

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

P.O. Box 750482 * Memphis, Tennessee 38175-0482 * Volume 17 * January 2011



**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
443.20 & 145.03 packet

NEXT CLUB MEETING

DATE: January 11, 2011 (2nd Tuesday of each month)
PLACE: Ellendale Church Of Christ, 7365 Highway 70
Memphis, TN (2 miles east of Hwy. 64 – Stage Road)

TIME: 7:00 PM

PROGRAM: Space Station Tour With Mike Fink
Presented by: David Campbell– KD4NOQ

VE TESTING: Don't forget the monthly Volunteer Examiner testing session. Registration begins at 5:30 PM and testing begins promptly at 6:00 PM. Please remember to bring two (2) 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 PM. This is to allow our volunteer VE team to finish in time to attend the club meeting. For more VE testing information, please contact:

Bill Stevens, WC9S, VEC
Phone: 901-603-3448
Email: ki4tqa@bellsouth.net

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Good January to all. Like many of you, I am doing my best to put all the holiday celebrating, parties, cakes, pies, cookies, candy, etc., behind me by jumping into the New Year with grand expectations. I don't spend time making resolutions that I know I won't keep; I'm never going to be a "size 4" (Marilyn Monroe was a size 12 and she did pretty good for herself...) and I'm never going to consistently use my "turn signals". The resolution I do make and keep is to learn something new. Over the course of many years, I've learned many things; some obscure, some business-oriented and some everyday useful. One of the most useful things I've learned about has been "ham radio". Ham radio truly offers something for everyone. Think about it, you're able to rag-chew on an HT or chase electrons through programming and theory. I've supported community events, worked MARS HF and digital, built j poles, soldered coax connections, pulled up more wire and climbed more ladders than you can shake

an antenna at but I wouldn't change a single experience. I plan to continue my ham studies, in part through my involvement with the club. Volunteering to serve the club has given me access to invaluable information, contacts and opportunities. I recommend you make an effort to volunteer in 2011, be it your knowledge or just coming out to a club-sponsored event. Let's keep the forward momentum of the club going in 2011. I look forward to seeing everyone at the club meetings.

A great year to us all. 73!

Rosalinda Melena
KI4ZKW

P.S. (by Kenneth Laseter, KI4AOH) Rosalinda received a nice thank you letter from St. Jude thanking the Delta Amateur Radio Club and those who worked the St. Jude Marathon. She asked me to insert a copy for you to read.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance	as of December 1, 2010	\$12,365.16
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Expenses

AT&T	(phone line)	\$63.49
U of M	(phone line)	\$22.94
2010 Refreshments		\$120.00
Ellendale Church of Christ	Donation for 2010	\$100.00

Total Expense	\$306.43
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SubTotal **\$12,058.73**

Income

Membership Dues		\$465.00
Donation		\$5.00

Total Income	\$470.00
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Ending Balance	as of December 31, 2010	\$12,528.73
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Submitted by Rick Tillman WA4NVM

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 7, 2010

No minutes available at publication.

GENERAL CLUB MEETING MINUTES

December 14, 2010

No minutes available at publication.

AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE

By James Butler (KB4LJV)

Many times amateurs like to build up their own antennas. This means we have to find supplies of parts to build with. One company that carries antenna products is Radio Works. They carry coax as well as ladder line for antenna feeds. They also have hard drawn copper for making wire antennas. The company also carries a line of antenna kits for Carolina Windom antennas. They have their super loop 80 antenna kit. They even carry a G5RV antenna kit complete with high power balun. Radio Works even sells antenna support line made of Dacron or Kevlar to be weather resistant. They also make and sell a complete line of antenna feed baluns in 1 to 1 and 4 to 1 ratios. If you are looking for antenna parts or kits check out Radio Works. Their website is www.radioworks.com

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

By James Butler (KB4LJV)

Many times we like to build up our own test equipment. I look at accessories built up by companies to see if I can use it for my own use. One of the most useful pieces is the current meter. Ten Tec made use of current meters in their older radio equipment. They also made a stand alone current meter. They used it to look at current used when transmitting and to keep from overloading the power supply running the radio. The Ten Tec radio I have has a small one on the front panel used to tune the radio with. Ten Tec used a standard very cheap meter



voltmeter movement and made their own shunt to make it into a current meter. They actually wound a length of magnet wire around the meter movement on the back and connected it to the meter terminals

to make a current meter. I took one of my old surplus meters and tried the wirewinding trick. It worked but the current meter was a little sensitive. I tried again with less wire and had a nice current meter at about 1 amp full scale. I mounted it in a surplus aluminum box I painted in Heathkit colors to match my other equipment and mounted plug terminals on the back for connections. The current meter works great and lets me monitor current levels used by my QRP equipment.

TENNESSEE NETS

Net Name	Freq. MHz	Local Time	Day
Tennessee CW Net	3.563	7:00p	Daily
Tennessee Slow CW Net	3.682	7:30p	T-Su
Tennessee Early Morn Phone Net	3.980	5:40a	M-F
Tennessee Morning Phone Net	3.980	6:45a	M-F
Tennessee Evening Phone Net	3.980	6:30p	T-Su
CUSEC (Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)	3.810	As needed	
CUSEC (Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)	7.180	As needed	

MEMPHIS AREA NETS

Net Name	Freq. MHz	Local Time	Day
Mid-South Barefooted Bullfrog net	146.535	7:30p	Daily
Delta Club Traffic and Information Net	146.820-(107.2)	8:00p	Daily
Secret Service Net	224.780-	8:30p	M
Elmer Net	147.030+(107.2)	9:00p	M
The Short Winded Net	146.850-	8:30p	Tu
MedMERS Net	146.730-(107.2)	12:00p	W
Six Meter Tech Net	53.01-	8:30p	W
The 440 Net	443.200+(107.2Hz)	9:00p	W
Two meter single Sideband Net	144.260 USB	8:30p	Th
ARES Training Net	146.880-(107.2)	9:00p	2 nd & 4 th Th

TRAINING CLASSES

2010 COMPLETED CLASS INFORMATION

Licenses Earned in 2010 from Delta Classes

61 Technician

5 General

3 Extra

The Delta Amateur Radio Club had a good year in 2010 with 69 students receiving licenses or upgrades in the five license classes held. Thanks go out to all of the volunteers that helped to make 2010 a great year. A special thanks goes to Bill Stevens KI4TQA, Rick Tillman WA4NVM, David Gilbert AJ4LV, Pat Lane W4OQG, Dean Honadle N2LAZ, Tom Fox KA4LWQ, Win Guin W2GLJ, Dennis Foster KJ4BDU, and Alan Proffitt AE5RX for their help with the classes.

BOY SCOUT RADIO MERIT BADGE CLASS

On December 27, 2010 the Delta Club provided instructors for the Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge class for 14 Scouts from Troop 452 at Arlington United Methodist Church. Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO was the lead instructor.

JT Schlichter KI4AJG, Alan Anderson KJ4BIX, and Clyde Getman AF4ZS were the control operators on-site for each Scout's 10 minute QSO. JT observed the Scouts in a simplex QSO via a VHF handheld radio with Joe in his car. Alan observed the Scouts operating on 40 and 80 meters HF from Alan's truck. Clyde observed the Scouts from a portable VHF mobile radio through the TriState 146.94 repeater with Aaron Alexander KI4OTH at his home QTH. Aaron was an excellent ham peer for the Scouts to keep the conversations going.



Troop 452 Radio Merit Badge Class Photo by: J.T. Schlichter, KI4AJG

SCHEDULED CLASSES

If you are interested in any of the following classes, please send an email to Joe Lowenthal at wa4ovo@yahoo.com with your name, email address, and phone number (preferably cell phone) with subject line of the class you are interested in.

January 22, 2011 - Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge

Two Radio Merit Badge classes will be held on January 22, 2011 as a part of Troop 457's Merit Badge Expo for the whole Chickasaw Council at St. Benedict Auburndale School.

January 15 thru February 19, 2011 - Extra Class #1-11

Extra Class #1-11 will begin on January 15th for six Saturdays from 9am to 1pm at the Memphis Shelby County Health Department East Complex. Dean Honadle N2LAZ and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO will be teaching the class.

March 4th & 5th, 18th & 19th, and 25th & 26th - Technician-General Class #2-11

A General license class is scheduled for three Friday nights and three Saturdays from March 4th through March 26th at the Mid-South Chapter, American Red Cross, 1400 Central Ave. The Friday night sessions are from 6:30-9:30pm. The first Saturday session, March 5th, will be 7 hours from 9am to 4pm. The second and third Saturdays will be from 9am-3pm with FCC testing in the afternoon of the 26th.

Caution: The Technician question pool changed July 1, 2010. Be sure to purchase the correct license manual for the Technician classes- "The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, 2nd Edition" item #0830.

To Be Determined - Technician Class #3-11

A Technician class is proposed for late February or early March for 6 Monday nights if interest is shown from at least 15 students.

INFORMATION ON CLASS CONTENT

No Morse Code Requirements for any Amateur Radio License.

Technician License Class

Get your name on the list for the next class NOW by sending an email to Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO. Most of the technician classes are held one night a week on Monday nights for 5 or 6 weeks. We have also had several 2-day (16 hours total) weekday classes, usually held on a Tuesday and Wednesday, or a weekend. [Click this link](#) to email Joe to get your name on the list for the next class.

To help prepare for the Technician License classes, you can obtain a copy of "The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, Second Edition", an ARRL publication (item #0830/ISBN 087259-083-0). You can buy the manual directly from the ARRL at <http://www.arrl.org/shop/Licensing-Education-and-Training/>, or possibly at Amazon.com. You can purchase the manual locally at Barnes & Noble Booksellers. The retail price is \$24.95. The manual is a good reference guide for future use. As stated at the top of the page, the Delta Club does not charge any fee for the class, but we highly recommend that you purchase the manual and there will be a \$15 fee for the ARRL FCC examination at the end of the class.

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national Amateur Radio organization, is headquartered in Newington, CT. The ARRL web site is www.arrl.org. Sample tests can be taken online at several websites:

- www.qrz.com
- www.aa9pw.com
- <http://kb0mga.net/exams>
- <http://copaseticflow.blogspot.com/2010/06/technician-class-practice-test-gadget.html>
- www.hamtestonline.com (\$20.00 for 10 hours)
- <http://www.hamradioclass.org>

General License Class

For those Novice and Technician licensees that are interested in upgrading to a General Class license, Delta Club is planning a General training class in the near future. If you have let "the code" keep you from advancing to General, now's the time for you to upgrade. If you have an interest in attending a class to help you upgrade, [click this link](#) to email Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, and let him know.

Basic Electronics Class

The Delta Club started a Basic Electronics class in the Fall of 2008. Are you unsure of your electronics and the mathematics that go along with calculating the answers for the Extra Class

electronics? If so, you want to get into this class. If you are interested in attending such a class, [click this link](#) and let Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO know of your interest. The textbook used is *The ARRL Understanding Basic Electronics, Second Edition* (ARRL order # 0823).

Amateur Extra License Class

Have you always wanted to get that Extra Class license but just couldn't make yourself hit the books and prepare for it? The Delta Club is ready to help. If you are interested in attending such a class to gain access to the entire amateur frequency allocation, [click this link](#) and let Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO know of your interest.

CERT TRAINING SCHEDULE

BARTLETT FIRE DEPARTMENT

I have scheduled a CERT class for February 19th and 26th at the Bartlett Station Municipal Center. Starting times for both days is 8:00 am. Mart, please place this in the City web site.

Danny Baxter, Asst. Chief
 Bartlett Fire Department
 2939 Altruria Rd.
 Bartlett, TN 38134
 (901) 385-5536 office
 (901) 385-9917 fax
dbaxter@cityofbartlett.org

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

If you are a coordinator for any of these events, please supply the event date(s) and make sure I have published the correct contact information for you. If I have indicated "No Contact Information", please provide me with your correct contact information. Please email dates and corrections to me at kmlaseter@laseterinc.com.

DATE	EVENT	COORDINATOR	CONTACT INFO.
January 16 th	Swamp Stompers	Danny- KJ4FXZ	kj4fxz@arrl.net
	NOTICE: At press time, Danny still needs more volunteers! If you can help out, please contact Danny Banks at the above email or 901-861-3229.		
March 4 TH weekend TBA	City Slickers Equestrian Event Boy Scout Merit Badge University	Richard – NF5B Hugh – WB4SLI	(No Contact Information) hwardlaw@bellsouth.net
April 1 st weekend TBA	MS Walk March for Babies AKA	Denise – KJ5DG Bob – KF4NDK	kj5dg.denise@gmail.com (No Contact Information)

May 3 rd weekend	Memphis in May Triathlon	Ned - KA4BLL	ka4bll@arrl.net
September TBA	MS 150 Bike Ride	Darrell - KK4D	kk4d@xipline.com
October TBA	Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk	Kathleen - KC0HZU	(No Contact Information)
December TBA	St. Jude Marathon	Roger – WR4R	ki4ajh@bellsouth.net
TBA	Bartlett Christmas Parade	HAM – W4GMM	w4gmm@bellsouth.net

SPARKS NEWSLETTER & DELTA CLUB INFORMATION

SPARKS is published monthly by the Delta Amateur Radio Club and emailed to club members. All information published in this newsletter is provided as a service. While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the Delta Amateur Radio Club nor its officers assume any liability resulting from errors or omissions. All correspondence may be mailed to:

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P.O. Box 342768
Memphis, Tennessee 38184-2768

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W4BS Repeater Trustee:
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901-872-3367
Darrell.Sheffield@memphistn.gov

DELTA CLUB 146.82 NET PREAMBLE

GOOD EVENING: This is _____ calling this session of the DELTA CLUB'S TRAFFIC AND INFORMATION NET. This net is affiliated with the ARRL and the NTS and is organized to pass traffic in and out of the mid- south area, in addition to providing information about club events and amateur related topics. This net meets nightly at 8:00 p.m. CT except the second Tuesday of the month on the 146.82 W4BS repeater and may require a pl. tone of 107.2 Hz. All stations will refrain from transmitting without being acknowledged by net control.

All licensed amateurs are encouraged to participate.

Before we begin, is there any station with emergency or priority traffic?

During this net should any station have emergency or priority traffic please use a double break followed by your call sign.

Is there an NTS Liaison station on frequency?

Is there any station wishing to list formal written traffic?

Does any station have announcements for the net?

(If anyone asks to make an announcement after you finish handling the ones taken here ask them to hold until after the monolog. Eliminate the following sentence unless there are announcements.)

Does any station have any questions or need any fills?

We will now take check-ins. Are there any stations that are mobile, on battery power, or needing to leave early, if so please come now phonetically with your suffix only and please remember to spread them out?

We will now take check-ins phonetically by suffix only if your suffix begins ALPHA through HOTEL please come now and remember to spread them out.

We will now take check-ins phonetically by suffix only if your suffix begins INDIA through KEEBECK please come now and remember to spread them out.

We will now take check-ins phonetically by suffix only if your suffix begins ROMEO through ZULU please come now and remember to spread them out.

The DELTA CLUB meets the second Tuesday of each month at the ELLENDALE CHURCH OF CHRIST 7365 HWY 70 in Bartlett at 7:00 P.M. V. E. Registration begins at 5:30 with testing starting promptly at 6:00. A copy of your license and CSCE is required. For V. E. Information contact Tom, KA4LWQ at 3571663. For membership information contact Steve KI4YOP at 4938663. For training information contact Joe WA4OVO at 683-2701..

Are there any additional announcements?

We will now take late check-ins from anywhere in the alphabet ALPHA through ZULU please come now and spread them out.

Is there anything that this station or the net can do for anyone before we close?

This is _____ now closing this session of the DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB'S Traffic and information net and would like to thank all _____ stations for checking in tonight. And would like to ask that everyone to check in tomorrow night at the same time.

GOODNIGHT AND 73: THE NET IS NOW CLOSED. _____ CLEAR



December 15, 2010

Delta Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 342768
Memphis, TN 38184-2768

Dear Members:

On behalf of everyone at ALSAC, St. Jude and those special children and families we serve, I want you to know how appreciative we are of all your efforts in making this year's St. Jude Memphis Marathon Weekend such a spectacular success.

It takes an organized and very dedicated group of individuals to stage a running event with over 16,000 participants in four races. It is an inspiring event that showcases our great city and brings out the best of all those involved. We are truly fortunate to have people like you committed to what is fast becoming one of the nation's premier running events. Please know how much we appreciate the radio operators of the Delta Amateur Radio Club for their communication efforts in support of this year's event.

The ultimate beneficiaries of your generous commitment of time and hard work are the children of St. Jude and their families who, because of people like you, are being given hope in their fight against childhood cancer, sickle cell disease, and other catastrophic diseases that afflict children.

Thank you again, and we wish you and your family a joyous holiday season.

Sincerely,

Dwight Drinkard
Event Coordinator

501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1942 | t 901.578.2038 800.565.5112 f 901.578.6696 | marathon@stjude.org

ST. JUDE MEMPHIS MARATHON WEEKEND
is produced in partnership with the Memphis Runner Track Club
www.stjudemarathon.org