

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

P.O. BOX 342768 MEMPHIS, TN 38175-0482 / VOL. 2 / FEBRUARY 2007



DON'T FORGET VALENTINES DAY

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

W4BS
REPEATER
SYSTEM
146.82, 147.36,
224.42, & 443.2

FEBURARY 2007 CLUB MEETING

DATE: February 13, 2007 (2nd Tuesday - be there)
PLACE: Ellendale Church Of Christ, 7365 Highway 70,
Memphis, Tn. (1.5 miles east of Hwy. 64-Stage Rd.)
TIME: 7:00 PM
PROGRAM: Remote Earthquake Telemetry presented by Pat Lane

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 VEC exam examination fee 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

NOTICE: Delta Club will not be testing at the March club meeting. If planning on testing in March contact Joe WA4OV for other testing sites and times.

Please Remember: Deadline for Reports and Articles for the next issue of SPARKS is the last day of the month prior to the meeting. 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:

KI4AJH@bellsouth.net

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings All,

We have had a pretty good start to the year and I look forward to up coming events.

We will have to have a special election for the Vice-President position. Those of you that do not know, Dave KI4DR was elected to serve but at the first Board Meeting had to resign due to schedule conflicts that would not allow him to make the meetings. If you are interested in serving as the VP please advise a board member or come to the Feb. meeting for the nomination.

We got a good start on the Public Service Event calendar with the trail run in Shelby Forrest. Eddie has a number of events coming up. Contact Eddie KF4QFW for information on those events.

Roger, KI4AJH is producing The Sparks and is looking for your support and would like your timely

submission of articles and information. Roger wants to get all of the folks a copy so if your e-mail has changed or you now have e-mail let a board member know so it can be added to the membership roster by Lisa, K4POM.

Joe, WA4OVO completed his first Tech class in full motion and is about to end that class with testing Feb 5th. Joe has had several participants in the class test early and has joined the Ham ranks. Joe also has another class scheduled to start Feb. 26th due to the turn out. Thanks Joe and all those that assisted him.

Come on out to the meetings and socialize with new and old friends. Remember to renew your membership and do not hesitate to forward ideas or questions to your Board.

73, Darrell KK4D
901-872-3367
darrell.sheffield@memphistn.gov

**DARC BOARD MEETING
BOARD MEETING
January 2, 2007**

KK4D-Darrell called the meeting to order at 7 pm. KI4DR-Dave Royer, KK4D-Darrell, K4POM-Lisa, WA4OVO-Joe Lowenthal, KI4AJK-Roger Schlichter, N2LAZ-Dean Honadle, WB4SLI-Huge Wardlow and KD4NOQ-David Campbell.

Darrell gave the treasurer's report. Hugh moved that we

accept the secretary's report as printed and the treasurer's report. Dave Royer seconded.

New Business:

The board unanimously voted to accept 2 new members.

Tony Brignole WA4KHN requested permission to speak at the general meeting concerning Free Fest. The board approved his request.

Old Business:

The budget will be presented to the members as printed. The board discussed what type of antenna we needed for the repeaters.

Officers Reports-

KI4DR-Dave Royer advised the board that he would be resigning his position as Vice President due to a conflict with his family schedule. The board agreed to a special election to try to fill the position in February.

KD4NOQ-David Campbell advised the board of what the January presentation would be.

WA4OVO-Joe Lowenthal gave an update on the training classes being held at the Germantown City Hall Police Training Room.

KI4AJK-Roger Schlichter advised the board that he had sent rough drafts of SPARKS to the board members to critic .

**DARC GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

January 9, 2007

KK4D-Darrell called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. There were 39 members and guests present.

KK4D-Darrell presented the treasurer's report. N4GMT-Lance motioned to accept and N5JMY-Mike seconded.

N4GMT-Lance motioned to accept the secretary's minutes as printed in SPARKS. NF5BI-Richard Webb seconded.

Old Business:

Darrell asked all members to renew their memberships as soon as possible if they have not done so.

Jim Cissell and Eddie Trammell requested for all volunteers who had worked the Bartlett Christmas parade and the St. Jude Run in December to please pick up their tee shirts.

KC4SXT-Bill questioned why the trailer purchase was pulled. KK4D-Darrell explained to the members why the motion was pulled.

New Business:

Bill Hudock presented the information on the Free Fest to be held on April 14th, 2007.

KG4YKZ-Jim Eddy asked for help with the Boy Scout Merit Badge college to be held on March 24, 2007.

Darrell gave a report on

WA4OVO-Joe's tech license school progress. Several people requested a general and extra class session as well.

Darrell advised the members of KI4DR-Dave Royer's resignation. He notified the membership of a special election for this Vice President position to be held in February.

Jim Eddy asked the members to contact him if they are interested in CPR training.

Joan gave the VE testing report.

KD4NOQ-David presented several items he made for his ham shack and gave several ideas on how you could make them yourself.

KG4YZW-Aubrey Alexander won the door prize.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
K4POM-Lisa Sheffield
DARC Secretary

**HAM LICENSE TRAINING
CLASSES for 2007
By Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO,
Director of Training**

There was a fantastic start in ham license training for 2007. The first 2007 Delta Club Technician License Class (Tech Class 1-2007) started on January 8th with 40 students at the Police Training Room in Germantown City Hall. A nice Commercial Appeal newspaper

article published in the Germantown/Collierville Local News section ran on Saturday, January 6th for some added publicity. It featured a picture of Peter Baskind, N4LI, at his ham radio station and comments about the class and the Morse Code requirement going away soon.

The first class was five weeks long on Monday evenings from 6:30-9pm. The first night started with the 7 minute ARRL Walter Cronkite video on Amateur Radio, and then self-introductions by facilitator Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, and eight Elmers: Bill Covington, KC4SXT; Tom Fox, KA4LWQ; Robert Greene, KE4HFH; Ham Hilliard, W4GMM; Roger Schlichter, KI4AJH; Hugh Wardlaw, WB4SLI; Randy Wilder, WB4LHD; Mike Young, N5JMY. Each student introduced themselves and commented on why they have an interest in ham radio.

During the first four weeks of classes there was ARRL DVD video instruction with comments by the eight Elmers. Pat Lane, W4OQG, gave insight into antennae, feed lines, safety and RF safety during the third class. At the beginning of the fourth class, Delta Division Director Henry Leggette welcomed the students to ham radio and ARRL. The fifth class was a review session, encouragement to join a club, ARES, and/or MARS depending on their interest. Then, those who wanted to take the FCC exam were

given the test by the ARRL VE Team headed by Joan Thorne, KN4PM. Ten of the 12 who took the Tech test passed with one continuing to add the CSCE for General. He has said that he will test for Extra at the February meeting.

Congratulations to several other eager students. Karen Loyd, KE5MFX; Mark McCormick, KI4TGQ; Elaine McKinney, KI4TFW; Bob Weible, KE5MFV and Paulette Weible, KE5MFW studied The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual and question pool on their own in conjunction with the class, and passed the FCC Technician License exam before the end of classes. David Branch, who was the first to pass the Tech test was issued call sign KI4TAN. He did extra studying as well, and received a CSCE for the General written exam. Bruce Tillery also passed Tech and General written. Congratulations to all 16 new hams. A number of the students did not feel ready for the test, but will be testing later.

TECH CLASS 2-07

At this writing there are 30 on a waiting list for the next Technician License class scheduled for six Monday nights from February 26-April 2. There is a maximum of 40 students for the class. This next class will again be at the Police Training Room, Germantown City Hall first floor, at the corner of Farmington Blvd and Germantown Parkway. Classes will go from 6:30 until 9:00pm. Pre-Registration is

required.

You can register by going to the Delta Club webpage www.deltaclub.org; click on Training Classes; and then click on Tech Class to send an email to Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, at wa4ovo@yahoo.com or call at 901-683-2701.

TECH CLASS 3-07

The third Technician License class is an intense 2-day class from 8:00am to 5:00pm held in Classroom B&D, Baptist Memorial Hospital-Collierville, 1500 W. Poplar, Collierville, TN 38017. The first day will be an ARRL DVD presentation with questions and answers. The second day will be a review until 3:30pm Then, there will be a WCARS FCC exam session.

GENERAL CLASS

A General License class is in the planning stages. I envision that it will be about 16 hours long (2 or 3 days) on consecutive Saturdays. The classes will be a review of Tech and General information, band allocations, operating procedures and safety.

At this point pre-registration is encouraged for the General License class. We need to determine how many hams are interested. You can pre-register by going to the Delta Club webpage www.deltaclub.org; click on Training Classes; and then click on General Class to send an email to Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, at wa4ovo@yahoo.com or call at 901-683-2701. You will be notified

by email or phone when the class is set.

EXTRA CLASS

If 10 or more hams are interested in Extra Class training, we are thinking of having a class. Please pre-register by going to the Delta Club webpage www.deltaclub.org; click on Training Classes; and then click on Extra Class to send an email to Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, at wa4ovo@yahoo.com or call at 901-683-2701. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set.

**THE CITY SLICKERS
ENDURANCE RIDE**

This event will be March 23rd and 24th. Last year this was a one day event this year they have requested our help for 2 days for Friday and Saturday.

I know a lot of folks myself included have to work Friday so any of you retired folks that can help it would be appreciated. We need between 6 and 10 operators per day.

The event will be held at Shelby Farms and starts at approx 6am each morning and ends when it ends (I wasn't given an end time). Please let me know if you can help.

'73
Eddie
KF4QFW

Be looking for more opportunities to showcase what Amateur Radio

can do as we have several more events this year.

**According To Club Information
You May Need To Update Your
Ticket**

SPARKS Input

| Iname | lic expires | callsign |
|-------------|-------------|----------|
| Fulkerson | 2007/02/07 | KB0ZQX |
| Hudock | 2007/02/10 | KB4SQV |
| Cole | 2007/02/17 | KA4ACD |
| Smith | 2007/02/20 | KF4PFY |
| Pullen | 2007/02/20 | AF4ZT |
| Johnson | 2007/02/25 | KB0ZTX |
| Lawson | 2007/02/27 | KC5ZEZ |
| McClendon | 2007/03/05 | N4QLK |
| LeJeune | 2007/03/20 | WA4KOG |
| Castleberry | 2007/03/26 | KF4QFZ |
| Trammell | 2007/03/26 | KF4QFW |

If you have any suggestions to be included or removed from the newsletter please let me know. It has been suggested to me that we might include pictures of your home or mobile station setups. If you would like yours to be included in the upcoming issue just send me the pictures. Depending upon the response for this they may not all be able to be included in the next SPARKS.

Delta Amateur Radio Club

(Continued from page 4)

Roger KI4AJH

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Postage | \$150.00 |
| P.O. Box 342768 | <u>\$70.00</u> |
| Mailing Costs Total | \$225.00 |

**Information on News, Contests,
Special Events, and Hamfests
Can All Be Found At:**

[http://www.arrl.org/search/
bigindex.html](http://www.arrl.org/search/bigindex.html)

New Net

There is a new net being held on the 224.42 repeater on Monday nights at 8:30pm. The repeater uses a negative offset and does not require a PL tone.

**2007 DELTA CLUB
ANNUAL BUDGET**

2007 PROJECTED EXPENSES

Operation Costs

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| State Corporation Fee | \$40.00 |
| South East Repeater | |
| Asso. Dues | \$20.00 |
| Web Site / | |
| Name Registration Fee | \$100.00 |
| Legal / CPA Service | \$125.00 |
| Fundraiser | <u>\$100.00</u> |
| Operation Costs Total | \$385.00 |

Meeting Costs

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Meeting Space (Donation) | \$100.00 |
| Meeting Refreshments | \$100.00 |
| Operating Supplies | \$30.00 |
| Software Expenses | |
| Accounting | \$75.00 |
| Certificates and Awards | \$300.00 |
| Attendance Incentives Nov | \$1,000.00 |
| Attendance Incentives | <u>\$220.00</u> |
| Meeting Costs Total | \$1,825.00 |

Mailing Costs

Insurance

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Liability | \$350.00 |
| Equipment | <u>\$340.00</u> |
| Insurance Total | \$690.00 |

Training

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Programs | \$250.00 |
| Training Seminar | <u>\$75.00</u> |
| Training Costs Total | \$325.00 |

Special Events

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Field Day | \$225.00 |
| Other | <u>\$50.00</u> |
| Special Events Total | \$325.00 |

Repeaters

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Maintenance | \$1000.00 |
| Telephone 146.82 | \$725.00 |
| Telephone 443.20 | <u>\$280.00</u> |

Repeaters Total \$2005.00

Equipment Maintenance

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Tower Trailer | \$150.00 |
| Other | <u>\$100.00</u> |
| Equipment Maint Total | \$250.00 |

Total Projected Expenses \$5,980.00

2007 PROJECTED INCOME

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Membership Dues | \$3500.00 |
| Speed Dial | \$100.00 |
| Fund Raisers | \$2000.00 |
| Donations | <u>\$380.00</u> |
| Projected Income Total | \$5980.00 |

PACKET UPDATE

Many times we want to monitor our stations operation. MFJ has come out with an old style POWER and SWR meter. This meter is really big! It allows you to see operation easily from a distance. The meter is six and one half inches measured diagonally and allows for low or high power levels to be selected to monitor. It also has a peak and average reading mode. The lowest scale is for 20 watts full scale which makes it nice for QRP work. MFJ claims this is the worlds largest SWR/ Wattmeter and it sure looks like it to me. The price for the meter is about one hundred forty dollars but good meters cost today. If you are looking for a SWR/Wattmeter to monitor your rig check out this new one from MFJ.

James Butler, KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Many times we want some type of metering equipment to monitor either our rigs or power supplies for them. While we can just hook up a VOM to check them some operators like to keep the monitoring equipment hooked up all the time. There are a lot of surplus analog meter movements on the market today. A lot of folks have gone all digital but once you get used to it just a glance at an analog meter will tell you what you need to know. This month's project modifies a large analog meter from the 70s for use as a power supply voltage monitor. The meter originally was used to monitor 150 volts AC and 300 volts AC by selecting the hookup points on top of the meter. By opening up the meter I bypassed the circuitry inside and determined that for this meter 292 ohms in series would make the meter read full scale at 15 volts DC. By adding this resistance in the meter and running addition wires out I had a nice large easy to read voltmeter. The picture shows the meter hooked up to a variable supply used to check for accuracy against the digital readout. Keep an eye out for old analog meters you can modify to use for your monitoring needs. These will be harder to get as time goes on and get more expensive also.

James Butler, KB4LJV



February

2007

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | 1 Lance N4GMT MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Pat W4OQG | 5 Curtis W4WP | 6 John KD4EUZ | 7 Greg KI4OTG | 8 | 9 Stephen W4UCA | 10 Lisa K4POM |
| 11 | 12 | 13 Bobby KC4NBS Nancy Vickers | 14 Sharon N4ZCS | 15 Nancy Morrow Bill KI4BIY | 16 Kati Hughes | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 Daniel KI4KRM Shelby Cty., ARES Meeting 6:45 PM | 21 Ken KC5IX | 22 John KE4WEV | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Sally KI4AUD | 26 | 27 | 28 Adam KI4GIU | | | |

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 ka4bll@arrl.net or 363-9607.

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

K4TTA (Extra) Tom Richardson 386-6268
k4tta@arrl.net (1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15)

KA4BLL (Extra) Ned Savage 363-9607
ka4bll@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@midssouth.rr.com (1, 8, 13)

WA2IQC (Gen) Gary Blinckmann 794-5289
garyblin@midssouth.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)



Delta Amateur Radio Club

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 |

AREA HAMFESTS OF INTEREST

Winter-Fest

Lawrence County Amateur Radio Club
Walnut Ridge, AR
Walnut Ridge Fire Department, Firemans Hall
<http://www.cwrnet.com/lcarc>
Feb 17, 2007

Middle Tennessee ARS

Tullahoma, TN
First Methodist Church
208 West Lauderdale Street
<http://www.qsl.net/kf4aze/MTARS/index.htm>
Mar 17, 2007

**Delta Amateur Radio Club
January 2007 Treasurers Report**

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Balance 01/01/2007 | \$5,946.25 |
| Expense | |
| Bellsouth 146.82 phone | \$58.99 |
| U of M 443.2 phone | <u>22.94</u> |
| Total Expense | \$81.93 |
| Income | |
| 2006 Annual Membership Dues 01/06/07 | <u>320.00</u> |
| Total Income | \$320.00 |
| Balance 01/31/2007 | \$6,184.32 |

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:

**Delta Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 750482
Memphis, TN 38175-0482**

2007 Board of Directors

President

Darrell Sheffield, KK4D
901-277-8122
(Darrell.Sheffield@Memphistn.gov)

Vice President

PENDING SPECIAL ELECTION

Secretary

Lisa Sheffield, K4POM
901-277-8144 (SassGirlsMom@aol.com)

Treasurer

Hugh Wardlaw, WB4SLI
901-487-3820 (hwardlaw@bellsouth.net)

Director of Training

Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO
901-628-4318 (wa4ovo@yahoo.com)

Director of Publications

Roger Schlichter, KI4AJH
901-386-8457 (KI4AJH@bellsouth.net)

Director of Programs

David Campbell, KD4NOQ
901-388-6166 (kd4noq@arrl.net)

Director of Meetings and Special Events

Dean Honadle, N2LAZ
901-353-1207 (dean@honadle.com)

Repeater Trustee

Suresh Kagoo, N9GSA
901-752-5900 (skagoo@midsouth.rr.com)