

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

P.O. BOX 750482 MEMPHIS, TN 38175-0482 / VOL. 16 / DECEMBER, 2004



Happy Holidays
from the
Delta Amateur Radio Club!

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

W4BS
REPEATER
SYSTEM
146.82, 147.36,
224.42 443.2

DECEMBER 2004 CLUB MEETING

DATE: December 14, 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:

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. 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, December 24th. 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

The year as finally spun around to a close. We had a year filled with very successful events and activities, including many interesting and informative programs presented at the club meetings. The 2004 Board of Directors have been able to trim some of the heavy expenses in several targeted areas. We have also been able offer hats and jackets with the Club's Logo, and in most cases, with the purchaser's Name and Call Sign. Through generous donations of technical skills, labor, and materials, we were able to offer unique ham programs on CD disks for sale to help raise additional funds.

Unfortunately, we already are aware that there is going to be a need for additional funds to upgrade and provide repairs to our Club's repeaters this coming year. We have skated by these expenses for the last several years, and in fact, at one time many years ago the Club kept a separate checking

or savings account devoted solely to this purpose. The account was combined with the general funds account several years ago to save service fee charges.

As in-coming President for 2005, I am continuing to be devoted to serving the Club and its membership in their best interest.

73
Ned Savage

**Delta Amateur Radio Club
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2004**

Due to the November 2 National Election falling on our normal Board Meeting date, it was decided to postpone the meeting and hold a short board meeting prior to the November General Membership meeting, November 9 at 6 pm. Because of a traffic delayed Secretary, the following minutes were compiled by Ned, KA4BLL.

Members who were in attendance: Ned Savage, KA4BLL; Bill Covington, KC4SXT; Bill Torkell, KG4VAW; Roger Paulson, K4KCU; Randy VanVoorhis, W4RMV; & non-board member, John Zempel, KG4OLG.

The treasure's report shows an ending balance of \$4132.56, which includes expenditure of \$1499.45 for prizes and an income of \$160.00 in ticket sales.

Old Business:

Report by Bill Covington on product sales. Randy stated golf shirts can be purchased from an outlet with them doing the Club Logo, for less than we can get just the shirts from our current outlet. Shirts with pockets would also be available from this source for just a couple of dollars more.

Ned reported that Tommy was working with BellSouth to lower our phone bill, and has said that some progress has been made.

New Business:

We will have to order plaques for the December Meeting.

Randy suggested that we continue the Boards' traditional annual joint meeting, which is held with the new incoming Board of Directors and the out-going Board members at the December meeting. This meeting for past three or more years has been a POTLUCK dinner. Motion made and passed to have the dinner meeting on the 7th of December at Ellendale Church.

Motion made and passed to have the club meeting on the 14th, also be a potluck Dinner, as it was last year.

Motion to adjourn: Made and passed.

Respectfully submitted by:
Tommy Thompson, KD4TJO

**Delta Amateur Radio Club
Membership Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2004**

Ned Savage, KA4BLL called the November General Membership Meeting for the Delta Amateur Radio Club to order at approximately 7:05 pm local time with 35 members and guests present.

Ned, KA4BLL called for introductions of all in attendance.

Motions to accept the treasurer's report and secretary's report as published in SPARKS passed.

Old Business:

Election of 2005 Club Officers – Ned, KA4BLL once again presented the nominating committee's slate of officers for the upcoming year and called for any other nominations from the floor.

No other nominations were presented and a motion

for accepting the current nominees by acclamation was made and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Tommy, KD4TJO announced that he has been working on some club involvement with the ARRL Toy Drive for the Florida Children left homeless in the hurricanes this year. We have already had some members bring toys to the meeting tonight. We can get some publicity from Channel 3 if we set up a drop off location for people to bring toys. Tommy is working on getting a location now and will advise via the Yahoo group.

Also, the St. Jude Memphis Marathon is on December 4 and we need approximately 30-35 volunteers to help with that public service project. Contact Tommy if you can help out.

Tommy, KD4TJO with help from Ned, passed out Certificates of Appreciation for those members that have helped with VE Testing and other public service events throughout the year.

After a short break, tickets were drawn for the annual prizes. There were a lot of great prizes given away to those in attendance. Thanks to everyone for supporting this annual event.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Tommy, KD4TJO
Secretary

From the ARRL Newsletter

FCC REQUIRES ARIZONA BPL FIELD TRIAL OPERATOR TO WORK WITH AMATEUR CLUB

The FCC has required Electric Broadband LLC (EB), which is running a BPL field trial in

Cottonwood, Arizona, to maintain contact with a local Amateur Radio club. The Commission granted EB a Part 5 Experimental license WD2XMB for the company's BPL pilot on November 19, although the ARRL earlier this year asked the Commission to withdraw its authorization for the operation. Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association (VVARA) <<http://www.vvara.org/>> BPL Committee Chair Robert Shipton, K8EQC, believes it might be the first time the FCC has ever imposed such a requirement.

"Our BPL committee in Cottonwood was surprised to see this stipulation," Shipton told ARRL. "Time will tell if it really matters or not."

Under a "Special Conditions" section in the WD2XMB experimental license, the FCC stipulated that the licensee "must establish and maintain a liaison relationship with the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association." The Commission also required EB to respond to interference complaints "in a timely manner." System operators indicated earlier this fall that they would notch amateur frequencies, including 60 meters. Interference is still being experienced in the 60 meter band, VVARA says.

Shipton said Mountain Telecommunications Inc, which handles system operations, has worked with the VVARA and "expressed sincerity" in resolving interference to any amateur frequencies affected by their equipment. "Although progress with notching has been made, the representative samples in a trial that is statistically too small in geographical area will not demonstrate any significant results," Shipton said. "Our club questions whether a buildout that involves many more HF segments would be able to avoid the use of amateur spectrum."

EB and utility APS have been operating the BPL experiment at two Yavapai County, Arizona, sites since June, and relations with the amateur community have not always been so placid. The first Amateur Radio complaint, filed in June, cited VVARA testing at HF that asserted BPL interference was making attempts at ham radio

communication useless. VVARA submitted a lengthy and comprehensive report to the two companies and the FCC in late July detailing interference issues.

In support of the VVARA effort, the ARRL has twice asked the FCC to shut down the Cottonwood BPL field trial for interfering with Amateur Radio communication. The League's own testing of the Cottonwood system this past summer indicated "extremely high" levels of radiated RF energy on amateur HF allocations--well in excess of the FCC Part 15 levels with which EB told the FCC it would comply.

The League's second shutdown request, sent October 11, accused the FCC of doing "absolutely nothing" to enforce its rules or to protect licensed services from interference. The ARRL said the Commission should not reinstate or extend the Special Temporary Authorization, under which the EB system had operated until the STA's expiration in September, and "no experimental authorization should be permitted for this system."

In an accompanying 12-page technical analysis, the ARRL also cast serious doubt on the accuracy--and possibly the integrity--of the BPL system's FCC-required six-month report, filed more than two months late.

The FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology, which handles grants applications for STAs and Part 5 Experimental licenses, has yet to respond to the League's assertions and requests regarding operation of the Cottonwood BPL field trial.

Replying to FCC inquiries prompted by Amateur Radio interference complaints, Electric Broadband has claimed to have spent "significant time and effort" looking into interference complaints from hams, running tests and "taking steps to mitigate any possible interference" the system might be causing, and it invited the FCC to visit and see for itself.

For additional information, visit the "Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio" page on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/bpl/>>. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>>.

SPACE CHATS EXHILARATE LONG ISLAND, QUEBEC SCHOOLS

Teacher April Pokorny's fifth graders at Westhampton Beach Elementary School on Long Island, New York, had reason to be grateful the day before Thanksgiving. That's when they got a chance to speak via Amateur Radio with International Space Station Expedition 10 Commander Leroy Chiao, KE5BRW, at NA1SS. Secondary school students in Quebec spoke with Chiao via ham radio on November 30. Both contacts were arranged via the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. Pokorny said the Long Island school's November 24 contact provided a connection between classroom learning and real life.

"What could possibly be more exciting than talking to an astronaut while he is in space," she told a reporter for TV Channel 12. In addition to TV coverage, one radio station and two newspapers reported the event.

Among other things, Chiao told the Westhampton Beach pupils that the food aboard the ISS was pretty good, that the orbit of the ISS could be altered "a little bit," and that the 2003 shuttle Columbia tragedy, in which seven astronauts died, did not deter his desire to go into space. "We're all professional astronauts, and this is what we do, and we know what the risks are" he said.

Chiao said he enjoys looking out the window and taking pictures, and he sometimes spends his spare time watching movies. "I also like floating around a lot," he said. Chiao told another youngster that it would be easier to pitch a fast ball on Earth than in zero gravity.

Members of the Peconic Amateur Radio Club (PARC) set up the W2AMC Earth station and made other technical arrangements to enable the contact. PARC also assisted in a 2002 ARISS contact with Quogue School, also on Long Island.

"Second time around was not as scary as the first time, but it was not without the usual need for backup planning," PARC President Roberta Keis, N2RBU, said. An auxiliary generator ended up running all the radio and videoconferencing equipment after power at the school kept cutting out due to damp, rainy conditions that day. PARC members also needed to make a last-minute antenna controller repair.

"The after-contact comments were all positive," Keis said. "Words like 'amazing' and 'wow!' were mixed with tears of emotion and a general feeling of floating on air."

On November 30, youngsters at the Fernand Lefebvre Secondary School in Sorel-Tracy, Quebec, Canada, chatted with Chiao during a somewhat curtailed contact. Calls by Earth station operator Luc Leblanc, VE2DWE, were met with packet bursts during the first several minutes of the 10-minute pass. When Chiao's voice finally came through loud and clear, "all in the auditorium started to breathe again," said ARISS-Canada's Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA.

Chiao told the students he had trained for about three years before going into space in October. In response to other questions, Chiao again said he enjoyed being able to float around, but that zero gravity did have its downside.

"Everything's a little trickier in zero gravity because there's no gravity to help keep things in their place," he said. "It's easy to lose things. Just small, little things go floating away. You have to pay attention to what you're doing and know where everything is."

Remarked Lamoureux afterward, "Despite the

shortened contact, the ARISS spirit was present, and all will remember the event for a long time."

Members of the Sorel-Tracy Amateur Radio Club, VE2CBS, set up the Earth station for the contact. An audience of some 450 parents, teachers and visitors looked on, and 1800 students outside the auditorium heard the contact via an intercom link.

ARISS <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss/>> is an international educational outreach with US participation from ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

RARE ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS (VU4) DXPEDITION ON THE AIR!

The National Institute of Amateur Radio-sponsored DXpedition to Andaman and Nicobar Islands (VU4) took to the air December 2 at 1831 UTC, generating a lot of HF excitement. The five-member NIAR team, headed by Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI, will operate as VU4RBI and VU4NRO from the capital city of Port Blair through the end of December.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands is considered among the top most-wanted DXCC entities--some listings put it at number 1. While the DXpedition's first and primary activity has been on 20-meter SSB, operation has begun to expand to other bands and modes. As of week's end, numerous US stations were still reporting trouble even hearing either VU4 station, much less working them. DX spot comments such as "zilch in Ohio" and "nuttin in NNJ" reflected the frustration of those witnessing the success of fellow amateurs elsewhere. An opening to the East Coast December 9 eased the pressure a bit. While some CW operation using the VU4 call signs early on was apparently the work of a pirate, the DXpedition did start up briefly on 15 CW on December 8.

The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com>> this week had reported that US amateur Charly Harpole, K4VUD, might join the Andamans DXpedition as a guest op, but things did not work out. On December

10, The Daily DX reported Harpole would visit the DXpedition "as a tourist" to take photos and video, but not to operate. "However there is nothing that will stop him from listening, making suggestions or helping with any projects in order to keep the operators QRV around the clock," added The Daily DX Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR.

McClenny, who also edits "How's DX?" for QST, said Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ, has generated PropView short and long-path propagation forecasts between each continental US call area and the Andamans <http://www.ambersoft.com/Amateur_Radio/VU4>. The projections used are optimistic, McClenny said.

VU4RBI and VU4NRO are the only call signs authorized from Andaman and Nicobar Islands. QSL to NIAR, Rajbhavan Road, Hyderabad-500 082, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA. More information is available on the NIAR Web site <<http://www.niar.org/>>.

SCAMP ON-AIR TESTING COMMENCES

The Sound Card Amateur Message Protocol--or SCAMP--is not just a conference paper topic anymore. On-the-air testing of the digital communication protocol began in late November, and the first transcontinental communication using SCAMP occurred on December 4. SCAMP is designed to eliminate the need for pricey external hardware for passing e-mail traffic on relatively narrow-bandwidth channels. Rick Muething, KN6KB, prepared a presentation on SCAMP for the ARRL-TAPR Digital Communications Conference in September.

"SCAMP is an example of what is now possible with sound card, computer and software technology using cooperative amateur efforts," he says. "SCAMP and similar programs like DIGTRX for image transmission offer low-cost alternatives to dedicated or proprietary hardware."

As Muething explains, SCAMP is intended for transmitting messages--text with binary attachments--via 2-kHz bandwidth HF and VHF voice channels. The program is compatible with Winlink2000. SCAMP uses the Redundant Digital File Transfer (RDFT) transport layer, developed by Barry Sanderson, KB9VAK, with the addition of Automatic Repeat Request (ARQ)--the technique all "linked" modes use to ensure error-free transmission--and message layer protocols that Muething developed. He says SCAMP offers a moderate-throughput, error-free protocol that works using conventional sound cards and modestly powered computers.

The RDFT utilities and documentation for the Windows and Linux operating systems have been released under the GNU General Public License (GPL).

Muething says a dozen dedicated testers began initial on-air testing on HF and VHF November 27 using the alpha version of a Windows-based SCAMP client called Paalink SCD that he and Vic Poor, W5SMM, developed.

In addition to Muething and Poor, alpha testers included Scott Thile, K4SET; Bud Thompson, N0IA; Bill Hickey, AB7AA; Howard White, VE3GFW; Dave Wagner, WA2DXQ; Lor Kutchins, W3QA; Larry Trullinger, KB0EMB; Mike Burton, N6KZB; Bill Kearns, WB6JAR, and Steve Waterman, K4CJX. Primary testing was done on 40, 30 and 20 meters, and VHF testing was carried out on 2-meters using both FM and SSB. Alpha testing will continue over the next several weeks, and beta testing is set to crank up in February, Muething says.

The first successful transcontinental exchange of Amateur Radio e-mail messages using SCAMP took place December 4 on 20 meters between N6KZB in Temecula, California, and W3QA in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Each station ran 70 W.

"Several other two-way exchanges were also made

over the weekend as operational and protocol bugs were fixed in the alpha software," Muething reports. "The throughput of SCAMP adjusts to the channel quality, reaching a current net maximum of about 4800 bytes per minute before compression gains."

Muething says SCAMP doesn't require anything more than a 1-GHz class Pentium or Celeron processor with a minimum of 128 MB of memory to reach full throughput. Lesser systems may be used at reduced throughput.

The complete SCAMP specification is available and will be released under the GPL as a blueprint for client developers to insure compatibility across different implementations. Muething says further protocol optimization continues to up system throughput and improve its robustness in poor HF multipath channels.

He'd also like to see some band plan restructuring to "open up spectrum for digital modes and encourage new experimentation and development like "SCAMP." The ARRL has sought comment from the amateur community on draft proposals <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/bandwidth.html>> seeking to regulate subbands by emission bandwidth rather than by mode. At this point, the proposals remain a work in progress, and the ARRL has not petitioned the FCC for any changes.

Muething has more information on SCAMP. Contact him via e-mail <kn6kb@arrl.net>. Information on RDFT is available on the Web <<http://www.svs.net/wyman/examples/hdsstv/index.html>>.

ENHANCED COOPERATION FOCUS OF ARES-RACES-MARS MEETING

Enhancing cooperation among Amateur Radio's emergency service organizations was the subject of a groundbreaking conference November 20 in Castle Point, New York. On hand were Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), Radio Amateur Civil

Emergency Service (RACES) and Army, Air Force and Navy-Marine Corps Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) leaders. While informal cooperation is nothing new to ARES, RACES and MARS members--many of whom participate in all three organizations--the focus of the Castle Point gathering was on launching more formal regional and national collaboration. ARRL Field Organization/Public Service Team Leader Steve Ewald, WV1X, said he was pleased to be able to participate.

"I thought it was an excellent meeting, and it should lay a foundation for further cooperation between ARRL and our Field Organization and MARS," he said afterward. Ewald also used the occasion to call attention to the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications courses and the tuition grants available for radio amateurs completing them. Joining him under the League banner were ARRL Field Organization appointees Pete Cecere, N2YJZ, the Eastern New York Section Manager, and Tom Carrubba, KA2D, the New York City-Long Island Section Emergency Coordinator.

Newly designated New York Army MARS-ARRL Liaison Officer Richard Meirowitz, WA2ELE, organized the session, and New York MARS Director Steve Pertgen, W2FXJ, chaired the meeting at the Castle Point Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Keynote speaker was Army MARS Eastern Area Coordinator Robert Hollister, AAA9E/N7INK, from Ft Huachuca, Arizona (and the author of "A Portable NVIS Antenna," which will appear in the January 2005 QST). He expressed the hope that MARS management and ARRL would join forces to pursue the goal of interoperability. To jump start that initiative, Hollister provided an overview of the US Department of Defense (DoD) MARS program and its emphasis on providing emergency communication support to a wide variety of military and government response agencies.

In September, Hollister asked MARS stations and

nets to coordinate with ARES/RACES and local ham radio operators to assist in handling hurricane-related health-and-welfare traffic. Amateur Radio and the military already collaborate informally each May during the Armed Forces Day communications tests, when hams and military stations engage in crossband contacts. Several pilot operations also have employed ARES/RACES members in past Army Reserve exercises at the local level.

Among proposals was a suggestion to seek FCC permission to conduct year-round interoperability training and emergency operation. It also was proposed that the amateur community assist MARS in providing early warning notification of emergency situations--so-called "Essential Elements of Information" messages--for relay to the DoD and the Department of Homeland Security.

Following Hollister's briefing, MARS Eastern Area Emergency Operations Chief John Scoggin, W3JKS, of Wilmington, Delaware, discussed last summer's nationwide Grecian Firebolt 2004 (GF-04) Army Signal communication exercise--the biggest MARS drill ever. At Pertgen's suggestion, Meiowitz tested the feasibility of MARS-ARES-RACES collaboration during GF-04, and ARES volunteers from eastern New York took part in the exercise, which involved a homeland defense/homeland security scenario. Meiowitz called it "a small but successful joint effort." Ewald noted that the Grecian Firebolt exercises were similar in nature to the ARRL's Simulated Emergency Test each fall.

Hollister suggested that ARES/RACES participation in the next annual Army Signal exercise be worked out on a state-by-state basis. Also proposed was the designation of additional MARS-ARRL liaison officers at the state level.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Foundation For Amateur Radio solicits scholarship applications: The Foundation for Amateur Radio Inc (FAR) <<http://www.amateurradio-far.org/>>, a non-profit organization headquartered in Washington,

DC, plans to administer more than 55 scholarships for the 2005-2006 academic year to assist radio amateurs. Awards range from \$500 to \$2500. FAR invites Amateur Radio licensees now enrolled in or accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school to compete for these scholarships. Preference in some cases goes to residents of specific geographical areas or to those pursuing certain programs of study. FAR encourages Amateur Radio clubs--especially those in Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin--to announce these scholarship opportunities at meetings, in newsletters, during training classes, on nets and on Web pages. Additional information and an application form is available by sending a letter or QSL card postmarked prior to April 30, 2005, to FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738. The Foundation for Amateur Radio is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization.

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES HIGH-SPEED TELEGRAPHY ACHIEVEMENT

Guinness World Records Ltd has recognized the high-speed telegraphy achievement of Andrei Bindasov, EU7KI. "On 6 May 2003 Andrei Bindasov (Belarus) transmitted 216 marks of mixed text per minute during the 5th International Amateur Radio Union World Championship in High Speed Telegraphy in Belarus," the Guinness database listing states. Witnessing the accomplishment in Minsk were HST International Referee Oscar Verbanck, ON5ME, Region 1 Executive Committee member Panayot Danev, LZ1US, and IARU Region 1 HST Coordinator Oliver Tabakovski, Z32TO. Bindasov says he received the official certificate from Guinness November 24. Bindasov also sent 271 letters per minute and 230 figures per minute during those phases of the 2003 HST competition <<http://www.qsl.net/yo4kca/hstrules.htm>>.

PACKET UPDATE

Many times we want to try out different digital modes for amateur radio. The good news is playing with digital modes using newer computers is now easy. To receive all you need is a computer with a sound card and some software. Morse code, the oldest digital mode, can also be hooked into your computer. Two companion programs for this is CWGET and CWTYPE. The CWGET program allows you to monitor morse code transmissions and show them on your screen. If you already have a PSK31 setup interfaced to your radio all you have to do is run the program. Audio from the radios speakers jack is sent to the sound card a decoded. The program works well and is simple to use. CWTYPE is a program that also runs on your PC and lets you type in text to the keyboard and convert it to Morse code. This program requires a simple interface to be able to key the radio. The programs are both shareware and available on the internet. These software programs make it easy to try out computer assisted Morse code or help in receiving that fast CW.

James Butler
KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Many club members bought some of the gel- cell batteries that Lance found for us to use in emergency communications. Keeping these batteries charged up and ready to go in case they are needed is a high priority. The batteries need to be kept charged up without overcharging them. One circuit for this is a maintenance charger like the ones used on emergency lighting systems. Many times these are taken out of service and discarded. This month's project is the GEL- CELL BATTERY CHARGER. The circuit is taken from surplus emergency light charger circuit. These types of circuit boards are available from supplies like ALL ELECTRONICS and others. A search on the internet will find a lot of suppliers for the circuits. I built up the circuit into a spare printer switcher box and painted it up to match my other portable equipment. Now I can have a gel-cell fully charged and ready to go when needed.

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING
James Butler, KB4LJV



DECEMBER

2004

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 Robert, KG4CMA	2 MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM	3 Fred, KJ2K	4 Alex, KE4GYR
5 James, WA4RW	6 Jim, KI4I	7	8	9 Mary, NV4Z	10	11
12 Jamie, KC5AXC Frederick, AB4HS	13	14 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM John, K3LK	15	16 Scott, N2WMD	17 Jonathan Kagoo	18 James, N5WFF
19 Charles, W4BIV	20 Jason, KI4BXX	21 Shannon, KI4DIX	22	23	24 Marion, N4VTB	25
26 Darrell, KE4DHF Brenda, KE4MKK	27	28	29 Craig, KN4FC James Pace	30 Bob, KF4NDH	31 Don, KA4BMI	

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	26	27	28	29



CONTEST CALENDAR

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

coincident with ARRL 10-Meter contest.

Great Colorado Snowshoe Run-- CW, sponsored by the Colorado QRP Club from 0200Z-0359Z Dec 11. Frequencies: 40 meters only. For more information: www.cqc.org/contests/snow2004.htm.

North American Meteor Scatter Contest--any mode, sponsored by the WSJTGROU from 0000Z Dec 11-0700Z Dec 15 (the Geminids meteor shower). Frequencies

(MHz): 50, 144, 222, 432, via meteor scatter. For more information: www.ykc.com/wa5ufh/Rally/NAHSMS.htm

OK DX RTTY Contest--sponsored by the Czech Radio Club, 0000Z-2400Z Dec 18. Categories: SOAB (LP, HP >100W), SOSB, MOAB, SWL. Frequencies: 80-10 meters according to IARU band plan. For information: www.crk.cz/ENG/DXCONTE.HTM.

Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge--CW, sponsored by the Boring Amateur Radio Club, 1500Z Dec 18-1500Z Dec 19. For more information: <http://jzap.com/k7rat/stew.rules.txt>.

PSK31 Death Match--PSK31 and PSK63, sponsored by the Michigan DX Association, 0000Z Dec 18-2400Z Dec 19. Frequencies: 80-6 meters, PSK31 and PSK63 count as separate "bands". For more information: www.mdxa1.org/deathmatch.html.

Russian 160-Meter Contest--CW/SSB--sponsored by *Radio Magazine*, from 0000Z-0200Z Dec 18. For more information: www.radio.ru/cq/contest/rule.

Croatian CW Contest--sponsored by Hrvatski Radioamaterski Savez (HRS), from 1400Z Dec 18-1400Z Dec 19. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For more information: www.qsl.net/ctc/.

RAC Winter Contest--CW/Phone, sponsored by the Radio Amateurs of Canada, 0000Z-

ARRL 10 Meter Contest--0000Z Dec 11-2400Z Dec 12. See Nov *QST*, p 104.

28 MHz SWL Contest--sponsored by Lambert Wijshake NL-10175,

The W4BS Elmer Shack

Please feel free to contact any of our ELMERS to help you enhance your amateur skills. Anyone wishing to be added to the Elmer list please contact Ned at ka4bll@arrl.net or 363-9607.

Codes:

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

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

KA4BLL (Extra) Ned Savage 363-9607
ka4bll@arrl.net (1, 5, 8, 14, MARS, ARES/RACES, net control, traffic handling, emergency service)

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

KD4NOQ (Adv) David Campbell 388-6166
kd4noq@bellsouth.net (1,2,3,5,9,10,14, 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)

2359Z Dec 18. Frequencies (MHz): CW--25 kHz up from the band edge (check on the half hour), Phone--1.850, 3.775, 7.075, 7.225, 14.175, 21.250, 28.500, 50 and 144 MHz. For information: www.rac.ca/downloads/canwin2004.pdf.

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party--all modes, sponsored by the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society, 0000Z Dec 18-2400Z Jan 2, 2005. 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, plus VHF and repeaters. For more information: <http://arlhs.com>.

DARC Christmas Contest--CW/SSB, sponsored by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club, 0830Z-1100Z Dec 26. Frequencies (MHz): CW--3.510-3.560, 7.010-7.040, SSB--3.610-3.650 and 3.700-3.775, 7.040. For more information: www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcx.htm

ARRL Straight Key Night--see page 105 of this issue.

UBA-SWARL 365 Day Contest--All modes--sponsored by the Royal Society of Radio Amateurs (UBA) and the Short Wave Amateur Radio Listening (SWARL) during 2004. Participants log DXCC entities on all amateur bands from 160-10 meters, including WARC bands, according to the IARU band plans. For more information: www.uba.be/hf_contests/calendar/cal_pop_01.html#.

January 1, 2005

New Year's Snowball Contest--sponsored by the Activity Group of Belarus (AGB)-- www.qsl.net/eu1eu/index_e.htm

HA Happy New Year Contest--sponsored by the Budapest Society of the Hungarian Radio Amateur Society and the Puskás Tivadar Radio Amateur Club-- <http://radioklub.puskas.hu/ha5khc/web/>

SARTG New Year RTTY Contest--sponsored by the Scandinavian RTTY Activity Group (SARTG)--

www.sartg.com/contest/nyrules.htm

AGCW Happy New Year Contest--sponsored by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft CW-- www.agcw.de/.

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 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).

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 ukdxc@scotham.net or UK DX RTTY Contest Committee, PO Box 7469, Glasgow, G42 0YD, Scotland, UK.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Nazareth-Bethlehem, PA: Christmas ARC and Delaware-Lehigh ARC, WX3MAS. 1400Z **Dec 11-0200Z Dec 13**. Annual Christmas greetings from the twin Christmas Cities. 28.465 21.365 14.265 7.270 3.970. Certificate. CCARC/DLARC, WX3MAS, Greystone Building, Gracedale Complex, RR 8, Nazareth, PA 18064. www.dlarc.org.

Delmar, NY: Marconi Net, W2M. 0200Z-0400Z **Dec 13**. Commemorating the first anniversary of the Marconi Net. 3.872. Certificate. Fred Thumhart, Jr, 5 Old Oxe Rd, Delmar, NY 12054.

Santa Ana, CA: Anaheim Police Radio Club, K6B. 0000Z **Dec 16-2359Z Dec 30**. 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge WW2. 21.350 18.150 14.250 7.250. QSL. Mark McMullin, KM6HB, PO Box 27271, Santa Ana, CA 92799. km6hb@arrl.net.

Belen (Bethlehem), NM: Valencia County Amateur Radio Association, KC5OUR. 1400Z **Dec 18-2359Z Dec 26**. Celebrating the Christmas season from Bethlehem, New Mexico. 28.272 21.272 14.272 7.272. QSL. VCARA, PO Box 268, Peralta, NM 87042.

Lake Charles, LA: , N1CC. 0000Z **Dec 24-2359Z Dec 25**. Christmas Carol. 28.475 21.375 14.275 7.245. QSL. Via <http://qrz.com> listing or <http://users.aol.com/N1CC>.

Masada, Israel: 4X0MS. 1000Z **Dec 24**-1000Z **Dec 26.** Masada DXpedition, from Masada castle, overlooking the Dead Sea (Holyland award program square is L22BS). CW and SSB 80-10 m. QSL. via Shalom Barak-Bacalu, 4Z4BS, PO Box 43101, Tel Aviv 61430, Israel. www.bibleplaces.com/masada.htm.

Atkinson, NH: Atkinson Amateur Radio Club, K1D. 0501Z **Dec 26**-0500Z **Jan 10.** Celebrating Kid's Day and Amateur Radio Awareness. 28.370 21.370 14.270 7.230. QSL. Peter Schipelliti, 7 Dearborn Ridge Rd, Atkinson, NH 03811.

Various, England: Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society, GB6BOB. 0001Z **Dec 27**-2359Z **Jan 23.** Commemorating the Battle of the Bulge. 21.070 21.056 14.070 14.056. Certificate. Mike Humphrey, GØSWY/KF4OFR, 4 Bluebell Rd, Bassett, Southampton, Hampshire SO16 3LQ, England. www.qrz.com.

New Castle, IN: Ashland Amateur Radio Technical Society, W9W. 0000Z **Dec 30**-2400Z **Jan 2.** New Years. 21.375 14.325 7.235 3.860. QSL. W9W c/o James Smith, 726 N Main St, New Castle, IN 47362. <http://kaarts.org/special.htm>.

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 Ra-

dio 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.

Buckhannon, WV: Barbour County Area Amateur Radio Club, WV8BC. 1300Z-2100Z **Jan 29.** Klondike 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 Hollopeter, W3QOS, Box 20, 216 E Main St, Big Run, PA 15715.

TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT November 2004
Date: 01-December-04

Beginning Balance	\$4,132.56
INCOME	
Ticket Sales and Dues	\$854.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$854.00
EXPENSES	
Charge for Deposit Slips	\$30.89
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$30.89
Ending Balance	\$4,955.67

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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