

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

To all of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Members:

The Club is able to again offer the purchase of apparel with the club Logo on it, as well as your name, and/or callsign. Jackets are \$50.00 to \$55.00, depending on the size. Our vice President is taking orders. The first order of ten minimum has been met and turned in. Hats and shirts are also available, but prices are not firm yet.

I hope all will support and try to make plans to work and have fun at Delta club's Field Day Set-up on the 4th weekend of June this year. Ben KU4AW is "Chair-Ham" on this project. He needs more hams to volunteer for coordinating stations and other support activities. I hope to see you all at the meeting in April.

73, Ned Savage, KA4BLL

Publisher's Note

This is the first email version of Sparks prepared for distribution. Using the PDF format allows you to increase your options for submittals to the newsletter. So, if you have a ham related graphics file such as a picture of your antenna, your station, or of something else that would be of interest to the membership, please submit them to me as an attachment, and I'll use it.

73, Roger K4KCU

APRIL 2004 CLUB MEETING

DATE: April 13, 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: Quick and Dirty Efficient Antennas, Tom Richardson

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, April 23th. 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

**Delta Amateur Radio Club
Board Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2004**

Meeting called to order at 7 pm by Ned, KA4BLL

Old Business:

Frank presented the treasurer's report as it will be published in the March SPARKS.

Tommy read the minutes from the February board meeting. Bill, KC4SXT made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Motion seconded by James, KB4LJV seconded and motion passed.

Frank, KA4SJM gave Ned the papers necessary to change signatures over on the bank account. Now that Bill, KG4VAW is back on track, he will be taking on his treasurer duties.

Ned reported that we sold 10 CDs at last month's meeting and 12 at DixieFest for a total income of \$220 on CD sales so far.

There was more discussion on the newsletter and it was decided to print and mail a 4 page condensed version newsletter to all current members and email the full version to all members that we have email addresses for and also post it on the club web site. Tommy will create a Yahoo Group email list for the purpose of emailing SPARKS to members that sign up on the list.

New Business:

Tommy, KD4TJO read all new membership applications in hand for board approval. The board voted unanimously to accept all applicants as new members of the club.

Tom, K4TTA said he is working on putting together some training classes and more info on those will be made available as soon as they are finalized.

Roger, KI4AJH is working on getting volunteers for the Boy Scout Merit Badge

college that will be held on March 27 at U of M campus.

Randy, W4RMV asked the board for permission to take the registration for the software program that the 2003 board used for the club database and turn it over to ARES to use. The club is using the old software that was used through 2002 and is no longer using the 2003 software. The board agreed to make the change. Randy is supposed to get the information to Tommy so that he can write a letter to the software manufacturer giving the clubs permission for the transfer of ownership.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 pm.

**DARC
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
March 9, 2004**

President Ned Savage, KA4BLL called the March General Membership Meeting for the Delta Amateur Radio Club to order at approximately 7:05 pm local time with 45 members and guests present.

Tommy, KD4TJO introduced Karen Stricklen from the Mid-South MS Society who spoke for a few minutes to tell the group a little about what Multiple Sclerosis is and how we are working to find a cure through events like the MS Walk and the MS Bike Tour. Tommy then solicited volunteers for the MS Walk on April 3.

Old Business:

Bill, KG4VAW read the treasures report and it was approved as read. There was a motion to bypass reading the general membership meeting minutes and approve them as published in the March SPARKS.

Lance, N4GMT made a point of order and asked why the board meeting minutes were no longer published in SPARKS as they had been in the past.

Bill, KC4SXT announced plans to take orders for club jackets and other clothing apparel. The only price we have currently is that jackets will be approximately \$45 each, but that will depend on the number that are ordered.

Bill, KG4VAW thanked everyone for their prayers during his recent surgeries. It must have worked because Bill is doing great.

Joan, KN4PM gave her VE report from another successful session.

Roger, KI4AJI announced the need for volunteers to help with the Boy Scout Merit Badge College that will be held at the U of M campus, specifically at the Engineering Building. The date is March 27 and he is planning two sessions, one from 8 am till noon and another from 1 to 5 pm. They are hoping to setup an HF station as well as a VHF/UHF station. Roger said that if you can't make it out as an instructor, they would need hams at home to talk to the scouts on the air. All volunteers should contact Roger.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25 pm.

Tommy, KD4TJO, Secretary

VE CORNER

Welcome to Ham Radio the following:

David Darnell - KI4EMM - Technician
R. Layne Holley - KI4EMN - Technician
Kenneth Widener - KG4YLA - General
Stephen Hughes - KI4EBV - Technician

Thank you to the following VE's: Arlene AA5GX; Bill KC4SXT; Doc AG4KM; Don KJ4PO; Ned KA4BLL; Ray N4ARH; and Rick KE4NTI.

REMINDER: General Class question Pool changes July 1. Please study the correct pool for testing.

73, Joan KN4PM, ARRL VE Liaison

ARRL LAUNCHES ON-LINE TECHNICIAN CLASS

Thanks to the League's new on-line Technician Class Course for Ham Radio Licensing (EC-010) <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/Tech.html>>, prospective hams can study for their ticket wherever they can connect to the Internet and on their own schedule. The course is offered through the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) program. Two new classes will open each month, and students may sign up anytime via the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html#ec010>> or by calling the New Ham Hotline, 800-326-3942. Class sessions begin April 6 and April 20. ARRL On-line Course Development Coordinator Howard Robins, W1HSR, says the new on-line Technician course will include everything needed to successfully pass the examination plus help with getting a foothold in ham radio.

"The on-line approach to learning provides students a way to prepare for the exam at their own pace over an eight-week period with 24/7 access to the material," Robins said. The assignment of a very experienced "Elmer" or mentor to all students is one benefit of the on-line learning method. Another is a post-graduation on-line support group that's only available to course graduates. "This group will provide Elmering as the new ham gets started, as well as help with equipment and antenna questions or anything pertaining to Amateur Radio," Robins explained.

Steve Ford, WB8IMY, Chuck Hutchinson, K8CH, and Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, developed the class material. The Technician course takes 20 to 25 hours to complete, and those finishing the class will take their tests at a volunteer examiner test session<<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml>>.

Believed to be the first on-line Technician licensing class of its kind in the US, the course will closely follow the popular ARRL license manual *Now You're Talking!* The course fee--\$99 for ARRL

members and \$139 non-members-- includes a copy of the book. (Regular ARRL membership <<http://www.arrl.org/join.html>> is \$39 per year, which includes QST, the official journal of ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio.)

Students taking the class will be introduced to everything from casual operating to emergency and public service communication and to radio technology. Students also will learn about the role of radio clubs and of the ARRL Field Organization. A course syllabus<<http://www.arrl.org/cce/syllabus.html#ec010>> and a list of student activities at <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/student-activities.html#ec010>> are on the C-CE Web site.

The Technician Class Course for Ham Radio Licensing and the virtual ham radio campus are available through ARRL's partnership with the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium, a nonprofit organization that specializes in developing on-line courses for Connecticut colleges and universities. For additional details, e-mail cce@arrl.org.

FHU ARC FOX HUNT

On April 24, 2004, the Freed Hardeman University ARC is running a fox hunt at Chickasaw State Park in Henderson, TN.

Also, FHU ARC has scheduled a ham radio swap fest for June 5. The swap fest will be a good chance to get rid of some of the stuff collecting dust in the shack or to pick up something you've been looking for at a bargain price.

<http://w4fhu.org/fox.htm>

Happy Belated Birthday Madeleine!

The Delta Club wishes Madeleine, KI4AJI, a very happy belated birthday. Madeleine turned 11 years old on March 2, 2004. Madeleine's birthday was not included on the Sparks calendars for February and March. For this oversight the Sparks team is truly sorry. Madeleine

can be occasionally heard assisting her grandfather Bob KF4NDH running the Wednesday night Delta Club net. Way to go Madeleine!

FROM THE ARRL WEBPAGE

ARRL CALLS INTERFERENCE TO ATTENTION OF BPL TRIAL COMMUNITY'S MAYOR

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, has written Penn Yan, New York, Mayor Doug Marchionda Jr to call the mayor's attention to documented radio interference from the town's small BPL field trial. He accompanied his April 1 e-mail with a report from ARRL member Dave Hallidy, K2DH, who visited Penn Yan after a recent Wall Street Journal article suggested that BPL interference issues in Penn Yan had been resolved.

"I understand that your village is considering entering into a long-term agreement with a firm to offer BPL service," Sumner wrote Marchionda. "Please be aware that a large-scale deployment of BPL is bound to cause harmful interference to radio communications across a wide area."

According to news accounts, the Western New York community of about 5200 residents will consider approval of a 10-year agreement with Data Ventures (DVI) to offer BPL service in Penn Yan. The village reportedly would get 10 percent of the generated revenue.

In his March 23 article "In This Power Play, High-Wire Act Riles Ham-Radio Fans," Wall Street Journal reporter Ken Brown described a "firestorm" of protest from amateurs when Penn Yan approved the BPL test plan.

Hallidy said he found during his visit that BPL noise "appears to start in earnest around the bottom of the 17 meter band (18 MHz) and continues upwards." He said that once he tuned above 18 MHz, there were no frequencies where the BPL

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PACKET UPDATE

Yaesu has come out with a new HF/VHF/UHF mobile rig for use with all modes. The unit is the FT-857. It operates 100 watts on 160 – 6 meters, 50 watts on 2 meters, and 20 watts on the 440 band. The modes include AM, FM, CW, SSB, and digital modes. The Yaesu also has a DSP, 200 memory channels, built in electronic keyer, wide band receive, and a screen that can be illuminated in 32 different colors. The unit is compact at only 6.1” by 2” by 9.2” which makes it the smallest full power multimode now out. The Yaesu will also run the ATAS-120 which is their automatic antenna used for mobile use. The Yaesu will be a best seller with lots of features, lots of power and small size. If you are looking for a new multiband multimode radio check out the new FT-857 from Yaesu.

James Butler, KB4LJV

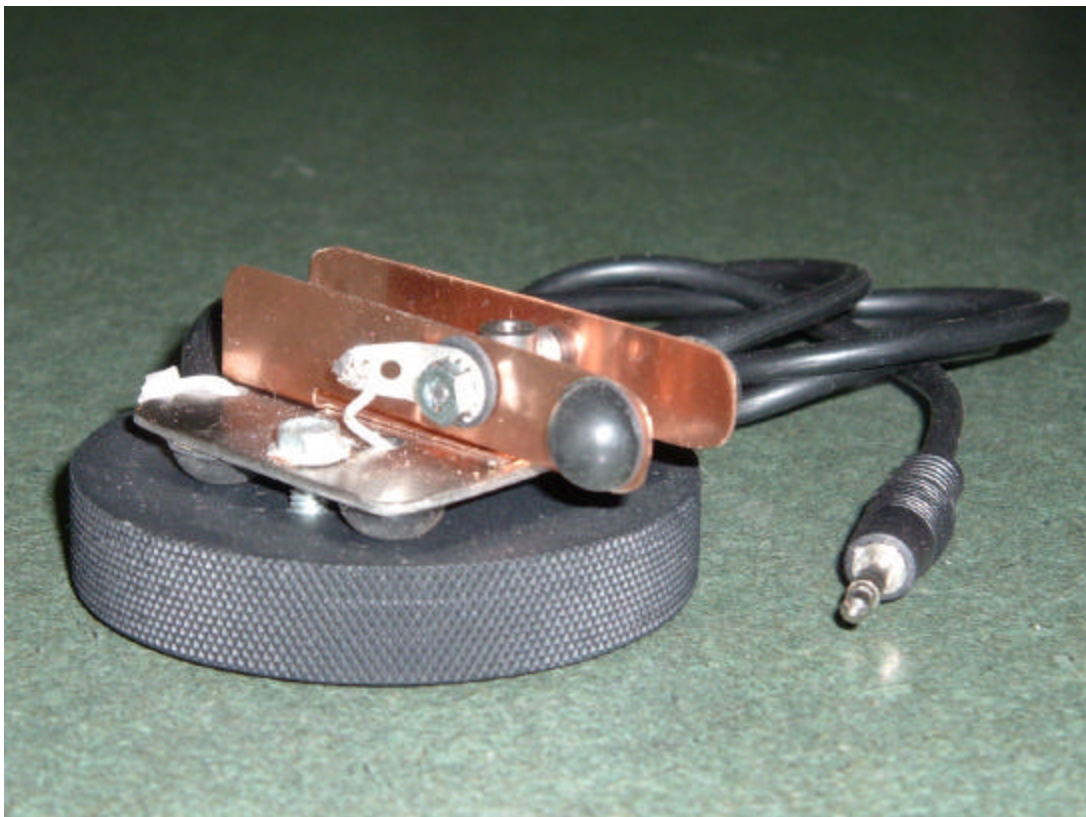
AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Many times when operating portable or at field day we look for a small set of paddles for use. MFJ has come out with a new set of mini paddles for this purpose. The paddles are the MFJ-561. These small paddles are built using a phosphorous bronze material to provide the spring action. The completed paddles are available for under \$20.00 . You can also get the paddles in kit form as I did for about \$5.00 less. The paddles went together in about an hour and worked a lot better than I thought they would given their small size and simplicity of construction. I went ahead and mounted mine on a larger base to make operation easier. If you are looking for a small set of portable paddles check the MFJ-561 from MFJ.

I will have the MFJ-561 paddles at the meeting to show and answer questions on for those who wish to buy their own.

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING

James Butler, KB4LJV



April

2004

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM	2 Dan, N4QLK	3
4	5	6 Ed, KD5IEI	7	8	9	10 Rosie, K4MPQ
11	12	13 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM	14	15	16 Thomas, KG4EOV	17
18 James, KB4LJV Paul, KG4GYV	19	20 Bill, KB4SQV	21 Neal, W4EKD	22 John, KG4OLG	23	24 Jennifer, KE4RKH
25	26 Jim, N4BSP	27	28	29 David, N5COO	30	

May

2004

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
30 Tommy, KD4TJO Charles, KA4DFS	31 Billy, KD4FTS					1
2	3 Mary, AC4GF	4	5	6 MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM Roger, KF4QFZ	7	8
9	10	11 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM	12 Barbara, KE4BUU	13	14	15 Wesley, W3EDW
16 Andy, K4ZLC	17 Chris, W8BDH	18	19 Jennifer, KG4RTV Fred, WA4VDB Katherine Savage	20	21	22 Alton, WA5TJB
23 Kelly and Keith Burnum	24	25	26 Craig, KF4FSZ	27	28	29

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noise was not observed. "The signals were pretty uniform from 18 to 30 MHz," he said.

Sumner told Marchionda that DVI cannot guarantee reliable service delivery via BPL because FCC Part 15 rules stipulate that its operation "is subject to the conditions that no harmful interference is caused and that interference must be accepted that may be caused by the operation of an authorized radio station." Sumner noted that newly proposed FCC rules would impose additional requirements on BPL systems to better address interference problems that arise.

The sort of interference Hallidy described in his report suggests "severe interference on a broad range of radio frequencies" in violation of FCC rules--specifically §15.5 (b)--and a complaint has been filed with the FCC, Sumner noted.

Sumner offered to demonstrate to Marchionda the extent of the BPL interference in Penn Yan before the community proceeds any further with its BPL plans and "to explain why a full-scale deployment is not possible within the FCC rules." Such a demonstration, Sumner concluded, would provide Penn Yan with "a factual basis" to make its decision on BPL.

MISSISSIPPI AMATEURS RESPOND FOLLOWING AMTRAK ACCIDENT

Members of Metro-Jackson, Mississippi, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (MJARES) and the Jackson Amateur Radio Club (JARC) responded Tuesday, April 6, after Amtrak's "City of New Orleans" passenger train bound from New Orleans to Chicago derailed. One person died and dozens were injured in the mishap, which occurred at 7 PM near the Madison-Yazoo county line after the train had departed from Jackson with 80 passengers and crew members aboard.

"Fortunately, rescue operations quickly turned into a cleanup effort as passengers were transported to area hospitals and

overnight accommodations," said MJARES member and ARES Emergency Coordinator Ben Jones, AC5SU.

The accident's swampy location made access difficult for rescue workers and other emergency personnel and also complicated communication and logistics. Jeff Sykes, K5VU, and other JARC members responded to a request from the Central Mississippi Chapter of the American Red Cross to provide emergency communication. Greg King, KD5HDZ, accompanied the Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle as it brought water and snacks to emergency workers at the incident command post and the Madison County Sheriff's Office respite center in Flora.

Club members Bill White, KC5WYY, and Terry Drake, KD5JPB, staffed the JARC radio station at the Red Cross Chapter, utilizing HF as well as the KA5SBK, W5PPB, W5PFR and N5WDG repeaters. John Jenkins, KD5QQF, and Guy Harrell, KD5QQG, also responded to assist in the relief effort.

MJARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator Ed Jones, W5GEJ, and Central Mississippi DEC Ron Brown, AB5WF, activated the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service on behalf of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. Official Relay Station Lew King, W5LEW, stood ready to service NTS traffic and disaster wellness inquiries.

MJARES members worked well into the early morning hours of April 7 to support Red Cross relief operations, passing vital messages relating to logistics and essential on-the-scene information. Jones managed the amateurs' volunteer efforts in conjunction with Red Cross staff and volunteers.

Less than an hour before the train wreck, SKYWARN Coordinator and MJARES AEC Billy Bob Sekul, N5XXX, had put members on alert for severe weather at the request of the National Weather Service.

RESEARCHERS RESCUED FROM ICY OUTPOST, SITE OF ROPA

A dozen Russian scientists were rescued March 6 from an Arctic research station near the North Pole that was nearly destroyed by what's being described as "a freak wall of ice." The North Pole Drifting Station SP-32 had been the site of the ROPA Amateur Radio operation.

Russian news media said helicopter teams facing frigid sub-zero conditions managed to reach the stranded researchers and saved all 12 explorers and two dogs. Hams around the world have reported working ROPA, for which DL5EBE is listed as QSL manager. The station's researchers reportedly were unharmed after being forced to huddle for three days in the remains of the outpost, some 450 miles from the nearest solid ground.

According to Russian TV reports, a wall of ice pushed up from the surrounding ice floe March 3. Little now remains of the scientific and educational facility, set up

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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

last April by the non-profit Center Pole organization with support from the Russian government and the Russian Academy of Sciences. It had been expected to remain in operation for several years.

Information on SP-32 is available on the Polus Arctic and Antarctic Expedition Centre Web site <<http://www.polus.org/cgi-bin/sborka.cgi?name=sp2003>>.

ISS COMMANDER TALKS VIA HAM RADIO WITH SCOTTISH SCHOOL

It might have been St Patrick's Day, but the accents of the youngsters questioning International Space Station Commander Mike Foale, KB5UAC, on March 17 definitely were Scottish. Nonetheless, the "luck of the Irish" was with the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact between the British-born Foale at NA1SS and Nancy Rocheleau, WH6PN, at Sacred Heart Academy in Honolulu. An MCI teleconference link provided the two-way audio for pupils at the Sgoil a' Bhac <<http://www.sgoilabhac.org.uk/>>--the School of Back--on the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides off Scotland's northwestern coast. Responding to one question, Foale explained that the ISS crew is not truly "weightless" in space.

"What's actually happening is that we're all falling together," Foale explained, pointing out that the space station is continuously falling as it circles Earth. Because the spacecraft is moving rapidly horizontally, it misses Earth because of its curve. "So, we're falling around the earth--all of the things inside the space station are falling," he continued. "We actually think that we're weightless, but, in fact, the weight is still there, and gravity is still working on us."

Apparent weightlessness in space has its pros and cons, Foale told the youngsters in response to another question. "In general, weightlessness causes problems because nothing stays put," Foale said. "You have to always have something sticky to hold things down." But, he went on to say, weightlessness does let the crew store things just about anywhere on the ISS.

Foale said he was able to see some features

of northern Scotland--including the Isle of Skye--when the ISS passed over that part of the world. "Yours is pretty easy to pick out too," he added. As he's said during past school group QSOs, one of his favorite leisure-time activities is to look at Earth.

Other planets also were on the minds of the primary and secondary schoolers who attend the School of Back. The astronaut also told the Scottish students that he believes scientists may one day discover evidence of fossilized life on Mars. He also estimated that it would be "maybe 15 years" before humans are able to land on Mars.

Sgoil a' Bhac has an enrollment of 190--the majority at the primary school level. Dating back to 1878, the school is committed to Gaelic language and culture. Foale visited the school last summer.

The School of Back QSO--the first for a school in Scotland--marked the 130th ARISS school group contact since the arrival of the first ISS crew in late 2000. ARISS <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss/>> is an international educational outreach with participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

ARRL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COURSE REGISTRATION

Registration opens Monday, April 12, 12:01 AM Eastern Daylight Time (0401 UTC), for the Level II Emergency Communications on-line course (EC-002). Registration remains open through the April 17-18 weekend or until all seats are filled--whichever occurs first. Class begins Tuesday, April 27. 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 60 seats are being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/>> Web page and the C-

CE Links found there. For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, dmiller@arrl.org, 860-594-0340.

BOGUS ARRL.NET MESSAGES STILL CIRCULATING

E-mail messages purporting to be from the ARRL EMail Forwarding Service <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/emailfwdhtml>>, "The ARRL.net team" or some variation continue to show up in members' inboxes. The messages, which often carry a subject line along the lines of "Warning about your e-mail account," indicate that the recipient's ARRL EMail Forwarding Service <call sign>@arrl.net address will be closed within three days because of an alleged violation of acceptable practices. These messages are false and did not come from The ARRL Forwarding Service. They are the result of one of the variants on a number of viruses now permeating the Internet. A file usually is attached to these messages. As always, do not open any attachments that you cannot identify. Opening the file could result in your computer being infected by a virus. This is only one of the several virus-laden messages currently propagating across the Internet.

The ARRL advises its members to be cautious in opening any message and/or attachment, even if it appears to be from someone you know. All of these viruses use e-mail addresses from the address book of an infected computer to falsify the "From:" address in the header to make it appear that the message is from someone the recipient knows.

YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS DUE BY JUNE 30

Amateur Radio Newline says the deadline is June 30 to nominate a deserving young Amateur for the 2004 Young Ham of the Year Award. A nomination form is available on the Newline Web site <<http://www.arnewline.org/yhoty/yhfrm204.doc>>. Information is available on the Newline Web site <<http://www.arnewline.org>>.



CONTEST CALENDAR

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

The following information may be found at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/months/apr.html>.

Missouri QSO Party--CW/SSB--sponsored by the Boeing Employees Amateur Radio Society of St. Louis

(BEARS) from 1800Z Apr 3-0500Z Apr 4, and 1800Z-2400Z Apr 4. Frequencies (MHz): CW--40 kHz from band edge and 1.810; Phone--1.850, 3.980, 7.280, 14.280, 21.380, 28.310, work MO stations once per band and mode. For more information: <http://www.qsl.net/w0ma>.

Montana QSO Party--Phone/CW/Digital--sponsored by the Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club from 2300Z Apr 3-2300Z Apr 4. Frequencies: 160 meters-70 cm.

EA RTTY Contest--sponsored by the Unión de Radioaficionados Españoles (URE) from 1600Z Apr 3-1600Z Apr 4. Frequencies: 80-10 meters, according to IARU band plan.

48th Annual QCWA QSO Party--CW/Digital/SSB--sponsored by the Quarter Century Wireless Association from 1900Z Apr 3-1900Z Apr 4. Frequencies (MHz): CW--1.910, 3.540, 7.035, 14.040, 21.050, 28.050; Phone--1.810, 3.890, 7.244, 14.262, 21.365, 28.325 plus all VHF/UHF bands. <http://qcwa.org/2004-qso-party-rules.htm>.

SP DX Contest--CW/SSB--sponsored by the PZK Polish Amateur Radio Union and the SP DX Club from 1500Z Apr 3-1500Z Apr 4. Frequencies: 160-10 meters, according to the IARU Region I band plan, no crossmode QSOs. For more information: <http://www.contest.spdxc.org.pl/en/index.php>.

DX YL to North American YL Contest--CW--sponsored by YLRL from 1400Z Apr 7-0200Z Apr 9, work 24 hours max. (Phone--April 14-16) Frequencies: all HF bands. For info: <http://www.ylrl.org/>.

Lighthouse Spring Lites QSO Party--all modes--sponsored by the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society from 0001Z Apr 10 through 2359Z Apr 18. Frequencies (MHz): CW--1.830, 3.530, 7.030, 14.030, 21.030, 28.030; SSB--1.970, 3.970, 7.270, 14.270, 21.370, 28.370. For more information: <http://arlhs.com>.

QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party--CW--sponsored by the QRP ARCI, from 1200Z Apr 10-2400Z Apr 11. (Same rules as Fall QSO Party, see Oct 2003 *QST*, p 90, or <http://2hams.net/ARCI/index.htm>.)

CIS DX Contest--SSB, sponsored by the Scottish-Russian ARS from 1900Z Apr 10-1900Z Apr 11 (CW Dec 5, RTTY Sep 4-5) Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: <http://www.srars.org/cisdxc.htm>.

EU Spring Sprints--SSB: Apr 10--managed by G4BUO, CW: Apr 17--managed by I2UIY, from 1500Z-1859Z. Frequencies (MHz): SSB--14.250, 7.050, 3.730, CW--14.040, 7.025, 3.550. For more information or contest software--<http://www.qsl.net/eusprint>.

Japan International DX Contest (JIDX)--CW--sponsored by *Five-Nine*

The W4BS Elmer Shack

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

Codes:

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

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

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

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

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

KU4AW (Extra) Ben Troughton 372-8031
bktrough@mem.quik.net (2,4, 8, 15)

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

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

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

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

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



Delta Amateur Radio Club

Magazine from 0700Z Apr 10-1300Z Apr 11. (Phone--Nov 13-14) Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more info: <http://je1cka.jzap.com/jidx>.

Georgia QSO Party--CW/SSB--sponsored by SECC and SEDXC from 1800Z Apr 10-0359Z Apr 11 and 1400Z-2359Z Apr 11, no time limit. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: <http://gqp.contesting.com>.

Low Power Spring Sprint--CW--sponsored by the Slovak Amateur Radio Association (SARA) from 1400Z-2000Z Apr 12. Frequencies: 160-10 meters.

Michigan QSO Party--CW/SSB--sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club, from 1600Z Apr 17-0400Z Apr 18, no time limit. Bands: 80-10 meters. Frequencies: CW--45 kHz from band edge, Phone (MHz)--3.850, 7.225, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450. For info: <http://www.miqp.org/>.

YU DX Contest--CW/SSB--sponsored by SRJ (Amateur Radio Union of Yugoslavia) and YUDXC (YU DX Club) from 1200Z Apr 17-1200Z Apr 18. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For more info: <http://solair.eunet.yu/~yulab/awards/rules.htm>.

GACW DX Contest "Mr Samuel Morse Party"--CW--sponsored by the Grupo Argentino de Radiotelegrafia (GACW) from 1200Z Apr 17-1200Z Apr 18. Frequencies: 80-10 meters, everyone works everyone format. For information and software--<http://gacw.no-ip.org>.

TARA Skirmish--Digital Prefix Contest--sponsored by Troy ARA, 0000Z-2400Z Apr 17. Frequencies: 160-6 meters, work stations once per band. For more information: http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_dpx_rules.html.

Holyland DX Contest--CW/SSB--sponsored by the Israel Amateur Ra-

dio Club from 0000Z-2359Z Apr 17. Frequencies: 160-10 meters according to IARU Region I band plan, work Israeli stations once per band and mode. For more information: <http://www.iarc.org/>.

ES Open HF Championship--CW/SSB--sponsored by the Estonian Radio Amateurs Union from 0500Z-0859Z Apr 17. Frequencies: 80 and 40 meters. For info: <http://www.erau.ee/index.php?newlang=eng>.

Ontario QSO Party--CW/Phone--sponsored by the Ontario DX Association from 1800Z Apr 17-1800Z Apr 18. Frequencies (MHz): SSB--1.870, 3.735, 3.860, 7.070, 7.260, 14.130, 14.265, 21.260, 28.360; CW--30 kHz above band edges; VHF--SSB: 50.130, 144.205, 432.105; VHF-FM 52.540, 146.550, 446.1, no repeater QSOs. <http://www.odxa.on.ca/oqphome.html>.

EU Spring Sprint--CW--see April 10.

EA QRP Contest--CW, sponsored by the EA QRP Club from 1700Z Apr 17-1300Z Apr 18. Frequencies: 80-10-meters (see Web site for operating periods). For more information: <http://www.eaqrp.com/>.

Florida QSO Party--sponsored by the Florida Contest Group from 1600Z April 24-0159Z April 25 and 1200Z-2159Z April 25, 20 hours max, work FL stations. Frequencies (MHz): CW--35 kHz from band edges, Phone--7.260, 14.260, 21.335, and 28.485, no 160 or 80 meters, VHF/UHF. For more information: <http://www.floridaqsoparty.org/>.

Nebraska QSO Party--CW/SSB--sponsored by the Heartland DX Association 1700Z Apr 24-1700Z Apr 25. Frequencies (MHz): 160-2 meters; CW--1.805 and 35 kHz above band edge; Phone--1.915, 3.865, 7.265, 14.265, 21.365, 28.465, 146.460; Novices/Technicians--10

kHz above band edge and 28.460. For more information: <http://www.qsl.net/hdxa>.

Kentucky QSO Party--CW/SSB/RTTY/PSK31 --sponsored by Bullitt Amateur Radio Society from 1600Z Apr 24-0400Z Apr 25. Frequencies (MHz): SSB: ± 20 kHz above General class band edge; CW: 3.55, 7.05, 14.05, 21.05 and 28.05. For more information: <http://www.qsl.net/ky4ky/kyqsopartyrules.html>.

Helvetia Contest--CW/SSB/Digital--sponsored by Union of Swiss Short Wave Amateurs (USKA) from 1300Z Apr 24-1300Z Apr 25. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For information: http://www.uska.ch/html/en/index_e.htm.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Outer Banks, NC: ARLHS, N4L. 1400Z-2400Z **Apr 10**. North Carolina Light Houses of the Outer Banks, 192 years. 21.260 14.260 7.260. <http://www.n4jne.com/>.

Bellevue, NE: Bellevue Amateur Radio Club, W0WYV. 1300Z **Apr 10-0500Z Apr 11**. Celebrating 45 years of service to Bellevue and Sarpy County. 28.345 21.345 14.245 3.945 147.39 50.125.

Indianapolis, IN: RCA Amateur Radio Club, W9RCA. 1300Z **Apr 10-2200Z Apr 11**. 50th Anniversary of 1st production RCA color TV set. 28.450 21.350 14.250 7.250.

Indian Orchard, MA: Titanic Historical Society, Inc, W1MGY. 1330Z **Apr 10-0527Z Apr 15**. Commemorating the 92nd anniversary of the *Titanic* disaster. 14.260 14.033 7.260 7.033. QSL. W1MGY/Titanic Historical Society, Inc. <http://www.titanichistoricalsociety.org/>.

For more Special Events

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>

TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT March 2004 Date: 02-April-04

Beginning Balance \$4,498.08

INCOME

Membership Renewals \$663.00

TOTAL INCOME \$663.00

EXPENSES

BellSouth \$117.56

Bursars Office \$2.94

TOTAL EXPENSES \$120.50

Ending Balance: April 2, 2004 \$5,040.58

March of Dimes WalkAmerica April 17, 2004

When you participate in WalkAmerica, you're helping the March of Dimes fight a national crisis – premature birth. Today, 1 in 8 babies is born prematurely. Many die; others face lifelong disability. The money you raise in WalkAmerica supports March of Dimes research and programs to find answers to what causes premature birth and what can be done to prevent it. **Until we have more answers, anyone's baby could be next.** With the rise of premature birth as a major and growing threat to the health of more than 470,000 babies every year, the March of Dimes has made defeating prematurity a national priority.

Nearly half a million walkers in 1,100 communities across the nation, including 20,000 company teams and our national sponsors participate in WalkAmerica. WalkAmerica is a great way to show you care and make your steps count! We make our steps count by providing reliable radio communications for the WalkAmerica committee members on the day of the walk. This year's Walk will be at Plough Park. The new location should be closer and more convenient for our volunteers to get to so please consider helping with this worthwhile cause. It typically takes close to 20-25 amateurs to work the event efficiently. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please email me at kd4tjo@arrl.net.

Looking forward to a great public service year ahead.

73, Tommy, KD4TJO

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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