

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

P.O. BOX 750482 MEMPHIS, TN 38175-0482 / VOL. 18 / FEBRUARY 2006



Welcome
to the

Delta Amateur Radio Club!

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

W4BS
REPEATER
SYSTEM

146.82, 147.36,
224.42, & 443.2

FEBRUARY 2006 CLUB MEETING

DATE: February 14, 2006 (2nd Tuesday - be there)
PLACE: Ellendale Church Of Christ, 7365 Highway 70,
Memphis, Tn. (2 miles east of Hwy. 64-Stage Rd.)
TIME: 7:00 PM
PROGRAM: Soldering, Jim Cissel KI4I and Ray Miller AA4UK

VE TESTING: Don't forget the monthly Volunteer Examiner testing session. Registration begins at 5:30 P.M. and testing begins promptly at 6:00 P.M. Please remember to bring two forms of identification and copies of any existing licenses or CSCE's you might have. The ARRL FEC exam application is \$14. Please be on time for registration, as you will not be allowed to enter the testing session after 6:00 p.m. This is to allow our volunteer VE team to finish in time to attend the club meeting. For more VE testing information contact...

Joan Thorne, KN4PM, VEC
Phone: 901-737-5795
E-mail: joanthorne@bellsouth.net

Please Remember: Deadline for Reports and Articles for the next issue of SPARKS is Tuesday, February 28th. All articles **MUST** be in to me by the deadline in order to be published in the next issue. Please forward all articles and items of interest to:

paulsonrj@bellsouth.net

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We are starting the second month of the New Year already and there are a number of upcoming events being planned. I would like to see the Club participation and membership grow. I ask that if you have not renewed your membership that you do as soon as possible. If you know a member that has not been active or is out of place, please make a contact or let a board member know so that we can give them a call. I would like to see all the members or past members contacted by somebody in the Club this year. I also would like to congratulate those who just got their ticket or upgraded and welcome those that have joined the Club and invite all that have not, to join.

It's February and time to do the budget again. The board has gone over the numbers and the 2006 budget is outlined in this issue of Sparks. The budget will be voted on at the regular meeting on the

14th. That will be Valentines Day so do not forget your Valentine.

Ben has planned for a couple of our own members do a soldering class and a refresher course for some. Come out and support Jim, KI4I and Ray, AA4UK's program.

Until our next contact, 73 from Darrell, KK4D

DARC BOARD MEETING January 3, 2006

KK4D-Darrell Sheffield called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. There were six board members present along with KA4BLL- Ned Savage as follows: KK4D-Darrell Sheffield, KD4TJO-Tommy Thompson, KE4DXN-Melinda Thompson, KI4DIL-Lisa Sheffield, KU4AW-Ben Troughton, and N2LAZ-Dean Honadle.

KE4DXN-Melinda presented the treasurer's report. KI4DIL read the secretary's report. KA4BLL-Ned motioned to accept and KE4DXN- Melinda seconded the motion.

Old Business:

KK4D-Darrell called for any unfinished business. We discussed options of making sure that the members received SPARKS.

New Business:

KD4TJO-Tommy advised that he was working on ideas of fund raisers for this year.

KU4AW-Ben reported that N2WMD-Scott Vanzandt would be presenting the program on Highway Watch in January.

The board discussed the 2006 budget.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
KI4DIL-Lisa Sheffield
DARC Secretary

DARC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING January 10, 2006

KK4D-Darrell Sheffield opened the meeting with the introduction of the members at 7:12 p.m. There were 26 members and 1 guest and 3 pending new members present.

The treasurer's and secretary's reports were accepted as printed in SPARKS.

Old Business:

Henry Leggette presented certificates to the members who participated in the ARRL toy drive. He then read a letter of thanks from the ARRL board and presented copies to each participant.

WA4OVO-Joe Lowenthal reported on the events and success of the toy drive.

Henry Leggette advised the membership that the ARRL is

open to suggestions on how we would like the bands to be reassigned. He requested we contact him with these so he could pass it on to the band planning committee.

KK4D-Darrell called for any more reports from any of the officers.

After a 10 minute recess, N2WMD-Scott gave a terrific presentation on Homeland security called the Highway Watch program.

WB4CHH-Nina Stone won the door prize.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
KI4DIL-Lisa Sheffield
DARC Secretary

THIS MONTH'S FEBRUARY PRESENTATION

The February Delta Club program will be a presentation on soldering. It will cover the basics, such as: what is soldering, the tools to use in soldering, equipment preparation, cleaning of metals to be soldered, types of solder and flux, proper soldering technique of wires, coax connectors and circuit board components. de-soldering and removal of components.

Jim Cissel KI4I and Ray Miller AA4UK will present a video they have made that demonstrates effective ways to achieve a good soldering job. The video will demonstrate wire splices, some

ham connectors, components, dip-chips, sweating a plumbing joint, and a unique idea for safely removing some surface mount devices.

Submitted by
Ben Troughton, KU4AW

**NEXT MONTH'S
MARCH PRESENTATION**

If we as amateur operators, want to be relied upon in an emergency, we must be able to handle accurate, accountable traffic. Therefore, each of us must be familiar and comfortable with the standard ARRL radiogram. In March I will share information on this message format.

73, Barbara Abrams KE4BUU
SC ARES EC

VE CORNER

At the December testing session we had 3 persons take 3 exams.

Congratulations to :
David Duna vant, KI4MWW,
Technician
Charles Williams, KI4MWV,
Technician
David Royer, KI4FCU, Extra
Class

In January we had 6 persons take 12 elements.

Congratulations to:
James Cagle, KI4NDT,
Technician
Michael Houchin, KI4NDS,
Technician

Jeffrey Kloek, KI4NDR,
Technician/ HF
Daniel Sullivan, KI4NDQ,
Technician

If you have friends that are studying for their first license - the **TECHNICIAN QUESTION POOL AND EXAM CHANGES ON JULY 1.**

There is no increase in the exam fee this year it remains at \$14.00.

73,
Joan KN4PM
ARRL VE Liaison
Delta Division

**2006 DELTA CLUB
ANNUAL BUDGET**

2006 PROJECTED EXPENSES

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| <u>Operation Costs</u> | |
| Corporation Fee | \$20.00 |
| South East Repeater | |
| Asso. Dues | \$20.00 |
| Web Site / | |
| Name Registration Fee | \$0.00 |
| Legal / CPA Service | \$125.00 |
| Charitable Donations | \$100.00 |
| Operating Supplies | \$30.00 |
| Software | <u>\$75.00</u> |

Operation Costs Total \$370.00

Meeting Costs

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Meeting Location (Donation) | \$100.00 |
| Meeting Refreshments | \$50.00 |
| Certificates and Awards | \$300.00 |
| November Programs | \$1,200.00 |
| Attendance Incentives | <u>\$220.00</u> |

Meeting Costs Total \$1,870.00

Mailing Costs

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Postage | \$150.00 |
| P.O. Box 750482 Rental | <u>\$40.00</u> |

Mailing Costs Total \$190.00

Insurance

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Liability | \$350.00 |
| Equipment | <u>\$350.00</u> |

Insurance Total \$700.00

Training

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Programs | \$250.00 |
| Training Seminar | <u>\$80.00</u> |

Training Costs \$330.00

Special Events

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Field Days | \$200.00 |
| Other Events | <u>\$50.00</u> |

Special Events Total \$250.00

Repeaters

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Maintenance | \$500.00 |
| Telephone 146.82 | \$710.00 |
| Telephone 443.2 | <u>\$280.00</u> |

Repeaters Total \$1,490.00

Equipment Maintenance

| | |
|---------|-----------------|
| Trailer | \$100.00 |
| Other | <u>\$100.00</u> |

Equipment Maintenance Total \$200.00

TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES \$5,400.00

2006 PROJECTED INCOME

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Membership Dues | \$2,500.00 |
| Speed Dial | \$100.00 |
| Fund Raisers | \$1,500.00 |
| Donations | <u>\$1,300.00</u> |

TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME..... \$5,400.00

FROM THE ARRL NEWLETTER

"SUITSAT-1" LAUNCHED FROM ISS

"SuitSat-1" is orbiting Earth! ISS Expedition 13 flight engineer Valery Tokarev released the unique and enthusiastically anticipated satellite into orbit February 3 at 2303 UTC as he and ISS Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, began a six-hour space walk. SuitSat-1 consists of a discarded Russian Orlan spacesuit reconfigured to function as a free-floating Amateur Radio transmit-only satellite. Activated at 2259 UTC, the satellite was programmed to come to life some 16 minutes later on 145.99 MHz. The 16-minute delay is said to be a crew safety measure. SuitSat-1's deployment over the south-central Pacific Ocean was the first task of the space walk.

"Dosvidanya! Good-bye, Mr Smith!" Tokarev said in Russian as SuitSat, unhooked from its tether and pushed away from the space station, tumbled slowly away into the void. "It's moving at the specified acceleration." A project of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss>>, SuitSat drifted off until it appeared as a mere speck silhouetted against brightly illuminated Earth below.

The NASA trajectory operations officer at Mission Control called it

"a good deploy within the cone for safety to ensure no re-contact with the International Space Station." NASA-TV provided live coverage of the space walk and SuitSat-1's release.

The Amateur Radio community, students, scanner enthusiasts, space fans and others have been eagerly awaiting the launch of the most novel satellite ever to orbit Earth. SuitSat-1 will transmit its voice message "This is SuitSat-1 RSORS!" in several languages plus telemetry and an SSTV image on an eight-minute cycle as it orbits Earth. The three batteries powering the satellite are expected to last about a week, and SuitSat-1 should re-enter Earth's atmosphere after several weeks of circling the globe.

SuitSat-1's 500 mW transmitter will report mission time, suit temperature and battery voltage (28 V is nominal) down to Earth. Its single Robot 36-format SSTV image is said to be similar in resolution to a cell-phone quality picture. SuitSat-1's signal should be strong enough to hear using a VHF transceiver or scanner and a simple antenna. Its payload also includes a CD containing hundreds of school pictures, artwork, poems and student signatures. JH3XCU/1 in Japan posted the first reception reports, noting a weak signal.

Those who copy the SuitSat-1 transmissions on 145.99 MHz are asked to post a real-time report on the SuitSat Web site <<http://www.suitsat.org/>>, which contains additional informational links.

Initially, its orbit will approximately coincide with that of the ISS. Later, as SuitSat-1's orbit begins to decay, it may show up a few minutes earlier than the space station. The AMSAT Web site offers a listing of ISS passes <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/predict/>> and a graph showing the position of the ISS <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/predict/satloc.php?lang=en&satellite=ISS>>. ARISS invites schools and other educational groups--formal or otherwise--to post educational outreach reports and SSTV images via e-mail "<suitsat@comcast.net>";

ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, credits ARISS-Russia's Sergei Samburov, RV3DR, and his colleagues with coming up with the spacesuit-cum-satellite concept. SuitSat-1--called Radioskaf or Radio Sputnik in Russian--is a first test of that idea, he says. If successful, there's another unneeded Orlan spacesuit still aboard the ISS.

For a SuitSat-1 QSL, send signal reports accompanied by a large (9x12 inch) self-addressed, stamped envelope to the appropriate address: USA: ARRL, SuitSat QSL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494 USA

Students will receive a certificate commemorating their reception. Those who receive the SSTV picture or copy the "special words" will get a special endorsement on their certificate. The special words-

-in English, French, German, Spanish, Russian and Japanese--are embedded in the pre-recorded greetings in multiple languages from students around the globe.

SuitSat-1 has piqued the imagination of the news media over the past couple of weeks. In addition to articles in The New York Times, the Houston Chronicle and Associated Press, National Public Radio, Fox News, CNN, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, MSNBC and others also produced broadcast or cable news reports. A magazine article is set to appear in Aviation Week and Space Technology.

Additional information about SuitSat on the AMSAT Web site <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/articles/SuitSat/>>. See "This is SuitSat-1 RS0RS!" by Frank Bauer, KA3HDO <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/articles/BauerSuitsat/index.php>>.

ARISS is an international educational outreach with US participation from ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNA BILLS IN PLAY IN MISSISSIPPI, VERMONT

Legislation is under consideration in Mississippi and Vermont to incorporate the essence of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1 <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/PRB-1_Pkg/prb-1.pdf> into the statutes

of those two states. Echoing the language of PRB-1, the measures call on localities establishing ordinances regulating antenna placement, screening or height to reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio communication and impose the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the municipality's legitimate purposes. ARRL Mississippi Section Manager Malcolm Keown, W5XX, reports similar bills were introduced this session in the House and Senate. The Senate version has already passed and been sent on to the House.

"Since 2001, Mississippi hams have been trying to get a bill through the Mississippi Legislature to provide for 'reasonable accommodation for the erection of antenna structures' by local zoning boards and to separate us from the cellular telephone tower interests," Keown says. The Senate version of the PRB-1 legislation, SB 2709, cleared the County Affairs and Municipalities committees January 31, and it passed the full Senate February 1. The House version, HB 736, is on the House General Calendar for a vote there by February 9.

"We now have two horses in this race," Keown said this week, urging Mississippi ARRL members to urge their state senators and representatives to support the measures. "Keep your fingers crossed!" Assuming one of the PRB-1 measures succeeds in the House, minor differences in wording would be worked out in

committee, Keown speculates. In past years, he says, a PRB-1 bill has made it through one legislative chamber only to die in committee in the other.

Both Mississippi PRB-1 bills leave it up to local governing authorities to determine "the types of reasonable accommodation to be made and the minimum practicable regulation necessary . . . within the parameters of the law." The House version includes an additional sentence: "This legislation supports the Amateur Radio Service in preparing for and providing emergency communications for the State of Mississippi and local emergency management agencies."

In Vermont, meanwhile, the House Government Operations Committee on February 2 heard public testimony on a PRB-1 bill introduced in the House, H.12. Several Amateur Radio operators attended the session along with representatives from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, which opposes such legislation, and several public safety officials.

The proposed Vermont antenna bill not only calls for community regulators to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio communication, it includes a schedule of minimum regulatory heights, below which localities could not impose restrictions.

On lots smaller than one acre, municipalities could not restrict the overall height of an Amateur Radio

antenna and associated support structure to less than 75 feet above ground level "nor restrict the number of support structures."

On parcels of one acre or larger, the bill, as written, would prohibit municipalities from restricting the height of an Amateur Radio antenna "to less than that specified in 47 CFR §97.15(a) nor restrict the number of support structures." That section of the Amateur Service rules actually does not specify a height, but it does require antenna structures more than 200 feet above ground to notify the Federal Aviation Administration and register the structure with the FCC.

In historic or design control districts, the Vermont bill would permit localities to restrict the height of antennas and associated support structures to less than 75 feet but would not allow them to prohibit Amateur Radio antennas and support structures altogether nor to limit their height to less than that of the tallest permitted structure within such a district.

The measure would grandfather existing Amateur radio antennas and support structures and provide for their repair or replacement "with comparable components" without further permitting or review.

To date, 21 states have enacted Amateur Radio antenna bills that reflect the PRB-1 limited federal preemption.

ARRL BOARD RAMPS UP FOCUS ON GRASSROOTS LOBBYING, DISASTER PLANNING

The ARRL Board of Directors will place even greater emphasis on the League's nascent grassroots lobbying effort. Implemented last year, the Grassroots Legislative Action Plan involves direct contact with lawmakers in members' home districts and motivating legislative support for Amateur Radio-related legislation through letter writing by members.

"We want to step up the pace of implementing that plan," ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, explained after the January 20-21 Board meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. Acting on a motion by outgoing Grassroots Legislative Action Committee Chairman Frank Fallon, N2FF, ARRL Hudson Division Director--the Board adopted a resolution shifting oversight of the Grassroots Legislative Action Committee to the ARRL Executive Committee (EC), which also will monitor its success. Fallon said afterward that putting the grassroots initiative under the EC will "clarify the reporting responsibility and incorporate the program into the Board culture." Fallon also sits on the EC.

Fallon turned over the chairmanship of the panel to Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, but he will remain a committee member and says he's encouraged by the changes the

Board made and the fact that new ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, made the grassroots program a significant part of his post-election remarks to the Board. The Grassroots committee has been focusing its energy on garnering support and additional cosponsors for House Resolution 230 (H.Res 230) concerning Broadband Over Power Line (BPL), the Spectrum Protection Act of 2005 (S 1236 and HR 691), and the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2005 (HR 3876). More information on these bills is available on the ARRL Government Relations page <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/>>.

The Board also resolved to establish an ad hoc ARRL National Emergency Response Planning Committee "to appropriately prepare for future large-scale disasters." The panel will develop a comprehensive recommendation for ARRL responses to national, regional and international disasters. The Board will consider the recommendations at its 2007 annual meeting next January.

The Board also adopted an ARRL Education Mission and Vision Statement. The document calls on the League to "advance the art and science of radio through education" through several avenues. These include providing instruction and instructional materials to prepare newcomers for licensing and current amateurs for upgrading as well as engaging young people in "the magic of radio."

The Board charged the ARRL Technology Task Force with identifying the application of digital voice, software defined radio (SDR) and high-speed multimedia (HSMM) to the Amateur Radio Service in 2010 and beyond. The task force also "shall investigate and identify new technologies or concepts that should be considered for development."

In other action, the Board changed the name of the ARRL Antenna Case Assistance Committee to the Amateur Radio Legal Defense and Assistance Committee and broadened its mandate. Legal cases considered for League funding, subject to an upper limit of \$10,000 per case, not only may include litigation involving antenna height and placement but cases related to interference, RF safety, aesthetics, structural safety, environmental issues and other matters that could impact Amateur Radio.

Outgoing ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, was named an ARRL President Emeritus "in view of his 15 total years of ARRL Board service that includes his six years of exemplary service as ARRL President."

Additional details on the ARRL Board of Directors annual meeting are on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/01/24/3/>>. The Minutes of the ARRL Board's annual meeting are on the League Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/board-0601/>>.

FCC ORDERS AMATEUR RULE CHANGES TO CONFORM WITH WRC-03

The FCC has ordered several rule revisions to implement changes agreed to at the international level during World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). Acting Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Chief Catherine W. Seidel signed the Order, released January 19. The changes affect §97.111, Authorized transmissions; §97.113, Prohibited transmissions; §97.115, Third party communications, and §97.117, International communications.

"These amendments will ensure that the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules conform to Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference, and will further the Commission's ongoing efforts to streamline its Amateur Service Rules," the FCC said. "The overall effect of this action is to update the Part 97 Amateur Radio Service rules in the Code of Federal Regulations to conform to now-effective international agreements."

The rule changes will become effective upon publication in The Federal Register. The FCC Order revises:

* §97.111(a)(1) to permit "transmissions necessary to exchange messages with other stations in the Amateur Service,

except those in any country whose administration has notified the ITU that it objects to such communications. The FCC will issue public notices of current arrangements for international communications." The old language permitted communication among amateur stations in different countries "except those in any country whose administration has given notice that it objects to such communications." The FCC said the change does not prejudice its proposal to amend §97.111(a)(2) to clarify that amateur stations may, at all times and on all authorized channels, transmit communications necessary to meet essential needs and to facilitate relief actions.

* §97.115(a)(2) to facilitate the transmission of international communications on behalf of third parties in emergency or disaster-relief situations, whether or not a third-party agreement is in place between the US and the countries involved. The revision now permits communication with any non-US station "when transmitting emergency or disaster relief communications" as well as with any non-US station "whose administration has made arrangements with the United States to allow amateur stations to be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties." The revised rule further provides that no station may transmit third-party traffic other than emergency or disaster relief communications to a station in a country lacking a third-party

arrangement. Still excepted from the prohibition is any third party eligible to be the control operator of an amateur station.

* §97.113(a)(4) to prohibit amateur stations exchanging messages with amateur stations in other countries from making transmissions that are encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning, except for control signals exchanged between Earth command stations and space stations in the Amateur-Satellite service, something Part 97 already provides for. The old rule referred to the use of "codes and ciphers." The same rule also already prohibits transmitting music, communications intended to facilitate a criminal act, obscene or indecent words or language and false or deceptive messages, signals or identification.

* §97.117 to state that amateur stations may transmit communications incidental to the purposes of the Amateur Service and to remarks of a personal character.

The FCC also revised §97.3 and 97.309 to update the definition of International Morse code and of various digital codes in the amateur rules to reflect changes in the international Radio Regulations.

GERRITSEN CONVICTED ON ALL COUNTS IN RADIO JAMMING CASE

A US District Court jury has found Jack Gerritsen of Bell, California, guilty on six counts that included transmitting without a license and

willful and malicious interference with radio transmissions. Gerritsen, 69, who briefly held the amateur call sign KG6IRO, will face sentencing March 6, according to the office of Debra W. Yang, US Attorney for the Central District of California. **He could receive up to 15 years in federal prison.**

"The Federal Communication Commission investigated illegal radio transmissions linked to Gerritsen for four years," said a statement from Yang's office. "According to court documents filed in this case, the FCC investigation revealed that Gerritsen transmitted his prerecorded messages, as well as real-time harassment and profanity, for hours at a time, often making it impossible for licensed radio operators to use the public frequencies." A federal grand jury indicted Gerritsen last spring.

Turning down the offer of a public defender, Gerritsen served as his own attorney. The government's case, presented by Assistant US Attorney Lamar Baker, went to the jury December 8, and the jury deliberated for less than an hour before returning its verdict December 9. US District Court Judge R. Gary Klausner revoked Gerritsen's bond, and the defendant was taken into custody following the verdict.

Gerritsen was found guilty of interfering with a Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS)

communication last March and interfering with American Red Cross communications last January--both misdemeanors--and with interfering with US Coast Guard communications in October 2004, a felony. He also faced three misdemeanor counts of transmitting without a license. Recordings of radio transmissions attributed to Gerritsen were played for the jury.

Those familiar with this week's court proceedings said Gerritsen tended to focus on freedom of speech issues and sometimes confused those on the stand. Among those testifying at length on behalf of the government was FCC Senior Agent Steven Pierce, who discussed his use of mobile direction-finding equipment and techniques used to track the source of transmissions.

Just days before the trial began, the FCC affirmed a total of \$42,000 in additional fines it had levied on Gerritsen, releasing two \$21,000 Forfeiture Orders (NOFs). In affirming the fines, the FCC rebuffed every argument Gerritsen had offered in responding to each Notice of Apparent Liability, including his insistent "freedom of speech" claim.

"His unlicensed operation on amateur frequencies is not protected by the US Constitution as it is well established that the right to free speech does not include the right to use radio facilities without a license," the

FCC said in a footnote in one of the NOFs. The federal court jury in California apparently agreed.

In late November, Klausner denied Gerritsen's motion to dismiss the three unlicensed transmitting counts, turning away Gerritsen's argument that the FCC could not set aside his Amateur Radio license without a hearing. Klausner declared that the effect of the FCC's 2001 set aside of KG6IRO "was to treat the application as if it had never been granted." Since Gerritsen never held an Amateur Radio license, he never had the right to a hearing, the judge reasoned.

Last March, the FCC upheld a \$10,000 fine against Gerritsen for interfering with Amateur Radio communications. The government has yet to collect.

FBI agents, accompanied by FCC staff, arrested Gerritsen without incident last May and seized his radio equipment. Released on \$250,000 bond while awaiting trial, Gerritsen remained in home detention, barred from possessing any radio equipment.

Gerritsen's history of radio-related legal problems go back to 2000 when he was convicted for intercepting, obstructing and/or interfering with California Highway Patrol radio communications. In November 2001, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau issued, then quickly rescinded, Gerritsen's Technician license, KG6IRO, because of his

earlier conviction. While transmitting on various Los Angeles-area repeaters, Gerritsen continued to identify as KG6IRO, however.

Radio amateurs on the West Coast complained for months about the slow pace of enforcement action in the Gerritsen case. Los Angeles-area repeater owners had taken to shutting down their machines to avoid the nearly constant barrage of malicious interference and lengthy political tirades attributed to Gerritsen.

NEW TECHNICIAN CLASS QUESTION POOL RELEASED

New Technician class question pool released to the public: The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released the new Technician (Element 2) Amateur Radio examination question pool. The new Element 2 question pool is available for viewing or download in Adobe PDF, MS Word, RTF and ASCII text format from the NCVEC Web site <http://www.ncvec.org/ama_news_article.php?id=81>.

The new question pool becomes effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2006, and it will remain valid until June 30, 2010. The current Element 2 question pool will expire June 30, 2006. The new Technician pool contains 396 questions, from which 35 are

selected for an Element 2 examination. This question pool contains no graphics or diagrams.

The QPC requests that anyone spotting possible errors or suggesting corrections contact the Question Pool Committee via e-mail "<qpcinput@ncvec.org>". Reference the question pool (ie, Technician, General, Amateur Extra) in the subject line, and include the question number(s) involved plus a brief explanation.

Forward comments and suggestions for new questions or changes in topic areas for any of the three question pools, Element 2, 3 or 4.--
NCVEC

ARRL NEWSLETTER

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential news of interest to active amateurs. The ARRL Letter strives to be timely, accurate, concise, and readable. Visit ARRLWeb <<http://www.arrl.org/>> for the latest news, updated as it happens. The ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/>> offers access to news, informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled from The ARRL Letter.

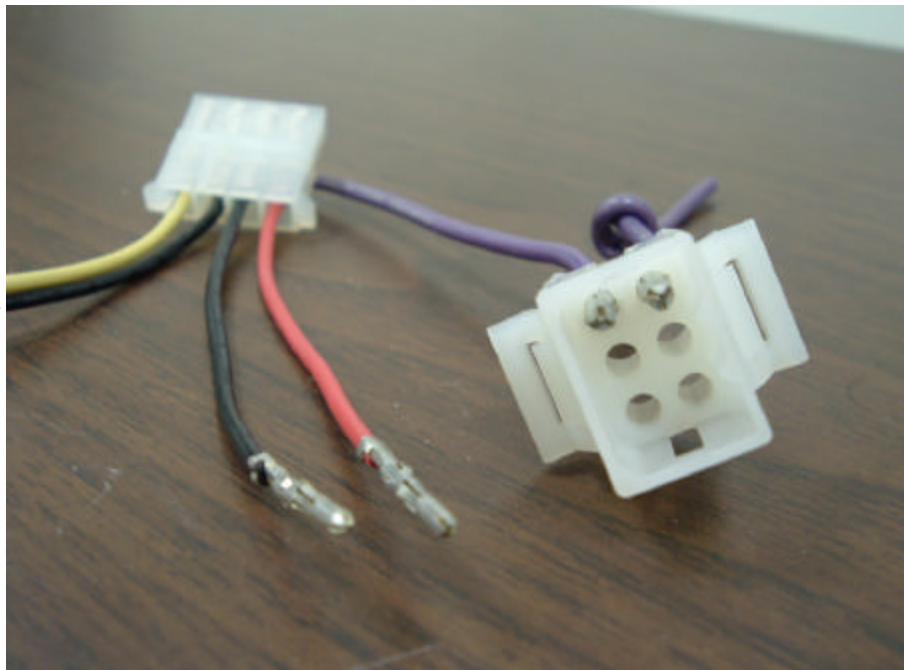
PACKET UPDATE

Transmitting position and weather data has been an important part of packet radio the last few years. One of the leaders in this field of packet interfaces are the folks at Bionics. They produce the Tiny Tracker series of interfaces. The Tiny Tracker replaces a TNC and takes standard data from a Global Positioning Device (GPS) and allows you to transmit it on your radio as data. The WX tracker they make allows you to get information from a compatible computer weather station and transmit it on the packet network. Both of these work well. The best thing is that the prices of these units are under 50 dollars, which makes them very affordable. They even have a Tiny Tracker plus with a 5-volt output to power your 5-volt GPS unit. If you are interested in APRS positioning or setting up a packet weather station check out the tracker stuff. The website is bionics.com.

James Butler, KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Many times when we buy older radios the power cord is not included. I see this a lot on E-bay radios for sale. On some of the older Heathkits like the HW-7 and HW-8 used a special 6 pin connector (MOLEX STYLE) to make the power connection. Actually, the Heathkit only uses two of the wires for the 12-volt dc power connections out of the six. The connectors have a male and female type connector. The male connector is on the power cable with the female on the radio. For temporary power connections you really do not need the white housing, just the 2 male connector pins with the 12 volts hooked to them. As it turns out, the 4 pin style computer hard drive and floppy drive connector uses the same plug in pins in their housing. These connectors with their pins are all over the place, available as surplus or just from an old scrap computer. By pulling the pins out of the computer connector you can reuse them for supplying power to that old Heathkit. This really comes in handy and is cheaper than trying to hunt down the proper molex connector that came with the radio. Remember to double check to make sure you have the right polarity on the DC so you do not hook up the radio backwards and damage it. The picture shows a factory connector on the right with the two pins in place. The left side shows the pins pulled from the disk drive power connector. You can also use these pins to replace damaged pins on an old connector.



James Butler, KB4LJV

FEBRUARY

2006

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | 1 Lance, N4GMT | 2 MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM | 3 | 4 Pat, W4OQG |
| 5 Curtis, W4WP | 6 John, KD4EUZ | 7 Amanda Pace | 8 | 9 Steven, W4UCA Hafife Montgomery | 10 Lisa, KI4DIL | 11 |
| 12 Douglas, K4DBR | 13 Bobby, KC4NBS Nancy Vickers | 14 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM Sharon, N4ZCS | 15 Bill, KI4BIY Nancy Morrow | 16 Kati Lynn Hughes | 17 Tom, K4TTA | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 John, KE4WEV | 23 | 24 | 25 Sally, KI4AUD |
| 26 | 27 | 28 Shelby Cty., ARES Meeting 6:45 PM Adam, KI4GIU | | | | |

MARCH

2006

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|------------|--|---|------------|--|--|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM Madeleine, KI4AJI | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 Mike, KF4JBZ | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Jerry, K1HV Francis, WA4ZYN |
| 12 | 13 | 14 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM | 15 | 16 | 17 Edgar, W4KIB James, KG4YZV | 18 Art, KS4TZ Joan, KN4PM |
| 19 | 20 Henry, WD4Q Jean, KD4FIP | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Ned, KA4BLL | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 Shelby Cty., ARES Meeting 6:45 PM | 29 | 30 | 31 | |



CONTEST CALENDAR

Here are some of the contests and special events coming up in the next few weeks...

ARRL International DX Contest, CW, 0000Z Feb 18-2400Z Feb 19 (see Dec QST, p 88).

AM QSO Party--sponsored by the Antique Wireless Association, 0000Z Feb 18-0000Z Feb 19. Frequencies (MHz):

3.835-3.890, 7.280-7.295, 14.275-14.295. Exchange: RS, name and S/P/C. For scoring and other information: www.antiquewireless.org/amqsoparty.htm

CQC Winter QSO Party--CW/Phone, sponsored by the Colorado QRP Club, 2200Z Feb 25-0359Z Feb 26. Frequencies (MHz): CW 1.825, 3.560, 3.710, 7.040, 7.110, 14.060, 21.060, 21.110, 28.060, 28.110, SSB 1.910, 3.985, 7.285, 14.285, 21.385, 28.385. For more information: www.cqc.org.

CQ WW 160 meter SSB Contest, 0000Z Feb 25-2400Z Feb 26 (see Jan QST p 102).

UBA Contest--CW, from 1300Z Feb 25-

1300Z Feb 26 (see Jan QST, p 102).

REF French Contest--Phone, from 0600Z Feb 25-1800Z Feb 26 (see Jan QST, p 102).

Mississippi QSO Party--CW/Digital/Phone, sponsored by the Vicksburg Amateur Radio Club from 1500Z Feb 25-0300Z Feb 26. Frequencies (MHz): CW 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045; Phone 3.862, 7.238, 14.275, 21.375, 28.375; VHF 50.130, 144.220, 146.55, 446.00. Work stations once per band and mode. For more information: w5xx@vicksburg.com.

North Carolina QSO Party--CW/Phone, sponsored by the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, 1700Z Feb 26 --0300Z Feb 27. Frequencies (MHz): CW 3.540, 3.740, 7.040, 7.140, 14.040, 21.040, 21.140, 28.040, 28.140, Phone 3.860, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360, 28.360. For more information: www.w4nc.com.

High Speed CW Contest--sponsored by High-Speed CW Club, 0900Z-1100Z and 1500Z-1700Z Feb 26. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information email: hsc-contest@dl3bzz.de

North American QSO Party--RTTY, sponsored by the National Contest Journal from 1800Z Feb 25-0600Z Feb 26. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For information: www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php.

ARRL International DX Contest --Phone, 0000Z Mar 4-2400Z Mar 5 (see Dec 2005 QST, p 88).

DARC 10-Meter Digital "Corona" --RTTY/AMTOR/FACTOR/PSK31/Clover, sponsored by Deutscher Amateur Radio Club from 1100Z-1700Z Mar 4. (See Nov 2005 QST, p 103 or www.darc.de/referate/dx/cqdlcont/fgdccc.htm)

Open Ukraine RTTY Championship--sponsored by the Ukrainian Amateur Radio League (UARL) from 2200Z Mar 4-0159Z Mar 5 (Low Bands-160 and 80 meters-two separate 2 hour periods) and 0800Z-1159Z Mar 6 (High Bands 40-10 meters). For more information: www.ucc.zp.ua.

The W4BS Elmer Shack

Please feel free to contact any of our ELMERS to help you enhance your amateur skills. Anyone wishing to be added to the Elmer list please contact Ned at ka4bli@arrl.net or 363-9607.

K4TTA (Extra) Tom Richardson 386-6268 ka4tta@arrl.net (1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15)

KA4BLL (Extra) Ned Savage 363-9607 ka4bli@arrl.net (1, 5, 8, 14, MARS, ARES/RACES, net control, traffic handling, emergency service)

KB4LJV (Extra) James Butler 294-2540 jbutler@bigriver.net (2, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14)

KD4NOQ (Adv) David Campbell 388-6166 kd4noq@bellsouth.net (1,2,3,5,9,10,12,14, slow scan TV, ATV minor)

KU4AW (Extra) Ben Troughton 372-8031 bktrough@bellsouth.net (2, 4, 8, 15)

N9ACQ (Extra) Bill Kuechler 368-0532 wkuechl1@midsouth.rr.com (1, 8, 13)

WA2IQC (Gen) Gary Blinckmann 794-5289 garyblin@midsouth.rr.com (1, 7, 10, 14)

WA4MJM (Extra) Bill Hancock 853-7192 billwa4mjm@aol.com (1, 2, 8, emergency communications, ARES,MARS)

K4DIT (Extra) Ken Gregg 853-7384 kgregg@c-a-c.com (4, 6, 8, 11, 15)

W4GMM (Extra) Ham Hilliard 372-2337 hamh@bellsouth.net (All categories)

Codes:

1. Antennas
2. APRS
3. Contesting
4. CW Operating
5. Direction Finding (fox hunting)
6. DXing
7. Experimenting/Circuits/etc.
8. HF Phone
9. Packet
10. Repeater Operation
11. QRP
12. Satellite
13. RTTY
14. VHF
15. PSK31
16. Computer logging



Spartan Sprint -- CW, sponsored by the Adventure Radio Society from 0200Z-0400Z Mar 7 (Monday evening in the US--times will change during Daylight Saving Time; see Web site). Held first Monday of every month. Frequencies (MHz): 3.560, 7.040, 14.060, 21.060, 28.060 (QRP calling frequencies). For more information: www.ARSgrp.com.

RSGB Commonwealth Contest -- CW, sponsored by the RSGB from 1000Z Mar 11-1000Z Mar 12. Open to British Commonwealth stations only, work stations once per band outside your own call area. HQ stations may be worked by everyone and count as a separate call area. Frequencies: lower 30 kHz of 80- 10 meters. For more information: www.rsgbhfcc.org.

EU EME Contest--CW/SSB, 0000Z March 11 - 2400Z March 12 - 432 MHz, 5.7 GHz & up. (see p 99, Feb QST or www.dubus.org)

Wisconsin QSO Party -- Phone/CW, sponsored by the West Allis RAC from 1800Z Mar 12-0100Z Mar 13. Frequencies (MHz): CW 3.550, 3.705, 7.050, 14.050 and 21-440, Phone 3.890, 7.230, 14.290, 21.350, 28.400, 50-440, no repeater QSOs. For more information: www.warac.org.

Oklahoma QSO Party--Phone/CW/Digital, sponsored by the Oklahoma DX Association (OKDXA) from 1400Z Mar 11-0200Z Mar 12 and 1400Z-2000Z Mar 12. Frequencies (MHz): SSB -- 3.860, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360, 28.360; CW -- 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045. For more information: www.okdxa.org.

Idaho QSO Party -- CW/Phone/Digital, sponsored by the Voice of Idaho (VOI) Amateur Radio Club, from 1300Z Mar 11-0100Z Mar 12 and 1300Z Mar 12 to 0100Z Mar 13. Frequencies (MHz): CW -- 35 kHz

above band edge, Phone -- 7.260, 14.260, 21.335, 28.470 MHz, plus 50, 144, 440 MHz. For more information: www.voiceofidaho.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Feb 13-Feb 17, 1500Z-2100Z, Fort Myers, FL. Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc, W4LX. The Edison Festival of Light and Thomas Edison's Birthday. 28.430 21.330 14.250. Certificate. Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 61183, Ft Myers, FL 33906. www.fmarc.net/.

Feb 18-Feb 19, 1600Z-2100Z, Alexandria, VA. Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club, K4US. Commemoration of George Washington's Birthday. 18.080 14.240 10.110 7.240. Certificate. Mount Vernon ARC, PO Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307. www.mvarc.com.

Feb 24-Feb 26, 1700Z-0100Z, Columbus, OH. The Ohio State University Amateur Radio Club, W8LT. 80th anniversary of the Ohio State Ham Radio Club. 14.275 7.275 3.872. QSL. The Ohio State University Amateur Radio Club W8LT, 020 Bevis Hall, 1080 Carmack Rd, Columbus, OH 43210. <http://arc.org.ohio-state.edu>.

Feb 25, 1400Z-2400Z, Mesa, AZ. Superstition Amateur Radio Club, W7W. Lost Dutchman Days Celebration. 28.263 21.363 14.263. QSL. SARC--W7W, PO Box 21522, Mesa, AZ 85227-1522. www.wb7tjd.org.

Feb 25, 1400Z-2300Z, Rapid City, SD. Dakota Chapter 102 QCWA, W0DAK. Commemorating the 29th as a QCWA Chapter. 28.450 14.250 7.250 3.889. Certificate. Frank Shaw, NU0F, 118 E Van Buren, Rapid City, SD 57701.

Feb 28, 1500Z-2230Z, Baton Rouge, LA. Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club, W5KID. 63rd anniversary of the launching of USS *Kidd*, DD-661.

CW 28.060 21.060 14.060 10.106 7.040; SSB 14.250 to 24.320. QSL. W5KID, c/o USS *Kidd* Museum, 305 S River Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. www.lsu.edu/brarc/USS_Kidd.htm.

Mar 1-Mar 4, 1600Z-2200Z, Arlington Heights, IL. Peace Corps Amateur Radio Club, KA9NLX. To honor sacrifices made by American Peace Corps Volunteers. 21.375 14.325 7.283 3.980; 10 m if open. Certificate. John Paskevicz, 1423 N Ridge Ave, Arlington Heights, IL 60004.

Mar 3-Mar 6, 1500Z-2400Z, Fulton, MO. Callaway Amateur Radio League, WØC. 60th anniversary of Winston Churchill's Iron Curtain Speech. 14.275 14.070 14.040 147.315. Certificate. Richard C. White, 826 Evergreen Dr, Fulton, MO 65251. <http://callaway.county.missouri.org/carl/>.

Mar 4-Mar 5, 1300Z-2300Z, Moscow, PA. Northeast Pennsylvania Special Event Club, KV3T. Promoting Amateur Radio Awareness. 14.240 7.240 7.100 3.840. QSL. David M. Samsell, W3LOW, 923 Clearview Rd, Moscow, PA 18444. <http://kv3t.tripod.com>.

Mar 11, 1700Z-2100Z, Newport News, VA. Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service, W4CAR. Commemorating the 144th anniversary of the Battle of the Ironclads. 28.362 21.362 7.262 7.070. Certificate. W4CAR, PO Box 6867, Chesapeake, VA 23323. www.qsl.net/cars/.

Mar 15-Apr 15, 0000Z-2400Z, Watseka, IL. Iroquois County Amateur Radio Club, W9RWX. 30th year of the Glenn Raymond School Science Club. 14.275 14.070 14.230 7.050. QSL. Troy Simpson, 101 W Mulberry St, Watseka, IL 60970. www.icarc.com. (Operation depends on school schedule.)

TENNESSEE NETS

| Net Name | Freq. | UTC | Day |
|--------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| Tennessee CW Net | 3635 | 0100 | T-Su |
| Tennessee Slow CW Net | 3682 | 0130 | T-Su |
| Tennessee Early Morn Phone Net | 3980 | 1145 | M-F |
| Tennessee Morning Phone Net | 3980 | 1245 | M-F |
| Tennessee Morning Phone Net | 3980 | 1400 | Sa-Su |
| Tennessee Evening Phone Net | 3980 | 0030 | T-Su |

MID-SOUTH SPRINGFEST

SPONSORED BY

MEMPHIS AMATEUR ELECTRONICS

1465 WELLS STATION RD, MEMPHIS

Saturday, March 4, 2006 8-2
Springfest Specials, Concessions, and Fun

KENWOOD, ALINCO, ICOM, MFJ ATTENDING

Prizes TS-480SAT, ICOM ID-800, Alinco DR-635T,
Alinco DJ-C7T, Alinco DJ-196T and many more !

Limited number of flea tables in huge tent
available at \$20—reserve now !!!

(800) 238-6168 or www.MemphisAmateur.com
for reservations and info

Talk in 146.88 starting at 5 am load-in 6-8

**Delta Amateur Radio Club
February 2006 Treasurers Report**

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Balance 01/06/06 | \$5,884.36 |
| <u>Expense</u> | |
| Donation | |
| –Ellendale Church of Christ | \$100.0 |
| Total Expense | \$100.00 |
| <u>Income</u> | |
| 2006 Membership Dues | \$615.00 |
| Total Income | \$615.00 |
| Balance 02/06/2006 | \$6,399.36 |

SPARKS is published monthly by the Delta Amateur Radio Club and is emailed to club members and other interested parties. All information published in this newsletter is provided as a service. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the Delta Amateur Radio Club and its officers assume no liability resulting from errors or omissions. All correspondence may be mailed to:

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-

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Director of Meetings and Special Events

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Repeater Trustee

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-

Past President (2004 & 2005)

Ned Savage, KA4BLL
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