

# DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# SPARKS

P.O. BOX 750482 MEMPHIS, TN 38175-0482 / VOL. 18 / JANUARY 2006



Happy New Year  
from the  
Delta Amateur Radio Club!

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

**W4BS**  
**REPEATER**  
**SYSTEM**  
146.82, 147.36,  
224.42, & 443.2

## JANUARY 2006 CLUB MEETING

**DATE:** January 10, 2006 ( 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:** Highway Watch, SGT Scott Vanzandt

**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: [joanthorne@bellsouth.net](mailto:joanthorne@bellsouth.net)

**Please Remember:** Deadline for Reports and Articles for the next issue of SPARKS is Friday, January 27th. 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](mailto:paulsonrj@bellsouth.net)

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

To all of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Members:

I hope everyone had a great Christmas Holiday and were on the receiving end of some good gifts if you participate in the exchange. I guess it's also time to say Happy New Year and best wishes for 2006.

I am looking forward to serving as the 2006 Delta Amateur Radio Club President. I would like to thank the past DARC Board for their service and continued participation. I would especially like to thank Ned Savage, KA4BLL for his outstanding service to the Club.

During 2005 we had a number of new ideas and were able to begin several programs to benefit the members. I have said a number of times that the Club belongs to the members and the Board is there to serve. I hope that all will renew their membership and become

active in the operation and activities of our Club.

We have a number of plans for the upcoming year involving meeting programs and events. I also hope to get to some of the things that did not get done in 2005.

Before I close I would also like to thank the new Board members, VP Tommy Thompson KD4TJO, Treasurer Melinda Thompson KE4DXN, Secretary Lisa Sheffield KI4DIL, Dir. of Programs Ben Troughton KU4AW, Dir. of Publications Roger Paulson K4KCU, Dir of Meeting Dean Honadle N2LAZ and Dir. of Training John Zempel KG4OLG for their willingness to serve and upcoming support.

Talk to you later and see you at the meeting Tuesday.....  
73, Darrell KK4D

### **A NOTE FROM THE OUT-GOING 2005 PRESIDENT**

The December Club Meeting/Pot-luck supper was a success. We had about 35 people in attendance, and as usual, more good food than we all could eat. Plaques of appreciation were presented all of officers who served during the year of 2005, and additional plaque of appreciation was presented Joan Thorne, KN4PM, for her excellent work and commitment in the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator's position. The presentation of two annual awards went to David Royer, KI4FCU, for The Newcomer of

the Year for 2005, and to Bob Holford, KF4NDH, for Ham of the Year 2005. A side note, it was a really good night for David, as he finally passed his Extra Class exam at the testing session prior to the evenings' meeting. Congratulations To all.

Also, I want to thank, Francis White, WA4ZYN, for lugging a guitar and amp in, and providing our group with traditional music and song reflecting the time of year. Great Job, Francis.

Hope all can have great year in 2006, and support our new club officers for the new year. Come in and be active, or if unable to do that, volunteer to work as a net control or NTS liaison station for the club.

Thanks for your support in 2005.  
Ned Savage, KA4BLL

### **A NOTE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT**

I want to welcome everyone to what I hope is going to be a great 2006 for Delta Club. The board is enthusiastic about improving an already great club and we hope each of you will take part in this effort as well. We are eager to hear your suggestions about what you'd like to see happen this year, what you have or have not liked in the past and how you think the club can be made even better than it already is.

It looks like we're going to have a lot of very interesting programs at

the meetings this year and you should find a calendar in this edition of SPARKS that lets you see what the program schedule is for the entire year. Let's also remember that the people presenting these programs are giving us their time and talents to do so. They are probably taking time away from their families to be with us, so we should give them our undivided attention during their presentation and thank them before they leave the meeting.

One of my goals is to get more current members active in the club again. We can hopefully accomplish this by providing more fun activities that people can get involved in. In addition to more active members, I'd also like to see us have a membership drive and each of us reach out to another ham friend and invite them to a club meeting. When you see a new face at the meetings, make it a point to go over and speak to them before the meeting, during the break or before they can get out of the door. There's nothing more disheartening than to attend a meeting of any group and leave thinking that no one even noticed you were there. Make them welcome and let them know how much we'd like for them to be a member of the club.

I look forward to serving you as your Vice-President in 2006. Just remember that my phone and email inbox are always open to you.

73,

Tommy, KD4TJO

**DARC BOARD MEETING  
December 6, 2005**

KA4BLL-Ned Savage called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 9 members present.

KI4DIL-Lisa gave the secretary's report. N2LAZ- Dean Hondle motioned to accept and KG4OLG-John Zempel seconded.

KG4VAW-Bill Torkell gave the treasurer's report. KI4DIL-Lisa motioned to accept and KD4TJO-Tommy Thompson seconded. Both reports accepted by the board as given.

**Old Business:**

KD4TJO-Tommy gave his report on the ARRL Toy Drive. He advised the board of the progress and organization at the warehouse and advised that the toys would be shipped to Jackson, MS and would most likely be distributed from there. KK4D-Darrell advised that he would be bringing the tower trailer to the warehouse so that it could be used by the licensed hams manning the warehouse and visiting ham operators.

**New Business:**

The board voted on and accepted 3 new members.

The board discussed getting SPARKS to members who do not have computers and/or email.

KG4OLG-John advised the board that he is planning another class.

KU4AW-Ben Troughton advised

the board of his plans for programs for the upcoming year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
KI4DIL-Lisa Sheffield  
DARC Secretary

**DARC GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
December 13, 2005**

KA4BLL-Ned Savage opened the meeting with a prayer and invitation to eat dinner at 7:15 p.m. There were 26 members and 4 guests in attendance. After the meal, KI4DIL requested that the November minutes be accepted as printed in SPARKS. N2LAZ-Dean motioned to accept and KI4GIU-Adam Chomyk seconded this motion.

KG4VAW-Bill Torkell read the treasurer's report. KN4PM-Joan motioned to accept and KF4NDH-Bob Holford seconded. The membership unanimously voted to accept both motions.

**Old Business:**

KD4TJO-Tommy reported on what was discussed by the board the previous week. He gave the members information on when Patti Lovelace would be at the warehouse and how the toys would be shipped.

He also updated the membership on the St. Jude marathon held on December 3.

**New Business:**

KN4PM-Joan gave her report on VE testing.

KA4BLL-Ned presented service awards to the 2005 board members.

KD4TJO-Tommy won the door prize and N4GMT-Lance motioned to adjourn the meeting and several members seconded. It was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
KI4DIL-Lisa Sheffield  
DARC Secretary

**JANUARY PRESENTATION  
HIGHWAY WATCH**

Highway Watch(r) is the roadway sector's national safety and security program that utilizes the skills, experiences, and "road smarts" of America's transportation workers to help protect the nation's critical infrastructure and the transportation of goods, services, and people.

Highway Watch(r) participants are specially trained to recognize potential safety and security threats and avoid becoming a target of terrorists. The Highway Watch(r) effort seeks to prevent terrorists from using large vehicles or hazardous cargoes as weapons.

Highway Watch(r) training provides Highway Watch(r) participants with the observational tools and the opportunity to exercise their expert understand of

the transportation environment to report safety and security concerns rapidly and accurately to the authorities. In addition to matters of homeland security - stranded vehicles or accidents, unsafe road conditions, and other safety related situations are reported eliciting the appropriate emergence responders.

Highway Watch(r) reports are combined with other information sources and shared both with federal agencies and the roadway transportation sector by the Highway ISAC. Highway Watch(r) is administered by the American Trucking Associations (ATA) under a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Roadway transportation sector professionals are welcome to join Highway Watch(r).

Highway Watch(r) is being offered to select groups outside of the transportation industry who are in a position to report targeted activities.

SGT Scott Vanzandt Executive Assistant for Homeland Security Memphis Police Department  
Scott.vanzandt@memphistn.gov

Submitted by  
Ben Troughton, KU4AW

### **NEXT MONTH'S FEBRUARY PRESENTATION "SOLDERING"**

Soldering is a delicate manual skill which only comes with practice. Remember that your ability to

solder effectively will determine directly how well the prototype or product functions during its lifespan. Poor soldering can be an expensive business - causing product failure and downtime, engineer's maintenance time and customer dissatisfaction. At hobbyist level, bad soldering technique can be a cause of major disappointment which damages your confidence. It needn't be like that: soldering is really easy to learn, and like learning to ride a bike, once mastered is never forgotten!

Source: The Basic Soldering Guide  
Photo Gallery

Submitted by  
Ben Troughton, KU4AW

### **FROM THE ARRL NEWSLETTER**

#### **THE TOYS HAVE LANDED! 2005 HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE GIFTS GET TO GULF COAST**

"Mission accomplished!" That was the word on the 2005 Holiday Toy Drive from ARRL Delta Division Vice Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, and assistant warehouse volunteer coordinator Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, on the US Gulf Coast after they'd completed unloading some 5000 toys contributed by generous Amateur Radio clubs and individual radio amateurs from all over. In addition, the second ARRL Holiday Toy Drive benefited from more than \$8000 in cash donations, which

permitted the purchase of gifts for older recipients and helped defray the costs of transporting the toys.

"The 2005 ARRL/Salvation Holiday Toy Drive is about completed with the exception of the cleanup," Leggette reported this week. The toys headed to Mississippi following a December 15 sendoff ceremony in Memphis.

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP--who spearheaded the drive from the League Headquarters side--says Lowenthal, a former FedEx employee, did such a professional packing job that he only needed one truck--instead of the anticipated three--to transport the toys to coastal Mississippi from Memphis, saving even more money to purchase additional toys. "The overwhelming response of hams around the country was clear as thousands of toys, games, bikes and stuffed animals headed south," he added.

The ARRL Toy Drive partnered with The Salvation Army, whose distribution network throughout the Gulf Coast remains intact. "The Salvation Army has the ability to screen recipients and will assure that the toys are used where they are truly needed most," Pitts explained. A big rental moving van took the full load directly to Gulfport and Biloxi, Mississippi.

Representatives of The Salvation Army and the League were on hand in Memphis December 15 to see

the truckload of toys southward. Holiday Toy Drive national chairperson and country music singer Patty Loveless, KD4WUJ, joined Amateur Radio volunteers, the news media, dignitaries and, of course, Santa Claus for the occasion.

"For those who couldn't be here, I'm sure they're here in spirit and giving from their hearts, and I just want to thank them--from all around--for collecting," Loveless told ARRL.

Bill Feist, WB8BZH, The Salvation Army's disaster services director for the Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi division, represented his organization for the occasion. "We are certainly very appreciative of what all the Amateur Radio operators around the country and the ARRL have done for the people of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi," he said.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, summed it up simply in thanking Pitts for his role: "It was a great, great project."

#### RESPONSE TO BPL COMPLAINTS AN "ILLUSION" OF RESOLUTION, ARRL SAYS

In a strongly worded letter to the FCC, the League has once again asked the Commission to shut down the Manassas, Virginia, BPL system because it's still causing harmful interference to Amateur Radio and otherwise does not comply with FCC Part 15 rules. The December 19 letter from ARRL

General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, was in response to a November 30 letter from Spectrum Enforcement Division Chief Joseph Casey, who suggested further cooperation between the complaining radio amateurs and the city-owned BPL system. Imlay said more meetings and discussions about ongoing interference are no longer productive while "this hopelessly flawed BPL system" is allowed to continue operating.

"These meetings have not produced any solution to the interference problem but have, instead, created the illusion that the problem is being addressed," Imlay wrote. Ham radio complaints of interference from the BPL system date back to early 2004. "This system should have been taken off the air long ago, pending reconfiguration or re-engineering of it," he added, "and the only operating that it should be doing is for purposes of interference testing."

Communication Technologies (COMTek) operates the BPL system over the municipally owned electric power grid using Main.net equipment on frequencies between 4 MHz and 30 MHz. The League said the FCC has not discharged its "most fundamental obligation" to prevent or resolve interference issues involving the Manassas system, which, the League charged, only remains operating "because the Commission, for political reasons, has consistently refused to enforce its rules with

respect to BPL."

The League told Casey that the only solution at this point is to order the Manassas BPL system--an unlicensed RF emitter permitted to operate only on a non-interference basis--to cease operation except to test for interference.

The Part 15 BPL rules the FCC adopted in October 2004 require a BPL operator informed of harmful interference to "investigate the reported interference and resolve confirmed harmful interference . . . within a reasonable period," Imlay pointed out. "No reasoned examination of this case could produce a finding that this rule has been complied with in Manassas," he added.

Imlay says that at a December 13 meeting, COMTek and the City of Manassas "openly acknowledged the interference to amateur stations" but claimed that until a month or so earlier, they had been unable to "notch" amateur allocations because they didn't yet have the equipment to do so. "By the admission of COMTek, the capability of reducing interference in this system does not exist," Imlay noted.

Previous meetings between the complaining radio amateurs and the BPL operator "produced no measurable results," Imlay contended, referring to the response of Donald Blasdel, W4HJL, to Casey on December 9. At one point

in the system, interference was reported at S9 plus 40 dB on typical ham gear. "That level precludes virtually all Amateur Radio communications," he asserted. Imlay took the opportunity to again point out that the Manassas BPL system is out of compliance with §15.615(a) because its operator failed to provide full information to the public BPL database by the November 19 deadline.

"ARRL again requests that the BPL facility at Manassas, Virginia, be instructed to shut down immediately," the League's letter concluded, "and that it not resume operation unless the entire facility is shown to be in full compliance with Commission rules regarding radiated emissions; with the non-interference requirement of Section 15.5 of the Commission's rules; and not in any case until thirty days subsequent to full compliance with Section 15.615(a) of the rules."

Field tests conducted by Manassas radio amateurs established that the city's BPL system "was an interference generator at distances of hundreds of feet from the modems on overhead power lines," the ARRL told the FCC October 13. "It was also, incidentally, determined that the system was susceptible to interference from nearby radio transmitters operating between 4 and 20 MHz," the League added.

### SENATE CONFIRMS FCC APPOINTEES

The US Senate this week confirmed the White House nomination of Republican Deborah T. Tate and the reappointment of Democrat Michael J. Copps to the FCC. News reports say the Senate approved the nominations of Tate and Copps by voice vote December 21 during a late-night session.

Tate, 49, most recently served as director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority. She will fill out the remainder of the term of former FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell, which expires June 30, 2007. Powell departed the FCC last March.

A former Senate staffer, Copps, 65, has been on the Commission since 2001. His new term will expire in 2010.

Under Powell's successor, Chairman Kevin J. Martin, a Republican, the FCC has been operating with four members for most of 2005 and with just three members since the December 9 departure of Republican Kathleen Q. Abernathy.

President George W. Bush still must fill the remaining opening on the five-member FCC with a Republican nominee to succeed Abernathy, who never was appointed to a full term.

During confirmation hearings before the Senate Commerce Committee earlier this month, Tate

reportedly offered few specifics on key issues facing the FCC but touted herself as a mediator. Copps said his objective would be to "help bring the best, most accessible, and cost-effective communications system in the world to all of our people" wherever they live and whatever their status.--media reports; FCC

### ASTRONAUTS DON'T SPEND MUCH TIME IN SPACE, ISS COMMANDER TELLS STUDENTS

International Space Station Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, really enjoys being an astronaut. But he told students at Sanderson High School in Texas December 8 that, although he's been an astronaut for a while now and really enjoys it, he really hasn't spent all that much of his career in space.

"I've been an astronaut for 15 years now, and this is only the fourth time I've flown in space," McArthur told the students via the space station's NA1SS. "So it's a great job, but there's much more to it than just being in space."

But being in space and navigating by floating around in microgravity is "just really neat" he told another questioner. Still, being part of a two-person crew for six months aboard the ISS does put astronauts on the spot, McArthur explained in another reply.

"We're under a lot of pressure to be able to complete our work up here," McArthur said. "It's so expensive to send people into space that we want to be successful at everything we do." He went on to say that being away from their families for so long also is a source of stress for the ISS crew, although he noted that the crew members can stay in daily touch with their families via telephone and e-mail.

Down the road, he said--perhaps as soon as next year--ISS crews may again consist of three people and perhaps, eventually, as many as six. The ISS has been limited to two-person crews while the shuttle fleet remains grounded.

Despite the downsides of long-term space travel, McArthur made it clear that he loves being aboard the ISS. "I love it in space, if it wasn't for the fact that my family was on the ground I would never want to leave," he said.

Ten high schoolers took part in the event, and Sanderson math teacher Amy Carman, KD5HYB, served as the control operator for the nearly 10-minute direct VHF contact. In all, McArthur answered 18 of the students' questions. Before the contact, the students got to see a videotape of a recent space walk and discussed it in their science classes.

Four members of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club provided and set up all the equipment needed to make the contact a reality. An audience of approximately 25

students, teachers, parents, local dignitaries and others looked on, and reporters from four newspapers covered the ARISS contact.

On December 15, students at Mt Carmel High School in San Diego, California, had the opportunity to interview McArthur via Amateur Radio. Replying to one question, McArthur said most movie portrayals about life in space have not been very accurate because they don't capture what it's like to work in microgravity. He also said the astronauts and cosmonauts themselves are the most important research subjects. "We ourselves are the experiments," he said.

McArthur told the California high schoolers that the danger of meteorite damage to the ISS is low, although he said the ISS has encountered them. "They have, fortunately, been very, very small and never penetrated the skin of the vehicle," he pointed out. "There is a certain amount of 'space dust,' so we see it more in erosion or in delicate equipment like our solar panels."

Students yelled "Thank you!" to McArthur as the ISS went out of radio range.

The direct VHF contact between KG6EQU and NA1SS ran about six and one-half minutes. Both school group contacts were arranged by the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. ARISS is an educational outreach, with US

participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

#### KIDS' TURN AT THE RADIO: FIRST KIDS DAY OF 2006 IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

The second Sunday in January is the day to turn your shack over to the kids for some ham radio fun with a purpose. The first running of Kids Day 2006 begins Sunday, January 8, at 1800 UTC and continues until 2400 UTC with no limit on operating time (the second Kids Day will be Saturday, June 17). Kids Day provides a terrific opportunity to show youngsters what Amateur Radio is all about--and that includes its role in emergency communication. ARRL Education and Technology Program ("The Big Project") Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, says Kids Day can be a great opportunity spark change and get kids and families thinking about emergency preparedness.

"While you are coaching the youngsters who visit your shack--and their parents too--on how to make contacts and new friends via ham radio during Kids Day, why not take a few moments to ask them about their family's plans to deal with emergency challenges?" he says in December 2005 QST (see "Kids Day 2006" on p 45). "Why not use the opportunities offered by Kids Day to show the youth in your neighborhood that ham radio can be loads of fun, and that ham radio is a way that they can contribute

something very valuable to their communities?"

Call "CQ Kids Day." The suggested exchange for Kids Day contacts is first name, age, location and favorite color. It's okay to work the same station more than once if the operator has changed. Suggested frequencies are 14.270-14.300, 21.380-21.400 and 28.350-28.400 MHz. Contacts via VHF repeaters are okay too, with permission from the repeater owner. Observe third-party traffic restrictions when making DX QSOs <<http://www.arrrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/3rdparty.html>>.

All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate, which becomes the youngster's personalized "sales brochure" for ham radio, Spencer says. The League asks everyone taking part in Kids Day to complete a short survey and post comments afterward <<http://www.arrrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html>>. Doing this provides access to download the certificate page, or participants can send a 9x12 self-addressed, stamped envelope to Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009.

Spencer notes that this year's hurricane season highlighted one of the real values that ham radio brings to the community--a spirit of resilience. "By their very nature, ham radio operators are interested in personal preparedness and community service...this is resilience," he says. Spencer suggests that Kids Day sponsors

take advantage of the opportunity to show how ham radio offers a way for participants to contribute something very valuable to their communities.

"A very effective advertising strategy is to get kids hooked on an idea," he says. "The kids in turn go home and 'bug' their parents about the idea. You plant the seed in a young mind, and they will take care of the rest!"

Spencer believes Kids Day activities can result in a family emergency plan campaign that could save lives, and future community planners who know communication and how to communicate.

"Make that personal connection that may result in a new licensee and, perhaps, more resilient individuals by opening your station and inviting kids and neighbors to share in your hobby," Spencer urges. "You just might find yourself re-infected with that enthusiasm that you once had."

Visit the ARRL Web site for full information on Kids Day <<http://www.arrrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html>>.

AMATEUR RADIO VANITY  
CALL SIGN PROCESSING  
WILL RESUME JANUARY 4

The FCC has announced that routine processing of Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications will resume Wednesday, January 4,

2006. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) suspended vanity processing in September as an indirect result of its hurricane-related extensions of certain regulatory and filing deadlines. The Commission said licensees or applicants needing relief beyond the initial extension periods should follow the process for submitting waiver requests provided in §1.925 of the Commission's rules.

"The Bureau will consider additional relief related to the hurricanes on a case-by-case basis," the FCC said December 19 in a public notice.

Earlier this year, the FCC announced it would extend filing and regulatory deadlines for licensees in parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas and Florida directly affected by hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. During the extension periods, the WTB temporarily suspended certain automated licensing functions. These included dismissing applications that are returned and not amended on a timely basis, changing the status of a call sign from active to expired if a license is not renewed within the two-year grace period for Amateur Radio licensees, and issuing vanity call signs.

In September, the FCC said it had to suspend routine vanity call sign processing because the extensions included the two-year grace period and could conceivably affect the vanity program.



### PACKET UPDATE .....

Many times we have certain equipment that we want to add to our stations. You can always buy new if you want. I like to look around to find good deals at hamfests and private individual sales. Sometimes you can not get what you want at either one of these. If the equipment you are looking for is no longer made and is fairly rare you may not even see any in your area. You cannot buy what you can't find. One really nice way to get this type of equipment is on EBAY. I can tell you from watching the auctions of amateur equipment for a long time they have just about anything you would ever want. The good news is it is so popular equipment is advertised from all over the world that you can bid on and buy. That's the good news. The bad news is that you will have to actually outbid others who want the same item. You can increase your chances of winning by being an informed buyer. Know what the value of the equipment really is. Know what the maximum amount you are willing to pay for it before you start bidding. Look at the sellers rating on how hams he has sold to before rate him. Look very close at the pictures to see what type of shape it is in. Sometimes I save the pictures to the computer and magnify them with a graphics program to look at small details I want to see like scratches, extra drilled holes, ETC. I also watch how many people have looked at an item and how many bids have been placed. Very rare items that everybody wants will get bid up to unbelievable prices before you know it. Put items that you are interested in your to watch list even if you never bid. That way you can go back and see what it sold for after the auction has ended and get an idea of how much of a bid it will take to get the next one listed. If you like watching the price and making a last minute bid if the price is right look at the ending time for the auction. If it ends at 8:00 PM everyone else will be at the screen also. If it ends at 3:00 AM they will probably be in bed. Auctions that end during work hours also have less traffic except those that are retired. If you watch a while you can find the radio or test equipment you want for a good price.

James Butler, KB4LJV

### AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE .....

Many manufacturers make kits for single band CW. These are usually low powered CW only rigs that cover from 30 to 60 KHZ of a band. This month's project is the MFJ CUB kit for 40 meters. The kit is partially assembled with all surface mount parts put on and tested. You just add the other parts to the board and you are ready to go. Some folks say they can do it in a couple of hours but I take my time and it takes longer. The picture shows my case and circuit board just about ready to be finished up.

You can see from the picture with the quarter in it is a small radio. It puts out about 2 watts. MFJ has gone to a black paint job on their cases now. You get all components including the case switches, knobs, and connectors needed to finish the kit. The best deal is the price for the kit at only \$79.00. I have built several for different bands and they all work well. If you are looking for a small QRP rig for CW on one of the bands check out these little units from MFJ.

James Butler, KB4LJV



# January

2006

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b> Tony, N4LKK	<b>2</b> Marjorie Torkell	<b>3</b> Jim, WD8JAO	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>MARA Club Meeting</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Janet, KD4DWW	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Hugh, WB4SLI	<b>10</b> <b>Delta Club Meeting</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Kenneth, KD5LHG	<b>13</b> Darrell Jr., KI4DJB	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Kathryn McLemore	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> John, KE4OTI	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Evins, WB4SLJ	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Tom, N4TV	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Shelby Cty.,</b> <b>ARES Meeting</b> <b>6:45 PM</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

# February

2006

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			<b>1</b> Lance, N4GMT	<b>2</b> <b>MARA Club Meeting</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Pat, W4OQG
<b>5</b> Curtis, W4WP	<b>6</b> John, KD4EUZ	<b>7</b> Amanda Pace	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Steven, W4UCA Hafife Montgomery	<b>10</b> Lisa, KI4DIL	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Douglas, K4DBR	<b>13</b> Bobby, KC4NBS Nancy Vickers	<b>14</b> <b>Delta Club Meeting</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Sharon, N4ZCS	<b>15</b> Bill, KI4BIY Nancy Morrow	<b>16</b> Kati Lynn Hughes	<b>17</b> Tom, K4TTA	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> John, KE4WEV	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Sally, KI4AUD
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Shelby Cty., ARES Meeting</b> <b>6:45 PM</b> Adam, KI4GIU				



## CONTEST CALENDAR

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

**ARRL RTTY Roundup**--1800Z Jan 7-2400Z Jan 8, see Dec 2005 *QST*, p 87.

**Kids Day--Phone**, sponsored by the ARRL and the Boring Amateur Radio Club from 1800Z to 2400Z Jan 8. See Dec 2005 *QST*, p 45.

**DARC 10-meter Contest**--CW/SSB, sponsored by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club from 0900Z -1059Z Jan 8. 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](http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcz.htm)

**Worldwide QRP Federation QSO Party** - CW/SSB/Digital, sponsored by the RU QRP Club from 0000Z-2400Z Jan 6. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For more information: [http://ruqrp.narod.ru/index\\_e.html](http://ruqrp.narod.ru/index_e.html).

**EUCW 160 Meter Contest**--CW, sponsored by the Union Francaise des Telegraphistes from 2000Z-2300Z Jan 7 and

0400-0700Z Jan 8. For more information: [www.uft.net/articles.php?lng=fr&pg=123](http://www.uft.net/articles.php?lng=fr&pg=123).

**Original QRP Contest**--sponsored by the QRP Contest Community, from 1500Z Jan 7-1500Z Jan 8. Frequencies: 80-20 meters. For more information: [www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/oqrpr.html](http://www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/oqrpr.html).

**North American QSO Party**--CW, sponsored by the *National Contest Journal* from 1800Z Jan 14-0600Z Jan 15. Frequencies: 160-10-meters. For information: [www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php](http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php).

**MI QRP Club January CW Contest**--1200Z Jan 14-2400Z Jan 15. Frequencies: 160-6-meters. For information: [www.qsl.net/miqrclub](http://www.qsl.net/miqrclub).

**Midwinter Contest**--CW/SSB, sponsored by the Dutch YL Committee, CW from 1400Z-2000Z Jan 14, SSB from 0800Z-1400Z Jan 15. 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](http://www.qsl.net/pi4ylc/Engels/midwinter%20contest.htm)

**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 14-2400Z Jan 15. Frequencies: 80-10 meters, work stations once per band regardless of mode. For more information: [www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/lionita.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/lionita.asp)

**HA DX Contest**--CW, sponsored by the Hungarian DX Club from 1200Z Jan 14-1200Z Jan 15. Frequencies: 160-10-meter bands. For more information: [www.mrasz.hu/engver/mraszen.html](http://www.mrasz.hu/engver/mraszen.html).

**070 PSKFest**--sponsored by the Penn/OH DX Society (PODXS) from 0000Z-2400Z Jan 14. Frequencies: 80-10-meters. For more information: [www.podxs.com/html/pskfest.html](http://www.podxs.com/html/pskfest.html).

**ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes**--1900Z Jan 21-0400Z Jan 23, see Dec 2005 *QST*, p 89.

## 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](mailto:ka4bll@arrl.net) or 363-9607.

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

KA4BLL (Extra) Ned Savage 363-9607  
[ka4bll@arrl.net](mailto: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](mailto:jbutler@bigriver.net) (2, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14)

KD4NOQ (Adv) David Campbell 388-6166  
[kd4noq@bellsouth.net](mailto:kd4noq@bellsouth.net) (1,2,3,5,9,10,12,14, slow scan TV, ATV minor)

KU4AW (Extra) Ben Troughton 372-8031  
[bktrough@bellsouth.net](mailto:bktrough@bellsouth.net) (2,4, 8, 15)

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

WA2IQC (Gen) Gary Blinckmann 794-5289  
[garyblin@midsouth.rr.com](mailto:garyblin@midsouth.rr.com) (1, 7, 10, 14)

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

K4DIT (Extra) Ken Gregg 853-7384  
[kgregg@c-a-c.com](mailto:kgregg@c-a-c.com) (4, 6, 8, 11, 15)

W4GMM (Extra) Ham Hilliard 372-2337  
[hamh@bellsouth.net](mailto: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



**North American QSO Party**-- Phone, 1800Z Jan 21-0600Z Jan 22 (see Jan 14-15).

**80-Meter Straight Key Sprint**-- sponsored by the North American QRP Club, from 0130Z-0330Z Jan. 21 (Thursday evening). Frequencies (MHz): 3.560, 7.110. For more information: [www.arm-tek.net/~yoel](http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel).

**LZ Open Championship**--CW, sponsored by the LZ Open Contest Club from 0400Z-1200Z Jan 21. Frequencies: 3.5 and 7 MHz. For more information: [www.linkove.com/lz-open-contest/rules/rules.htm](http://www.linkove.com/lz-open-contest/rules/rules.htm).

**BARTG RTTY Sprint**--sponsored by the British Amateur Radio Teletype Group from 1200Z Jan 21-1200Z Jan 22. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: [www.bartg.demon.co.uk](http://www.bartg.demon.co.uk).

**International United Teenager Contest**-- CW/SSB, sponsored by "Radio-TLUM" Ukraine from 0600Z-1400Z Jan 21 in four periods for operators 18 or younger and Ukraine veterans. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For information: [www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/17.html](http://www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/17.html) (select "Translate to English").

**UK DX RTTY Contest**--sponsored by the Scottish-Russian ARS from 1200Z Jan 21-1200Z Jan 22. Frequencies: 80-10-meters. For more information: [www.ukdx.scotham.net](http://www.ukdx.scotham.net).

**CQ WW 160-Meter Contest**--CW, sponsored by CQ Magazine from 0000Z Jan 28-2359Z Jan 29 (Phone is Feb 25-26). For more information: [www.cq-amateur-radio.com/index.html](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/index.html).

**REF French Contest**--CW, sponsored by the Reseau des Emetteurs Francais, 0600Z Jan 28-1800Z Jan 29 (Phone is Feb 25-26). Contact French stations including Corsica, Overseas Territories, and EU Coun-

cil station TP2CE. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: [www.ref-union.org/concours](http://www.ref-union.org/concours).

**UBA Contest**--Phone, sponsored by the Royal Union of Belgian Amateur Radio from 1300Z Jan 28-1300Z Jan 29 (CW is Feb 25-26). Frequencies: 80-10-meters, according to the IARU band plan. For more information and a list of EU entities: [www.uba.be](http://www.uba.be).

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Jan 1-Jan 31, 0000Z-2400Z**, Brant Rock, MA. Fessenden Amateur Radio Society (W1FRV), AA1A/BO. 100th year commemoration of transoceanic 2-way communications. 18.075 14.055 10.118 7.055. QSL. RAF.NESCO, Box 686, Brant Rock, MA 02020. Participating stations use /BO suffix. [www.radiocom.net/Fessenden/](http://www.radiocom.net/Fessenden/).

**Jan 7-Jan 8, 1200Z-2100Z**, Bethpage, NY. NLI Section, W2V. Ham Radio University 2006, our 7th annual day of education, at the ARRL NYC/LI Section Convention. 14.273 7.273. QSL. Phil Lewis, N2MUN, 22 Belle Terre W, Lindenhurst, NY 11757. [www.hudson.arrl.org/nli/](http://www.hudson.arrl.org/nli/).

**Jan 7-Jan 16, 1400Z-0000Z**, Wall Township, NJ. Ocean Monmouth ARC, N2MO. From the historic Diana Site, to commemorate "Project Diana," the first ever successful moon bounce experiment. Gen and Nov/Tech subbands 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m. QSL. OMARC Inc, PO Box 267, Oakhurst, NJ 07755. [www.omarc.org](http://www.omarc.org).

**Jan 21-Jan 22, 1300Z-2300Z**, Moscow, PA. Northeast Pennsylvania Special Event Club, KV3T. Remembering the Knox Coal Mine Disaster. 21.240 14.240 14.045 7.240. QSL. David Samsell, W3LOW, 923 Clearview Rd, Moscow, PA 18444. <http://kv3t.tripod.com>.

**Jan 28, 1400Z-2100Z**, Punxsutawney, PA. Punxsutawney Area Amateur Radio Club, K3HWJ. Commemorating Groundhog Day 2006. 14.240 7.240 7.125 147.390. Certificate. Mike Miller, N3HBH, 1097 Wishaw Rd, Reynoldsville, PA 15851. [www.qsl.net/k3hwj](http://www.qsl.net/k3hwj).

**Jan 28-Jan 30, 1400Z-0200Z**, Wilsona Gardens, CA. BioRem RAC (Edwards AFB), AL7LS. Jan 27, 1967 release of *Hot Rods to Hell* filmed at Wilsona Gardens. Packet on 14.105 7.105 3.740. Certificate. Bruce Rossi, 2127 Sierra Stone Ln, Las Vegas, NV 89119.

**Feb 1-Feb 5, 1600Z-1900Z**, Washington, PA. Washington Amateur Communications, W3C. Washington County Annual Sports Show. 14.270 7.270. QSL. Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI, 60 Carl Ave B-2, Eighty Four, PA 15330. <http://wacomarc.org>.

**Feb 3-Feb 5, 1500Z-0400Z**, Lubbock, TX. Buddy Holly Memorial, W5B. 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Buddy Holly. 18.150 14.260 7.260 3.860. QSL. W5B Buddy Holly QSL, c/o Bryan Edwards, 3801 68<sup>th</sup> St, Lubbock, TX 79413. [www.amcrc.com/w5b](http://www.amcrc.com/w5b)

**Feb 3-Feb 5, 1800Z-0400Z**, New York, NY. Buddy Holly Memorial, W2B. 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Buddy Holly. 21.365 18.155 14.265 7.265. QSL. W2B Buddy Holly QSL, c/o Mike Gruber, 125 Kibbe Grove Rd, Somers, CT 06071-1111. [www.amcrc.com/w2b](http://www.amcrc.com/w2b).

**Feb 4, 1400Z-2300Z**, Nacogdoches, TX. Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club, W5NAC. Space Shuttle *Columbia* Recovery Special Event Station. 28.365 21.365 14.265 7.265. QSL. Nacogdoches ARC, 167 County Rd 2093, Nacogdoches, TX 75965. [www.w5nac.com](http://www.w5nac.com).

**TENNESSEE NETS**

<b>Net Name</b>	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>UTC</b>	<b>Day</b>
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

**AREA HAMFESTS OF INTEREST**

**Mississippi State Convention (Capital City Hamfest)**

Jackson Amateur Radio Club  
State Fairgrounds  
Jackson, MS  
February 3&4 , 2006

**Lawrence County ARC Winterfest**

Lawrence County Amateur Radio Club  
Walnut Ridge Fire Department Fireman's Hall  
218 East Main Street  
Walnut Ridge, AR 72476  
February 11, 2006

**Delta Amateur Radio Club  
December 2005 Treasurers Report**

<b>Balance 12/05/2005</b>	<b>\$5,522.51</b>
<b><u>Expense</u></b>	
BellSouth 1/3/06	\$182.27
U of M 1/3/06	45.88
TN Secretary of State	<u>20.00</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$248.15</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>	
Correction to December Report	\$90.00
2006 Annual Membership Dues	<u>520.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$610.00</b>
<b>Balance 01/03/2006</b>	<b>\$5,884.36</b>

**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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Memphis, TN 38175-0482**

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