

# DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# SPARKS

P. O. BOX 342768 MEMPHIS, TN 38175-0482 / VOL. 3 / MARCH 2007



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

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

## MARCH 2007 CLUB MEETING

**DATE:** March 6, 2007 ( **1st Tuesday - be there** )

**PLACE:** Ellendale Church Of Christ, 7365 Highway 70,  
Memphis, Tn. ( 1.5 miles east of Hwy. 64-Stage Rd. )

**TIME:** 7:00 PM

**PROGRAM:** Riding the Omnibus: Recent Changes to FCC Part 97 presented by Peter Baskind

**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 VEC exam examination fee 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)

**NOTICE:** Delta Club will be testing at the March club meeting but remember the club meeting is the first Tuesday in March.

Please Remember: Deadline for Reports and Articles for the next issue of SPARKS is the last day of the month prior to the meeting. 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:

[KI4AJH@bellsouth.net](mailto:KI4AJH@bellsouth.net)

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**\*\* March Meeting is the first Tuesday this month due to scheduling conflicts**

Hello All,

February did not take long to get away from us did it? I hope it was a good month for everybody.

We have a number of new hams in the area and DARC members also, as a result of the first training school put on this year. Much thanks to Joe Lowenthal, his Back-up assistance and those interested in the hobby.

We still have no takers for the VP position. If you are interested in the position please let a Board member know.

I am still interested in the Club getting a small camper or covered trailer to make a portable operating station out of. I have had several suggestions but none have worked out so far. I am attempting to make contact with the proper persons in FEMA and discuss one of the units in Hope AR. If you have what we can use or know of anyone that does please let me know.

There are several upcoming Public Service events in March so check them out and let Eddie, KF4QFW know that you are interested as soon as possible.

Roger is still trying to update the e-mail list so that everyone can get a Sparks. If you have a new e-mail address please give it to me or Lisa to add to the roster. If you know someone that does not have access to a computer to receive the Sparks please let me or Roger know so they can be added to the hand delivery list.

Speaking of Rosters, **Please renew your membership**. I am trying to keep the data base current and plan to print a 2007 Rooster for everyone that will only include current members. I would like to make March the yearly roster month and provide members a new roster each year but I need all of the members help in timely renewal and update of information.

See you all at the meeting and as always if you have questions or information please feel free to contact your Board.

73,  
Darrell, KK4D

**DARC Board Meeting Minutes  
February 6, 2007**

KK4D-Darrell called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. WA4OVO-Joe, N2LAZ-Dean, KD4NOQ-David, WB4SLI-Hugh, KI4AJH-Roger, and K4POM-Lisa attended.

The board discussed changes to be made to the January minutes. the motion was made by WA4OVO-Joe to correct the minutes. The board unanimously seconded and approved.

WB4SLI-Hugh gave the Treasurer's report. KK4D-Darrell went over the budget for 2007. There were no questions and no objections by the board and it was approved as printed.

**New Business:**

The board voted in KI4TAN-David Branch as a new member.

KD4NOQ-David advised the board that Pat Lane would be hosting the presentation at the February general meeting. He advised Pat would be going over remote earthquake telemetry. He also advised that Peter Baskin would host the program for the general meeting for March.

WA4OVO-Joe gave an update on the training sessions. He advised the board of an upcoming event-Welcome Technicians weekend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
K4POM-Lisa Sheffield  
DARC Secretary

**Skywarn Spotter Training**

3 Mar 07

900 am

Agricenter International  
Banquet Room - C wing  
7777 Walnut Grove Road  
Memphis, TN

**DARC General Meeting Minutes  
February 13, 2007**

KK4D-Darrell called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm with the introductions of the general membership. There were 36 members and guests present.

Darrell advised the members of QST magazines free for anyone who wants them. WA4OVO-Joe advised the new hams of what QST is.

KK4D-Darrell read the treasurer's report for WB4SLI-Hugh. N4GMT-Lance motioned to accept and NF5B-Richard seconded the motion.

N4GMT-Lance motioned to accept the secretary's minutes as printed in SPARKS. KF4NDH-Bob seconded the motion.

KK4D-Darrell presented the 2007 budget to the membership. N2LAZ-Dean motioned to accept it as printed and KC0HZU-Kathleen seconded the motion.

**Old Business:**

KK4D-Darrell called for nominations from the floor for the vacant Vice President slot. There were none.

**New Business:**

N4GMT-Lance invited everyone capable of using the 220 frequency to join in on Monday nights at 8:30 pm.

KF4QFW-Eddie gave information on upcoming public service events. He called for volunteers to contact him if interested in helping with the City Slickers Endurance Ride being held on March 22, 23, and 24. He needs people to work Friday and Saturday. He also requested help for Walk America and the MS walks at Shelby farms both being held in April.

WA4OVO-Joe introduced visitors that had attended his workshop and presented new members who got their licenses after taking the workshop. He advised the members of a new class starting on Feb. 26.

At 7:40 KK4D-Darrell turned the meeting over to Pat Lane. Pat gave a wonderful presentation on remote earthquake telemetry being used in the area. He also demonstrated the use of a spectrum analyser.

Due to spring break for the school children-Joan would not be able to test, and Darrell and Lisa having a prior commitment the board agreed during the break that we would move the March meeting to the 6th of March. The regular schedule will resume in April.

NF5B-Richard won the door prize.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
K4POM-Lisa Sheffield  
DARC Secretary

HAM LICENSE TRAINING CLASSES for 2007  
By Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Director of Training

Congratulations to the 19 new hams who completed the first Technician License Class in 2007. There were a few students who wanted more study time. Therefore, we'll have some more new hams out of that first class when they take their test. The 19 new hams are Don Arend, KI4TKX; David Branch, KI4TAN; Hooper Jones, KI4TPL; George King, KI4TKY; Jerry Klein, KI4TKZ; Karen Loyd, KE5MFX; Joe Maness, KI4TLA; Elaine McKinney, KI4TFW; Greg McKinney, KI4TLF; Mark McCormick, KI4TGQ; Wayne Monte, KI4TLB; Dr. Stuart Polly, KI4TLC; Beverly Rauch, KI4TPM; David Stancil, KI4TPO; Bruce Tillery, KI4TLD; Dr. Otis Warr III, KI4TLL; Bob Weible, KE5MFV; Paulette Weible, KE5MFW; Geoffrey Wilson, KI4TLE.

GET ON THE AIR AND RADIO EQUIPMENT BASICS

The Delta Club held a Get On The Air and Radio Equipment Basics classes on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. An informative time was had by the 10 newer hams who attended. They were not able to make contacts on the HF band (28.300-28.500MHz) since it is in such poor conditions. However, they learned about some radio equipment basics from seasoned Elmers. Thanks to Elmers Rick Tillman, WA4NVM; Lance Morris, N4GMT; Hugh Wardlaw, WB4SLI; Ham Hilliard, W4GMM; David Campbell, KD4NOQ; The new hams also received some Alinco, Icom, Kenwood, MFJ and Yaesu literature/brocures. Many thanks to Barry Moore, KE4KAG, and the Memphis-Shelby County Health Department for the use of the Health Department East Campus facility on Mullins Station Road. Also, many thanks to Memphis Amateur Electronics for the literature.

TECH CLASS 2-07

At this writing there are 22 students for the next Technician License class scheduled for six Monday nights from February 26-April 2. The class is again at the Police Training Room, Germantown City Hall first floor, at the corner of Farmington Blvd and Germantown Parkway. Classes are from 6:30 until 9:00pm. If anyone wants to start late, we will accept new students for this current class. You can register by calling Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, at 901-683-2701.

TECH CLASS 3-07

The third Technician License class is an intense 2-day class from 8:00am to 5:00pm held in Classroom B&D, Baptist Memorial Hospital-Collierville, 1500 W. Poplar, Collierville, TN 38017. The first day will be an ARRL DVD presentation with questions and answers. The second day will be a review until about 3:30pm. Then, there will be a WCARS FCC exam session. Currently there are 23 students registered. There is room for a few more students if anyone wants to attend. However, you will need to have read The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual before class starts, or at least studied the Technician question pool to be able to pass the test.

GENERAL CLASS

A General License class is in the planning stages. I envision that it will be about 16 hours long (2 or 3 days) on consecutive Saturdays. The classes will be a review of Tech and General information, band allocations, operating procedures and safety.

Pre-registration is encouraged for the General License class. We need to determine how many hams are interested. You can pre-register by going to the Delta Club webpage [www.deltaclub.org](http://www.deltaclub.org); click on Training Classes; and then click on General Class to send an email to Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, at [wa4ovo@yahoo.com](mailto:wa4ovo@yahoo.com) or call at 901-683-2701. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set.

EXTRA CLASS

If 10 or more hams are interested in Extra Class training, we are thinking of having a class. Please pre-register by going to the Delta Club webpage [www.deltaclub.org](http://www.deltaclub.org); click on Training Classes; and then click on Extra Class to send an email to Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, at [wa4ovo@yahoo.com](mailto:wa4ovo@yahoo.com) or call at 901-683-2701. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set.

**Information on News, Contests, Special Events, and Hamfests Can All Be Found At:**

<http://www.arrl.org/search/bigindex.html>

**THE CITY SLICKERS ENDURANCE RIDE**

This event will be March 23rd and 24th. Last year this was a one day event this year they have requested our help for 2 days for Friday and Saturday.

I know a lot of folks myself included have to work Friday so any of you retired folks that can help it would be appreciated. We need between 6 and 10 operators per day.

The event will be held at Shelby Farms and starts at approx 6am each morning and ends when it ends (I wasn't given an end time).

Please let me know if you can help.

'73  
Eddie  
KF4QFW

Be looking for more opportunities to showcase what Amateur Radio can do as we have several more events this year.

**According To Club Information You May Need To Update Your Ticket**

license ex-	fname	lic expires	callsign
McClendon	Dan	2007/03/05	N4QLK
LeJeune	Lionel	2007/03/20	WA4KOG
Castleberry	Roger	2007/03/26	KF4QFZ
Trammell	Eddie	2007/03/26	KF4QFW
Rankin	John	2007/04/08	WA5LNI
REDDITT	BRENDA	2007/04/14	
Wilson	Tom	2007/04/16	K4ZFY

**SPARKS Input**

If you have any suggestions to be included or removed from the newsletter please let me know. It has been suggested to me that we might include pictures of your home or mobile station setups. If you would like yours to be included in the upcoming issue just send me the pictures. Depending upon the response for this they may not all be able to be included in the next SPARKS.

Roger KI4AJH

# The W4BS Elmer

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

## 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

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 (1,2,3,5,9,10,12,14,  
slow scan TV, ATV minor)

KU4AW (Extra) Ben Troughton 372-8031  
bktrough@bellsouth.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  
kgregg@c-a-c.com (4, 6, 8, 11, 15)

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

## Memphis FreeFest<sup>®</sup>

What a hamfest Should Be

Saturday April 14, 2007

More info go to

<http://www.maraonline.org/freefestinfo.html>

## PACKET UPDATE .....

Newer radios coming on the market are now being built up as Software Defined. The same is true for some of the more sophisticated hardware for amateurs. Software Defined means that instead of having a circuit board with components wired to do a function they put a computer on the board and program it to do the same function. The advantage is if you need to update the functions of the board you can do it by just changing the software in the computer instead of buying a whole new board. Most manufacturers going to this usually offer updates for free via the internet so you always have the latest functions on your gear. Ten Tec is big on this for their new radios. Rig expert has just come out with their newest interface for the digital modes. This unit connects to the computer with just one USB cable. No power supply is needed as it runs from power supplied by the USB cable. The sound card is built in the unit which means you can still run your computer sound card for other tasks. You can even run multiple radios by plugging in two units on the same computer. The unit called the "NAVIGATOR" can also be upgraded with free flash rom updates for the interface from the company. You will see this type of construction will become more common on the radios and interfaces we buy in the future. For more information on the NAVIGATOR check out their website at [www.rigexpert.com](http://www.rigexpert.com)

James Butler  
KB4LJV

## AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE .....

Many times we want to operate portable using Morse Code. This may be for field day activities or just for emergency use. One of the items that gets the most abuse is our Morse Code keys. They are out in the open and can get knocked around and damaged. Looking at all the military keys for sale on Ebay I noticed a lot of them have a cover or shell around them for protection. This is a really nice feature to have. Even if the key always stayed indoors it would still keep dust and dirt off the contacts. Some military keys like this go for up to 100 dollars. This month's project is to make a simple Morse Code key cover to offer protection to our keys. I looked around for a small metal box to put a key in and found a cheap wall mounted electrical switch box. These are available at all the local hardware stores for under 5 dollars. The one I got was made to mount a light switch in. It is made of steel and painted gray. By drilling a couple of holes through the bottom to mount the key and one on the back for the wire it was ready to go. I popped the front knockout off to allow the key to come out the front of the box. I also put some stick on rubber foot pads on the bottom of the box to keep it from slipping around. This worked out great and now I have a key to carry out in the field that will take some rough treatment.

James Butler  
KB4LJV



### **New Net**

There is a new net being held on the 224.42 repeater on Monday nights at 8:30pm. The repeater uses a negative offset and does not require a PL tone.

### **Geratol Net**

It has been requested by members of the geratol net to attempt to make contact with the holders of these callsigns who were last known to be in the midsouth area. According to the geratol net board member who sent me this information these are all still listed in callsign databases.

The purpose of their query is twofold.

First, we wish to determine if any of these are silent keys for purposes of updating records so that folks who are collecting their was serial numbers for endorsements will not be hoping to work them in the future.

The second purpose is to make contact and invite those who are able to come up on net frequency so that some of the endorsement chasers can work them to collect their certificate serial numbers.

If you have information or know any of the operators listed below make contact with me by phone at (901) 465-9921 or via email at [nf5b@mmsn.org](mailto:nf5b@mmsn.org).

**W4NA WC4W NS4X N4TV AE4ZT**

For you extra class ops: The geratol net is loads of fun. You need to collect qsl confirmation of contacts to get your was, but most other endorsements just require log extract submissions. This keeps your costs down, and this is a fun group of folks. For more information type "geratol" into any search engine on the net, or visit

[www.qsl.net/geratol](http://www.qsl.net/geratol)  
for more information.

# March

2007

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				<b>1</b> <b>MARA Club Meeting</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>2</b> Madeline KI4AJI	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Delta Club Meeting</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Brian KI4LXY
<b>11</b> Jerry K1HV	<b>12</b> Donald WB4KWQ John WB4HZQ	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Stephen KI4OGY	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Edgar W4KIB
<b>18</b> Joan KN4PM Art KS4TZ	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Jean KD4FIP Henry WD4Q <b>Shelby Cty.,</b> <b>ARES Meeting</b> <b>6:45 PM</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Ned KA4BLL Samual WA5MKP
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Ham W4GMM John AE4GR	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

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**Delta Amateur Radio Club**

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**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

**AREA HAMFESTS OF INTEREST**

**Middle Tennessee ARS**

Tullahoma, TN  
 First Methodist Church  
 208 West Lauderdale Street  
<http://www.qsl.net/kf4aze/MTARS/index.htm>  
 Mar 17, 2007

FreeFest  
 Mid-South ARA  
 Memphis, TN  
 5868 Stage Road

<http://www.maraonline.org/freestinfo.html>  
 14 Apr 2007

**Delta Amateur Radio Club  
 January 2007 Treasurers Report**

<b>Balance 02/01/2007</b>	<b>\$6,184.32</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Bellsouth 146.82 phone	\$59.07
U of M 443.2 phone	22.94
TN Sec of State	<u>40.00</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$122.01</b>
<b>Income</b>	
2006 Annual Membership Dues 01/06/07	<u>\$1145.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1145.00</b>
<b>Balance 02/25/2007</b>	<b>\$7207.31</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:

**Delta Amateur Radio Club  
 P.O. Box 342768  
 Memphis, TN 38175-0482**

**2007 Board of Directors**

***President***

Darrell Sheffield, KK4D  
 901-277-8122  
 (Darrell.Sheffield@Memphistn.gov)

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***Vice President***

PENDING SPECIAL ELECTION

***Secretary***

Lisa Sheffield, K4POM  
 901-277-8144 (SassGirlsMom@aol.com)

-

***Treasurer***

Hugh Wardlaw, WB4SLI  
 901-487-3820 (hwardlaw@bellsouth.net)

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***Director of Training***

Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO  
 901-628-4318 (wa4ovo@yahoo.com)

-

***Director of Publications***

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***Director of Programs***

David Campbell, KD4NOQ  
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-

***Director of Meetings and Special Events***

Dean Honadle, N2LAZ  
 901-353-1207 (dean@honadle.com)

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***Repeater Trustee***

Suresh Kagoo, N9GSA  
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