

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

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



*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 & 145.03 packet

FEBRUARY 2004 CLUB MEETING

DATE: February 10, 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, February 20th. 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:

Well, we're off into a New Year! There have been some items and issues that have been brought to my attention, and need to be addressed. Most deal with repeaters and their use. This issue is addressed every few years, because the newly licensed amateur operators are unfamiliar with some of the procedures and guidelines that the club has set.

The abbreviation, "73", is often misused. It means, Best Regards. If one says "Seventy Threes," then they are saying, "Best Regardses." The proper way to say it is "Seventy Three" and not "Seventy Thirds."

When using a repeater function, thus bringing up the "Control Operator," one needs to say their full callsign first, as for example: "This is KA4BLL, attempting an auto-patch." Then enter your pin number, if required (The 146.82 repeater requires a pin number).

You can give just your suffix when trying to be recognized between transmissions when there is an active conversation going on. Then, were you are recognized and given the opportunity to join in, follow by giving your full callsign at the first of your transmission (I like to give my first name

as well if the stations are not ones who are familiar with my station.

You should give your full callsign every 10 minutes while you are in the conversation. A trick to do this is to listen for the repeater to ID. This occurs about every 7 to 8 minutes. Then if you can remember to do so also, you will be well within FCC compliance. I have noticed that I am guilty of not following this procedure sometimes.

The Delta Club does not want anyone to actively try to sell items on the air by giving out an asking price, or to make a phone patch to a business to ask about product information or price. We know that the FCC does allow some of these procedures to be conducted over repeaters, but these created "gray areas" so the Delta Club has decided not allow it to be done on our repeaters.

I hope that I have not made anyone mad. As I said in the beginning, these issues are some pet peeves that some have brought to my attention.

Also, please come out and help or at least just attend the 2004 DIXIEFEST, February 14th and 15th. We could sure use help on Friday afternoon to help with set-up. If you can stay or come by on Sunday (the 15th) after 2:30 PM and please help us with tear down. Hope to see you all in February, at the Meeting, or at Dixiefest, or both.

Ned Savage, KA4BLL

**DARC
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
01/13/2004**

The January General Membership Meeting for the Delta Amateur Radio Club was called to order at approximately 7:06 pm local time by President Ned Savage, KA4BLL with 56 members and guests present.

Included in the usual introductions were a few more folks with new CSCE's in hand after this month's testing session.

OLD Business:

Ned stated that he thought he had found out who has the club's gin pole and is attempting to contact this person to see if they do still have it and if so, if they are finished with it.

It was also noted that Mary Jamerson, KG4TLV and Darrell Sheffield, Jr., KI4DJB both had birthdays on January 13th, but they were not included in the newsletter calendar. This is an oversight of the Secretary and appropriate apologies are extended to both. They will be included in the February calendar in the next SPARKS.

NEW Business:

James presented the "Project of the Month", which was called the Cootie Keyer Adapter. This is a small conversion box that allows you to plug in your favorite keyer and operate it like an old Sideswiper (or Cootie) key.

We had two programs this month. First was James Butler, KB4LJV with a video presentation and talk about old style paddle style keyers and their evolution over the years. For those that are CW operators and those that might be thinking about giving it a try, this presentation gave a good example of the types of keys that were available in "the old days" as well as some of the newer more modern paddle style keys available today.

Following James was Ben Troughton, KU4AW with a presentation on the current status of DixieFest, the Memphis area hamfest. Ben explained the history behind having to relocate to a new facility on short notice after the Shelby County Building was destroyed by fire in December. Ben showed a video about DixieFest produced by Jack Parnell, K4BSI and although the video was done long before the loss of the old facility, it was well received by the members and guests present. Ben also offered tickets for DixieFest to the members present at the meeting at a discounted price of \$5

each. Tickets at the door will be \$7.

Ned extends his thanks to Roger, KI4AJH for providing the LCD projector used in the evening's programs.

Lance, N4GMT mentioned that if it was ok with the membership, he was prepared to put announcements on the 146.82 repeater about the hamfest using EchoStation software. It would only run when he was in control of the station and not left unattended. Lance, in a related matter, stated that the folks in the Jackson, TN area had asked him to provide a link from their linked system into the .82 machine during Skywarn Training Nets using Echo Link. The membership did not have any questions or concerns about trying this. Lance did note that he had already cleared these items with the repeater trustee.

At the end of the meeting, our monthly drawing was held for the \$20 gift certificate for Memphis Amateur Electronics and the winner this month was Ken Burnum, KD5LHG. Congratulations Ken.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Tommy, KD4TJO, Secretary

VE CORNER

This is some new information from the ARRL for all to ponder.

ARLB003 ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access
ZCZC AG03
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 3 ARLB003
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT January 20, 2004
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB003

ARLB003 ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access

The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would include HF phone privileges without requiring a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement--now 5 WPM-only for the highest class. The ARRL Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan January 16 during its Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The proposals--developed by the ARRL Executive Committee following a Board instruction last July--are in response to changes made in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations at World Radio Communication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). They would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago but left unfinished in the Amateur Service license restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) that went into effect April 15, 2000.

"Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the US, especially license requirements and even more so when Morse is involved, has always been emotional," said ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in presenting the Executive Committee's recommendations. "In fact, without a doubt, Morse is Amateur Radio's 'religious debate.'"

The entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now--would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up.

"The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to current Technicians while retaining a motivation to upgrade," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. Under the ARRL plan, current Novice licensees--now the smallest and least active group of radio amateurs--would be grandfathered to the

new entry-level class without further testing.

The middle group of licensees--Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General--would be merged into a new General license that also would not require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants.

The Board indicated that it saw no compelling reason to change the Amateur Extra class license requirements. The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra, because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is very similar. **N e w a p p l i c a n t s f o r** Extra would have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the written exam would stay the same. Sumner said the Board felt that the highest level of accomplishment should include basic Morse capability. Current Novice, Tech Plus and General licensees would receive lifetime 5 WPM Morse credit.

"This structure provides a true entry-level license with HF privileges to promote growth in the Amateur Service," Harrison said.

Among other advantages, Sumner said the plan would allow new Novices to participate in HF SSB emergency nets on 75 and 40 meters as well as on the top 100 kHz of 15 meters. The new license also could get another name, Sumner said. "We're trying to recapture the magic of the old Novice license, but in a manner that's appropriate for the 21st century."

The overall proposed ARRL license restructuring plan would more smoothly integrate HF spectrum privileges across the three license classes and would incorporate the "Novice reforming" plan the League put forth nearly two years ago in a Petition for Rule Making (RM-10413). The FCC has not yet acted on the

ARRL plan, which would alter current HF subbands.

The ARRL license restructuring design calls for no changes in privileges for Extra and General class licensees on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17 or 12 meters. Novice licensees would have no access to those bands.

See "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access" on the ARRL Web site, www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/

73, Joan KN4PM, ARRL VE Liaison

Attention Life Members

Delta Club currently has 80 lifetime memberships on the books. In going through the records and checking license information on all members, I have noted that some information on Life Members is not current. Most Life Members sign up one time and then never fill out another application again. Why should they, right? Well, we have had several newsletters come back to us undeliverable, mostly from Life Members. They have either moved (and not updated their info with the FCC) or they might possibly have become silent keys without our knowledge. Even if their other information is correct, we have no way of knowing what their current ARRL membership status is. ARRL membership status is important to know because it helps us maintain our Affiliated Club status with the league. Also please note if you are a Lifetime Member of ARRL as well.

If you are a Life Member of the club, please take just a minute to fill out the application form included in this issue of SPARKS and mail it in to us so that we might know that your current information is correct. We want to continue providing the newsletter to you and other amenities associated with Life Membership. Some of you had also purchased Lifetime Speed Dials on the repeaters but if you have changed phone numbers without notifying us, those will no longer function. Please take time to indicate this information on

(Continued on page 7)

PACKET UPDATE

Many times when running voice and CW we have problems with different types of interference. Mechanical filters and active filters were used to lower this interference. In recent years, the DSP has become the tool to use for this problem. The DSP microprocessor takes in the analog signal and converts it to digital numbers and through the programming, mathematically changes the signal as needed before converting it to analog and sending it on to the speaker. The results can be dramatic, DSP has become a standard way to combat interference on the bands. SGC has come out with a new add-on DSP filter for radios. The unit is a small PC board made to be mounted in your radio. It works with new and older radios. The ADSP2 offers automatic noise reduction capabilities as well as three filter modes for voice and CW. The unit is the first internal DSP unit requiring minimal wiring. If you are looking for a DSP filter for your rig, check this one out from SGC. To get further information about the filter go to the SGC website, www.sgcworld.com.

James Butler, KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

One of major items needed for high speed morse code operation is an electronic keyer. This circuit continues to get smaller with each generation. The current popular circuits are the PIC Microprocessors which offer a lot of functions in a small package. This month's project is the PK-3 Keyer from Jackson Harbor Press. It is sold in kit form through Morse Express. The cost for the PC board and board mounted parts is under \$20.00. The functions include callsign memory, three more memories you can program, beacon mode and much more. I built mine up in a surplus switcher box which is painted in the old Heathkit colors. It worked the first time and does a great job keying my QRP rigs. I added some additional features to make operation easier. I added the optional potentiometer for the speed control which makes it easier to adjust than using the paddles and menu. I put an OFF/ON switch on the piezo audio output enable so I could listen when programming and turn it off to use the rig's internal sidetone when operating. I added a REV switch to allow instant reversal of DIT and DAH inputs if needed. I added an output enable switch so I could turn the output of the keyer OFF and ON as needed. I added a TUNE switch to key the radio for adjustment of the antenna tuner. I also added a power switch to conserve battery life. On the back I put jacks for two paddle inputs and a straight key input along with the output to the radio. The project was fun to put together and works as advertised.

I will have the PK-3 Keyer at the meeting to show and answer questions for those who wish to build up their own units.

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING

James Butler, KB4LJV



February

2004

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|---|------------|--|---|--|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 Lance, N4GMT | 2 | 3 | 4 Pat, W4OOG | 5 Curtis, W4WP MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM | 6 Jim, AF4WQ Jim, KG4ODD | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM | 11 | 12 | 13 Bobby, KC4NBS Nancy Vickers | 14 Sharon, N4ZCS |
| 15 Bill, KI4BIY Nancy Morrow | 16 | 17 Tom, K4TTA Rebecca Wilson | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 John, KE4WEV | 23 | 24 Donald, KJ4PO | 25 Aaron, KG4QDO Sally, KI4AUD | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | | | | | | |

March

2004

| <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 Sam, KR4LD | 3 | 4 MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM | 10 | 11 Jerry, K1HV Francis, WA4ZYN | 12 John, WD4HZQ | 13 |
| 14 Bill, KI4BIY Nancy Morrow | 15 | 16 | 17 Edgar, W4KIB | 18 Art, KS4TZ Joan, KN4PM | 19 | 20 Henry, WD4Q |
| 21 | 22 Chris, W8BDH | 23 | 24 Ned, KA4BLL | 25 Delbert, KT4AB | 26 Diane, KG4CAK | 27 Jon, K4LLP Philip, KF4TAF |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

(Continued from page 3)

your form as well.

Thank you for your assistance and for your support of the club.

73,

Tommy KD4TJO, Secretary

FCC Goes After Alleged 10-Meter Scofflaws

NEWINGTON, CT, Feb 2, 2004--The FCC is working on at least two fronts to eliminate unlicensed operation from the 10-meter band. Earlier this month, FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth sent warning notices to two shipping companies regarding reports to the Commission that some of the companies' vehicles may be the source of illegal radio transmissions on the amateur band. One of the companies, UPS, has offered its full cooperation.

"Many truckers use CB radio, which does not require a license," Hollingsworth pointed out in letters earlier this month to UPS offices in Ohio and Indiana and to R&L Transfer Inc of Ohio. "However, any person using a radio transmitter on the Amateur Radio bands must possess a station and operator license." Hollingsworth asked the over-the-road shippers to advise their drivers that such radio operation could subject them to heavy fines and seizure of their radio equipment.

UPS Attorney Daniel N. Tenfelde last week assured Hollingsworth that his company was taking its *Warning Notice* seriously and has launched a full investigation.

"We discovered that some employees had obtained CB radios that contained a mechanism allowing them to switch frequencies into the 10-meter Amateur Radio band," he said in a January 28 letter. "It is not UPS policy to allow equipment such as this to be used in our vehicles." He said UPS' contract with the Teamsters Union allows only for CB radios. Tenfelde said UPS is working with

its transportation and labor groups to let drivers know that such unlicensed operation violates both UPS policy and FCC regulations.

In a parallel development, the FCC issued a *Citation* to Jonathan Edward Stone, doing business as Omnitronics/Pacetrronics for alleged violation of §302 (b) of the Communications Act and §2.803(a)(1) of the Commission's rules.

An investigation by the FCC's Dallas field office led the Commission to allege that Omnitronics/Pacetrronics was offering more than two dozen uncertificated "Citizens Band" transceivers via its Web site. The FCC says Omnitronics/Pacetrronics was marketing the units as Amateur Radio equipment, which does not require FCC certification (formerly known as "type acceptance"), and a check of the company's Web site generally confirmed that assertion.

"The Commission has evaluated radio frequency devices similar to those listed and concluded that the devices at issue are not only amateur radios but can easily be altered for use as Citizens Band devices as well," said the FCC *Citation* from FCC Dallas District Director James D. Wells. The FCC said it concluded that the devices fall within the definition of CB transmitters and therefore "cannot legally be imported or marketed in the United States." That would include so-called "export" models, the *Citation* said, pointing to a 2000 revision of §2.1204(a) (5) of its rules.

Citing §95.655(a) of the FCC's rules, Wells noted that "dual-use CB and

Amateur Radio of the kind at issue here may not be certificated under the Commission's rules." He said the clarification was added to Part 95--which governs the Citizens Band--"to explicitly foreclose the possibility of certification of dual-use CB and amateur radios and thereby deter use by CB operators of frequencies allocated for Amateur Radio use."

The FCC *Citation* also warned Unitronics/Pacetrronics regarding the requirement of FCC certification of external RF amplifiers or amplifier kits capable of operating below 144 MHz as well as the prohibition against marketing RF amplifiers or amplifier kits capable of operating between 24 and 35 MHz.

Most of the transceivers in question carry brand names unfamiliar within the amateur community--such as Connex, Galaxy, General and Superstar. Radios being marketed as amateur gear are shown on the Unitronics/Pacetrronics Web site displaying 27.185 MHz on the dial--CB channel 19. Some of the purported amateur transceivers have only a channel readout display, not a frequency display, and only operate on AM or FM modes. For an additional charge, Omnitronics/Pacetrronics offers such accessories as roger beeps, "turbo echo" and what it calls "basic" and "professional" alignment.

The only recognized amateur manufacturer on the list in the FCC's *Citation* is Ranger. The FCC *Citation* singled out the Ranger models RCI-2950DX--a 10-meter transceiver--and RCI-2970DX--a dual-band 10/12-meter unit. Both are shown on

(Continued on page 8)

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 |

the Omnitronics/Pacetrronics Web site displaying 27.185 MHz, and the ad copy notes, "you can use this radio in the roughest environments. (Yes, even a Mack.)"

NASA Dedicates Memorial, Martian Landmarks to Shuttle Columbia Crew

(Feb 3, 2004) -- The families of the shuttle *Columbia* crew lost February 1, 2003, and NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe this week unveiled a monument at Arlington National Cemetery to commemorate the astronauts and their mission. The space agency also has dedicated seven Martian hills--one named for each lost crew member--located east of the *Spirit* rover landing site in honor of the *Columbia* astronauts. Three of the seven *Columbia* crew members were Amateur Radio licensees. "This memorial will remind us of the dedication and sacrifice made by those brave individuals willing to risk their own lives to further humanity's knowledge about space exploration," O'Keefe said at Arlington Cemetery. "Our obligation is to ensure their loss was not in vain. We will return the space shuttle to flight as safe as humanly possible, and we will continue to lead humanity into the unknown." The *Columbia*, which broke apart while returning from a 16-day science mission, was commanded by Rick Husband and piloted by William McCool. Also aboard were mission specialist Kalpana "KC" Chawlna, KD5ESI; David Brown, KC5ZTC; Laurel Clark, KC5ZSU, and Michael Anderson, and payload specialist Ilan Ramon--a well-known Israeli Air Force pilot. Following the mishap, Amateur Radio volunteers in Texas, Louisiana and other states assisted in the search for shuttle *Columbia* debris. The Vermont marble memorial unveiled February 2 bears two bronze plaques portraying the *Columbia*'s crew and the shoulder patch the astronauts wore on their mission. It is located near the shuttle *Challenger* memorial. An image of the Columbia Hills on Mars is available on the JPL/NASA web site.

ARRL Emergency

Communications Course Registration

(Jan 30, 2004) -- Registration opens Monday, February 2, 12:01 AM Eastern Time (0501 UTC), for the on-line Level I Emergency Communications course (EC-001). Registration remains open through the February 7-8 weekend or until all available seats have been filled--whichever comes first. Class begins Tuesday, February 17. Thanks to our grant sponsors--the Corporation for National and Community Service and the United Technologies Corporation--the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the course. During this registration period, approximately 175 seats are being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis. Senior amateurs are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education.

Yes Virginia, There Is A Hamfest

Hamfest will happen, despite fire: Dixiefest 2004, the annual Memphis hamfest, will take place February 14-15 despite a fire in December that destroyed the Shelby County Building, the hamfest's home for the past few years. Dixiefest Committee members opted to move the event to the Pipkin Building which is also at the Mid-South Fairgrounds and only a few feet from the old location. "The fire created a big problem for the Dixiefest Committee," said Ben Troughton, event chairman, "but now that we have decided to move next door to the more modern Pipkin Building, I think we're going to continue our tradition and put together another great Dixiefest." Those planning to attend or sell at Dixiefest are invited to visit the event's Web site <http://www.dixiefest.org/>

Last Year's Youngest General Now This Year's Youngest Extra

An Oregon girl considered a year ago as the youngest General class licensee in the US now may be the country's youngest

Amateur Extra ticket holder. Seven-year-old Mattie Clauson, AD7BL (ex-KD7TYN and ex-KD7SDF), of Roseburg passed her Extra examination January 14 during a Valley Amateur Radio Club ARRL-VEC volunteer examination session in Eugene. The FCC granted her new ticket and Extra-appropriate call sign on January 20.

Congressman-Ham Asks FCC To Wait For NTIA Study Before Acting On BPL

US Representative Greg Walden, WB7OCE, has called on the FCC to put off any further action in its Broadband over Power Line (BPL) proceeding until the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) releases the results of its BPL study and the public has had a chance to comment. "I feel that it is important to give the NTIA study thorough consideration before proceeding further with BPL technology, in view of the importance of avoiding interference to federal government HF communications," Walden said in a January 15 letter to FCC Chairman Michael Powell. An Oregon Republican, Walden is one of two Amateur Radio licensees in the US House.



CONTEST CALENDAR

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

6-Meter Mileage Marathon--WSJT modes, sponsored by the Six Club, 0000Z Jan 31-0000Z Feb 9. SOLP (<200 W), SOHP. Use JT44, FSK441, JT6M modes. For more information: <http://6mt.com>

North American Sprint--CW--sponsored

by the *National Contest Journal*, from 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 1. (SSB is Feb 8.) Frequencies (MHz)--3.540, 7.040, 14.040, work stations once per band. North American stations work everyone; others work NA stations only. For more information: <http://www.ncjweb.com/>

Spartan Sprint--CW--sponsored by the Adventure Radio Society, 0200Z-0400Z Feb 3 (Monday). The contest is held on the first Monday (local time) of every month. Frequencies (MHz): 3.560, 7.040, 14.060, 21.060, 28.060. For more information: <http://www.arsqrp.com/>

School Club Roundup --all modes, 1300Z Feb 9-1300Z Feb 14 (see Jan *QST*, p 102).

Minnesota QSO Party--CW/Phone--sponsored by the Minnesota Wireless Association, 1400-2359Z Feb 7. Frequencies (MHz): CW-- 1.810, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050, SSB-- 1.870, 3.890, 7.230, 14.290, 21.390, 28.420. For more information and MN QSO Party software: <http://www.w0aa.org/>

FYBO (Freeze Your Butt Off) Winter QRP Field Day--CW-- sponsored by the AZ ScQRPions from 1500Z - 2300Z Feb 7. For more information: <http://www.extremezone.com/~nk7m>.

Ten-Ten International Winter Phone QSO Party--sponsored by Ten-Ten, International, from 0001Z Feb 7-2359 Feb 8, 10 meters only. For more information: <http://www.ten-ten.org/>

Vermont QSO Party--CW/Phone/Digital--sponsored by the Central Vermont Amateur Radio Club, 0000Z Feb 7-2400Z Feb 8. Frequencies: 160-10 meters and VHF/UHF, CW--40 kHz up from band edge (20 kHz Novice/Tech bands), Phone--lowest 25 kHz of the General privileges and entire Novice/Tech 10-meter band, VHF SSB--50.200 and 144.200 MHz, FM--146.49 and 146.55 MHz. Categories: SOAB, MO, Club and Rover.

North American Sprint--SSB--from 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 8. Frequencies (MHz)--3.850, 7.225, 14.275.

XE International RTTY Contest, sponsored by FMRE, from 1800Z Feb 7 to 2400Z Feb 8. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: <http://www.fmre.org.mx/>

Delaware QSO Party--CW/Phone/Digital/RTTY--sponsored by the First State ARC (FSARC), 1700Z Feb 7 to 0500Z Feb 8 and 1300Z Feb 8 to 0100Z Feb 9. Frequencies (MHz): CW--1.825, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050, Phone--1.860, 3.960, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360, 28.360, Novice and Technician--25 kHz above the sub-band edge.

Classic Exchange--CW/Phone--from 1400Z Feb 8 to 0800Z Feb 9. Frequencies (MHz): CW--1.810, 3.545, 7.045, 14.045,

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@midssouth.rr.com (1, 8, 13)

WA2IQC (Gen) Gary Blinckmann 794-5289
garyblin@midssouth.rr.com (1, 7, 10, 14)

WA4MJM (Extra) Bill Hancock 853-7192
billwa4mjm@aol.com (1, 2, 8, emergency communications, ARES, MARS)

K4DIT (Extra) Ken Gregg 853-7384
k4dit@arrl.net (4, 6, 8, 11, 15)

W4GMM (Extra) Ham Hilliard 372-2337
hamh@bellsouth.net (All categories)

21.135, 28.180; AM--1.890, 3.880, 7.290, 14.280, 21.380, 28.320, 29.000; SSB--3.870, 7.280, 14.270, 21.370, 28.490. For complete information: <http://qsl.asti.com/CX>.

QRP ARCI Winter Fireside SSB Sprint, sponsored by the QRP ARCI, 2000Z-2400Z, Feb 8. Frequencies (MHz): 3.865, 7.285, 14.285, 21.385, 28.385. (See *Dec QST*, p 84, for QRP ARCI Sprint rules.),

CQ World Wide RTTY WPX Contest, sponsored by *CQ Magazine*, 0000Z Feb 14 to 2400Z Feb 15. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/>.

RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest--CW--sponsored by RSGB, 2100Z Feb 14 to 0100Z Feb 15. Frequencies (MHz): 1.820-1.870. For more information: <http://www.rsgbhfcc.org/>.

Asia-Pacific Sprint--CW--sponsored by the AP Sprint Contest Committee, 1100Z-1300Z Feb 14. Frequencies: 20 and 40 meters, NA stations work Asia-Pacific countries only. For more information: <http://jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt>.

FISTS CW Winter Sprint--CW--sponsored by FISTS International CW Club, 1700Z until 2100Z Feb 14. Frequencies: 80-10 meters, work US/VE stations. For more information: <http://www.fists.org/>.

Dutch PACC Contest--CW/SSB--sponsored by the Vereniging voor Experimenteel Radio Onderzoek in Nederland (VERON) from 1200Z Feb 14-1200Z Feb 15. Frequencies: 160-10 meters according to IARU band plan, no SSB on 160, work stations only once per band. for more info: <http://www.dutchpacc.com/>.

OMISS QSO Party--SSB--Sponsored by the Old Man International Sideband Society,

1500Z Feb 14-0459Z Feb 15. Frequencies (MHz): 3.940, 7.263, 14.290, 21.360, 28.665. For more information: <http://www.omiss.net/>.

ARRL International DX Contest, CW, 0000Z Feb 21--2400Z Feb 22 (see Dec *QST*, p 96).

YL International QSO Party--CW--sponsored by YL International SSB System, 0000Z Feb 21-2400Z Feb 22 (SSB is 0000Z Mar 13-2400Z Mar 14), two 6-hr off times required. Frequencies: 160-10, no US-US contacts on 14.332 MHz except handicapped. For more information: <http://www.qsl.net/yl-issb/>.

CQC Winter QSO Party--CW/Phone--sponsored by the Colorado QRP Club, 2200Z Feb 22 to 0359Z Feb 23. Frequencies (MHz): CW--1.825, 3.560, 3.710, 7.040, 7.110, 14.060, 21.060, 21.110, 28.060, 28.110, SSB--1.910, 3.985, 7.285, 14.285, 21.385, 28.385. For more information: <http://www.cqc.org/contests/winter04.htm>.

REF French Contest--Phone--from 0600Z Feb 28-1800Z Feb 29 (see Jan *QST*, page 98).

CQ WW 160-meter SSB Contest, 0000Z Feb 28-2400Z Feb 29 (see Jan *QST*, page 98).

UBA Contest--CW--from 1300Z Feb 28-1300Z Feb 29 (see Jan *QST*, page 98).

North Carolina QSO Party--CW/Phone--sponsored by the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, 1700Z Feb 29-0300Z Mar 1. Frequencies (MHz): CW--3.540, 3.740, 7.040, 7.140, 14.040, 21.040, 21.140, 28.040, 28.140, Phone--3.860, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360, 28.360 and any VHF/UHF, note no 160 meter QSOs. For more information: <http://www.w4nc.com/>.

Mississippi QSO Party--CW/Phone--sponsored by the Vicksburg Amateur Radio Club, 1500Z Feb 28-

0300Z Feb 29. Frequencies (MHz): CW--3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045; Phone--3.862, 7.238, 14.275, 21.375, 28.375. For more information: w5xx@vicksburg.com.

Special Events

Lubbock, TX: Buddy Holly Memorial, W5B. 1600Z **Jan 31-0400Z Feb 4.** 45th Anniversary of the death of Buddy Holly. 28.336 21.360 14.260 7.260. QSL. W5B Buddy Holly QSL, c/o Bryan Edwards, 3801-68th St, Lubbock, TX 79413. <http://www.amrc.com/W5B>.

Nacogdoches, TX: Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club, W5NAC. 1300Z-2400Z **Feb 1.** Shuttle *Columbia* Recovery Effort. 14.250 14.050 7.250 7.050. QSL. NARC, 167 County Rd 2093, Nacogdoches, TX 75965. <http://www.andersoft.com/narc>.

Washington County, PA: Washington Amateur Communications ARC, W3C. **Feb 5-Feb 8.** 2004 Washington County Sportmen's Show. 21.350 14.250 7.230 3.860. QSL. Washington Amateur Communications ARC, c/o Ed Oelschlager, N3ANI, 60 Carl Ave B2, Eighty Four, PA 15330.

Chicago, IL: Metro Amateur Radio Club, K9Y. 1600Z **Feb 7-2359Z Feb 8.** Chicago Harbor Brkw South Light (ARLHS 1185). 40, 20, 15, 10 m CW and SSB. QSL. Bill Borgstrom, 1330 W Columbia Ave, Chicago, IL 60626. <http://www.qsl.net/mac/>.

For more information on these and other contests and special events in December, please visit the ARRL contest page on the internet at: www.arrl.org/contests/months/jan.html

TREASURER'S REPORT

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| TREASURER'S REPORT Jan 2004 | | Date: 22-Jan-04 |
| Beginning Balance | | \$3,218.01 |
| INCOME | | |
| Membership Renewals | \$1,570.00 | |
| Ticket Sales | 2.00 | |
| TOTAL INCOME | | \$4,790.01 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Bulk Mail Permit | \$150.00 | |
| Bell South (3 months billing) | 58.09 | |
| 440 Repeater (3 months billing) | 22.94 | |
| PO Box Rental | 38.00 | |
| KINKOS | 19.12 | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | | \$288.15 |
| Ending Balance: Dec 22, 2003 | | \$4,501.86 |

2004 Proposed Budget

| | | |
|--|---------------|--------------------|
| Revenue | | |
| Membership dues | \$4,860.00 | |
| Fund Raising | 1,780.00 | |
| Speed Dial Services | 100.00 | |
| Contributions/Donations | 1,000.00 | |
| Overpaid Credit Due (Mem. Amateur) | <u>260.00</u> | |
| TOTAL | | \$ 8,000.00 |
| Expenses | | |
| Meeting Space (Donation to Church) | \$100.00 | |
| Meeting Refreshments | 150.00 | |
| Field Day | 150.00 | |
| Operating Supplies | 50.00 | |
| P.O. Box (750482) | 40.00 | |
| Postage (stamps and bulk mailings) | 450.00 | |
| Printing (newsletter) | 2,390.00 | |
| Training Programs | 200.00 | |
| Insurance | 750.00 | |
| Corporation Fees | 20.00 | |
| Bulk Mail Permit Fee | 200.00 | |
| Legal / CPA | 250.00 | |
| Repeater Phone Patch | 990.00 | |
| Repeater Maintenance | 500.00 | |
| Equipment Maintenance (Trailer, Ant.s) | 100.00 | |
| Awards & Certificates | 500.00 | |
| November Meeting | 1,200.00 | |
| Attendance Incentives | 240.00 | |
| Bank's Monthly Fee (year) | <u>170.00</u> | |
| TOTAL | | \$ 8,000.00 |

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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