

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 23 * March 2017



Welcome to the Delta Amateur Radio Club

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

EMAIL: darc4you@gmail.com

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W4BS

REPEATER SYSTEM

146.820^{-107.2} 147.360^{+107.2}

146.625^{-107.2} 443.200^{+107.2}

224.420^{-107.2}

144.390 Digipeater

This month's meeting begins at 7pm on March 14, 2017, at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Highway 70 Memphis, TN (1 ½ miles north of Highway 64 (Stage Road)).

In this month's program we welcome David Campbell, KD4NOQ. David's topic will be "Antennas you may not have seen before" and he says, "I have some odd antennas in the VHF/UHF/microwave bands that are strange but I have had good results building and using them. I will have circuit board antennas of Kent Britain, WA5VJB, and will discuss VHF/UHF antenna building techniques. I will bring some of my antennas I took to the antenna ranges of the Central States and Southeastern VHF Societies and discuss their gain figures and antenna patterns."

David has been an amateur radio operator for around 20 years. He has been to many of the Central States VHF Society and Southeastern VHF Society conferences, the sources of his interests in antennas. He hung out on their antenna ranges to see what would work and what wouldn't.

Delta Club FCC testing sessions are held monthly except December. Registration begins at 5:30 PM; testing begins by 6:00 PM. Please bring a photo ID and another form of identification, copies of existing licenses or CSCEs, and your FCC Registration Number (FRN) if one has been issued. Please be on time for registration to allow our Volunteer Examiner (VE) team to complete their work prior to the club meeting. The 2017 test fee is \$15 (cash or check). Individuals receiving 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 email our VE Liaison, Jeff Krause, AJ4GY, or call at 901-301-6776.

Congratulations to those who passed exams during Delta's February, 2017, test session: new Technician Jonathan Alexander, KN4BBV, and new Extras Wyman Griffin, Jr., KX4BA, and Janice Shaner, KX4BB.

President's Corner

Submitted by Ken Laseter, KI4AOH

Seems like Spring has sprung! Well, if hay fever and sinus allergies are any indication, Spring is already here. Hope none of you are having reactions to Spring, like I am. Sorry for missing the February general meeting, I will try to do better in the future.

I want to thank Steve Frazier for taking charge of the meeting in my absence. I have had several compliments on Steve's performance. Thanks Steve, I really appreciate you stepping in to help.

This coming Saturday the 18th, Delta is hosting a Swap Meet at the Church (where we hold our monthly meeting). All the details are in Sparks. See you there!

Mark your calendars, FreeFest is Saturday, April 8th. Again, I'm looking forward to attending and seeing so many friends from out of town. So, come join me, and let's help make this the best FreeFest ever. Remember, proceeds from FreeFest go to benefit LeBonheur Children's Hospital.

I know this paragraph is a repeat of one I published last March. However, I already know of one tower accident in Pike County Mississippi and here locally, some of the Tri-State tower crews are already doing some tower work. So, as the weather warms and we hams venture outdoors to put up new antennas or repair those weathered ones, PLEASE, keep in mind that "what goes up, must come down." That includes you. So, PLEASE, take one extra minute to consider what could go wrong during your activities, what you can do to prevent it from going wrong, and double-check the condition of your climbing and personal protective equipment, before you climb. Always use the buddy system and have an emergency response plan. Now, after all that, if it's still daylight, have a good time!

Don't forget to check into the DARC information net on the 146.820 repeater at 8:00 pm each evening, and when you check-in, make sure to thank the net control operator for taking time from their family and busy schedule to call the net for us. They are some of our most valuable assets!

You may want to mark your calendars for upcoming SkyWarn training. ARES has scheduled SkyWarn training for March 23rd, at the Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 6865 Poplar Pike, Memphis, TN 38119, starting at 6:30 pm.

As a closing note, if you have not renewed your club membership now is the time. Linda will be glad to accept your renewal application and cash, check or money order. See you at the meeting!

73
Kenneth Laseter
KI4AOH

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Linda Laseter, KJ4CTX

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Monthly Treasurer's Report

For month ended February 28, 2017

Submitted by Linda Laseter KJ4CTX Treasurer

CHECKING ACCOUNT

BEGINNING BALANCE

BEGINNING BALANCE as of February 1, 2017 **\$ 5,208.47**

INCOME

Date		Amount
02/13/17	Griffin equipment sales	\$ 110.00
02/13/17	Membership dues 2017	\$ 110.00
02/21/17	Membership dues 2017	\$ 225.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 445.00

\$ 445.00 \$ 445.00

EXPENSES

Date	Check #	To	Description	Amount
02/07/17	1408	Jim Cissell	Batteries for microphone	\$ (5.47)
02/14/17	1409	Scott Adam	Meeting refreshments	\$ (46.63)
TOTAL EXPENSES				\$ (52.10) \$ (52.10)

ENDING BALANCE as of February 28, 2017 **\$ 5,601.37**

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

	Maturity Date	Balance as of	
Certificate of Deposit #1	10/10/2018	1/31/2017	\$ 10,437.72
Certificate of Deposit #2	10/19/2022	12/16/2016	\$ 10,000.00

TOTAL DARC CASH ASSETS **\$ 26,039.09**

This Month's Board Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2017 -- Submitted by Barri Munday, WB4SWP

Attendees: Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, Scott Adams, KM4PMU, Barri Munday, WB4SWP, Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Bill Stevens, WC9S, Dan Lasley, NE7JN. Ken Laseter, KI4AOH, Linda Laseter, KJ4CTX, Kevin Zent, K4KLZ, and Len Grice, KM4MRY, were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Steve.

During the meeting, David Campbell, KD4NOQ, called to let us know he has an upcoming medical procedure but intends to present the program as planned. Best wishes to David! Kevin will arrange a backup program next Tuesday if it turns out that David is unavailable.

The swap meet will be on March 18th from 9am-1pm at the club meeting location.

Joe has a Tech class ongoing now. The next Tech class is being planned for the 2nd week of July for six nights with the times 6:15-9:15; date and location to be announced later.

Acquisition of 200 watt filters for Field Day approved by unanimous vote of the board.

Joe told us of plans for the Huntsville ham fest bus trip on August 19th.

Bill suggested the club buy a Yaesu repeater that is on sale. Motion was made by Dan, seconded by Joe, voted unanimously in favor by the members.

Storm Spotter Training will be March 23rd at 7:00pm at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 6865 Poplar Pike, Memphis, TN 38117 and will replace the ARES meeting for this month.

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 Dan, seconded by Steve.

Minutes of Last Month's Club Meeting

February 14, 2017 – Submitted by Barri Munday, WB4SWP

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, Vice President, acting on behalf of President Ken Laseter, KI4AOH, who was not able to attend due to illness.

Everyone introduced themselves by name and call sign.

Ham Hillard, W4GMM, moved to accept the 2017 budget as printed in Sparks; second not recorded. Approval via acclamation.

Ham moved to accept the previous meeting's minutes as printed in Sparks; second not recorded. Approval via acclamation.

Jeff Krause, AJ4GY, announced the evening's testing produced one new Technician and two new Extras. See page one for details; congratulations to all.

Linda Laseter, KJ4CTX, announced the next YL Luncheon will be at Sweet Peas in Bartlett on Saturday, February 18th. All YLs are invited.

Bill Stevens, WC9S, told us about the swap meet to be held at the club meeting location on Saturday, March 18th, from 9am-1pm. Admission, tables, parking, and coffee and donuts are all free. See the section entitled "Don't Miss the March Swap Meet!" below.

Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, told us a Tech class is being given on February 25th at EMHC on Appling Road. So far 10 people have signed up for the class. Joe's Extra class ended on February 18th.

Joe is checking on the availability and pricing for Delta's bus trip to the Huntsville ham fest in August and reminded us a Storm Spotter class will be held on Tuesday, March 23rd, at 6:30 pm at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 6865 Poplar Pike, Memphis, TN 38119.

Kevin Zent, K4KLZ, introduced Tom Dichiara, AC5MR, who spoke on HF mobile units.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Last Month's Program

Submitted by Dan Lasley, NE7JN, contributions by Tom Diciara, AC5MR



Photo by Dan Lasley, NE7JN

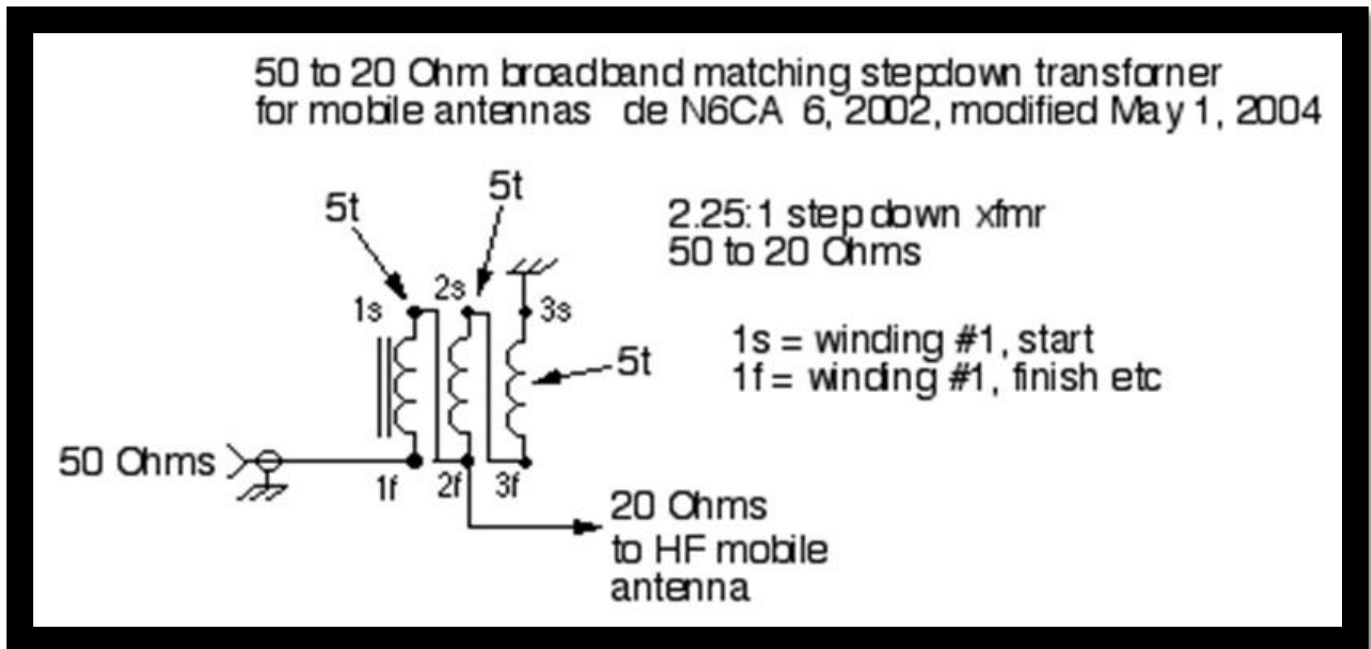
Last month, Tom Diciara, AC5MR (left), talked about “HF Mobile Installation and Operation.” Tom covered components of a mobile station, including transceivers, antennas and antenna mounting, grounding, bonding, power, mounting the radio, noise, and safety. The only thing Tom missed was installing your equipment in your vehicle for you!

Antenna Systems

- Mobile antenna systems are comprised of a radiator and a matching network.
- Mobile antennas have a low impedance, therefore, a matching network is required.
- Systems can be mono-band or multiband.
- Multi band systems can be tuned from inside the vehicle while in motion or from outside the vehicle when stopped.

Tom began with a discussion of Antenna Systems. He discussed background information on antennas to help you decide on the appropriate type of mobile antenna and matching network.

In studying Tom's [presentation](#), I discovered an interesting diagram by Chip Angle, N6CA, on page 6:



The diagram is from [Broadband Mobile HF Stepdown Matching Transformer](#). N6CA's concept of start and finish helps you keep track of the three windings if you build your own transformer. Thanks to Chip for a very clear description of construction of the transformer.

Antenna Mounting

- Which ever Antenna is used the mount has to be solid, strong and safe.
- No sharp edges or protrusions that could cause injury.
- Anything flying off a moving vehicle can be deadly. Safety first.
- Obey DOT laws. (Height should be under 13 ft. 6 in. most roads.)

After deciding on the antenna, Tom has suggestions for mounting. As Tom says, "Safety first!" You don't want to lose that expensive antenna to the first tree branch you encounter!

Tom's [presentation](#) has much more information than we can reprint here.

Thanks, Tom, for an interesting presentation and for a serious amount of work on your part!

Amateur Hardware Update

Article and image submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

A printed circuit board now being sold is the LED indicator PCB. The circuit shows the magnitude of a voltage signal connected to the input. The circuit uses the KA2284 IC chip to calculate the voltage level and light up the LEDs. The board has a jumper to select either a DC or AC voltage to monitor. An on board variable resistor allows you to adjust for the voltage level to be monitored. The best part is this completed unit assembled with all components installed and tested is only 99 cents with free shipping. The board works well and makes a nice level display for power or audio level. Go to Ebay and do a search for "KA2284" to see what is available.



Amateur Packet Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Many times we like to build up radio kits. One new company carrying a lot of kits is "qrpkits" also known as "Pacific Antenna." They have a full line of QRP radio kits, antenna tuners, transmitters, receivers, antennas, and test equipment. Most are in kit form and let you learn electronics as you built your amateur equipment. They also carry a line of radio accessories you can build. Their website also has downloads of their kits so you can look at what it takes to put them together. If you are looking for ham radio kits check out their website. The address is <http://www.qrpkits.com/>

Editor's note: see the announcement of Pacific Antenna's 10-Watt Amplifier Kit on page 34 of the March, 2017, QST. Also see their brief ad on page 155.

HQ 101

Submitted by Dan Lasley, NE7JN

In February's HQ-101 session, Jim Cissell, KI4I, introduced the Morse code sounds of the letters A through E. As Jim sent patterns of dits and dahs, he asked the attendees to speak the letter as soon as they recognized it. Then, having introduced A through E, Jim sent short words made of these letters and again asked the attendees to speak the individual letters followed by the word.

Jim stressed that we should listen to the sounds of a letter without counting individual dits or dahs.

In the March HQ-101, which begins in a meeting room upstairs on club meeting night at 6pm, Jim will continue with letters F through J. If you are interested in becoming a CW operator, please join us for March's HQ-101, even if you missed the February HQ-101!

Thanks again, Jim, for Elmering us!

Delta Ham License Training, 2017

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 in 2017 from Delta Classes

0 Technician

0 General

5 Extra

If you are interested in attending a training class, send an email to [Joe Lowenthal](mailto:Joe.Lowenthal@arrl.org) with the desired class name in the subject line, along with your name, email address and cell phone number in the text.

The new [Technician question pool](#) is effective July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2018. You will need the [ARRL Ham Radio License Manual 3rd Edition](#) to study for the Technician exam.

The new [General question pool](#) is effective July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2019. You will need the [ARRL General Class License Manual 8th Edition](#) to study for the General exam.

The new [Extra question pool](#) is effective July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2020. You will need the [ARRL Extra Class License Manual 11th Edition](#) to study for the Extra exam.

Classes Completed

Extra Class 1-17: January 7, 2017, to February 18, 2017

Extra Class 1-17 was held on six Saturdays from 9am to 1pm at EMHC ambulance company training room, 6872 Appling Farms Parkway from January 7th to February 18th. There was no class on January 28th. There were seven students in the class.

Congratulations to the new Extra Class hams: Morris Butcher, KM5SWO, Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, Wyman Griffin, KX4BA (was KK4CBH), Janice Shaner, KX4BB (was KM4HZY), and Curt Warhurst, KX4BH (was KM4MRT). Congratulations also to John Vanderpool, KN4BFS, on earning his Technician license during the test session.

The instructors were Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Dean Honadle, N2LAZ, Ed Arndt, KV4LF, Paul Roberts, KA9VAU, and Pat Lane, W4OQG. The Delta Club ARRL VE team led by Jeff Krause, AJ4GY, and including Ed Arndt, KV4LF, Keith Barton, KT4EP, Perry Hayes, N4PSH, Ken Laseter, KI4AOH, Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, and Tom Ungren, KK4ZZZ, provided the testing opportunity.

Current Classes

Tech Class 2-17: February 25 -- April 15, 2017

Tech Class 2-17 is being held on six Saturdays from 9am to 1pm at EMHC ambulance company training room, 6872 Appling Farms Parkway, from February 25th to April 15th except for March 18th and April 8th. There are 11 students in the class including three YLs. The instructors are Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Perry Hayes, N4PSH, Pat Lane, W4OQG, and David Webb, KV4QI.

The WCARS VE Team led by Gary Weatherford will provide the FCC test session on April 1st.

On April 15th the equipment demonstrators will be Rick Tillman, WA4NVM, satellite; Michael Knight, KK4IOH, digital; Pat Lane, W4OQG, Winlink and Rick Pellicciotti, KJ4NWQ, APRS.



Tech Class 2-17 antenna class around the table (L-R): Brian Hagood, Rob Stalcup, Marc Stackhouse, John Reiners, Joey Craig, Olivia Ritter, Teresa White, and Liam Sawyer. Back wall: instructor Perry Hayes, N4PSH. Photo by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO.



Joe, WA4OVO, instructing the first class. (L-R with back to camera), Teresa White, Olivia Ritter, and Brian Hagood. (Center, L-R) Joe, WA4OVO, Lewis Wright, unidentified, and Nicholas Koonce. Photo by Perry Hayes, N4PSH.

Planned Classes

Tech Class 3-17 is being planned to start in the second week of July for six nights from 6:15pm to 9:15pm. The location and dates will be determined closer to class time. If interested in the Technician class, send an email to Joe with subject line "Tech Class" and name, email address and cellphone in the text area.

Shelby County Health Department Medical Reserve Corps

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

The 150th Medical Reserve Corps of the Shelby County Health Department would like more ham radio volunteers. Tina McElravey, KM4PMZ, gave a presentation at the Delta meeting last September.

If you are interested, an orientation session will be held on March 23rd from 6pm to 8pm at 1075 Mullins Station Road in Room W-206. To register, go to <http://shelbytnhealth.com/314/Medical-Reserve-Corps-MRC-Orientation-10>.

There are no mandated time requirements other than the orientation.

Women in Radio

Article and photos submitted by Val Lemko, VE5ACJ

Editor's note: we are continuing a new column about women with significant accomplishments in the art and science of radio. Each article is written by a woman and most of the writers are hams. YLs, please contribute more articles!

The YL that we are going to talk about today, Merle Taylor, VE1VCI, was born and raised in Stonewall, Manitoba, Canada.

In 1943 Merle was teaching Morse Code to our pilots at the #4 Service Flying Training School (FTS) in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. It takes a very special person to be able to teach pilots what they must know before they flew off into the wild blue yonder protecting the democratic system during those tumultuous times.

In 1944 Merle got married and moved to Nova Scotia and lived on a 400 acre berry and Christmas tree farm in Lochaber. There she lived with her hubby Fred and they raised 5 sons. All have now grown up and work in various occupations, all married and have children. To date Merle has 24 grandchildren.



Merle got into Amateur Radio in 1986 after the passing of her husband in 1982. She wanted something different to do and she saw an advertisement in her local newspaper offering a six-month course in Amateur Radio. Because she had been in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) in WWII as a Wireless Operator Ground (WOGS as they were called), she felt the Morse code would come back.

She decided to sign up with 11 men. She found the theory difficult, but the code was still there; it was slow at first but eventually she got better. Only two finished the course.

Of course she had to operate on CW only for the first year and she found it very exciting. Merle also said that she took up Amateur Radio so that when she gets old, crippled, and who knows, perhaps blind, she will have a wonderful hobby to help her pass the time.

Every year, Merle takes part in the Nova Scotia Amateur Radio Association Contest, with over 70 contestants, and over the years has been lucky enough to place first 10 times and in second place four times.

Merle is also very involved with the Lochaber Sylvan Lakers Seniors Club and has served as their President. This group is known as "The Seniors". They meet every Wednesday at 1:30

pm to socialize. During the year, these seniors organize several fundraisers, one of which is double bed quilts.



Merle started quilting in 1946 after she and her husband bought a refurbished Singer Treadle Sewing machine for \$30.00. She started sewing clothes for the five boys and making sheets, and of course quilts. To date she has made 229 double size quilts. These are all in a stairs pattern, and require 284 squares which she cuts out by hand. The machine is used sewing the pieces together and half the binding. The quilt is then put into a frame that she built in 1946. She then ties the quilt by hand and finishes the binding also

by hand.

Merle has made quilts for every one of her 24 grandchildren: 13 boys and 11 girls. They all receive their quilt on their 18th birthday. Most of Merle's quilts are giving away to the needy and sick.

Our Merle is no stranger to hard work and in her "spare" time raised 5 boys, does preserves of all kinds, quilts, is very active in ham radio and does lots of volunteer work. One would not know she just had her 90th birthday this year.

Merle has now been recognized as a "Caring Canadian" (no surprise for those who know her). Former Governor General Romeo LeBlanc initiated the Caring Canadian award to recognize the volunteer efforts of outstanding Canadians over their lives. Merle moved to Lochaber in 1944 with her young son, Sandy, when her husband Fred was posted overseas. In addition to raising five sons, running the family farm and starting a cultured marble business, she generously gives back to the community



Merle still does canning of pickles, (usually about 1,000 pints) which one of her daughters-in-law sells in a roadside farm store. She preserves blueberries, strawberries, and all the other wonderful products she grows on the farm. Their Christmas tree farm is also a thriving business.



Merle finally admitted early in the spring, that getting around the farm was becoming a bit of a chore, so she bought herself a golf cart, which she uses until she gets to the patches of fruit, then off she goes and starts picking by hand.

Merle is one of our wonderful inspirations in the CLARA (Canadian Ladies Amateur Radio Association), Merle does not have a computer, says that at her age she really doesn't need the frustration—and I don't blame her.

Editor's notes: When I asked Val for a biography to go along with her article, she said she was recovering from surgery and wasn't up to the bio request. With her permission, I've used her qrz.com biography. We extend our best wishes to Val for a speedy and complete recovery and we thank her for her article. See the [December, 2016, Sparks](#), page 28, for a short article and photo of Merle operating CW.

Hi, name here is Val Lemko. I have been a ham since 1981. I enjoy phone and CW. CW is my favorite mode of operation. I worked hard to get my 15wpm, and then due to work, I dropped the hobby. Got back into it in 2003 when I retired after 20 years of being a School Secretary. I often do Net Control for the Aurora Net, am President of CLARA (Canadian Ladies Amateur Radio Association), the Secretary/Treasurer for the SARL (Saskatchewan Amateur Radio League), and also an active member in the Moose Jaw Pioneers Amateur Club. I am also now a member of the YLRL (Young Ladies' Radio League). My OM, Harv, is also a ham, VE5AC, but he is not as active as he used to be. He spends a lot of time making sure the rigs and antenna are always in tip top shape. I also hold the callsign VE5AQ and the Pioneers Amateur Radio Club callsign of VE5PSC.

Hope to catch you on the air preferably on CW but the speed is only at about 12wpm now, maybe with practice, I will get it back up there.

2016 National Parks on the Air Event

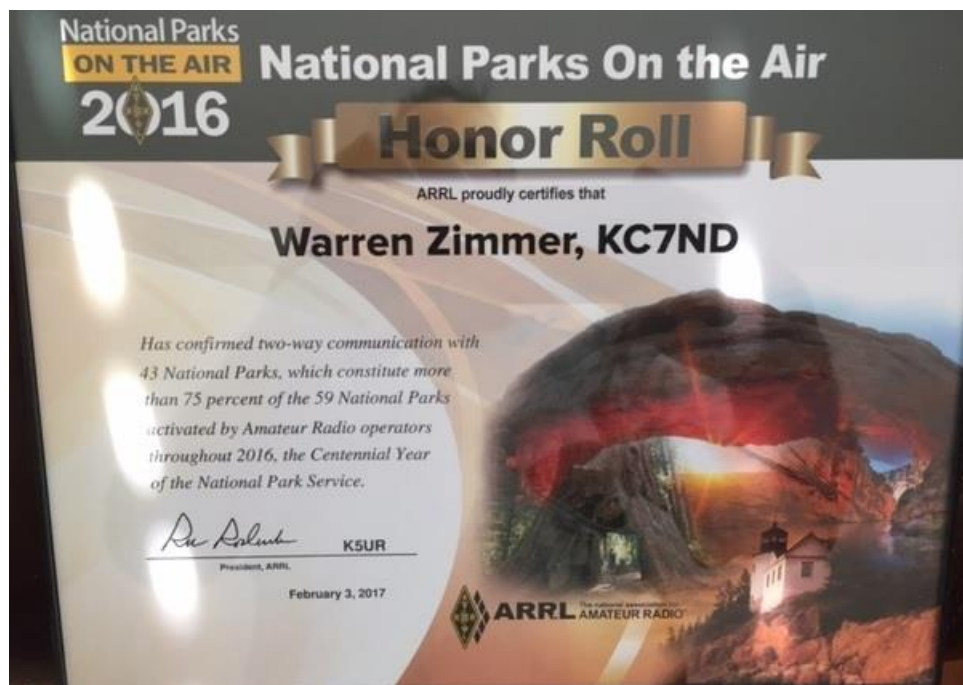
Submitted by Dan Lasley, NE7JN, text and photos by Warren Zimmer, KC7ND

In 2016, the ARRL promoted the [National Parks on the Air](#) event as a way of helping the National Park Service celebrate their 100th anniversary. Hams worked as Activators or Chasers.

Activators brought up transceivers at 460 of the 489 [sites](#). Chasers worked the activators. At the conclusion of the event, more than 1,000,000 QSOs had been logged.

Our own Warren Zimmer, KC7ND, had Tennessee's fifth highest Chaser count! Nice work, Warren!

Warren received from the ARRL an Honor Roll award, an Activator Award, and a Chaser Award.



The Honor Roll certificate says, "Has confirmed two-way communication with 43 National Parks, which constitute more than 75% of 59 National Parks activated by Amateur Radio operators throughout 2016, the Centennial Year of the National Park Service."

Warren activated the [Trail of Tears](#), which runs along Stage Road in Bartlett. Quoting from the [National Park Service](#) web site: "The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail covers nine states and thousands of miles of land and water routes. During 1838 and 1839, more than 16,000 Cherokee men, women, and children were forcibly moved from their homes in the southern Appalachian Mountains to stockades and internment camps, after which they walked hundreds of miles to Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma). The harsh conditions led to a high rate of illness, widespread desertion, and hundreds of deaths. The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail was designated to preserve the story, the routes, and support the associated sites that commemorate the Cherokees' forced migration."

In talking about his activation, Warren says, "I checked into the simplex "Barefoot Bullfrog Net" on 146.535 MHz and explained what I wanted to do. I needed at least 10 contacts. They were all cooperative; I think I got 12 contacts. I have no portable HF equipment, so this was the only way to get it done. The ARRL put up a special Facebook page so activators could post the parks they would be in and when. When activators got to the park they would post the frequency so chasers could find them. This event included 455 designated areas by the NPS, with the most challenging being around Washington, DC. The White House was only activated about 5 times, due to the requirement of approval by the Secret Service. Places like the Washington Monument could only be activated on foot, with portable equipment, such as a KX3 and a wire antenna. Maximum power I believe is about 15 watts, which was the case with quite a few parks and protected areas, thus creating a challenge that consumed most of my operating days throughout the year.

One of the funny stories was the activation of Ford's Theater in Washington, DC. You had to be "on property" or on the trail. The only access was across the street from the Theater where Lincoln was taken after being shot and where he died. There was a small area outside where one could set up portable. It was so hard to hear the DC parks that many used a 100 watt radio, including this ham. After about 15 minutes of operating (he did it at 6am EST, since it had to be before the place opened to the public at 8am) his RF set off the fire alarm and he had to shut down and leave before the fire department came! I was on the air and was one of the lucky ones to contact him before he left.

The activators would also visit the site, take pictures, and post them on Facebook. They would get some of the park rangers involved as well. As noted in the QST article, one ranger was so intrigued by the event he went out and got his license. The activators got to learn about the site and the chasers could pull up the info online and learn about the site also. It was educational for all involved.

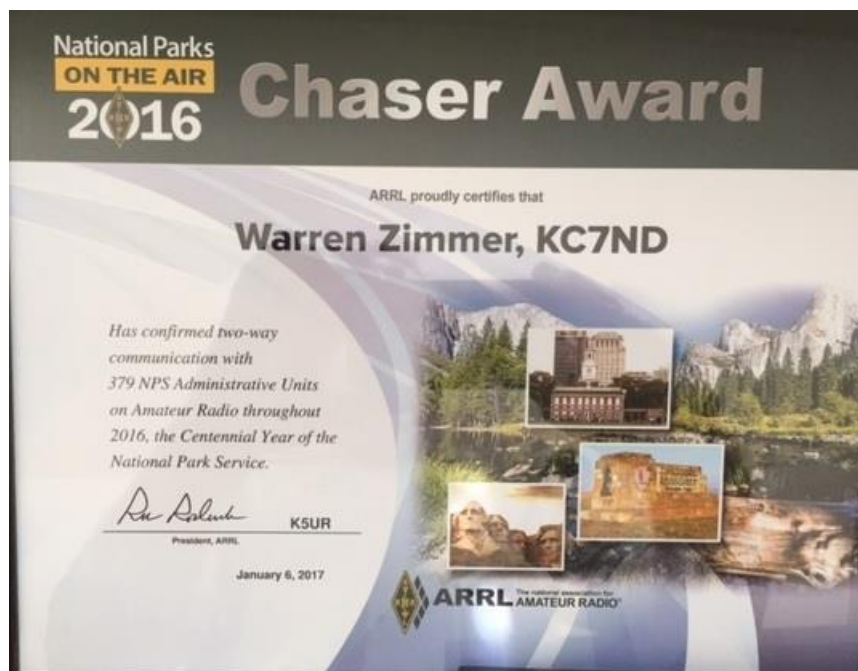


The Activator certificate says, "Has submitted proof of activating 1 NPS Administrative Unit on Amateur Radio throughout 2016, the Centennial Year of the National Park Service."

My placement of 5th in the state came as a chaser, with 379 parks confirmed. I accomplished the "honor roll" by contacting at least 41 (I had 43) National Parks of the 55 in the US that were activated. In another ARRL page you kept up with your numbers of parks activated or worked."

About half of my contacts were CW, and three were PSK. There were several CW diehards that would only work CW activations, so their numbers were lower as a result, but that's what they wanted to do. Of course CW worked better with the current band conditions. Many phone activations would come away with just enough contacts (a minimum of 10) for a valid activation due to the poor HF band conditions we have been living with.

There was a great NPOTA recap article in the March, 2017, QST. I've been a ham for over 45 years and as many folks who participated said, it was the most fun they had on ham radio in many years. Most of us are going through NPOTA withdrawal, so we're now chasing SOTA (Summits on the Air) and WWFF (World Wide Flower and Fauna) and KFF (stateside flower and fauna) which include most of the state parks."



The Chaser certificate says, "Has confirmed two-way communication with 379 NPS Administrative Units throughout 2016, the Centennial Year of the National Park Service."

Editor's note: many thanks to Warren for his article! If readers would send [me](#) more stuff like this, we would have a much more interesting newsletter and you would have to read less of my drive!!

Your Help Needed

Submitted by David W. Webb, kv4qi

We need your help! ** Commencing 1100 hrs. - Saturday, April 29th, 2017, the Millington Fire Department will sponsor a "Rain or Shine" Preparedness Drill in conjunction with a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training class that begins on April 22, 2017.

CERT + Training will work with all interested to allow event participation in capacity of:

- Incident Command Staff position (must be a CERT/equivalent program graduate)
- CERT Activity (Team) Observer/Evaluator
- Safety Officer
- Ham Radio Operator (bring your Handi-Talkie)
- CERT Team Mentor/Participant
- Injury Role-play Participant (old clothes that you don't mind getting "bloody")
- Unassigned casual event viewer
- *Other tailored roles available based on individual participant wants/needs*

If you're already CERT trained – we need your experience and capabilities! If you've not had CERT training, you're welcome to register for the class as a student. You are also encouraged to bring friends and/or relatives to participate in the roles of injured/affected citizens of the impacted community.

****Registration is now available via URL**

[http://www.certplustraining.org/Training/Preparedness Drill April 29](http://www.certplustraining.org/Training/Preparedness%20Drill%20April%2029)

If you need additional information or wish to fill one of the more active roles in event supervision and providing student performance feedback, please send me an [email](#) with your thoughts.





Don't Miss the March Swap Meet!

Submitted by Dan Lasley, NE7JN

Delta Amateur Radio Club will host a swap meet on Saturday, March 18, from 9am to 1pm at the club's meeting place, Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Highway 70, Memphis, TN. The swap meet is open to all hams and to anyone with an interest in amateur radio. We will have tables available if you wish to bring items for sale or trade. Turnout is always good, so the earlier you can join us, the better your chances of taking home something of value.

Delta Club members and friends Steve Smith, W5VAA, Rosalinda Melena, WN2V, and Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, from [Mid-South Amateur Radio Supply](#) are planning to attend. They will help you with antennas and mounts, coax, connectors, LDG antenna tuners, accessories and more. See their advertisement near the end of the newsletter.

Bill Stevens, WC9S, will have on display the estate sale items shown on the next page.

Admission is free, the tables are free, parking is free, coffee and donuts are free. Join us!

Estate Sales

Submitted by Dan Lasley, NE7JN, contributions by Bill Stevens, WC9S

Bill Stevens, WC9S, will **not** have the listed equipment available at the March Delta Club meeting, but it **will** be available at the March swap meet and at April's FreeFest. If you have questions about any of the equipment, please give Bill a call at 901-603-3448. Bill says many prices have been reduced! Don't wait too long and miss out on something you want.

Griffen KC5E Estate	Price	Comments
Ameritron 811 H Amplifier	\$625.00	Still in production
Ameritron ARB - 704	\$40.00	Still in production
Ameritron ATP - 102 Tuning Pluser	\$55.00	Still in production
ASA Low Pass Filter	\$15.00	
Astatic Speaker	\$10.00	
Bencher Straight Key	\$115.00	Still in production
Daiwa CS-201 Antenna Switch	\$20.00	New
Heil FS-3 Foot Switch	\$20.00	Still in production
Hy-Gain AV-620 6 band Vertical Antenna	\$240.00	
Icom IC - V8 HT with Charger	\$25.00	Needs Battery
Kenwood HS-5 Headset	\$45.00	Still in production
Kenwood Remote VFO-555	\$8.00	
Kenwood SP-31 Speaker	\$30.00	
MFJ 1118 DC Outlet	\$55.00	Still in production
MFJ 113 Clock	\$10.00	Still in production
MFJ 862 Watt Meter	\$45.00	Still in production
MFJ 862 Watt Meter	\$45.00	Still in production
MFJ 989D Versa Tuner V	\$290.00	Still in production
Misc. Wires		
Radio Shack Speakers	\$10.00	
SEC 1235M Power Supply 30 amp	\$85.00	Still in production
Yaesu DX - 1200	\$725.00	Still in production
Yaesu FT - 1000MP with hand mic	\$725.00	
Yaesu FT 920 with hand mic	\$575.00	
Yaesu MD - 100 Table Mic	\$95.00	Still in production
Rye KG4TKY Estate REDUCED PRICES !		
Tentec Orion II HF transceiver #566		
Tentec Antenna Tuner #238b		
Tentec External Speaker #307		All for \$1750.00
Tentec Power Supply #963		
TenTec Encoder/Keypad #302		
TenTec Desk Mic. By Heil		

FreeFest Coming in April
Submitted by Dan Lasley, NE7JN

What is FreeFest? It's a hamfest sponsored by [Mid-South Amateur Radio Association](#) (MARA). It will be in operation from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Saturday, April 8, 2017.

What's free about FreeFest? Admission, parking, and just about everything else except for food and additional raffle tickets. Even the first raffle ticket is free!

Where is it? 5868 Stage Road in Bartlett, just east of the railroad tracks. Additional parking is in the large parking lot west of Walgreens, then walk across the small bridge and look for crowds entering the building. The MARA web site has [directions](#) in case you haven't been there before. The talk-in frequency is 147.03 MHz with a PL tone of 107.2 and a +600 KHz offset.

What will I see at FreeFest? The better question is what won't you see! You'll find ham equipment vendors large and small, individuals selling nearly anything you can imagine that's ham related and some things that aren't ham related. Most of the action takes place inside, but with the cooperation of the good-weather gods, some vendors will be outside as well.

What else is going on at FreeFest? If all of the above still leaves you wanting, you can pass your first ham license or upgrade an existing license in the morning and attend a seminar in the afternoon. DON'T MISS the concession stand! If that's still not enough, check out the list of [prizes](#) you can win.

What else should I know? 100% of raffle ticket proceeds go to [Le Bonheur Children's Hospital](#), a leader in pediatric medicine.

Volunteer Needed!
Submitted by Dan Lasley, NE7JN

Richard Martin, K4DXF, recently suggested that folks bring books and magazines to club meetings with the idea of delivering these items to the local Veterans Administration Hospital. We are looking for a volunteer to collect items brought to the club meetings and deliver these donations to the V.A. Hospital.

If you are interested in volunteering for this project, please contact [me](#).

YL News

Text and photos by Linda Laseter, KJ4CTX

YL NET – Had an exciting time last Saturday, February 25th calling the YL Net from a mobile location. Had to shuffle a few papers around but overall not a problem

If you would be interested in becoming one of our YL Net Control Operators, please send [me](#) an email. It is fairly easy. Just follow the Preamble and jot down the call signs (suffix only) of the hams that check in. You gain experience on the radio and it builds your confidence as well. Please join us each Saturday night at 8:45 p.m. on the 146.820 repeater.

YL LUNCHEON – Our luncheon this month was at Sweet Peas in Bartlett. It was my first time to eat there, but it will not be my last! The food was good especially their fried green tomatoes. So yummy! Thank you for sharing them with me Betsy KD4KOM. The strawberry cake was delicious and my favorite of all desserts. We always enjoy seeing each other and this month was no exception. We were having such fun and good conversation we lingered longer than usual.



Luncheon attendees (L-R): Betsy, KD4KOM, Janice, KX4BB, Barri, WB4SWP, Kate, KJ4JUL, Jackie, KG5DMW, Ann, WB4FAA, Janet, KK4PRT, Gale, KI4VDI, and Linda, KJ4CTX.



Barri WB4SWP won this month's door prize: two lovely ceramic baking dishes and a tin of coasters.

Our March luncheon is as follows:

11:30 a.m.
Saturday, March 25, 2017
Olive Garden
8405 Hwy 64 (just east of the Wolfchase Mall)
Memphis, TN 38133
901 377-3437

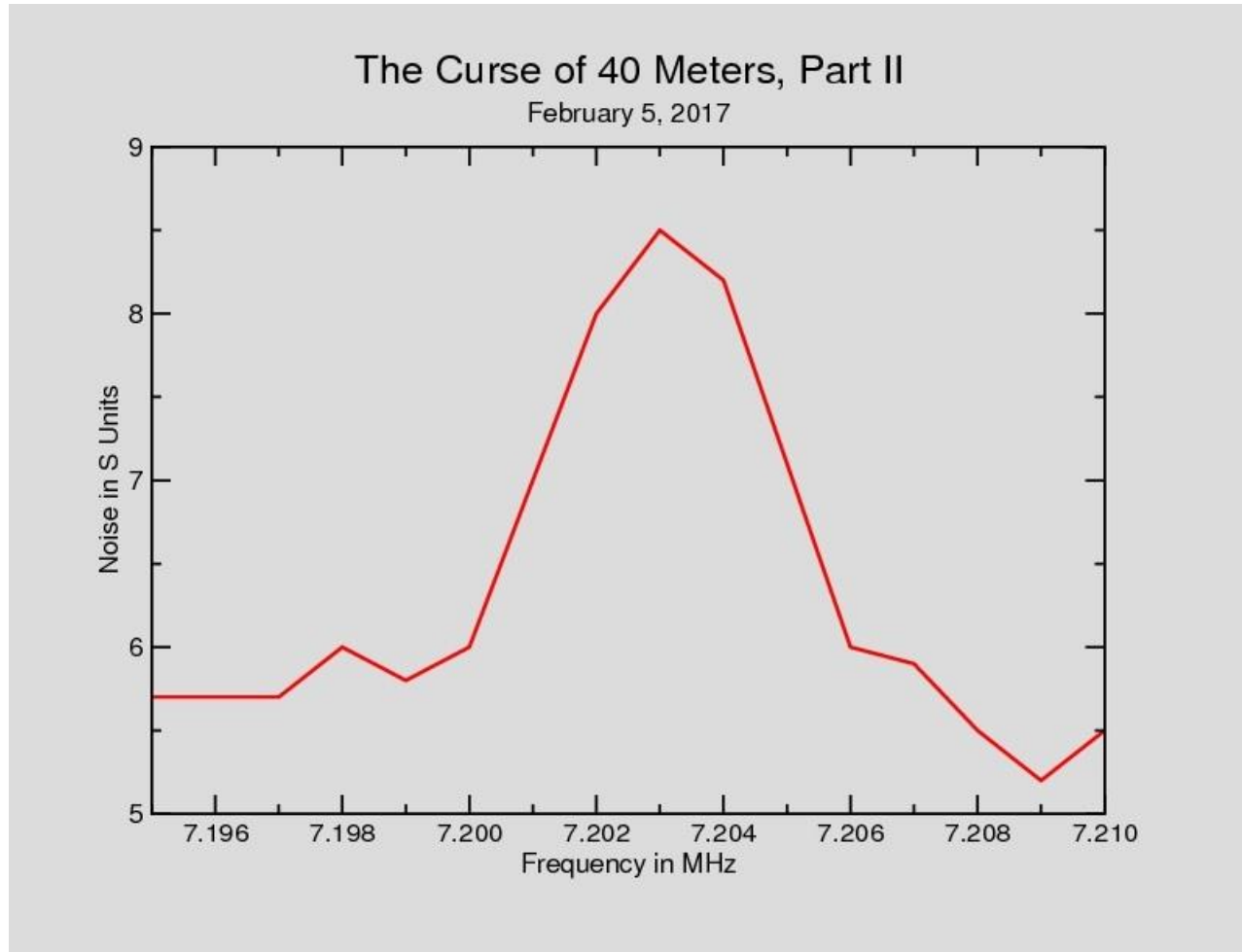
Hope to see you there!

33,
[Linda Laseter](#), KJ4CTX

HF Propagation, Part 6

Submitted by Dan Lasley, NE7JN

Last month I talked about an example on 7.203 MHz of the noise that I call "The Curse of 40 Meters" and I showed a graph of noise vs. time. This month I'm back with "The Curse of 40 Meters, Part II."



In this example, I took S-meter readings at 1 KHz intervals from 7.195 to 7.210 MHz. As is painfully obvious, this noise spike is centered on 7.203 MHz and, at about S 8.5, it caused a serious problem in hearing most of the folks on the frequency that morning.

As with the noise in last month's HF Propagation column, I'm guessing this noise is some weirdness in the ionosphere, but I'd be interested in [hearing](#) from anyone who has an opinion of the cause of "The Curse of 40 Meters, Part II." Stay tuned.

DX News

Submitted by Dan Lasley, NE7JN

This information is courtesy of the ARRL's DX news emails.

KALININGRAD, UA2. Special event stations R1336FO and R680FBO are QRV until April 20 during the celebration of the 680th anniversary of the town of Chernyakhovsk. QSL via R2FBO.

CYPRUS, 5B. Members of the Paphos Radio Club are QRV with special event station H2017PFO during all of 2017 for Europe's Capital of Culture in 2017. Activity is on the HF bands using all modes. QSL direct to 5B4AIE.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Milan, OK1DWC is QRV as E51DWC from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013, until sometime in March. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. This includes entries in the upcoming ARRL DX contests and possibly the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB DX contest. QSL to home call.

BELIZE, V3. Bob, K7YB is moving to Belize and will be QRV as V31YB from San Ignacio. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters. QSL via operator's instructions.

AUSTRALIA, VK. Members from the Darwin Amateur Radio Club will be QRV with special event call sign VI8BOD from February 18 to March 28 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the World War II bombing of Darwin. QSL via bureau.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Elvira, IV3FSG is here working on the project of InformatiCi Senza Frontiere ONLUS and QRV in her spare time as XT2SE until March 13. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and various digital modes. QSL via IK3GES.

SVALBARD, JW. Kamil, SQ8KFH is QRV as JW/SQ8KFH from the Polish Polar Station Hornsund until May 20. Activity is during his free time on 20 meters using SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL to home call. *Editor's note: Svalbard has very few hams! This is a good one to snag!*

DENMARK, OZ. Special event station OZ1AARHUS is QRV to draw attention to the city of Aarhus which is one of the two European Capitals of Culture in 2017.

NETHERLANDS, PA. Special event station PA2017BP is QRV until March 20 to commemorate Lord Baden-Powell who founded the Scout Movement, also known as the Boy Scouts. QSL to PA3EFR.

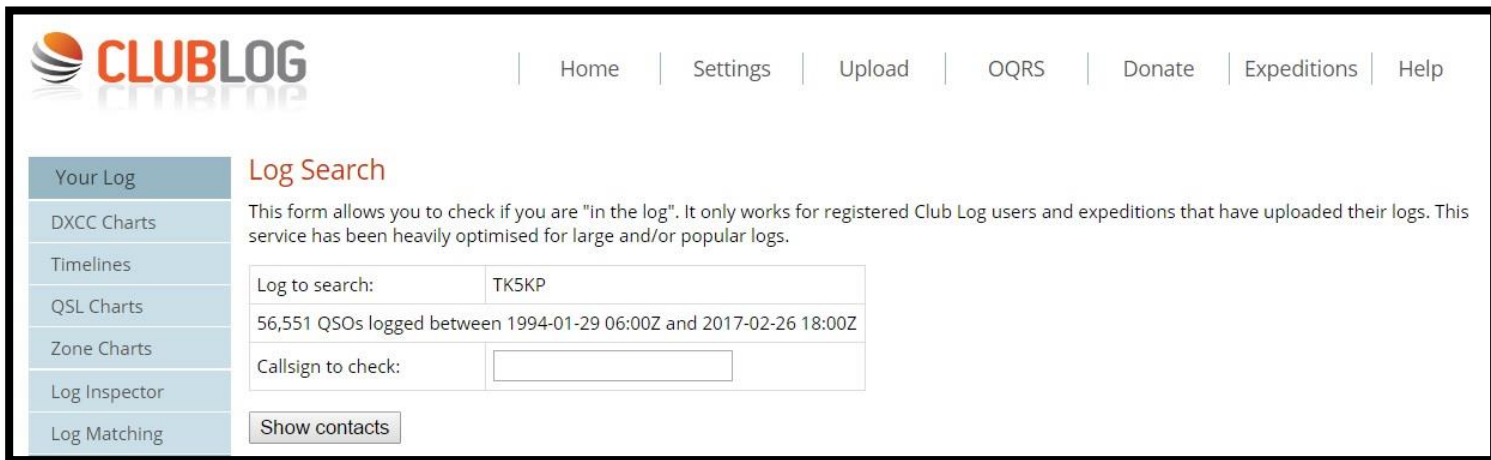
UKRAINE, UR. Members of the Druzhkivka Club of Radioamateurs are QRV with special event callsign EN90IWA until the end of 2017 to celebrates the club's 90th anniversary. QSL via operators' instructions.

Odds-n-Ends

Submitted by Dan Lasley, NE7JN

If you are attempting DXCC or other ARRL awards, one way to increase your chances of receiving a DX QSL card and, at the same time, decrease your costs and time expended is to look for individuals and DX clubs that provide QSL cards via Club Log. I recently worked TK5KP in Corsica. When I discovered their qrz.com page mentioned Club Log, I typed the following into a browser:

<https://secure.clublog.org/logsearch/TK5KP>



The screenshot shows the Club Log website's 'Log Search' page. The header includes the Club Log logo and navigation links: Home, Settings, Upload, OQRS, Donate, Expeditions, and Help. On the left is a sidebar menu with options: Your Log, DXCC Charts, Timelines, QSL Charts, Zone Charts, Log Inspector, and Log Matching. The main content area is titled 'Log Search' and contains a form with the following fields: 'Log to search:' with the value 'TK5KP', '56,551 QSOs logged between 1994-01-29 06:00Z and 2017-02-26 18:00Z', and 'Callsign to check:' with an empty input field. A 'Show contacts' button is located below the form.

I entered my callsign and clicked on [Show contacts](#). The next screen verified my contact and provided a [Request QSL card](#) button. I followed the directions and after sending the princely sum of \$2.19 to PayPal, my QSL card request was submitted. I didn't need to send my QSL card across the big pond and I'm not worried about some nitwit stealing cash (for return postage) from my outgoing mail to TK5EP; there is no outgoing mail!

Thanks much to my friend Bruce Thompson, K9LOF, for this idea!

Another friend, Bill Pierce, sent a [link](#) to an article about the new Raspberry Pi Zero W with Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity. Are you sitting down? This gizmo, expected to go on sale in March, will cost \$10 (yes, you read that correctly, ten dollars!). See the article for the specs on the Raspberry Pi Zero W.

I recently found some very nice looking tutorials on a number of electronic components, including [op-amps](#), [digital logic](#), [inductors](#), [transistors](#), [diodes](#), [transformers](#), and many others. See <http://www.electronics-tutorials.ws/> for the complete list.

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, neither 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

An alternative email address to offer the Board your suggestions, ask questions, and 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! Go to <https://www.facebook.com/darcmem>.

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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901-488-4195

Immediate Past President

Joe Wray, WD4GXI

Board members beginning their positions in 2017 are listed in *italics*.

Public Service Events

If you are a coordinator for any of these events, please review the listed information. Please [email](#) corrections or additions.

2017 Date	Event	Contact Information
Jan. 15	Swamp Stompers 50K/25K Run	Keith Barton, KT4EP
May 6	March of Dimes March for Babies	Linda Laseter, KJ4CTX
TBD	Diabetes Tour de Cure	Pat Lane, W4OQG
Sep. 9-10	2017 Bike MS: FedEx Rock-N-Roll	Darrell Sheffield, KK4D
Oct. 7	Bluff City Blues 100 Ride	Danny Banks, KJ4FXZ
Dec. 2	St. Jude Marathon	Roger Schlichter, WR4R

Note: Dates in **red** are tentative.

Tennessee Ham Radio License Plate

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

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

<http://www.tn.gov/revenue/article/emergency-safety>

The application can be found at this link:

<http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/revenue/attachments/f1312601Fill-in.pdf>

Other Notes of Possible Interest

Submitted by David Webb, KV4QI

It's Time to Renew Your 2017 Annual Memberships! Download the latest Delta Club [Membership Application Form](#). The 2017 membership renewal fee remains a very modest \$20 for an individual, with an additional \$5 fee for family membership. Thanks for Your Active Support of Delta Amateur Radio Club!

Memphis Area VHF/UHF Nets

Updated September, 2016

Name of Net	Freq. MHz	Tone	Local Time	Day of Week
Delta Club Information Net	146.820	- (107.2)	8:00p	Daily
YL Net	146.820	- (107.2)	8:45p	Sat
Mid-South Barefooted Bullfrog Net	146.535	[simplex]	7:30p	Daily
Secret Service Net	224.780	[no tone]	8:30p	Mon
Elmer Net	145.210	- (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 red.

TENNESSEE HF NETS

As of December, 2015

All times are Central Time

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 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

3980 kHz – TN Phone Net

Mon-Fri - 5:40 AM, 6:45 AM & 6:30 PM

Saturday - 8:00 AM & 6:30 PM

Sunday - 8:00 AM only

Holidays - 8:00 AM only

DELTA CLUB ADVERTISEMENTS

See Advertisement Order Form for Instructions.



MID-SOUTH AMATEUR RADIO SUPPLY (MSARS)

6631 Vallendar Cv., Bartlett, Tennessee 38135

tel: 901-371-9700 • fax: 901-266-3374 • web: www.msars.com

CURRENTLY STOCKING			
Antennas	Antenna Mounts	Connectors	Coax & Cable
HT	Magnet	UHF	RG-213
Mobile	Trunk Lip	"N"	RG-8/U Mini
Base Station	Roof Mount	SMA	RG-58
HF	Window Mount	BNC	450 & 300 Ohm
Wire	Swivel Ball	RCA	Rotor Cable

LDG Electronics	Accessories	Miscellaneous
Automatic Antenna Tuners	RF Chokes	Gordon West Books
Remote Tuners	Power Poles	Coax Seal
Brand Specific Antenna Tuners	Antenna Switches	Fuse Holders
Baluns	SWR/Power Meters	Remote Tuner Boxes
Ununs	Mic Holders	Dog Bone Insulators

**Owners/
Operators**

Steve
W5VAA

Rosalinda
WN2V

Ham
W4GMM

Mid-South Amateur Radio Supply, (MSARS.COM) is owned and operated by local hams who are dedicated to promoting the hobby and providing help to anyone interested in ham radio. We actively support the local amateur radio clubs and are ARRL members.

MSARS offers free antenna building classes each year and help many new hams with guidance on their first radio, setting up a ham shack, programming a radio and much more. We are proud to be a part of the ham radio community and are *here to help you*.

Please thank our sponsors by using their services and mentioning that you saw their ad in the Delta Club SPARKS Newsletter!

This ad space is available

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)



Ben Richhart
Sales and Service Director

Chick-fil-A at Paragon Place
6282 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, TN 38119
Phone: 901-766-1875
Fax: 901-766-1878
E-mail: ben@cfaparagonplace.com

Please thank our sponsors by using their services and mentioning that you saw their ad in the Delta Club SPARKS Newsletter!

This space is available!

We offer our continued thanks to EMHC ambulance company for generously providing their training room for the many ham radio classes given there.

**Delta Amateur Radio Club
Sparks Advertising Order Form**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

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 and your camera ready ad, via email at sparks@carbheat.net
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

FULL PAGE			HALF PAGE			¼ PAGE			BUSINESS CARD		
\$50.00			\$25.00			\$15.00			\$10.00		
for 3 Months			for 3 Months			for 3 Months			for 3 Months		
7" w X 8 ½" h			7" w X 4" h			3 ½" w X 4" h			3 ½" w X 2" h		
Jan 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2017	May 2017	Jun 2017	July 2017	Aug 2017	Sept 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	Dec 2017