed all night, making a total of over 2,018 contacts.
- 9. Joe Sanders, KM4JXS offered an informative presentation on Electro Magnetic Pulse & Coronal Mass Ejection. Very interesting & also very enlightening-to get us prepared for a disaster.
- 10. Darrell Sheffield, KK4D made his annual request for HAM volunteers willing/able to support the 2015 Bike MS: FedEx Rock-N-Roll fundraising event coming up on September 12-13, 2015. The two-day fundraiser for Multiple Sclerosis starts at the Landers Center in Southaven, goes to the Gold Strike Casino in Tunica, and returns on second day. For more information on volunteering, please EMAIL darrell.sheffield@memphistn.gov or call him at (901) 277-8122. Additional info on the event can be found at URL

 $\underline{http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR?pg=informational\&fr_id=25500\&type=fr_informational\&s_id=10968$

HUNTSVILLE BUS TRIP

Submitted by: Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

The Delta Club is sponsoring a 50-passenger bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on August 15th. The fare is \$75. There are no refunds if you cannot go. However, you can sell your reservation to someone else. The fare includes the \$8 Hamfest entry ticket. There will be 2 biscuit sandwiches, water, sodas, chips, and fruit on the bus going to Huntsville, during the day, and whatever is left for the trip back. During the Hamfest you can rest on the bus and/or drop off your purchases since the bus will be backed up to the loading dock for easy access.

Cash or checks will be accepted for payment. Make checks payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club. You can pay Rick WA4NVM at a meeting, or send your check to Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO - 6675 Ashbridge Cove Memphis, TN 38120. Please include your name, call sign, cell phone number, and email address. Please indicate whether you want to board the bus at Ellendale or Germantown, and your choice of breakfast biscuits, plain, bacon or ham.

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 15th. A second pickup point will be at Germantown Baptist Church, 9450 Poplar Avenue at Johnson Road in Germantown at approximately 6:30am. The bus will leave Huntsville immediately after the 4pm door prize drawing, and return to Germantown Baptist Church approximately 7:30pm; Ellendale Church of Christ at approximately 8:15pm.

No bull - this is a bus trip ya'll don't want to miss! Last call for sign-ups before August 15th departure



Saturday's Grand Prize item will be a Kenwood TS-590SG!

AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE

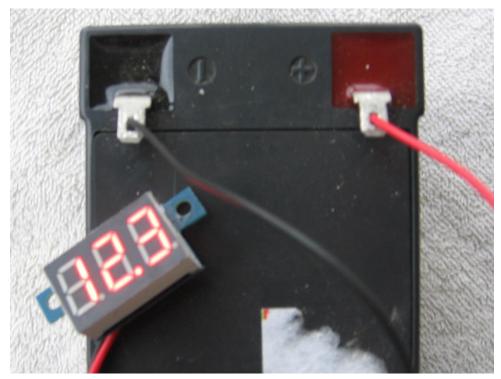
Submitted by: James Butler, KB4LJV

Many times when we run our equipment we need a battery backup power source. KI0BK has come out with the low loss PWRgate. This is a small box with power pole connectors to hookup to a power supply and a battery for two 12 VDC power inputs and have an output to the radio equipment. The box contains power MOSFET transistors to do the switching with a low voltage drop. When power from the power supply shuts down during a power outage, the battery is automatically switched in to supply power to the radio equipment with no interruption in operation. The unit has Anderson Power Pole connections for hookup of the battery, power supply, and radios. If you are looking for automatic backup power switching check this out from KI0BK. The URLis http://ki0bk.no-ip.com/~pwrgate/LLPG/Site/Welcome.html

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Photo and Article Submitted by: James Butler, KB4LJV

When we run portable we always want to watch our battery voltage. Keeping track of the battery state allows us to know we have power to operate properly. A company on EBay has come out with a new mini DC voltmeter. The voltmeter is about the size of a quarter. It will measure from 3.3 to 17 VDC. Mine had the red LED readout. It is easy to carry or just attach to battery with double sided sticky tape. Just hook up red (positive) and black (negative) wires to the corresponding battery terminals to get a reading. I checked the voltage display with my \$200 fluke digital meter and it was accurate. I paid \$1.29 for the voltmeter with free shipping. With this great price I am ordering several. If you want a small easy to use voltmeter for portable operation, check this one out. On EBay, just search "small LED voltmeter". The URL is http://www.ebay.com/



HAM LICENSE TRAINING 2015

Submitted by: Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

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 to Date in 2015 from Delta Classes
7 Technician
4 General
6 Extra

CURRENT CLASS

Tech Class 4-15 will be wrapping up on Thursday August 13th. Here's a couple of photos of the group shared by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO



New Technology Dark Spot Finder (DSF) proven to work!

O.K. – for the discriminating reader, the actual caption of this picture should be: Rick Tillman, WA4NVM – demonstrates making SO-50 Satellite contacts with Tech Class 4-15 on the evening of July 23, 2015



Technician Class 4-15- a full house - hard at work!

Tech Class 4-15 – July 9 through August 13, 2015

Tech Class 4-15 is shown above in session at the EMHC ambulance company training room. One student is the 11 year old granddaughter of Danny Banks, KJ4FXZ (standing in background). FCC testing by the Delta Club ARRL VE team will be made available on August 6th. The instructors are Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO and Pat Lane, W4OQG. The equipment demonstrators are Pat Lane – Winlink; Michael Knight, KK4IOH - Echolink, D-STAR, and Fusion digital systems; Rick Pellicciotti, KJ4NWQ – Automatic Packet Reporting Systems (APRS); Rick Tillman, WA4NVM – SO-50 Satellite communications.

CLASSES SCHEDULED

No new training classes are scheduled at this time.

The next Technician Class will probably start in early November. The next Extra Class will probably start in early January. The next General Class will probably start in late February.

You may want to do some pre-study by going to www.KE0OG.net On the right side he has links to Technician, General and Extra Class YouTube video training.

If you want to check on class availability and/or to register for a future training class, go to URL www.deltaclub.org and click on the link under Training – registration form will guide you through needed information, and EMAIL will be automatically sent.

Licenses Earned in 2014 from Delta Classes
25 Technician
12 General
6 Extra

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

Alternative EMAIL address to generically offer Board your suggestions, ask questions, voice complaints is darc4you@gmail.com

Please note that you must provide your name and call sign if you're requesting specific actions or personal follow-ups, and also be aware that any profane or mean-spirited comments will be unceremoniously discarded without consideration.

Delta Club Members Can Like Us/Follow Posts On Facebook! https://www.facebook.com/darcmem

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Vice-President: Secretary:

Joe Wray, WD4GXI Michael Knight, KK4IOH Barri Munday, WB4SWP 901-246-6113 901-832-8636 901-756-5259 wrayjoe@yahoo.com KK4IOH@arrl.net annbarrimunday@att.net

Treasurer: Director of Training: Director of Publications:

Rick Tillman, WA4NVM

901-268-7047

901-628-4318

WA4OVO@yahoo.com

Director of Tublications.

David W. Webb, KV4QI

901-465-8315

dwebb1518@gmail.com

Director of Programs: Director of Meetings & Special Events:

Jim Cissell, KI4I Jim Sheats, KK4VGL 901-326-5544 901-756-0031 idsheats@bellsouth.net

Repeater Trustee: Immediate Past President:
Bill Stevens, WC9S Rosalinda Melena, WN2V

Board members beginning their service in 2015 are listed in red.

If you're interested in serving in any position on the 2016 Board of Directors, please let us know. We already know we will have position openings for President, Treasurer, Director of Publications, Director of Programs and Director of Meetings & Special Events; you are welcome to submit your name as a candidate* for any elected position.

*FCC licensed members whose current year dues are paid and have been in attendance at not less than 50% of the past twelve (12) meetings shall be eligible for the election to office during the regular November club member meeting.

WC9S@att.net

FUTURE 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 email corrections to dwebb1518@gmail.com.

DATE EVENT	PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT	CONTACT INFORMATION			
Sept. 12-13, 2015	2015 Bike MS: FedEx Rock-N-Roll Landers Center in Southaven to Gold Strike Casino in Tunica and back on 2 nd day Multiple Sclerosis fundraising event	Darrell Sheffield, kk4d <u>darrell.sheffield@memphistn.gov</u> (901) 277-8122			
October 3, 2015	Bluff City Blues Ride Starts on Mud Island and goes thru Shelby Forest	Danny Banks, kj4fxz kj4fxz@arrl.net			
December 5, 2015	St. Jude Marathon 26.2 mile run from downtown Memphis	Roger Schlicter, wr4r wr4r@bellsouth.net			
January 2016	SwampStomper 50k/25k Run thru Meeman Shelby Forest	Mike McLoughlin, kk4mcl canada67@comcast.net			
April 2016	March for Babies 4 mile walk around Memphis Botanical Gardens March of Dimes fundraising event	Linda Laseter, kj4ctx lindalaseter@gmail.com			
June 4, 2016	Diabetes Tour de Cure Start on Mud Island and ride thru Shelby Forest	Pat Lane, w4oqg w4oqg@bellsouth.net			

TENNESSEE HAM RADIO LICENSE PLATE

Submitted by: Joe Lowenthal, wa4ovo

The link below is for information and instructions about Tennessee ham radio call sign automobile license plates :

http://www.tn.gov/revenue/vehicle/licenseplates/emergency/emergsaftey.shtml
The application is at www.tn.gov/revenue/forms/titlereg/f1312601Fill-in.pdf

NOTES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

Don't forget the World's Friendliest Hamfest being held in Huntsville, AL on August 15-16. URL is http://www.hamfest.org/ Tickets are still available on the Delta Club charter bus trip on August 15th for only \$75. See page 6 for details! Saturday's Grand Prize item will be a Kenwood TS-590SG!

I was contacted by the Stone Mountain Hamfest group, who asked that we include their following promotional flyer in our communications, so here it is. The referenced URL supports an on-line ticket function.



Hams - Please Make Sure Your Membership "Current" Is On!

Download the new and improved .pdf Delta Club Membership Application Form from the web at http://www.deltaclub.org/application-15-3.pdf

Thanks for Your Active Support of Delta Amateur Radio Club Membership Matters!

NOTES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

In a recent EMAIL to Delta District ARRL members, Delta Division Director David A Norris, K5UZ - announced that **effective January**, **2016**, **ARRL membership rates are set to increase**. As an example, an annual membership will increase by \$10 to \$49 per year; \$111 for a 3 year period. If you act before the January increase, you'll avoid increased membership cost.

At time of this writing, I was able to successfully apply an additional promotion code of "RN3E", which allows you to receive one of five free publications with your paid ARRL membership.

Promotion Code Incentives

	k you for entering the code RN3E . se select an incentive item from the list below.
0	ARRL Extra Q & A
0	ARRL General Q & A - 5th edition
0	Even More Wire Antenna Classics v. 3
0	Hints & Kinks for the Radio Amateur 18th Ed.
0	Repeater Directory Pocket 2015-2016

I won't repeat all the reasons that I think belonging to Delta Club and ARRL are important, but I will again offer my personal opinion that <u>Membership Matters</u>! *I hope* that this reminder will urge you to take membership action that will also save you money in the long-run. *I know* that both groups are excellent sources of information, support, and provide for an increased enjoyment of amateur radio by their members.

Speaking of members, I've heard from folks who expressed dismay over my use of lower case characters when referencing amateur call signs. My intent was to more clearly distinguish between a 0 (zero) and the alpha character O, or an I and an L (regardless of harder to distinguish fonts such as Sans Serif being used). In no way did I seek to undermine the proud traditions of amateur radio; therefore, in this and subsequent publications, I return to the traditional style of using only upper case characters.

In this issue, I've taken additional steps to address a concern voiced by several individuals that the monthly newsletter repeats too much of the same material (examples being in the elimination of the 146.82 Net Preamble in the July and August editions, and in this month's pared down information about training). Note that fully detailed information remains available online at URL www.deltaclub.org

MEMPHIS AREA VHF/UHF NETS

Name of Net	Freq. MHz	Tone	Local Time	Day of Week
Delta Club Information Net	146.820	- (107.2)	8:00p	Daily
Mid-South Barefooted Bullfrog Net	146.535		7:30p	Daily
Secret Service Net	224.780		8:30p	Mon
Elmer Net	444.175	+ (107.2)	9:00p	Mon
The Short Winded Net	146.850	- (107.2)	8:30p	Tue
MedMERS Net	146.820	- (107.2)	12:00p	Wed
CERTPlus Net	443.200	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Wed
ARES Training Net	146.880	- (107.2)	9:00p	Thu
Super Sunday Niner Net	927.6125	- (146.2)	8:30p	Sun

Delta Club sponsored Nets are shown in bold/dark blue font style

TENNESSEE HF NETS

Net Name	Freq. MHz	Local Time	Day of Week	
Tennessee CW Net	3.563	7:00p	Daily	
Tennessee Slow CW Net	3.682	7:30p	Tue-Sun	
Tennessee Early Morn Phone Net	3.980	5:40a	Mon-Fri	
Tennessee Morning Phone Net	3.980	6:45a	Mon-Fri	
Tennessee Evening Phone Net	3.980	6:30p	Tue-Sun	
Tennessee Alternate Phone Net	7.238	•	As needed	
CUSEC (Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)	3.810		As needed	
CUSEC (Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)	7.180		As needed	

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See Advertisement Order Form for Instructions.



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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)

Ben Richhart

Sales and Service Director



Chick-fil-A at Paragon Place

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TO PLACE AN ORDER

- 1. Mark the box below indicating the ad size you are purchasing and the months you want your ad to appear in Sparks.
- 2. Submit this completed order form, your camera ready ad, via email at dwebb1518@gmail.com
 Make check payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) at monthly Delta Club meeting, or send US Mail to club mailing address at P.O. Box 432768, Memphis, TN 38134-2768. Camera ready means that ad copy is exactly as you wish it to appear, scaled to fit within the dimensions specified below. Ads may be submitted in .gif or .jpg format, or submitted as a hard copy (we will scan and place your ad for you).
- 3. Your ad order and payment 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			¼ PAGE			BUSINESS CARD				
\$50.00 for 3 Months 7" w X 8 ½" h		\$25.00 for 3 Months 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					
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec