

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

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



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

MARCH 2005 CLUB MEETING

DATE: March 8, 2005 (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: "Help Protect Your Community," by Ms. Lila Safford

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: joant@mem.net

Please Remember: Deadline for Reports and Articles for the next issue of SPARKS is Friday, March 25th. 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

To all of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Members:

The time has again come to participate in the annual Hamfest, Dixiefest. It will be on Saturday, March 5 & 6, 2005, at the Southaven Expo Center, located on Stateline Road.

We have a set of club tables and flea tables, so come and help us man the tables. If you have something you really want to sell but do not want the added expense or responsibility of getting a table, bring it to the Delta Club's flea table and let the club sell it on consignment. We will ask for a small percentage of the sell, but not much, probably about 10%, plus tax if applicable.

The Dixiefest Committee has voted to offer a DEAL upon entry. The normal door fee is \$ 7.00, but if you pay \$ 10.00, you will get a second ticket for the prizes. This is offered only upon your initial time

of entry. There will also be books of 5 tickets for \$ 20.00 offered at anytime of the event, until they run out. The Grand Prize is an ICOM 706MIIG HF Radio.

As a matter of inventory and the opportunity to make some revenue for the club, if anyone has the leftover CD's that we made last year, please let Darrell, KK4D, or myself know and try to get them to us for the Hamfest.

Please come out and HELP US AT DIXIEFEST, or at least come and participate in the event. We have lots of FORUMS and have the largest table set up ever. Volunteers for Dixiefest set-up will be needed on Friday, the 4th from 9:00AM to 9:00PM. So if you have an hour or two to spare, please come down and help out.

Dues for 2005 are NOW PAST DUE. If you have not paid for 2005 you will not be sent a newsletter via email. Some hams have complained about not being able to access the newsletter information in time to know what is going on in the club, and upon investigation, it was found that they had not paid for 2005. Others who have paid had no trouble getting the information at about the same time. Also, pin numbers will be dropped if you not paid up.

Ned Savage, KA4BLL

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I was glad to see all the folks at the February meeting and enjoyed the

Weather Service Program, which was very informative in several areas.

I am continuing to gather items from various sources regarding the Club Jacket and other items. I will have several items to show at the March meeting including club jackets, polo shirts and hats and have the information on cost of these items.

We elected to buy 2 flea market tables at the DixieFest this year. I need members to join in and help man the tables on Saturday and Sunday. I also would like to have as many items donated that are no longer needed in your shack or around the house. I can pick up items that you want to donate and also offer space for your items that you want to place on consignment sale there. If you are interested in donating time or items call me at on the air KK4D or at 872-3367 evenings.

I am also continuing the search for club equipment and if you have some of the equipment just let me know so I can account for them.

I am still looking for a regular Net Controller for Saturdays. I have a list of alternate controllers and if you are not on that list and would like to be contact me. I am running a Swap Shop Net on Mondays after the Traffic and Information Net and hope everyone will stop by for that net also.

The Club will have an information table and we need members to help man that table. Please contact Lisa or KI4DIL, me if you can work the information table.

We will not meet prior to the DixieFest March 5th and 6th so I hope to see all the Delta Club members there and ask if you have not renewed your membership to do so at the information table while you are browsing. If you can help at the set up, Club sponsored tables, or tear down make sure that you put your name on a participation list or make sure a Club Officer writes your name down as helping. Remember the participation Incentive.

If you have any suggestions or want to pass information to the Club Board do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank You and 73
Darrell KK4D

DARC BOARD MEETING February 1, 2005

KA4BLL, Ned called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The following board members were present: KK4D-Darrell, KG4VAW- Bill, KI4DIL-Lisa, KG4OLG-John, KD4TJO-Tommy, N2LAZ-Dean, K4KCU-Roger, and N9GSA-Suresh.

KG4VAW, Bill gave the treasurer's report. N2LAZ, Dean motioned to accept and KG4OLG, John seconded it.

KI4DIL, Lisa gave secretary's report. N2LAZ, Dean motioned to accept and KG4OLG, John seconded.

KA4BLL, Ned went over the 2005 budget and recommended to reduce line item for the November incentive prizes down to \$1000.

KK4D, Darrell reported on several options for fund raising. He also presented the new monthly door prize certificate to be given at each general meeting.

The board voted unanimously to accept the budget. KK4D, Darrell motioned and N2LAZ, Dean seconded.

N9GSA, Suresh gave an update on the repeaters.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by KI4DIL,
Lisa—DARC Secretary

**DARC MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
February 8, 2005**

KA4BLL, Ned Savage called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. He called for the introductions of the members present. He then turned the meeting over to KD4TJO, Tommy Thompson to start the evening's program.

KD4TJO, Tommy introduced Andy Sniezak from the area weather service to present the evening's program. Andy covered the

importance of being a spotter for the weather service. He gave information on taking spotter classes in March. There is a class at the main library on Poplar on March 26, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

KA4BLL, Ned called for the treasurer's report which was given by KG4VAW, Bill Torkell. Bill also gave an update on Tom. KA4BLL, Ned then called for the secretary's report. KI4DIL, Lisa requested for the membership to accept minutes as published in SPARKS and then gave an update on the membership. KK4D, Darrell motioned to accept both the treasurer's report and secretary's as stated and KE4SXT, Bill seconded.

KU4AW, Ben Troughton gave an update on Dixiefest advising the membership which manufacturers will be there. KA4BLL, Ned presented several of the different forums that will be given during the Dixiefest.

Old Business:

KA4BLL, Ned briefly went over the 2005 budget. KE4SXT, Bill questioned the reduction of the line item for the November incentive prizes. KA4BLL, Ned explained the board's position. KF4NDH, Bob Holdford motioned to accept the budget. KK4D seconded and it was passed unanimously by the membership present.

KG4OLG, John Zempel gave an update on the training classes offered.

New Business:

KK4D, Darrell Sheffield presented a motion for a flea market table. KU4AW, Ben seconded it and it was unanimously passed by the members present. Darrell also made a motion to pass the incentive programs he presented in the January general meeting. KE4SXT, Bill seconded the motion and the members unanimously voted to accept.

KU4AW, Ben requested for chairman for 2005 field day stations.

KA4BLL, Ned presented the repeater committee information for N9GSA, Suresh. KG4OLG, John moved to accept and KU4AW, Ben seconded.

K4KCU, Roger requested for the membership to submit articles to him for publication in SPARKS.

K4TJO, Tommy motioned to adjourn at 8:45 and the membership unanimously seconded.

Respectfully submitted by KI4DIL,
Lisa—DARC Secretary

**FROM THE
ARRL WEBPAGE**

**FCC MORSE, RESTRUCTURING
PROPOSALS COULD BE
OUT BY MID-YEAR**

The FCC continues to work toward developing a Notice of Proposed

Rule Making (NPRM) that will spell out what the Commission has in mind with respect to possible changes in the current Morse code requirement and Amateur Radio licensing.

A total of 18 petitions have been filed, including one from the ARRL, seeking Part 97 rule changes addressing the future of the 5 WPM Morse requirement (Element 1) and revisions to the overall Amateur Radio licensing structure. The FCC plans to tackle all 18 in a single proceeding.

On the code issue, petitions--and comments in response to them--run the gamut from retaining or even beefing up the Morse requirement to eliminating it altogether. (The ARRL's proposal would retain the 5 WPM Morse examination for Amateur Extra class applicants only.)

The League and others have also put forth proposals for a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class. At this point, personnel in the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau are continuing to review the thousands of comments filed on the 18 petitions.

While the FCC appears unlikely to release an NPRM any sooner than mid-year, the issue still may be a major discussion topic during the FCC Forum at Dayton Hamvention, May 20-22.

Once public, the NPRM would initiate another round of public comments on what the FCC has

proposed. An FCC Report and Order implementing any new rules is unlikely before the second half of 2006, although it's possible the Commission could wrap up the proceeding before then.

AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT OF 2005 INTRODUCED

At the urging of the ARRL, Rep Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) has introduced The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2005 into the US House of Representatives. The bill, designated HR 691, has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee where Bilirakis serves as vice chairman. Like previous versions of the proposal, the current measure would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio if the FCC reallocates primary amateur frequencies, reduces any secondary amateur allocations, or makes additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, says the legislation "is vital for ensuring that the Amateur Radio Service, the only 100-percent fail safe emergency communication capability, remains a viable public safety option."

HR 691 references Amateur Radio's role in providing "voluntary, noncommercial radio service, particularly emergency communications," and it points out

that hams have "consistently and reliably" provided communication support in the event of emergencies and disasters including tornadoes and hurricanes, chemical spills, forest fires and rail accidents. As the measure notes, FCC actions already have led to the loss of at least 107 MHz of spectrum to radio amateurs.

Rep Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD) has signed on as the bill's first co-sponsor.

Efforts now will focus on attracting additional cosponsors for the legislation. The League is encouraging members to urge their congressional representatives to sign aboard HR 691. More than 100 lawmakers agreed to cosponsor similar legislation in the 108th Congress, where it was designated HR 713. Work is proceeding to have identical legislation introduced in the US Senate.

The text of HR 691 is available on the Government Printing Office Web site http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_bills &docid=f:h691ih.txt.pdf.

ARRL ANNOUNCES SECTION MANAGER ELECTION RESULTS

The ARRL North Texas, Arkansas and Arizona sections will get new Section Managers this spring. Ballots cast in the two contested races of the current Section Manager (SM) election cycle were

counted and verified February 22 at ARRL Headquarters. New terms of office for successful candidates begin April 1.

In the North Texas Section, Tom Blackwell, N5GAR, outpolled incumbent SM Roy Rabey, AD5KZ, 853 to 586. Rabey has served as SM since 2003. A resident of Dallas, Blackwell has served as State Government Liaison for eight years under previous SMs.

In Arkansas, David Norris, K5UZ, won the open SM slot 353 to 199 over Terry Busby, W5ARS. Norris, who lives in Batesville, has served as an ARRL Assistant SM for eight years, is active in ARES and RACES and is an avid DXer and contester. He'll succeed Dennis Schaefer, W5RZ, who has served as SM since 2003 and did not seek a new term.

In Arizona, Tom Fagan, WB7NXH, will take over the reins from Cliff Hauser, KD6XH, who did not seek a new term after serving for 12 years. Fagan, who had no opposition, now serves as Technical Coordinator and has served as Arizona Section Emergency Coordinator for the past two years. He also has held Emergency Coordinator and District Emergency Coordinator positions.

Incumbent SMs in four other ARRL sections also ran unopposed and will continue in office for new two-year terms. They are Jim Lasley, N0JL, Iowa; John Meyers, NB4K, Kentucky; Malcolm Keown, W5XX, Mississippi; and Carl

Gardenias, WU6D, Orange.

Since no candidates have sought to run for the Montana, Puerto Rico and Wyoming SM positions, nominations will be resolicited in the April issue of QST.

HAM RADIO SAVES A HAM IN ALASKA

Two Alaskan hikers on a day outing in rugged mountains near Anchorage saw their afternoon turn into something entirely unexpected February 12. One of them--Jesse Jones, KL1RK--slipped and fell more than 200 feet down a steep ravine, losing his snowshoes in the process. Jones found himself trapped between a low overhang on one side and a swift-moving stream on the other. Even worse was the fact that his descent could continue into the water at any moment, and almost certain death from hypothermia. With more than 10 feet on the ground, the loss of his snowshoes meant he could not walk out. On the plus side, Jones had taken along his 2-meter handheld transceiver. After several unsuccessful tries, he finally was able to access the wide-area WL7CVG repeater atop Mt Susitna, almost 40 miles distant.

"As a control operator for the repeater, I heard his weak 'Mayday! Mayday! Mayday!' call just a few minutes after 4 PM local time," reports Jim Wiley, KL7CC. "I immediately called 911 and was placed in contact with the local fire department rescue coordinator. I was able to pass on Jesse's

messages to the local rescue coordinator, including coordinates from a GPS unit he was carrying." Wiley says the rescue coordinator's office called out the local mountain rescue group and the Alaska State Troopers, who immediately left for the scene.

The rescue team met with Jones's climbing partner, who had been able to hike out to a place where he could assist the rescuers. Jones was able to keep in touch via 2 meters to report his condition, but his signal into the repeater was marginal. Although uninjured, the sub-zero cold was numbing his extremities to the point that he was having trouble operating his transceiver.

Unable to execute the rescue themselves, the team called an Air National Guard unit, which flew a helicopter to the scene. While the presence of high-voltage power lines just above Jones' position complicated matters, the chopper was able to lower some para-rescue jumpers to a nearby location, from which they could rappel to his position and, after a few hours, extricate him.

Briefly hospitalized for a checkup, Jones was released just before midnight, cold and a bit hungry, but otherwise okay. Wiley says several local hams also assisted the effort, either directly or by their connection with local emergency service groups. Additional details of the rescue and photos are available on the ARRL Web site

<<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2005/02/24/1>>.

PINE TREE STATE LOGS FIRST SCHOOL GROUP QSO WITH SPACE STATION

"Good to be talking to you all. Welcome Rockland District High School in Rockland, Maine, from the International Space Station!" With those words, ISS Expedition 10 Commander Leroy Chiao, KE5BRW, kicked off an approximately 10-minute Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact on February 14 between NA1SS and W1PBR--the call sign of the Pen Bay Amateur Radio Club. It was the first ARISS school group QSO with a Maine school. Given that state's typically colder climate, it was perhaps no surprise that one student wanted to know how the ISS is heated.

"Space can be either very cold or very hot if you're in the direct sunlight, and the station has several control systems that help regulate the temperature inside--and we can actually set that temperature," Chiao explained. He said because the onboard equipment generates heat in addition to what the spacecraft absorbs from exposure to the sun, maintaining a comfortable living environment comes down to shedding heat to outside radiators. "So, depending on how much we remove, we can control the temperature inside," he said.

Responding to another student's question, Chiao said it's true that

the ISS crew sleeps in bunks that stand along the walls of the station. "We have what we call a 'sleep station,' and they're basically phone booth-size little boxes," Chiao said. There's one in the US segment and one in the Russian module. Their size isn't confining, however. "They're pretty small, but it's enough for a little privacy at night. You can get in there with your sleeping bag and your computer and watch movies or listen to music or read an electronic book," Chiao added.

With respect to the amount of room aboard the ISS, Chiao told another student that while there's not as much room in their space quarters as there is on the ground, the crew members quickly get used to it. "Especially in weightlessness, you can get to all three dimensions," Chiao said. "You're not just confined to walking around on the floor." Being able to float from place to place also makes more efficient use of the available space, he noted. "It's really not bad at all." Part of Maine School Administrative District 5, Rockland District High School, with an enrollment of approximately 500, draws students from that mid-coast Maine city as well as from the neighboring towns of Thomaston and Owl's Head. Those participating in the ARISS contact are taking or have completed an integrated science course covering environmental and earth science, including astronomy. In all, the high schoolers got to ask 13 questions before the ISS went out of radio range.

Handling Earth station duties were George Caswell, W1ME, and Norm Smith, NY1B, with help from members of the Pen Bay ARC. The contact also was retransmitted over a local repeater.

The ARISS event had media coverage from at least two TV stations and one newspaper. Some 400 students and visitors were on hand in the audience.

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

STANDING ROOM ONLY AT 2005 AMATEUR RADIO HURRICANE CONFERENCE

ARRL Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, represented the League at the 10th annual Amateur Radio Hurricane Conference February 5 at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami <<http://www.wx4nhc.org/>>. He reports upward of 75 visitors--nearly all of them radio amateurs--turned out for the event. Scheduled in conjunction with the Miami Tropical Hamboree, which Miller also attended, the conference provided an opportunity to review the busy 2004 hurricane season and to discuss Amateur Radio's role to support emergency communication.

"This was a phenomenal meeting," commented Miller, who delivered a

presentation at the conference on ham radio's hurricane and tsunami-related activities. "Because 2004 was one for the record books, comments, reports and pictures from the people who live in the islands and in the affected areas of Florida, were that much more meaningful."

Miller said the consensus at the gathering was that despite the best efforts to prepare, no one imagined the onslaught witnessed last year. Among featured speakers was Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) <<http://www.hwn.org/>> Manager Mike Pilgrim, K5MP. The HWN and the center's WX4NHC work hand-in-hand to funnel real-time weather data to NHC forecasters via Amateur Radio. The HWN Web site recorded more than 55 million hits during September alone!

The conference agenda also included reports from many areas affected by the 2004 hurricanes, including the Cayman Islands; Grenada; Marsh Harbour, Abacos, and, of course, Florida. NHC Hurricane Specialist Stacy Stewart told the gathering how each storm presented varied characteristics and explained how computer modeling is not always right on the money in projecting a hurricane's path.

Newly appointed Southern Florida Section Emergency Coordinator Jeff Beals, WA4AW, spoke about the Holiday Hams video, which chronicled the overwhelmingly successful ARRL Holiday Toy Drive to benefit youngsters affected by the Florida hurricanes.

NHC Amateur Radio Coordinator John McHugh, K4AG, and Assistant Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, served as conference hosts.

FCC AFFIRMS \$4000 FINE
FOR MISSOURI AMATEUR

The FCC has affirmed a \$4000 fine for Paul D. Westcott, KC0OAB, of Purdy, Missouri, for "willful and repeated failure to respond to Commission requests for information about his station." The Commission released a Forfeiture Order in the case on February 16. The FCC reports it has received "numerous complaints" alleging that KC0OAB for several months now has been transmitting CW "24 hours a day, 7 days a week" on 7.030 MHz. While complainants assert the transmissions constitute broadcasting, the FCC contends they interfere with other amateur communications "due to an apparent lack of station control." The FCC proposed the forfeiture November 30 in a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL). "

A licensee cannot ignore the directives in a Bureau inquiry letter," the FCC said in the November NAL. "We, therefore, conclude that Paul D. Westcott apparently willfully and repeatedly failed to respond to Commission correspondence."

While Westcott did reply to an initial FCC Enforcement Bureau inquiry last June, the Commission

says he failed to respond to a subsequent Warning Notice and Request for Further Information in early September, a Warning Notice--Failure to Reply in mid-October or to the November NAL, issued by the Commission's Kansas City field office.

FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth has told ARRL that Westcott assured him "some time ago" in an informal conversation that the transmissions were for Morse code practice, but neither he nor the FCC's Kansas City field office have received any formal responses from Westcott since last June.

A June 21, 2004, letter from Hollingsworth requested information from Westcott regarding an attached complaint about the KC0OAB Morse code transmissions. In his response Westcott reiterated the code practice claim. The June FCC letter also asked Westcott when he had begun the CW transmissions and for evidence that the transmissions--consisting largely of biblical text--were actually being used for that purpose.

Hollingsworth further asked Westcott to address the complaint "as it related to allegations of religious broadcasting." Hollingsworth says his office continues to receive complaints about the ongoing KC0OAB transmissions on 40 meters. The Commission gave Westcott 30 days to pay the fine or risk facing collection proceedings through the US Department of Justice.

PACKET UPDATE

PacComm has a nice multipurpose TNC for use in Packet Radio. The system runs at 1200 Baud. The TNC works with ROSE , NET/ROM , the NET and all TNC-2 type network EPROMS. The TNC also supports APRS and a GPS receiver can be installed in the unit. The Tiny 2 TNC uses only 45 Milliamps of current while powered up. Multicolored LEDs for power, CON, STA, PTT, and DCD are on the front panel. The Tiny 2 also has 13k of message storage space. The firmware (up to 64k) can be switch selected by a switch on the rear panel. Included is a manual, command reference card, complete circuit schematics, and all mating connectors needed for hookup. If you are looking for a beginner PACKET TNC with a lot of bells and whistles check out this one from PacComm.

James Butler, KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

When operating in the CW mode most amateurs nowadays run an electronic keyer. One of the kits offered now is the TICK keyer. This is a PIC microprocessor based keyer with lots of bells and whistles. The kit cost is about \$20.00 for the parts and PC board. You add a power supply, connectors, and a case to put it in. The keyer has many features such as adjustable speed, memory for messages, beacon mode, paddle reverse, Iambic mode A or B, and others. This month's Project is the TICK KEYER. I built mine up in a switcher case and painted it match my other equipment. I also made some additions to the circuit for ease of operation. I put a switch to manually turn off the keyer audio, I put a switch to turn the keyer output off or on. I also added a tuning switch to place the radio in transmit mode for tuning with an antenna tuner. On the back I added an additional straight key input so you could switch to a straight key without having to unplug and plug. Since I had room in the case I build up a homemade paddle in the case for use with the keyer. I included a paddle input on the back so I could also use other paddles as needed. The TICK does a great job for easy CW keying and is the one I normally use around the house.

James Butler, KB4LJV



March

2005

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 Rick, KE4NTI	2 Madeleine, KI4AJI	3 MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM	4	5 Dixiefest
6 Dixiefest	7	8 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM	9	10	11 Jerry, K1HV Francis, WA4ZYN	12 John, WD4HZQ
13	14	15	16	17 Edgar, W4KIB James, KG4YZV	18 Art, KS4TZ Joan, KN4PM	19
20 Henry, WD4Q Jean, KD4FIP	21	22 Shelby Cty., ARES Meeting 6:45 PM Chris, W8BDH	23	24 Ned, KA4BLL	25 Delbert, KT4AB	26
27 Jon, K4LLP Philip, KF4TAF	28	29	30	31		

April

2005

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2 Dan, N4QLK
3	4	5	6 Ed, KD5IEI	7 MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM	8	9
10 Rosie, K4MPQ	11	12 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM	13	14	15	16 Thomas, KG4EOV
17	18 James, KB4LJV	19	20 Bill, KB4SQV	21 Neal, W4EKD	22 John, KG4OLG	23
24 Jennifer, KE4RKH	25	26 Shelby Cty., ARES Meeting 6:45 PM Jim, N4BSP James, N5JMY	27	28	29 David, N5COO	30



CONTEST CALENDAR

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

W1AW Qualifying Runs are 10 PM EST Friday, March 4 (0300Z March 5), and 7 PM Tuesday, March 22 (0000Z March 23) (10-40 QRL). The K6YR West Coast Qualifying Run will be at 9 PM PST Wednesday, March 16 (0500Z March 17) (10-40 wpm). Check the W1AW Sched-

ule elsewhere in this issue for details.

ARRL International DX Contest-- Phone--0000Z Mar 5-2400Z Mar 6 (see Dec 2004 *QST*, p 104.

DARC 10-Meter Digital "Corona"-- RTTY/AMTOR/PACTOR/PSK31/Clover, sponsored by Deutscher Amateur Radio Club from 1100Z-1700Z Mar 5 (see Nov 2004 *QST*, p 102 or www.darc.de/referate/dx/).

Open Ukraine RTTY Championship sponsored by the Ukrainian Amateur Radio League (UARL) from 2200Z Mar 5-0159Z Mar 6 (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.uarl.com.ua/openrtty/.

Spartan Sprint--CW--sponsored by the Adventure Radio Society from 0200Z - 0400Z Mar 8 (Monday evening in the US). Held on the first Monday of every month. Frequencies (MHz): 3.560, 7.040, 14.060, 21.060, 28.060 (QRP calling frequencies). For more information: www.arsqrp.com/ars/pages/spartan_sprints/ss_rules_new.html.

RSGB Commonwealth Contest--CW--sponsored by the RSGB from 1000Z Mar 12-1000Z Mar 13. 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.

Wisconsin QSO Party--Phone/CW--sponsored by the West Allis RAC from 1800Z Mar 13-0100Z Mar 14. Frequencies (MHz): CW--3.550, 3.705, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 10 meters; Phone--3.890, 7.230, 14.290, 21.350, 28.400; All modes--6/2 meters, UHF. No repeater QSOs. For more information: www.warac.org.

Oklahoma QSO Party--Phone/CW/Digital--sponsored by the Oklahoma DX Association (OKDXA) from 1400Z-0200Z Mar 12 and 1400Z-2000Z Mar 13. 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.

North American RTTY Sprint, sponsored by *NCJ* from 0000Z-0400Z Mar 13. Frequencies 80-20 meters. North American stations work everyone; others work NA stations only. For more information: www.ncjweb.com.

AGCW QRP Contest--CW--sponsored by the DL CW Activity Group (DL-AGCW) from 1400Z-2000Z Mar 12. Frequencies: 80-10-meters. For information--www.agcw.de.

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
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



Russian DX Contest--CW/SSB-- from 1200Z Mar 19-1200Z Mar 20. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For more information: www.rdx.org.

Virginia QSO Party--Phone/CW/Digital--sponsored by the Sterling Park ARC from 1800Z Mar 19-0200Z Mar 21. Frequencies (MHz): CW--1.805 and 50 kHz up, Phone--1.845, 3.860, 7.260, 14.270, 21.370, 28.370, Novice/Tech--28.370, VHF/UHF--50.125, 144.200, 146.58, 223.50, 446.00, Digital--normally accepted sub-bands. No repeater or crossmode QSOs. For more information: www.qsl.net/sterling.

10-10 Mobile Contest--any mode--sponsored by 10-10 International, from 0000Z-2359Z Mar 19. Frequencies: 10 meters only. For more information: www.ten-ten.org.

CLARA and Family HF Contest--Phone/CW--sponsored by the Canadian Ladies ARA, from 1700Z Mar 19-1700Z Mar 20. Frequencies (MHz): CW--14.033, 21.033, 7.033, 3.688, Phone--28.300, 21.225, 14.120 14.285, 7.033, 7.200, 3.750, 3.900, work CLARA and YL stations once per band/mode. Crossmode contacts count as phone for both stations. For more information: www.qsl.net/clara/contest.html.

9KCC Contest--CW/SSB--sponsored by the 9K Contest Club (Kuwait) from 1200Z-1600Z Mar 20. Frequencies: 15 meters only, work stations only once. For more information: www.qsl.net/9kcc/9KCCRule.htm.

BARTG Spring RTTY Contest--sponsored by the British Amateur Radio Teledata Group from 0200Z Mar 19-0200Z Mar 21. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: www.bartg.demon.co.uk.

Palestine, TX: Palestine/Anderson County Amateur Radio Club, K5PAL. 1600Z-2300Z **Mar 26**. Pal-

estine Dogwood Trails Festival. 14.260 7.260. Certificate. David Carnathan, N5XPC, 504 Micheaux, Palestine, TX 75801.

CQ WW WPX Contest--SSB--sponsored by *CQ Magazine*, from 0000Z Mar 26-2400Z Mar 27 (CW is May 28-29). Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For more information: www.cqwp.com.

Spring QRP Homebrewer Sprint--CW/PSK31--sponsored by New Jersey QRP Club, 0000Z-0400Z Mar 28. Frequencies: QRP CW and PSK31 frequencies on 80-10 meters, CW and PSK31 are considered separate bands. For more information: www.njqrp.org/data/qrp-homebrewersprint.html.

Low Power Spring Sprint--CW--sponsored by the Slovak Amateur Radio Association (SARA) from 1400Z-2000Z Mar 28. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For more information contact om3kfv@zoznam.sk.

Lighthouse Spring Lites QSO Party--all modes--sponsored by the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society from 0001Z Mar 26-2359Z Apr 3. Frequencies (MHz): CW--1.830, 3.530, 7.030, 14.030, 21.030, 28.030; SSB--1.970, 3.970, 7.270, 14.270, 21.370, 28.370. For more information: <http://arlhs.com/SL-2005-guidelines.html>.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Arlington Heights, IL: US Peace Corps ARC, KA9NLX. 1700Z **Mar 1**-2100Z **Mar 5**. 44th anniversary of the founding of United States Peace Corps. 28.500 21.375 14.325 7.283 3.985 2 m. Certificate. John Paskevich, 1423 North Ridge Ave, Arlington Heights, IL 60004.

San Antonio, TX: San Antonio Radio Club, W5SC. 2330Z **Mar 4**-2330Z **Mar 6**. Texas Independence Station, San Antonio. 28.450 14.250

7.250 3.850. Certificate. San Antonio Radio Club, PO Box 34263, San Antonio, TX 78265.

Newport News, VA: Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service, W4CAR. 1500Z-2100Z **Mar 5**. Battle of the Ironclads, 143rd Anniversary. 28.362 21.362 14.062 7.262 7.062 PSK31. Certificate. W4CAR, PO Box 6867, Chesapeake, VA 23323. www.qsl.net/cars/.

San Antonio, TX: Alamo Area Radio Organization, AA5RO. 1400Z **Mar 5**-2400Z **Mar 6**. "Remember The Alamo" 168th anniversary, battle of the Alamo. 28.450 21.350 14.250 7.250. Certificate. Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW, 6146 Spring Time Dr, San Antonio, TX 78249. <http://users.stic.net/aaro>

Mena, AR: Boy Scout Troop 850, WB5BSA. 2300Z **March 11**-1800Z **Mar 15**. 30+ mile backpack trip for the Backpacking Merit Badge. 14.325. QSL. Larry Holden, W5MPA, 907 W Lakeview Dr, Guthrie, OK 73044. www.geocities.com/bsatrop850/Picturearch.htm.
Macon, GA: Macon Amateur Radio Club, W4BKM. 1500Z-2200Z **Mar 19**. 23rd Annual Cherry Blossom Festival. 21.335 14.240 14.055 7.055. Certificate. Macon ARC, PO Box 4862, Macon, GA 31208. www.qsl.net/w4bkm

Virginia Beach, VA, and Moss, Norway: Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club, Inc, and Mossegruppen av NRRL, W4UG and LA5M. 1300Z **Mar 19**-2200Z **Mar 20**. 114th anniversary of the Norwegian Lady. US: 14.278 14.040 7.280 7.040 Norway: 28.363 21.192 18.164 18.145 14.278 14.070 (7.121 morning) 7.040. Certificate. US: VBARC, PO Box 62003, Virginia Beach, VA 23462. Norway: Haakon Andreassen, LA1YKA, PO Box 88, N-1501, Moss, Norway; include 1 IRC and A4 envelope.

Santa Ana, CA: Anaheim Police Amateur Radio Club, K6O. 0000Z **Apr 1-2400Z Apr 15.** 60th Anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa in WW2. 28.450 21.350 18.150 14.250. QSL. Mark McMullin, KM6HB, PO Box 27271, Santa Ana, CA 92799.

Gig Harbor, WA: Peninsula Amateur Radio Emergency Team, KA7EOC. 1600Z-2300Z **Apr 2.** Gig Harbor Health and Safety Expo. 14.270. Certificate. Mark Yordy, W7BBO, 8914 149th St NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98329.

St Joseph, MO: Missouri Valley Amateur Radio Club, W0P. 1400Z-2200Z **Apr 2.** Start of the Pony Express. 28.350 21.350 14.250 7.250. Certificate. Missouri Valley Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1533, St Joseph, MO 64502.

Tulsa, OK: Tulsa Health Department Amateur Radio Club, K5THD. 0000Z-2400Z **Apr 2.** Celebrating World Health Day 2005. 28.365 21.365 14.265 7.265. Certificate. Dave Cox, Tulsa Health Department Amateur Radio Club, 5051 S 129 E Ave, Tulsa, OK 74134. www.tulsa-health.org/k5thd.

Zebulon, NC: Triangle East ARA, WA4UQC. 1400Z-2000Z **Apr 2.** Scootworks Open House & ACS Relay for Life. 21.275 14.275 7.275 147.39. Certificate. Dave Hockaday, WB4IUY, 7804 River Dare Ave, Youngsville, NC 27596. www.TEARA.org.

Brampton, ON: Peel/Mississauga Amateur Radio Clubs, VE3XR. 1300Z-1600Z **Apr 9.** Ham-Ex Annual Hamfest. 14.265 7.240. QSL. Via bureau or direct to Jeff Richardson, VA3QSL, 36 Crawley Dr, Brampton, ON, Canada L6T 2S1. www.peelarc.org. Note: US postage cannot be used in Canada.

Green Valley, AZ: Green Valley Amateur Radio Club, N7GV. 1500Z-

2300Z **Apr 9.** Community Emergency Awareness in the Best Snowbird Nest in the Southwest. 21.375 14.245 14.050 145.29. Certificate. Gene Schouweiler, W0KAD, 214 N Crocodile Rock Dr, Green Valley, AZ 85614.

Indian Orchard, MA: *Titanic* Historical Society, W1MGY. 1330Z **Apr 9-0527Z Apr 15.** Commemorating the 93rd anniversary of the *Titanic* voyage. 14.260 14.033 7.033 3.860. QSL. *Titanic* Historical Society QSL, PO Box 51053, 208 Main St, Indian Orchard, MA 01151-0053. www.hcra.org/titanic.htm

Trento, Italy: Carabinieri On The Air (C.O.T.A.), I13CC. 0700Z **Apr 15-1900Z Apr 17.** XVI National Meeting ANC Associazione Nazionale Carabinieri. 28.500 21.280 14.280 7.070. QSL. Orlando Balisciano, IZ8DDG, Via Villa Bisignano, V Traversa no. 21, Napoli, Italy 80147. www.cota.cc.

Bethlehem, PA: Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, W3OK. 1700Z-1900Z **Apr 16.** National Library Week. 14.250 7.250 7.105 146.560. QSL. W3OK DLARC, RR 4 Greystone Bldg, Nazareth, PA 18064-9211. www.dlarc.org.

Blacksburg, VA: Virginia Tech Amateur Radio Association, K4KDJ. 1200Z-0000Z **Apr 16.** Tenth anniversary of the Virginia Tech Alumni Net. 21.350 14.260 7.260 3.980. Certificate. Virginia Tech Amateur Radio Association, 347 Squires Student Center, Blacksburg, VA 24060. www.vtara.org.vt.edu

St Louis, MO: Jefferson Barracks Amateur Radio Club, K0ZFK. 1600Z-2000Z **Apr 16.** West Point of the West, Jefferson Barracks. 28.238 14.238 7.238. Certificate. Jefferson Barracks ARC, PO Box 6553, St Louis, MO 63125-6553. www.jbarc.org.

Topeka, KS: Local Amateur Radio Operators, N0G. 1400Z-2200Z **Apr 16.** 150th anniversary of the Kansas National Guard. 28.400 21.400 14.300. Certificate. Steve Hamilton, KBOJYL, 2503 SW Carlson Rd, Topeka, KS 66614.

Piscataway, NJ: Piscataway Amateur Radio Club, K2VOA. 1600Z **Apr 16-2400Z Apr 17.** Former Voice of America relay station WBOU. 21.370 28.370 14.270 7.270. Certificate. Bill Toth, 6 Rivercrest Dr, Piscataway, NJ 08854.

Broken Arrow, OK: Wayne Rumley Amateur Radio, W5R. 0000Z **Apr 22-0000Z Apr 24.** 50th anniversary of Rock and Roll. 21.250 14.250 7.250 3.850. QSL. Wayne Rumley II, WA5YNE, 12315 E 61 St, Broken Arrow, OK 74012.

Asheboro, NC: Randolph Amateur Radio Club, NC4ZO. 1400Z-2000Z **Apr 23.** Celebrating spring at the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro. 28.400 21.350 14.260 7.275. Certificate. Butch Simpson, 6747 King Mountain Rd, Asheboro, NC 27205.

Norman, OK: South Canadian Amateur Radio Society, W5NOR. 1500Z-2100Z **Apr 23.** Commemorating the Oklahoma Land Run of 1889. 14.315. QSL. SCARS, PO Box 720993, Norman, OK 73070.

Farmville, NC: Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club, W4AMC. 1200-2100Z **Apr 23-1200-2100Z Apr 24.** 18th Annual Farmville, NC, Dogwood Festival. 14.045 7.275 7.125 3.875. QSL. Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 8387, Greenville, NC 27835-7207.

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

LOCAL HAMFESTS OF INTEREST

Russellville Hamfest

Arkansas River Valley AR Association
Russellville, AR
March 5, 2005

DixieFest 2005

DixieFest Committee
Southaven Expo, Southaven, MS
March 5-6, 2005

Middle Tennessee Hamfest

Middle Tennessee ARS
Tennessee State Convention
Tullahoma, TN
March, 19-20, 2005

Delta Amateur Radio Club

February 2005 Treasurers Report

Balance 1/25/2005 **\$5629.98**

Expense

2/1	BellSouth	58.42
2/1	Martin County United Way	55.00
2/1	TN Sec. Of State	20.00
2/10	Dixiefest	100.00
2/22	Postmaster	38.00
2/24	The University of Memphis	22.94

Income

2/5	Martin County United Way	55.00
2/5	Dues	305.00
2/10	Dues	205.00
2/10	Rebate from ICOM	45.00
2/28	Dues	160.00

Balance 2/28/2005 **\$6105.62**

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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