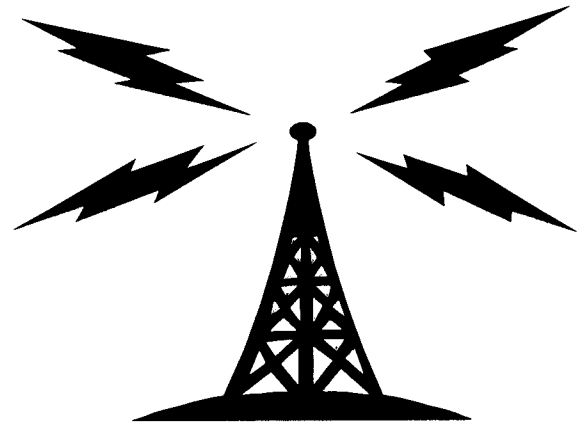


DELTA CLUB SPARKS

The DELTA club meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month. This months meeting will be March 11 at 7:00pm at the Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Highway 70, Memphis

PROGRAM: Earthquake Telemetry in the New Madrid Seismic Zone



VOL.15 FEBRUARY/MARCH 2003

This could be your last newsletter...have you renewed your dues?

Message from the President...

2003 is off to a GREAT start!

The number one concern from the membership has been the status of our repeater system. Thanks to the efforts of our repeater technicians and managers we are on the way to having all of our repeaters back in service and in tip-top shape. The reception problems on 146.82 have been identified and we are trying to get the problem rectified. The replacement radio for 147.36 is almost ready to be placed into service. And, the 443.20 repeater is being serviced for return to the air in the near future. Keep up the GREAT WORK guys!

We are also working hard to improve the services that we can offer you through our web site. Soon we hope to be able to offer our members an email address @DeltaClub.org, bulletin boards for posting questions as well as general discussions, mailing lists to make contacting groups, such as the board, easier and amateur related software for downloading directly from our web site. We also hope to publish the newsletter to the web site and allow members the opportunity to receive the newsletter electronically instead of having a copy mailed. As you can see in the budget proposal the printing and mailing of the newsletter accounts for almost 40% of the clubs annual budget. If we can eliminate or considerably reduce this expense we would be able to redirect monies to other areas such as repeaters and other hardware expenses.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting March 11.

73,

Randy, W4RMV

VE TESTING: Don't forget the monthly Volunteer Examiner testing session. Registration begins at 5:30pm, and testing begins promptly at 6:00pm. Please remember to bring 2 forms of ID and copies of any existing licenses or CSCE's you might have. Please be on time for registration, as you will not be allowed to enter the testing session after 6:00pm. This to allow for 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

EMAIL: joant@mem.net



Vice Presidents Corner

I need all members who have, or know where club equipment is located, to make a list of the item, location of the item, condition of the item, if known, and who might have the item or items.

I do know where the Tower Trailer is, and where the "FEDEX TRASH DISHES" which the club picked up in the '90s, are, and I do know who has knowledge of the whereabouts of the tower J-pole and the club's generator.

I would like this information either sent to me via e-mail, at KA4BLL@arrl.net, or given to me at the next meeting. Thank You, Ned Savage, KA4BLL

NORTH AMERICAN YOUTH NET 20M
Frequency 14.329
FRIDAY NIGHTS 6:00pm

For more info go to www.qrz.com check out the topic HF Youth Net Alive and Well

Multiple Sclerosis Walk

April 5, 2003

We have just recently been asked to assist with communications for this event. This will be the first time that amateur radio communications has been used for the MS Walk in Memphis. As with most events of this type, we will probably be needed at all water stops and other support duties. If you would like to go ahead and volunteer for this event, please email the coordinator, Tommy at kd4tjo@arrl.net

From the Secretary

If you are a new member and need a new members packet and a PIN for the autopatch, please contact Damien at:

Damien Covington, KG4NBM
4735 Quintell Avenue
Memphis, Tn 38128
901-381-4849
kg4nbm@arrl.net

VE CORNER:

Busy, Busy, Busy that is what this team has been for the month of February. I keep thinking that three sessions within 4 days seems a bit stretching all nerves and volunteering abilities - BUT - the team has come through in flying colors.

Thank you for all of the wonderful help without you this team would not succeed. Some of the members were able to help with all three sessions. Whether it was one or three you are all very much appreciated: Arleen AA5GX, Ben KU4AW, Bill KC4SXT, Dick K3ORS, Don KJ4PO, Frances WA4ZYN, Frank KA4SJM, Jim "Doc" AG4KM, Jim KI4I, Ned KA4BLL, Phillip WA4KC, Ray N4ARH, Rick KE4NTI and Tom K4ZV.

Congratulations to the following:

Tony Barnes, KD4TXF	Extra Class
Preston Black Sr., WD4PTJ	General Class
Charles Hawks Jr., KE4ETH	Extra Class
Scott Kircher, KG4YKW	Technician with HF
Jeremy Lenderman, KD5VFG	Technician
David Manson, N1CTI	Extra Class
Wesley Reno, KD5VFH	Technician
Lawrence Rock, K8LER	Extra Class
Kurt Schafer, KD5ORL	General Class
Nathan Smith, KG4PZZ	General Class
Stephen Smith, KC5BMG(AD5NI)	Extra Class
Dennis White, KC5KLT(AD5NJ)	Extra Class
Lyndell Goggans, N7PKM	General Class
Tom Allison, N0THS	General Class
James J.R. Eddy, KG4YKZ	Technician
James P. Eddy, KG4YKY	Technician
Chelsea Jones, KG4YKX	Technician
Jimmy Duvall, KF4RHZ	General Class
George Garner, KG4SMH	General Class
Undwadi Srinath, KG4YLB	Technician
Kenneth Widener, KG4YLA	Technician

In all we gave 38 elements to 31 persons. See you in March - the month when public service events usually begin. Sharpen your skills with the ongoing training sessions - class or on the air. We the Ham Radio Community are a valuable and much needed asset to Memphis and the surrounding area.

73,

Joan, KN4PM
ARRL VE Liaison

Packet Update

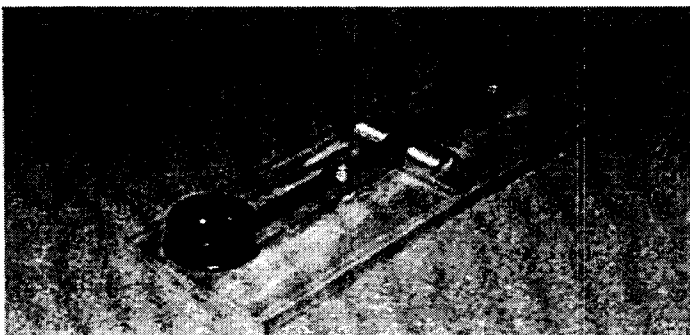
PSK31 has become the digital mode that a lot of amateurs use. Finding out information on a new mode can sometimes be hard. Luckily you can find all you need on the internet these days. One website is the PSK31 HOMEPAGE. This site has basic information for the beginner as well as advanced information about this mode. The site also has downloads available for different PSK31 programs to run on your computer to get you up and running. The site has a lot of information on PSK31, it has the frequencies used for PSK31 on the bands as well as other PSK31 links and articles about the mode. If you are looking for information on PSK31 check out the official PSK31 Site. The web address is WWW.AINTEL.BI.EHU.ES/INDICE.HTML

James Butler, KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

One of the old Classic Keys often pictured is the one used on the Titanic as it sank. This type of Key used in the spark gap days was big and tough to handle the voltages and current needed to key the transmitters back then. The key was large by today's standards with a long straight shaft. The base for the key was made out of wood which was common for the day to insulate it from the desktop. The fingerpiece was a black rounded knob with a skirt at the bottom. The key was heavy and had a different feel when operating. For about \$150.00 dollars you can buy a Kent key replica of the Titanic key which is a nice looking unit, but for a lot less you can build up your own. I used a pine board for the base of the key. An extra large cabinet latch serves as the fulcrum of the unit. For the knob I used a piece of wood for the skirt and a black round ceramic cabinet knob for the fingerpiece. After mounting all the parts and adjusting the key, I took it apart and stained the base. While not an exact replica it works well and gives a feel for the operating one of the big keys back a 100 years ago. I will have the REPLICATED TITANIC KEY at the meeting to show and to answer any questions for those who want to build up their own unit.

James Butler, KB4LJV



SPARKS is published monthly by the DARC, 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, DARC and its officers assume no liability resulting from errors or omissions.

2003 Board of Directors

President

Randy VanVoorhis, W4RMV
w4rmv@arri.net
901-384-0487

Vice President

Ned Savage, KA4BLL
ka4bll@arri.net
901-682-8716

Secretary

Damien Covington, KG4NBM
kg4nbm@arri.net
901-381-4849

Treasurer

Frank Dowell, KA4SJM
ka4sjm@arri.net
901-382-5279

Director of Training

Ed Norris, KD5IEI
kd5iei@arri.net
662-895-3921

Director Of Publications

Jim Watson, AF4WQ
af4wq@bellsouth.net
901-382-5587

Director of Publications

James Butler, KB4LJV
jbutler@slimfast.com
901-294-2540

Director of Meetings

Barry Anderson, WA4MFF
wa4mff@arri.net
901-725-0924

Past President

Lance Morris N4GMT
lmorris1@midsouth.rr.com
901-371-9342

From Ted Wagner

CW on the Internet? You're kidding, right? No, I'm not. If you are a little rusty, you find HF a bit too crowded, you don't have HF equipment, you want to practice for your CW 5wpm test, or for any other host of reasons for using CW off the air, you can use CW over the internet!

There are several ways to accomplish this. This method is through a program called MorseMail. The MorseMail website can be found via this URL:

<http://www.seanet.com/~harrypy/MorseMail/>

MorseMail is simply a program that takes advantage of XML programming and allows you to record your CW via a bug, key or mouse. From this recorded CW you can copy and paste it into an email message or you can send it through to the MorseMail server or "repeater". Currently, the "repeater" method is used most often.

The repeater is a server program which records and stores the recorded messages sent via the MorseMail client programs. A recorded message would look like the following:

< MorseMail >

+168-56+56-56+168-56+56-168 +168-56+168-56+56-56+168-392+168-56 +56-56+168-56+56-168+168-56+168-56 +56-56+168-392+168-56+56-56+168-56 +56-168+168-56+168-56+56-56+168-392 +168-56+56-56+56-168+56-392+168-56 +56-56+168-168+168-56+168-56+168-56 +168-168+56-56+168-56 +56-168+56-56+168-392+168-56 +56-56+168-168+168-56+168-56+168-56 +168-56+56-168+168-56+168-56+168-56 +56-168+56-56+168-392+168-56 +56-56+168-168+168-56+168-56 +168-56+56-168+168-168+56-56+168-56 +56-168+56-56+168-392+168-56 +56-56+168-500

< /MorseMail >

[Note: You will need to drop the blank spaces between "MorseMail" and the < and > tags, at the beginning and end. The spaces had to be added in order for the text to show up in this article. HTML thing... -- ed.]

The numbers indicate tone and lack of tone. Basically, it's a time representation of your transmitted CW. You literally copy the code above including the < MorseMail > and < /MorseMail > tags and paste it into the MorseMail program and click play if someone sent this to you via email. If you were to do this on this message, you'd hear the following in CW: cq cq cq de k9trw k9trw k9trw k

By default, however, you can connect to a MorseMail server and either "listen" for new CW transmissions or throw a call out there yourself. Through this method, there's no cutting and pasting needed.

The program allows you to connect a straight key or bug through the serial or USB ports of your computer. Harry Pyle, AB7TB is the brainchild of this wonderful program and has included information on how to connect your mouse to a key or bug. This was my first exposure to CW over the Internet. For further detailed information on this program, please visit his website and give the program a try.

Birthday List

February

1 Lance, N4GMT
4 Pat, W4OQG
5 Curtis, W4WP
6 Ed, KD5IEI
Jim, KG4QDD
13 Nancy Vickers
14 Sharon, N4ZCS
15 Nancy Morrow
17 Rebecca Wilson
Tom, K4TTA
22 John, KE4WEV
24 Donald, KJ4PO
25 Aaron, KG4QDO
28 Terry, KD5JTY

March

1 Marvin, WA4OXP
Rick, KE4NTI
Sam, KR4LD
9 Chris, KG4QDI
Tessie Brown
11 Francis, WA4ZYN
Jerry, K1HV
12 John, WD4HZQ
14 George, W4FP
17 Edgar, W4KIB
18 Joan, KN4PM
Keith, KD4ESS
20 Henry, WD4Q
Ron, K4WNY
21 Daniel, N4DWG
24 Ned, KA4BLL
26 Diane, KG4CAK
27 Jon, K4LLP
Phillip, KF4TAF
28 J. D., K4USN

April

2 Amber, KG4MLU
Dan, N4QLK
10 Rosie, K4MPQ
13 Karen Blinckmann
15 Rob, KD4SKT
16 Thomas, KG4EOV
18 James, KB4LJV
Paul, KG4GYV
21 Neal, W4EKD
22 Daniel, KG4LHU
John, KG4OLG
24 Jennifer, KE4RKH
26 Jim, N4BSP
29 David, N5COO

Delta Amateur Radio Club Special Board Meeting

2-18-03

Those in attendance were:

Damien Covington	KG4NBM
Ned Savage	KA4BLL
Jim Watson	AF4WQ
Lance Morris	N4GMT
David Campbell	KD4NOQ
Randy VanVoorhis	W4RMV
Tom Richardson	K4TTA
Ed Norris	KD5IEI

7:07 P.M. Randy, W4RMV called the meeting to order.

Repeater trustee was discussed. David Pace has requested consideration.

Tommy, KD4TJO is to get an email about the hosting change for the website.

We discussed donating to Dixie Fest the P.O. Box on Hickory Hill.

The budget was reconstructed.

Lance, N4GMT moved to approve the new budget and Ned, KA4BLL seconded the motion.

Ed, KD5IEI moved to adjourn the meeting and Randy, W4RMV seconded

Delta Amateur Radio Club Meeting Notes February 11, 2003

- Randy, W4RMV opened meeting at 7:12 p.m.
- Damien read the board meeting notes from the February meeting.
- Old business. No one had anything.
- Frank, KA4SJM read the treasurer's report.
- Ed, KD5IEI discussed training classes for the club. He asked for teachers.
- James, KB4LJV discussed his project of the month (a CW key). The March program will be on earthquakes and seismic sensors.
- Joan, KN4PM gave her V.E. report.
- Kathy, KE4UYU talked about Dixie Fest
- Randy, W4RMV announced that the club has had a laptop donated. We have a new membership database program.
- Jim, KI4I displayed a QRP transmitter that he constructed.
- Tommy, KD4TJO had questions about the database change.
- Randy, W4RMV brought up the new website hosting company and all of the advantages over the old hosting company. Tommy, KD4TJO, Kathy, KE4UYU, Melinda, KE4DXN, Arlene, AA5GX, David, KU4AS and Ken, K4DIT voiced concerns about the change.
- Kathy had some questions about the budget. After much discussion, Terry, KB4KA, made a motion to accept the budget as presented and Freddie, KF4ZGJ, seconded the motion. The motion was tabled pending revisions to the budget proposal and publication of the same in the next newsletter.
- Due to the length of the business portion the monthly program was put on hold after a club vote.
- Door prize drawings went to Ned, KA4BLL for a \$50.00 gift certificate and Roger, K4QFZ for the same.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

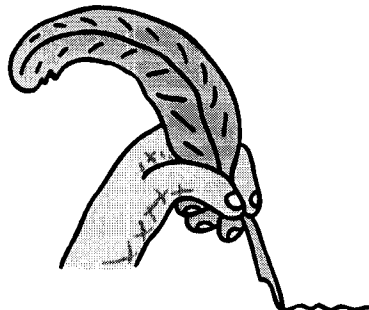
THE W4BS ELMER SHACK

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 Arlene at aa5gx@aol.com or 385-0995.

K4TTA (Extra) Tom Richardson k4tta@arrl.net (1,3,4,6,8,9,13,14)	901-386-6268
KA4BLL (Gen) Ned Savage ka4bll@arrl.net (1,5,8,14, MARS, ARES/RACES, net control, traffic handling, emergency service)	901-363-9607
KB4LJV (Extra) James Butler (2,7,9,11,13,14)	901-294-2540
KD4NOQ (Adv) David Campbell kd4noq@bellsouth.net (1,2,3,5,9,10,12,14, slow scan TV, ATV minor)	901-388-6166
KU4AW (Extra) Ben Troughton bktrough@mem.quik.com (2,4,8)	901-372-8031
N9ACQ (Extra) Bill Kuechler wkuechl1@midsouth.rr.com (1,8,13)	901-368-0532
WA2IQC (Gen) Gary Blinckmann garyblin@midsouth.rr.com (1,7,10,14)	901-794-5289
WA4MJM (Extra) Bill Hancock billwa4mjm@aol.com (1,2,8, emergency communications, ARES,MARS)	901-853-7192
WM5Q (Extra) Paul Cline wm5q@arrl.net (7,8,10,14, RF safety, spread spectrum, trouble shooting, soldering, electromagnetic compatibility, CFR47 rules/regs.)	901-385-0995
K4DIT (Gen) Ken Gregg k4dit@arrl.net (4,6,8,11)	901-853-7384
W4GMM (Extra) Ham Hilliard hamh@bellsouth.net (All categories)	901-372-2337

Codes:

1. Antennas
2. APRS
3. Contesting
4. CW Operating
5. Direction Finding
6. DXing
7. Exp./Circuits/etc.
8. .HF Phone
9. Packet
10. Repeater Oper.
11. QRP
12. Satellite
13. RTTY
14. VHF



The Delta Club board meets at 7pm the first Tuesday of each month at Bartlett United Methodist Church, 5676 Stage Road, Bartlett, TN. We meet in the lounge of the gym building (just inside the gym doors). All members are welcome and encouraged to attend,

You know you are a Ham when.....

The only time you get up at 6am is for a hamfest.

You know you can run all your home appliances on your equipment back-up battery.

Someone in a Music shop asks you what bands you like and you answer two meters and seventy centimetres.

A bank clerk asks you to spell your name and you do so phonetically.

In a conversation, you wait for the Roger tone before speaking.

You hear a scraping sound when driving through multi-story car parking garages

A band opening is more important than a grand opening.

Sight-seeing on holiday amounts to looking at rooftops for antennas.

The radios in your car are worth more than your car.

When you walk out of the house you not only feel your pockets for your keys and your wallet, but also your hip for your handheld.

Newsletter inputs are due the 2nd Friday of the month following the DARC Meeting. All DARC members are encouraged to submit information to be put in SPARKS. Please send inputs to Deltaclubboard@markseven.com.