

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

P. O. BOX 750482 MEMPHIS, TN 38175-0482 / VOL. 17 / JANUARY, 2005



Happy New Year
from 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

JANUARY 2005 CLUB MEETING

DATE: January 11, 2004 (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: The Status of the W4BS Repeater System

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 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: joant@mem.net

Please Remember: Deadline for Reports and Articles for the next issue of SPARKS is Friday, January 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 have a new Board of Directors, and with the new people, we get new ideas. Our club needs new and informative programs for the meetings, and our present list of planned programs seems to fill that need. We will put the program on at the first of the meeting and then have the business session after a short break, after the program.

There are some innovative plans to entice increased participation within our club and on its sponsored events. We have plans to get a table for selling items at the DixieFest in March and will need contributions of equipment and other "stuff" for that endeavor. I am also looking for members to come forward and volunteer to chair a rabbit, or fox hunt event, as well as, Field Day events, and net (146.82) management positions. I hope we will have a Good Year. Bring a friend to the meeting.

Ned Savage, KA4BLL

**Delta Amateur Radio Club
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2004**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:05 pm with the following old and new board members and guests present: Ned, KA4BLL; John, KG4OLG; Bill, KG4VAW; Roger, K4KCU; Tom, KG4EOV; Dean, N2LAZ; Tommy, KD4TJO; Darrell, KE4DHF; Lisa, KI4DIL; Bill, KC4SXT and David, KD4NOQ.

The treasurer's report was presented to the board for review and was approved by the board.

Tommy, KD4TJO reported that there were some new members that needed to be voted on for membership. Each new member was presented to the board with Tommy making a motion to accept all the applicants for membership. Dean, N2LAZ, seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Ned stated that he wants to put together a committee for maintenance on the tower trailer. It is in need of some cosmetic work as well as structural improvements. Darrell, KE4DHF said that he had a friend at church that has a shop that might help do some of the work needed on the trailer. He will check with the gentleman and report back to the board.

Ned asked Tommy to post a message on the Yahoo group reminding everyone of the pot luck dinner meeting next week. The club will be providing the drinks.

New Business:

Ned welcomed all the new board members for 2005 and thanked the outgoing members for their service in 2004 and the remaining members for their continued service in 2005.

Darrell mentioned a few ideas that he has for the coming year, one of which includes putting a swap shop net on the air once a week. Tommy said that the same thing could be done on the web page as long as he's kept up to date weekly as to what needs to be added and removed from the list. Darrell has a plan for doing that within the net preamble.

Motion to adjourn: Made and passed at approximately 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Tommy Thompson, KD4TJO

**Delta Amateur Radio Club
Membership Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2004**

Ned Savage, KA4BLL called the December general membership meeting for the Delta Amateur Radio Club to order at approximately 7:15 p.m. local time.

Ned, KA4BLL, called for introductions of all in attendance.

Bill, KG4VAW read the treasurer's report to the group. Motions to accept the treasurer's report and secretary's report as published in SPARKS passed.

Old Business:

Ned introduced the new Board members to the group as follows:

President—Ned Savage, KA4BLL
Vice President—Darrell Sheffield, KE4DHF
Treasurer—Bill Torkell, KG4VAW
Secretary—Lisa Sheffield, KI4DIL
Dir. of Publications—Roger Paulson, K4KCU
Dir. of Programs—Tommy Thompson, KD4TJO
Dir. of Training---John Zempel, KG4OLG
Dir. of Meetings & Special Events—Dean Honadle, N2LAZ

Tommy, KD4TJO updated the members on the status of the toy drive for the children in Florida.

Announcements:

Tommy, KD4TJO reminded club members that they needed to renew their memberships.

There was no new business.

Program:

Ned Savage, KA4BLL gave awards to the 2004 Board of Directors and members as we enjoyed a wonderful potluck meal together. Joan, KN4PM won the door prize.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Tommy, KD4TJO Lisa, KI4DIL
Secretary and Secretary elect

VE Corner

December - cool - Christmas - full of surprises !!!

The VE Team met on our usual 2nd Tuesday - just before the club meeting. At 5:45 there were two VE's plus myself. NO examinees in site. At 5:55 we packed up the session and took all of the materials down to the car ready to enjoy the eating meeting. And much to our surprise (by now there were 5 VE's in attendance) there in the doorway was someone running a bit late wanting to take an exam. Being Christmas and the team that we are, we took upstairs only the materials needed for the session. When we were finished we again packed up the equipment (not near as much this time since there was no code requested) and headed downstairs. As we loaded the car a very nice gentleman (not dressed in red however) approached saying that he has been told that the testing started at 7:00 and he was from Jackson, Tn. Alas, we granted his Christmas wish

and tested with a smile. He now has a technician license and a very Merry Christmas. The team was still able to enjoy the eating Christmas meeting and I even won the door prize. What a surprise.

Hoping that everyone is having a Happy Holiday and wishing you all a Very Happy New Year.

Joan KN4PM

VEC EXAAMINATION FEE INCREASE

ARRL VEC exam session application fee to change (Dec 15, 2004) -- Starting January 1, the fee charged all applicants at ARRL VEC-coordinated Amateur Radio examination sessions will rise from \$12 to \$14. The fee is charged to anyone applying for a new amateur license or an upgrade. It also applies to ARRL VEC-session applicants retesting on the same element after being unsuccessful (where examiners permit), or applicants seeking grandfather-credit upgrades and not taking an exam. ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says that while the number of examinees has dropped in the past year-- possibly due in part to the uncertainty regarding pending licensing proposals--the cost of business and expenses incurred by ARRL VEs and the ARRL VEC continues to rise. The ARRL provides free FCC license renewals, address changes and other license modification services to current members. Nonmembers pay \$14 for those services.

From the ARRL Newsletter

AMATEUR RADIO PRAISED AS LIFELINE IN SOUTH ASIA

As the tsunami relief and recovery effort continues in South Asia, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has joined those paying tribute to Amateur Radio's ongoing emergency communication role. Director and Executive Vice Chairman S. Suri, VU2MY, of India's National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR), noted January 5 that the PM "was all

praise for hams in India and the entire world who helped us in this hour of need." Suri said the administrator of hard-hit Car Nicobar Island has asked NIAR to keep on duty Rama Mohan, VU2MYH, and five other radio amateurs who have been providing communication with the island since shortly after the December 26 disaster.

"The district administration chief of Car Nicobar Island spoke to me this morning to say even now it is only the ham communication that is aiding them for relief and rehabilitation measures," Suri said in an e-mail to Jay Wilson, W0AIR, of the Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association (DERA) and shared with ARRL. Mohan, who had received DERA training in the US, was part of NIAR's VU4NRO/VU4RBI DXpedition to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. When the earthquake and tsunami struck the region, DXpedition team leader Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI, promptly shifted the operation to handle emergency traffic and health-and-welfare inquiries between the island and the Indian mainland. More than 20 Indian radio amateurs are said to be involved in providing emergency communication support in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Ironically, until the recent NIAR DXpedition the Indian government did not allow Amateur Radio operation from the islands. It's since cleared the way for all Indian hams to operate from VU4.

In the disaster's immediate aftermath, Suri said, Mohan and other DXpedition team members risked their lives to alert the chief of administration on Andaman Island, since tsunami waves later overran the road they'd traveled. NIAR staff member Jose Jacob, VU2JOS, was providing emergency communication remote Hutbay Island.

Now back on the Indian mainland, Bharathi Prasad has reported that the VU4NRO/VU4RBI logs are safe and at NIAR headquarters, and QSLing will commence once the emergency operation concludes. DXer Charly Harpole, K4VUD/HS0ZCW, now in Bangkok, Thailand, told The Daily DX <[http://](http://www.dailydx.com)

www.dailydx.com> that QSL cards already are showing up at NIAR.

Harpole, who was visiting the DXpedition in Port Blair on Andaman Island when the earthquake and tsunami hit, has since been helping to handle emergency traffic from Thailand, where his wife's family lives. "I have been listening to the traffic from VU4 back to the India mainland, and by now it is smooth as silk with lots of H&W and some government messages running almost constantly," he said in an e-mail made available by QRZ DX <<http://www.dxpub.com/>> Editor Carl Smith, N4AA. Harpole advised amateurs worldwide to avoid the primary emergency traffic frequency of 14.190 MHz.

In Thailand, Harpole reports, hams have been using mostly 2 meters for their emergency traffic "and doing a huge job." He said he's heard very little from Bangladesh, and nothing from Sumatra and Burma (Myanmar). The earthquake's epicenter was some 100 miles off Sumatra, a part of Indonesia.

Just three days after the calamitous tsunami, Radio Society of Sri Lanka (RSSL) President Victor Goonetilleke, 4S7VK, declared that "uncomplicated short wave" radio had saved lives.

"Ham radio played an important part and will continue to do so," he said in an e-mail relayed to ARRL. Goonetilleke said Sri Lanka's prime minister had no contact with the outside world until Amateur Radio operators stepped in. "Our control center was inside the prime minister's official house in his operational room," he recounted. "[This] will show how they valued our services."

Horey Majumdar, VU2HFR, in Calcutta, said improvisation was "the name of the game" in the emergency's aftermath. "Hams had to switch to good old CW and switch frequencies from 14.190 and 14.160 MHz to 7.090 MHz," he said. Majumdar noted that hams from all over "have been checking into the VU emergency nets and extending their

fullest cooperation in the truest spirit of Amateur Radio."

According to the latest estimate, more than 150,000 people died as a result of the tsunami, about one-third of them children.

Although the US does not have third-party traffic agreements with any of the countries affected by the disaster, international emergency and disaster relief communications are permitted unless otherwise provided. While FCC Part 97 has not yet been updated to reflect revisions to third-party traffic rules at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003, FCC staff has told ARRL that if the government agencies responsible for the Amateur Service in affected countries do not object to their amateur stations receiving messages from US amateur stations on behalf of third parties, the US has no objection to its amateur stations transmitting international communications in support of the disaster.

Additional information on Amateur Radio and the tsunami disaster is on the ARRL Web site.

FCC RELEASES HUNDREDS OF PAGES OF BPL TEST DATA, FILINGS

The FCC has made public more than 650 pages of technical presentations, correspondence and filings that it says it used in making its decision on the BPL Report and Order in ET Docket 04-37. The Commission adopted new rules to govern so-called Access Broadband over Power Line systems on October 14, but they have not yet become effective. The ARRL subsequently filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request that called on the FCC to release any studies the Commission had relied upon in deciding to embrace the technology. Some information contained in the documents has been blanked out or redacted.

"Certain portions of those presentations have been redacted, as they represent preliminary or partial

results or staff opinions that were part of the deliberative process," FCC Office of Engineering and Technology Associate Chief Bruce Romano said in a cover letter releasing the documentation December 22. "Moreover, the redacted information was not relied on by the Commission in making its decision," Among the FCC Laboratory presentation charts the FCC redacted was one titled "New Information Arguing for Caution on HF BPL. "

The documentation includes presentations and graphs resulting from field tests of BPL trials in Pennsylvania, Maryland, New York and North Carolina. The tests, conducted by the FCC Laboratory's Technical Research Branch, looked BPL technology by Amperion, Current Technologies, Ambient Technologies and Main.Net.

The ARRL is continuing to review the extensive documentation in detail. ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, WIRFI, maintains that the FCC documents tend to back up assertions the League made in its filings.

"The FCC reports clearly show that BPL operating at the FCC Part 15 emission limits generates a strong RF signal for long distances along overhead power lines," Hare said. "The FCC data showed noise that was many decibels above otherwise quiet ambient noise levels." Hare said that even in spectrum notched out by BPL system providers, the FCC-provided reports indicate a measurable increase in noise levels on amateur frequencies.

Approximately 150 pages of the documentation consisted of technical material and presentations by FCC staffers. The remaining 500-plus pages include correspondence, technical reports and interference complaints from radio amateurs to the FCC. Falling into the last category is extensive correspondence involving the Alliant Energy BPL field trial in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. That pilot project was abandoned after difficulties in resolving interference issues with local radio amateurs proved insurmountable.

The FCC just this week provided additional spreadsheet data to ARRL under separate cover. By releasing the information, the FCC made it part of the official record in the proceeding. Some, but not all, of the BPL-related material is on the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System under ET Docket 04-37.

In an interview January 3, OET Deputy Chief Bruce Franca asserted there's enough spectrum to permit Amateur Radio and BPL to coexist. Franca, who heads the Commission's BPL Task Force, spoke with Broadband over Power Line World's Marc Strassman <<http://www.etopiamedia.net/bplw/pages/bplw16-5551212.html>>.

"There are enough frequencies that amateurs can operate and BPL can operate in a compatible mode," Franca told Strassman. Franca also expressed confidence in technological solutions to any Amateur Radio-BPL interference issues that might arise. "I'm very optimistic at the end of the day," he said. "Technology is going to solve this problem."

In another BPL-related development, Electric Broadband LLC reportedly has dropped out of the Cottonwood, Arizona, BPL field trial, and project oversight has shifted to Mountain telecommunications Inc (MTI), which had been handling system operations for EB. The FCC issued a Part 5 Experimental license to MTI on January 3.

On the same day, the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association (VVARA) asked the FCC to hold up the swap and instead dismiss the pilot project's WD2XMB Part 5 license "with prejudice," alleging the operator had "failed to live up to the terms of the instrument." The VVARA also said it wanted the BPL field trial shut down.

"Mountain Telecommunications Inc has been involved in the field with the Cottonwood BPL trial since its start and has not complied with the requirements of the existing license by promptly mitigating harmful interference on the 60 meter Amateur Radio band," VVARA Vice President

Robert Shipton, K8EQC, told the FCC, noting that six weeks have passed since the interference report was filed.

The Cottonwood Experimental license stipulates that the licensee "must establish and maintain a liaison relationship with the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association" and respond to interference complaints "in a timely manner."

OKLAHOMA, BRAZIL YOUNGSTERS VISIT INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION VIA HAM RADIO

Youngsters in Oklahoma and Brazil got a chance over the holidays to question International Space Station (ISS) Expedition 10 Commander Leroy Chiao, KE5BRW, about life in space. Both direct 2-meter contacts with NA1SS came off largely without a hitch, and Chiao answered all questions posed by each group. Sponsoring the contacts was the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. Students in grades 3 through 12 from schools in Oklahoma and Texas gathered December 22 at the Tulsa Air and Space Museum (TASM) for their contact.

"The kids were able to work in all 20 questions as well as wish the ISS crew a merry Christmas," said Tulsa Repeater Organization (TRO) President and ARRL Oklahoma Public Information Coordinator Mark Conklin, N7XYO. "Wow!" Participating students had attended TASM's summer aerospace camps.

Among other things, the kids asked Chiao whether the G-forces from leaving Earth's atmosphere cause you to have little red spots on your face--G-measles, how far along the ISS construction was and the space station's expected life, and what are the benefits of civilian space travel.

The museum cooperated with TRO and AMSAT to arrange the contact. TRO's Bill Griffin, NI5X, and

AMSAT's Keith Pugh, W5IU, set up the Earth station at TASM. Pugh served as the control operator, and the station used the TRO WA5LVT call sign for the QSO.

Among those looking on were several news media representatives, including three Tulsa TV stations, two newspapers and CQ magazine.

On December 27, a Scout group in Brazil participated in the first ARISS school group contact with that country. Scouts from Rio de Janeiro and elsewhere gathered at the Forte de Copacabana military base where the contact took place. ARISS-Brazil member Tadeu Fernandes, PY1KCF, served as the control operator at PY1ERR.

Chiao answered all 20 questions the scouts posed during the approximately 10-minute contact. The Expedition 10 commander took the opportunity during his answers to describe the beautiful view from the ISS.

"The Earth looks wonderful from space," he told one Scout. "It is the most fantastic view, everything is very brightly colored and that's one of our favorite things to do--to look at the earth." The fact that space walks can be tiring is offset by the beautiful view of Earth, Chiao told another youngster.

He also told the scouts that the crew enjoys viewing the stars--provided the ISS is pointed the right way. The sun is "extremely bright," but the moon is "very fascinating too."

Chiao told another Scout that the crew had not yet spotted any unidentified flying objects yet, but he promised to keep looking.

Some 50 onlookers and news media turned out for the occasion. More than 200 amateur stations around Brazil were able to listen in on the contact via HF and EchoLink outlets.

ARISS is an educational outreach program with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

FCC CITES HOMEOWNERS FOR CAUSING INTERFERENCE TO RADIO AMATEUR

Things aren't all that friendly in one Friendswood, Texas, neighborhood, where a dispute over interference from one couple's battery chargers to a neighboring radio amateur has resulted in an official FCC Citation to the couple. The December 10 Citation is the latest chapter in a long-running dispute that FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth has described as "an unfortunate neighborhood situation." The Citation sprang from complaints by ARRL member William Cooper, W5ZAF, that his next-door neighbors' battery chargers were interfering with his ham radio activities. The FCC concurred.

"Investigation by the FCC's Houston Office revealed that on December 7, 2004, you were operating battery charging devices at your residence," the Citation said. "These devices were observed to be generating radio frequency pulses on various high-frequency radio bands. These radio frequency pulses were determined to be causing harmful interference to the Amateur Radio Service." Only after FCC agents visited the couple's home did the interference cease. The FCC did not make the couple's names public nor did it post the Citation on its Web site.

The ARRL Laboratory has been working with the FCC and Cooper to help broker a resolution to the interference issue.

FCC Part 15 rules regulating "unintentional radiators" require that the operator of such devices must cease operation upon FCC notification that it's causing harmful interference. "Operation may not resume until the condition causing the harmful interference has been corrected," the FCC said.

Since it began about a year ago--when Cooper first suspected the interference he was hearing came from his neighbors' Christmas lights--the squabble has escalated beyond the interference issue. Both parties have hired attorneys, and volumes of correspondence have changed hands. Last September, the couple complained that Cooper's antenna support structure violated homeowners' association covenants.

After notices from the FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau went unanswered, Hollingsworth issued warning notices to the couple last June and September alleging that the battery chargers--apparently used to charge some electric scooters--were causing interference. Cooper provided his neighbors with free toroid core devices that resolved the interference, but the couple subsequently removed them. The couple told Hollingsworth they'd initially been willing to work with Cooper but took out the filters after he allegedly made disparaging remarks about them to another neighbor and took photos of their house and property.

Hollingsworth responded by emphasizing that it's the couple's responsibility to correct the interference--whether or not they accept Cooper's help. Simply unplugging the chargers when not in use--as they had suggested--was not an acceptable solution, he told them in his final Warning Notice. Cooper claimed the chargers had been operating 24 hours a day.

The FCC Citation, which does not require a response from the couple, warned that subsequent violations could lead to fines, equipment seizure and even possible criminal sanctions.

**MORSE REQUIREMENT, LICENSE
RESTRUCTURING REMAIN
ON FCC'S RADAR**

The ARRL does not anticipate the FCC will offer up any proposals on the Morse requirement and further

restructuring of the Amateur Radio licensing system until sometime in mid-2005, possibly sooner. The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau continues to review thousands of comments it received on 18 petitions for rule making--including one from the ARRL.

The various petitions called for eliminating or altering the Morse code requirement and changing other sections of the Amateur Service Part 97 rules, including further restructuring of the amateur licensing system.

In addition to agreeing on other changes affecting Amateur Radio, World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03), left the choice to require Morse proficiency for HF access up to individual countries, and several already have dropped Morse code as an examination requirement. That has not yet happened in the US.

Before the FCC adopts any changes in the Morse requirement and the license structure, it must complete its comment review, issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) reflecting its interpretation of consensus within the amateur community based on comments received and invite further comments on the NPRM. The FCC then will review those comments before issuing a Report and Order that spells out any final rules. The ARRL does not anticipate any changes in the Morse requirement or in other Amateur Radio licensing requirements before 2006, possibly later.

While this rule making process is under way, no changes have been made in the Amateur Radio Service rules. The 5 WPM Morse code requirement (Element 1) to gain HF privileges in the US remains in place, and no proposed automatic upgrades or other rule changes have been put into effect. The ARRL has posted answers to frequently asked questions on its own restructuring proposals <<http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/faq.html>>.

PACKET UPDATE

Many times we just need a receiver to monitor with and not transmit. We can be using the radio for AM, FM, TV audio, the ham bands or general coverage shortwave. C.CRANE is a company which sells radio equipment. They also have their own brands of radios, accessories, and shortwave antennas. They also have a line of solar panels to run their radios. They carry many name brands of shortwave receivers. One of the specialty items they list is their indoor loop style antenna. They offer a free catalog just for the asking. Check out their web site at <http://www.ccrane.com>

James Butler
KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Newer radios continue to get smaller and smaller each year. Decreasing speaker size means they may not sound as good as the older radios. Even trying to buy a new external speaker today can cost a lot of money. The small computer speakers are cheap but do not sound good for voice communications. One option is to find a used external speaker. These can be found at any hamfest. I bought some at the funfest in Bartlett last year. They were made by Motorola for there Micor line of radios. They have a strong steel box construction with a metal grill in the front. They also have a mounting bracket that adjusts the angle of the speaker. The speaker was in good shape for its age. I put on a new speaker wire to match my radio and painted it up in two tone heathkit colors to match my QRP station. The speaker works well and is very heavy duty. It is hard to find a good big external speaker for radios now that does not cost a lot. These were available for \$2.50 each and he had quit a few. If you are looking for an external speaker for your radio check around the hamfests for an older model and clean it up for your use. You will save money and help to preserve some older radio equipment.

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING

James Butler, KB4LJV

JANUARY

2005

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
30	31 James, N4YOK					1 Tony, N4LKK Daniel, KG4LHU
2 Andrew Cline	3 Jim, WD8JAO	4 Patsy, KD5SRF	5 Kenneth, KD4EFO	6 MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM Barry, WA4MFF Lisa Anderson Mollie, KE4FLX	7	8
9 Hugh, WB4SLI Roger, KE4NTJ	10	11 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM	12 Kenneth, KD5LHG	13 Mary, KG4TLV	14	15 Kathryn McLemore
16	17 John, KE4OTI	18	19 Bill, AC4PU	20 Evins, WB4SLJ	21	22 Malcolm, KD4LTU Tom, N4TV
23	24 Jim, N4OXY	25 Shelby Cty. ARES Meeting 6:45 PM	26	27	28	29

FEBRUARY

2005

<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 Ernest, KG4ZTV	3 MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM	4 Pat, W4OQG	5 Curtis, W4WP
6 John, KD4EUZ	7 Amanda Pace	8 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM	9 J. Steven, W4UCA	10	11	12 Douglas, KI4ECF
13 Bobby, KC4NBS Nancy Vickers	14 Sharon, N4ZCS	15 Bill, KI4BIY	16	17 Tom, K4TTA Rebecca Wilson	18 Aaron, KB5SRZ	19
20	21	22 Shelby Cty. ARES Meeting 6:45 PM John, KE4WEV	23	24	25	26
27	28 Adam, KI4GIU					



CONTEST CALENDAR

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

from 1800Z to 2400Z Jan 2. See page 43 of December 2004 *QST*.

North American QSO Party-- CW, sponsored by the *National Contest Journal* from 1800Z Jan 8-0600Z Jan 9. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For information: www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php.

DARC 10-meter Contest--CW/SSB, sponsored by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club from 0900Z - 1059Z Jan 9. Frequencies: CW 28.000-28.200 MHz, SSB 28.300-

28.700 MHz, work stations once only. For more information: www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcz.htm.

Midwinter Contest--CW/SSB, sponsored by the Dutch YL Committee, CW from 1400Z-2000Z Jan 8, SSB from 0800Z-1400Z Jan 9. Frequencies: 80-10 meters, SSB 3.600-3.650, 7.080-7.090, 14.270-14.300, 21.270-21.300, 28.470-28.500 MHz. For more information: www.qsl.net/pi4ylc/Engels/midwinter%20contest.htm.

North American QSO Party-- Phone, 1800Z Jan 15--0600Z Jan 16 (see Jan 10-12).

ARRL RTTY Roundup--1800Z Jan 8-2400Z Jan 9, see page 105 of December 2004 *QST*.

Kid's Day--Phone, sponsored by the Boring Amateur Radio Club

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.

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 (1,2,3,5,9,10,14, slow scan TV, ATV minor)

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

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

WA21QC (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
kgreggc@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



MI QRP Club January CW Sprint--1200Z Jan 15-2400Z Jan 16. Frequencies: 160-6 meters. For information: www.qsl.net/miqrclub.

LZ Open Championship--CW, sponsored by the LZ1KPP Radio Club from 1200Z-2000Z Jan 15. Frequencies: 3.5 and 7 MHz. For more information: www.qsl.net/lz1fw/lzopen/index.html.

Hunting Lions in the Air--CW/ Phone, sponsored by the South African District 410B of the Int'l Association of Lions Clubs from 0000Z Jan 15-2400Z Jan 16. Frequencies: 80-10 meters, work stations once per band regardless of mode. For more information: www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/lionita.asp.

HA DX Contest--CW, sponsored by the Hungarian DX Club from 1200Z Jan 15-1200Z Jan 16. Frequencies: 160-10 meter bands. For

more information: www.mrasz.hu/engver/mraszen.html.

070 PSKFest--sponsored by the Penn/OH DX Society (PODXS) from 0000Z-2400Z Jan 15. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: www.podxs.com/html/pskfest.html.

ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes--1900Z Jan 22-0400Z Jan 24, see page 104, December 2004 *QST*.

BARTG RTTY Sprint--sponsored by the British Amateur Radio Teletype Group from 1200Z Jan 22-1200Z Jan 23. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: www.bartg.demon.co.uk.

CQ WW 160-Meter Contest--CW, sponsored by *CQ Magazine* from 0000Z Jan 29-2359Z Jan 30 (Phone is Feb 26-27). Exchange: RST and S/P/C. For more information: www.cq-amateur-radio.com/index.html.

REF French Contest--CW, sponsored by the Réseau des Emetteurs Français, 0600Z Jan 29-1800Z Jan 30 (Phone is Feb 27-28). Contact French stations including Corsica, Overseas Territories, and EU Council station TP2CE. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: www.ref-union.org/concours/.

UBA Contest--Phone, sponsored by the Royal Union of Belgian Amateur Radio from 1300Z Jan 29--1300Z Jan 30 (CW is Feb 27-28). Frequencies: 80-10 meters, according to the IARU band plan. For more information: www.uba.be.

UK DX RTTY Contest--sponsored by the GM Contest Club from 1200Z Jan 29 -1200Z Jan 30. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. Categories: SOAB (HP, LP <100 W), MS. Exchange: RST and serial number, UK stations send UK region code. QSO points: Own DXCC entity--1 pt, same continent--2 pts, different cont--3 pts, UK stations--5 pts. Score: QSO points × UK regions + DXCC entities on each band. For more information: www.ukdx.scotham.net. Logs in Cabrillo format due 30 days after the contest to ukdx@scotham.net or UK DX RTTY Contest

Committee, PO Box 7469, Glasgow, G42 0YD, Scotland, UK.

W1AW Qualifying Runs are 7 PM EST Wednesday, February 2 (0000Z February 3), and 4 PM Thursday, February 17 (2100Z February 17). The K6YR West Coast Qualifying Run will be at 9 PM PST Wednesday, February 16 (0500Z February 17). Check the W1AW Schedule elsewhere in this issue for details.

North American Sprint--SSB, sponsored by the *National Contest Journal* from 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 6. (CW is Feb 13) Frequencies (MHz): 3.850, 7.225, 14.275, work stations once per band. North American stations work everyone, others work NA stations only. Exchange: other station's call, your call, serial number, name, S/P/C. QSY rule: Stations calling CQ, QRZ, etc, may only work one station in response to that call, they must then move at least 1 kHz before working another station or 5 kHz before soliciting another call. Once you are required to QSY, you may not make a new QSO on the previous frequency until you have made a contact at least 1 or 5 kHz (as required) away (see www.contesting.com/articles/198 for beginner's guide).

Spartan Sprint--CW--sponsored by the Adventure Radio Society, 0200Z-0400Z Feb 8 (Monday local time). The contest is held on the first Monday of every month. Frequencies (MHz): 3.560, 7.040, 14.060, 21.060, 28.060. For more information: www.arsqrp.com

School Club Roundup--all modes, 1300Z Feb 14-0100Z Feb 19. (See Jan *QST*, p 103.)

Minnesota QSO Party--CW/Phone--sponsored by the Minnesota Wireless Association, 1400-2359Z Feb 5. Frequencies (MHz): CW-- 1.810, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050, SSB--1.870, 3.890, 7.230, 14.290, 21.390, 28.420. For more information and MN QSO Party software: www.w0aa.org.

Northern New York (NNY) QSO Party--all modes, sponsored by the Ogdensburg ARC from

0000Z-2359Z Feb 5. For more information and bonus points: www.oarc.us.

New Hampshire QSO Party--Phone/CW/Digital, sponsored by the Great Bay Radio Association, from 0000Z Feb 5-2400Z Feb 6, 24 hour time limit except for bonus stations. For more information: www.wz1f.net/2005_NH_QSO_Party_Rules.doc.

Ten-Ten International Winter Phone QSO Party--sponsored by Ten-Ten, International, from 0001Z Feb 5-2359 Feb 6, 10 m only. For more information: www.ten-ten.org.

XE International RTTY Contest, sponsored by FMRE, from 1800Z Feb 5 to 1759Z Feb 6. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: www.fmre.org.mx.

Delaware QSO Party--CW/Phone/Digital/RTTY--sponsored by the First State ARC (FSARC) from 1700Z Feb 5 to 0500Z Feb 6 and 1300Z Feb 6 to 0100Z Feb 8. Frequencies (MHz): CW--1.825, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050, Phone--1.860, 3.960, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360, 28.360, Novice and Technician--25 kHz above the sub-band edge. One class for all entries, no time limit. CW/Digital/RTTY count as separate modes. For more information: www.fsarc.org.

Vermont QSO Party--CW/Phone/Digital--sponsored by the Central Vermont Amateur Radio Club from 0000Z Feb 5-2400Z Feb 6. Frequencies (MHz): 160-10 meters and VHF/UHF; CW--40 kHz up from band edge (20 kHz Novice/Tech bands), Phone--lowest 25 kHz of the General privileges and entire Novice/Tech 10 meter band, VHF SSB--50.200 and 144.200, FM--146.49 and 146.55. For more information and list of club stations: Davidca@wpgate1.ahs.state.vt.us.

YL International QSO Party--CW/SSB--sponsored by YL International SSB System, 1100Z Feb 5-1700Z Feb 6, two 6 hour off times required. Frequencies: 160-10, no US-US contacts on 14.332 MHz except handicapped. For more information:

www.qsl.net/yl-issb/.

QRP ARCI Winter Fireside SSB Sprint, sponsored by the QRP ARCI, 2000Z-2400Z, Feb 6. Frequencies (MHz): 3.865, 7.285, 14.285, 21.385, 28.385. For more information: <http://2hams.net/ARCI/index.htm>.

FYBO (Freeze Your Butt Off) Winter QRP Field Day--CW-- sponsored by the AZ ScQRPions from 1600Z-2400Z Feb 5. Use QRP calling frequencies on HF bands, work stations once per band. For more information: www.azqrp.org/azqrp/.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Bethpage, NY: ARRL NYC/LI Section, W2V. 1200Z-2000Z **Jan 9**. Ham Radio University 2005. 14.277 7.277. Certificate. George Tranos, N2GA, PO Box 296, Bellport, NY 11713. www.hudson.arrl.org/nli/hru2005.htm.

Green Bay, WI: Bay Area Relay League, W4P. 1200Z **Jan 21**-2400Z **Jan 23**. Packers Ice Bowl Remembered. 14.260 14.070 7.280. Certificate. George Russell, WN8VIX, 2530 Sun Terr, Green Bay, WI 54311.

Davidsonville, MD: Anne Arundel Radio Club Jr, K1D. 1400Z **Jan 22**-0200Z **Jan 23**. Celebrating 4th anniversary of a club dedicated to kids. 28.335 21.365 14.265 7.237. Certificate. Anne Arundel Radio Club Jr, 7901 Pepperbox Ln, Pasadena, MD 21122-6328. <http://ki3ds.org/specialevent.html>.

San Diego, CA: Challenger Middle School ARC, KI6YG. 0000Z-2300Z **Jan 28**. Challenger Middle School commemorates the 19th anniversary of the Space Shuttle *Challenger* tragedy. 28.475 21.375 14.275. QSL. Frank Forrester, Challenger Middle School, 10810 Parkdale Ave, San Diego, CA 92126.

Quincy, IL: Western Illinois ARC, K9E. 0000Z **Jan 28**-2359Z **Feb 2**. Eagles on the Mississippi at Lock and Dam 21, Quincy, Illinois. 14.250 14.085 14.070

7.250. Certificate. Robert G. Mitchell, 816 Long Dr, Quincy, IL 62305. w5nac.com

Buckhannon, WV: Barbour County Area Amateur Radio Club, WV8BC. 1300Z-2100Z **Jan 29**. Klon-dike Derby with the Allohok Council of Boy Scouts. 7.235 3.865. QSL. Steve Milligan, 11 Park St, Buckhannon, WV 26201. <http://wv8bc.tripod.com>

Punxsutawney, PA: Punxsutawney Area Amateur Radio Club, K3HWJ. 1400Z-2100Z **Jan 29**. Commemorating Groundhog Day 2005. 14.240 7.240 7.125 146.715. Certificate. Sherman Holloper, W3QOS, Box 20, 216 E Main St, Big Run, PA 15715.

Lubbock, TX: Buddy Holly Memorial, W5B. 2200Z **Jan 28**-0400Z **Feb 4**. 46th anniversary of the death of Buddy Holly. 28.336 21.360 14.260 7.260. QSL. W5B Buddy Holly QSL, c/o Bryan Edwards, 3801 68th St, Lubbock, TX 79413. www.amcrc.com/w5b

Pacific Grove, CA: Naval Postgraduate School ARC (K6LY), K6P. 0001Z **Feb 1**-2400Z **Feb 7**. Point Piños Lighthouse 150th anniversary. 14.270 21.370 28.370 7.270. QSL. G. Costello, WC6DX, PO Box 1332, Monterey, CA 93942. www.k6ly.org

Dayton, OH: Dayton Amateur Radio Association, W8BI. 0000Z **Feb 1**-2400Z **Feb 28**. Celebrating 75 years as a club. 40 20 15 10 m. QSL. DARA, Lori Perrenboom, K8XTQ, PO Box 44, Dayton, OH 454041. www.ceitron.com/dara/

Washington, PA: Washington Amateur Communications, W3C. 1600Z **Feb 3**-2000Z **Feb 6**. Washington County Sportsmen's Show. 28.400 21.300 14.250 7.260. QSL. Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI, 60 Carl Ave B-2, Eighty Four, PA 15330. wacomarc.org

Nacogdoches, TX: Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club, W5NAC. 1300Z **Feb 5**-0100Z **Feb 6**. The Space Shuttle *Columbia* Recovery Special Event. 14.250 14.050 7.250 7.050. QSL. NARC, 167 County Road 2093, Nacogdoches, TX 75965. www

Plymouth, MI: Plymouth Historical Society Amateur Radio Club, KC8SWR. 1400-2000Z daily **Feb 12**-**Feb 13**. Lincoln Exhibit celebrating Lincoln's birthday. 28.380 21.380 14.280 7.280; CW PSK 20 40 m. Certificate. Plymouth Historical Museum Amateur Station, 155 South Main St, Plymouth, MI 48170. www.qsl.net/kc8swr

Rapid City, SD: Dakota Chapter 102, QCWA, W0DAK. 1500Z **Feb 12**-0300Z **Feb 13**. Commemorating the 28th anniversary as a QCWA Chapter. 28.450 14.250 7.250 3.889. Certificate. Frank Shaw, NU0F, 118 E Van Buren, Rapid City, SD 57701.

Fort Myers, FL: Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc, W4LX. 1500Z **Feb 14**-2100Z **Feb 18**. The Edison Festival of Light and Thomas Edison's birthday. 28.430 21.330 14.250. Certificate. Ft Myers Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 61183, Ft Myers, FL 33906. <http://fmarc.net>

Windsor, ON, Canada: Amherstburg Radio Club, VE3TMG. 1600Z **Feb 19**-2200Z **Feb 20**. 40th anniversary of the Canadian flag. 14.268 7.268. Certificate. Terry Greenwood, 2210 Janette Ave, Windsor, ON Canada N8X 1Z8. Include \$1 US for postage-- US stamps cannot be used in Canada.

Marquette, MI: Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association, K8LOD. 0001Z **Feb 19**-2359Z **Feb 21**. 16th Annual U.P. 200 Sled Dog Championship Race. 28.370 21.370 14.255 7.285. Certificate. Rich Schwenke, N8GBA, 21 Smith Ln, Marquette, MI 49855. www.qsl.net/k8lod

Santa Ana, CA: Anaheim Police ARC, K6I. 0000Z **Feb 19**-2400Z **Mar 5**. 60th anniversary of The Battle of Iwo Jima in WW2. 28.450 21.350 18.150 14.250. QSL. Mark McMullin, KM6HB, PO Box 27271, Santa Ana, CA 92799.

TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT December 2004

Beginning Balance 12/01/04	\$4,955.67
INCOME	
2005 Dues	\$240.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$240.00
EXPENSES	
Corrections on ck#434	\$0.40
Plaques and potluck	205.43
Toy Shipping	92.90
Bellsouth (2 months)	118.36
U of M (3 months)	68.82
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$485.91
Ending Balance 12/31/04	\$4,709.76

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

SPARKS is published monthly by the Delta Amateur Radio Club and is mailed 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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