

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

P. O. BOX 750482 MEMPHIS, TN 38175-0482 / VOL. 17 / APRIL, 2005



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

APRIL 2005 CLUB MEETING

DATE: April 12, 2005 (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: "Public Service" by Tommy Thompson, KD4TJO

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: joant@mem.net

Please Remember: Deadline for Reports and Articles for the next issue of SPARKS is Friday, April 29th. All articles **MUST** be in to me by the deadline in order to be published in the next issue. Please forward all articles and items of interest to:

paulsonrj@bellsouth.net

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

To all of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Members:

Spring is here, and its time for storms, working on the lawns, and of course, those outside antenna projects, that we have been putting off all winter. We do need to look forward to the annual Field Day event. We will be in Bartlett's Freeman Park again this year. We do have some members who have volunteered to chair portions of the event, but they all need and desire help. Those who participate in the event always have lots of fun and some learn new techniques that they can apply to their interest in our hobby. So, speak up and sign up for Field Day at our next meeting.

I spoke of projects. The club has some equipment that can be borrowed to enable safer and easier work on some antennas. If you're up to date on your membership, you might check with Darrell, KK4D, about borrowing some of

the equipment. Others do need it too, so get it back as quick as you can. Be careful, and I hope to see you all at the April meeting.

Ned Savage, KA4BLL

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Wow, it is already April, I am looking forward to a number of upcoming events. I am pleased with the participation of members in the past events and hope to see continued participation in the future Club events.

I hope all enjoyed the DixieFest, saw some old friends and found some deals. I was able to raise \$250.00 for the Club at the flea tables that we bought. We were able to assist several other folks who needed to sell items and were not able to be there or had an outlet for their items elsewhere. I worked the tables with my son, DJ, KI4DJB, his friend Tim, and Eddie, KF4QFW. I would have liked to have had a few others there to help us though, if you worked any locations at the Dixiefest for the Delta Club make sure that you are on the list of those that worked. I am keeping up with your participation for the participation incentive benefit.

I have several other fund raising events planned and have several ideas that have been submitted that I am discussing with the Board. I hope all will participate and if you have ideas please submit them to me.

I would like to welcome all the new hams since the last meeting and Dixiefest. I would like to invite them to attend and participate in the Delta Club events. I have heard a number of new calls on the repeater and some old calls that I have not heard in a while. Welcome to the repeater and welcome back, Don't be a stranger and if you hear me give me a call.

I would like to welcome Joe, KE4JFN to the traffic and information net as a new net controller and I encourage anyone that would like to give calling the net a try to please contact me. I also encourage all to check into the swap shop net on Mondays after the traffic and information net.

Have a great month and 73,
Darrell KK4D

DARC BOARD MEETING March 1, 2005

Ned Savage, KA4BLL called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. There were seven board members present as follows: Darrell-KK4D, Bill-KG4VAW, Lisa-KI4DIL, Tommy-KD4TJO, Roger-K4KCU, and Dean-N2LAZ. Melinda Thompson-KE4DXN was also present.

Bill- KG4VAW, gave the treasurer's report. It was approved- unanimously by all board members present.

Ned-KA4BLL called for the secretary's report. Lisa-KI4DIL

requested we accept the minutes as published. Roger-K4KCU motioned to accept and Darrell-KK4D seconded.

Darrell-KK4D advised the board of the need for 4 tables at Dixiefest. The board unanimously approved this request. He also advised the board of the clothing items we have available for sale to club members. Ned-KA4BLL advised the board that he had DARC CD's to sell at Dixiefest.

The board unanimously voted to accept the following new member:
Mike Kaiser-KF4JBZ

KD4TJO advised the board of the program for the next general meeting. He also gave a report on this year's field day for Ben-KU4AW.

Ned-KA4BLL called for any more business at 8:20 p.m. there being none Dean-N2LAZ motioned to adjourn and Lisa-KI4DIL seconded.

Respectfully submitted by KI4DIL,
Lisa-DARC Secretary

DARC MEMBERSHIP MEETING March 8, 2005

Ned Savage-KA4BLL, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. He called for introductions of the members and visitors present. There were 34 people signed in.

Tommy-KD4TJO started the program at Ned's request. The

Health Dept. presentation was postponed but Joe Lowenthal-WA4OVO gave a brief synopsis of what had been planned for presentation.

Tommy-KD4TJO asked Ben Troughton-KU4AW to give a report on Dixiefest. He went over how the profits will be disbursed. Several members gave positive ideas for future Dixiefests.

At 8:02 Ned called for a 10 minute break.

The meeting resumed and Ned, KA4BLL called for the officers reports. Bill Torkell-KG4VAW read the treasurer's report. Tommy-KD4TJO motioned to accept and several members seconded.

Lisa-KI4DIL, requested permission to correct printed secretary's minutes for the February general meeting as she had incorrectly identified Bill Covington-KC4SXT as KE4SXT. It was granted by the members present.

Darrell-KK4D gave his report on club products for sale and reported on the flea table sales from Dixiefest.

New Business:

Ned-KA4BLL called for Tommy-KD4TJO to give the membership present the information on the MS Walk on April 2.

Pat Lane-W4OQG gave information on the MARS field day to be held on May 13, 2005.

Lisa-KI4DIL reminded the membership of the weather spotters class to be held on March 26, 2005 at the Main Library on Poplar.

Tommy-KD4TJO won the monthly door prize. Ned-KA4BLL adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by KI4DIL,
Lisa-DARC Secretary

VE CORNER

ARRL VEs, number of sessions served now on League Web site: The ARRL Web site now makes it possible to access a list of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) volunteer examiners (VEs) and the number of volunteer exam sessions each has served. The listings via the "VE Session Counts <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/veparti.php>>" page are in alphanumeric call sign order according to VE location by state. Activity (count) is measured by being present and ready to serve--or providing service--at an ARRL/VEC-coordinated test session. "Celebrating 20 years of service, the VEC system enjoys a reputation of high integrity and is a prime example of a successful privatized licensing system," said ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9jj. "The VE Session Counts page serves to highlight the accomplishments of the 25,000-plus current and actively accredited ARRL VEs."

I found this article interesting. I also found that a previous VE on

my team now is serving in Texas where he has retired. Way to go Barry N4QW.

Congratulations to the following:

Roger Brown WA4WLS General
David Burkes KB5RCJ Extra
Walter Crews KI4JBP Technician
Lewis Frederick KA5HPQ General
Karen Grider KI4IRR Technician
Jerry Hamilton WD4LLS Extra
Steven Hicks KC5JVH General
Wesley Hyatt W3EDW Technician/ HF
Josiah Jones KE5EAU Technician
Luke Jones KE4EAT Technician
Alfred Kuykendall KG4ZNW General
Alfred Kuykendall KG4ZNW Extra
Donna Pitman W5DJP Extra
Travis Pitts KE5EAV Technician
Robert Quinn KC0UAR Technician
Jeffrey Sample KI4IRS General
Karrie Stokes KC0UAS Technician
James Story KH0DW General
Richard Waldrip KE5EAW Technician

Joan KN4PM

FROM THE ARRL WEBPAGE

SKYWARN ENDURES
DAYLONG SIEGE
IN CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI

Wednesday, April 6, in Central Mississippi began with tornadoes, severe hail and flooding, prompting activation of local SKYWARN,

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) teams and Amateur Radio volunteers. Members of the Jackson Amateur Radio Club (JARC) staffed the National Weather Service (NWS) Jackson Forecast Office. Operations continued for more than 16 hours as a line of severe storms marched across Mississippi. The club's station, WX5JAN, handled a substantial number of warning statements, spotter and damage reports.

"I think we did extremely well considering the length of the event and everything else that occurred," said JARC SKYWARN Coordinator, Robert "Billy Bob" Sekul, N5XXX. This week's event marked the eighth SKYWARN activation since March 1.

Within an hour of activation, an F3 tornado struck the Monterey area in Rankin County, injuring six residents, destroying 17 homes and damaging many more. Smith County radio amateurs reported major damage in Mize after a tornado struck the community's K-12 school as students took shelter. Throughout the morning, reports of hail, funnel clouds and flooding streamed into the station from counties across Central Mississippi.

As another wave of severe storms moved through these same areas in the afternoon, operators continued to report funnel clouds, hail and flooding. Several JARC ARES members responded to the Central Mississippi Chapter of the American Red Cross to assist with damage assessment and other

duties. During this second wave of storms, a nearby lightning strike forced the SKYWARN station off the air. Hurricane Watch Net Assistant Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, served temporarily as alternate net control while the station recovered from the strike. Although the interruption was short lived, warnings and reports continued unabated.

By late afternoon, a third round of storms moved through, hitting many of the same areas. Again, reports of hail, funnel clouds and flooding continued until operations ceased at 10:30 PM. SKYWARN is a voluntary program developed by the NWS to improve its severe weather warning program.

BPL IS NO BALANCING ACT, ARRL SAYS IN FCC FILINGS

In filings before the FCC, the ARRL has again challenged some basic assumptions made by BPL proponents and included in the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) adopting new rules governing the deployment of broadband over power line (BPL) systems. The League took particular issue with any notion that a balancing test exists between BPL's purported public benefits and its potential to interfere with licensed services.

"There is no balancing to be done in the case of compatibility between unlicensed devices and licensed radio services," the ARRL asserted April 1 in its Reply to Oppositions from Ambient Corporation and the United Power

Line Council (UPLC). "Unlicensed devices are not entitled to operate if they cause harmful interference to licensed radio services, and they cannot be authorized at all . . . if they have, as does BPL, a significant interference potential to licensed services." The League's remarks reiterated a point it's made in other FCC proceedings pitting unlicensed Part 15 devices against licensed services.

The Reply to Oppositions comments mark the last opportunity for BPL stakeholders to comment in the FCC rule making proceeding that led to last October's R&O. In separate replies, the ARRL zeroed in on oppositions to petitions for reconsideration filed by Ambient, the UPLC, Current Technologies, three utilities--Ameren Energy Communications, Virginia Electric Power and Tucson Electric Power--Homeplug Power Line Alliance and Intellon.

The ARRL targeted Ambient's stated assumption that the FCC's goal in the proceeding should be to "ensure that its interference protection rules and policies do not inadvertently hinder development and deployment" of BPL. The League cited its own experiences with Ambient to make its point.

"Ambient's priorities and spectrum manners are evident not only in [its] statement, but as well in its atrocious record of harmful interference and unresponsiveness to verified interference complaints in its BPL test operations," the

ARRL said. It attached a copy of its latest interference complaint involving Ambient's Briarcliff Manor, New York, BPL pilot project. "The interference to Amateur Radio communications at that site has been unresolved for a period of an entire year," the League emphasized.

Ambient's Opposition filing, the League said, suggests the company "believes that the potential future benefit of BPL justifies whatever harmful byproduct there is in terms of interference to licensed radio services." But the Ambient pilot project, the ARRL continued, "form an obvious, empirical rebuttal" to the FCC's assertion in the R&O that BPL has a low interference potential, and that BPL providers have some incentive to remedy BPL interference. "Both of these fundamental premises have proven false," the ARRL said.

The ARRL also took issue with the UPLC's suggestion in its Opposition that the FCC's R&O "struck the right balance between protecting against potential interference and promoting the public interest in BPL deployment." The League said previously stated FCC policy that radiated emission levels sufficiently low to prevent interference to licensed services rather than mitigating it after the fact have provided the basis for authorizing unlicensed RF devices such as BPL.

Any "balancing test" with respect to BPL is improper, the ARRL concluded, adding that any future

public benefits of unlicensed BPL systems "are irrelevant" under the Communications Act.

Beyond that, BPL operators have a greater incentive to deny the existence of any interference, harmful or otherwise, the ARRL said, "and so far, the Commission has given every indication that it will indulge them."

"BPL providers are the beneficiaries of the Report and Order." Amateur licensees on the other hand, the ARRL said, "must bear the burden" the R&O creates, despite the fact that Amateur Radio is a licensed service.

The ARRL says analyses by the National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA) and others have shown that if a large number of BPL emitters is deployed, "they will raise the ambient levels of man-made noise worldwide." The League countered assertions that BPL is a point-source radiator for measurement purposes rather than a line-source radiator.

The ARRL also urged BPL providers to seriously rethink the idea of using BPL to carry emergency communications and provide utility company management of the power grid. "BPL is entitled to no protection from interference at all, and it can neither expect nor claim any such protection," the ARRL said, pointing to tests demonstrating that even low levels of RF can disrupt BPL transmissions.

AMATEUR RADIO EARNS KUDOS FOR TOPOFF 3 PERFORMANCE

The role of Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers in Connecticut in this week's massive TOPOFF 3 exercise has drawn praise from the American Red Cross, for which ARES provided virtually all radio communication. Sponsored by the US Department of Homeland Security and intended as a realistic test of the nation's homeland security system, TOPOFF 3's goal was to push the system of first responders beyond its limits to find the weak spots. American Red Cross emergency services director Mario J. Bruno extolled ARES' performance.

"Operators were there when we needed them, and messages got to where they were needed," he said in a note to ARRL Connecticut Section leadership. "We have learned a lot about what ARES can really do when things get messy, and TOPOFF 3 has been a clear example of how complicated a disaster can get."

Bruno said the Red Cross doesn't have to worry if today's fancy telecommunications devices fail, because ARES will always be there to provide the needed support. "Thank you ARES for helping us respond to the largest disaster exercise in the history of the United States," Bruno concluded. "We will not forget."

Connecticut's phase of TOPOFF 3 began April 4 with a bang--an explosion in New London meant to simulate a terrorist attack. "Loud enough that the organizers passed out earplugs for the media gathered on the bluffs above," recounted ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, WIAGP--a former Connecticut Section Emergency Coordinator and current ARES member.

Visual realism was very much a part of the \$16 million exercise, and prospective ARES volunteers were cautioned in advance. "As the mushroom cloud of smoke drifted away," Pitts said, describing the explosion's immediate aftermath, "hundreds of gory victims processed into the site to assume positions of death and agony." Pitts says Amateur Radio's real work only began in earnest after the media also drifted away, once the smoke and simulated blood were gone.

After ARES stood down from the drill late on April 6, ARRL Connecticut Section Manager Betsey Doane, K1EIC, and SEC Chuck Rexroad, AB1CR, said they felt Amateur Radio acquitted itself very well during the drill.

"The energy, enthusiasm and absolute dedication of all the volunteers for this event are a testament to the real dedication and teamwork in the Connecticut Section," Doane said in a statement thanking all who took part.

Rexroad agreed. "It's just been amazing," he said. "People came into this drill prepared and ready to stay. It was a very positive experience."

Under the National Disaster Plan, the Red Cross has primary responsibility for mass care. ARES provided communication among all of the Red Cross emergency response vehicles (ERVs), mobile canteens, kitchen, headquarters and other sites the organization needed stay in touch with.

In all, as many as 40 of the 150 ARES volunteers from Connecticut and other states in the Northeast were deployed to the field at any given time, and everyone got to take part at some point. "Everybody had a job to do," Rexroad said. "Everyone had at least one shift when they were able to get on the radio and provide communications support."

Doane also credited the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications courses and other training with raising the overall level of operating skill--even among newer operators.

"There were a few new people that were assigned to be observers, and before the end of the drill ended up trained well enough to be an operator on an ERV," she said. "I have to tell you, I was impressed."

TOPOFF 3 required participants to be ready for unexpected events, and the ARES operation was no exception. "The only big curveball

we got thrown was when one of the judges decided they were going to take one of our repeaters down," Rexroad explained. Connecticut ARES was able to promptly switch to a backup. Ironically, a genuine repeater breakdown occurred just before the exercise got under way.

Rexroad and Doane agreed that TOPOFF 3 not only was a success but a helpful learning experience for ARES. "We learned a fair number of lessons, and most of them were organizational, not technical, in nature," Rexroad remarked.

Rexroad says Connecticut ARES also prepared to assist the Connecticut Office of Emergency Management and actually activated several of its stations to show the state officials that it had the backup coverage in case they needed it.

A bioterrorism incident was the scenario in New Jersey--the only other TOPOFF 3 site. Emergency officials there not only were key to the exercise, they had real problems owing to flooding in the northern part of the state. ARES teams in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania participated in the flood emergency response and relief effort.

Brian Fernandez, K1BRF, a Connecticut Assistant SM and ARES liaison to the Red Cross said Amateur Radio's performance in TOPOFF 3 did not go unnoticed within the Department of Homeland Security. "Amateur

Radio made a major contribution to the nation," he said, "and those who contribute to making it safer and stronger and folks in the right places know it."

AMATEUR RADIO LINKS
EARTHQUAKE-STRICKEN
ISLAND WITH OUTSIDE

WORLD Working under harsh conditions, Indonesian Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers this week established VHF links between earthquake-stricken Nias Island and northern Sumatra. Nias Island was hit March 28 by nearby magnitude 8.2 and 8.7 underwater earthquakes. More than 1000 people are reported to have died as a result of the earthquakes. The tremors affected some of the same areas still recovering from the December earthquake and tsunami. Although officials and residents remained on alert for tsunamis this week, none occurred. A magnitude 6.3 aftershock occurred in the vicinity March 30.

Organization of Amateur Radio for Indonesia (ORARI) headquarters in Jakarta this week called on its members to be ready to assist. An ORARI team deployed by air to Nias Island March 29 set up "zulu" (emergency) station YB6ZAH in Gunung Sitoli, the island's largest city. YB6ZAH has been in contact with the ORARI District 6 command post in Medan, North Sumatra. The ORARI team already had experience supporting communication following the December 2004 tsunami that claimed an estimated 300,000 lives

in South Asia.

In the earthquake's immediate aftermath, ORARI ARES members reportedly were on duty with little or no food to eat, although they did have drinking water. At that point, many victims had not yet been evacuated, and some remained trapped in the debris.

ORARI team members include Zulkarman Syafrin, YC6PLG, Herman Rangkuti, YC6IQ, and Soejat Harto, YB6HB--a medical doctor. Syafrin reports that the earthquake damaged the power, telecommunication and transportation infrastructure or took them out altogether on Nias Island. Buildings in Gunung Sitoli were reportedly flattened and roads severely damaged or impassable.

In the early going, the team was using portable generators and had to restrict operation to every two hours to conserve scarce fuel. TELKOM, the Indonesian Department of Public Telecommunication, has since provided the ORARI ARES team with a bigger generator, and the operation has relocated to the TELKOM building, where fuel is no longer a problem. ORARI District 6 plans to supply more logistical and radio equipment, while Ady Susanto, YB6VK, was preparing a set of solar cells for the ORARI ARES team's use in Gunung Sitoli.

New Mexico radio amateur Earl Campbell, N8TV, now working with the International Red Cross in Banda Aceh on post-tsunami relief,

plans to set up an emergency Amateur Radio station on Simeulue Island, which also was affected by the earthquakes. Campbell's IT team reportedly is headed for Nias Island to set up a satellite Internet connection and to support the ARES team in Gunung Sitoli.

Updates on ham radio earthquake relief activity in Indonesia are available on the AB2QV Web site <<http://www.qsl.net/ab2qv/nias.htm>>.--Wyn Purwinto, AB2QV

RADIO AMATEUR TAPPED
TO HEAD NASA

President George W. Bush has announced his intention to nominate Michael Griffin, NR3A, to be the next administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). He'll succeed Sean O'Keefe, who departed NASA earlier this year. Griffin currently heads the Space Department at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. In 2003 testimony before the US House of Representatives' Future of Human Space Flight Committee on Science, Griffin described himself as "an unabashed supporter of space exploration in general, and of human space flight in particular." Griffin expressed his belief that the human space flight program "is in the long run possibly the most significant activity in which our nation is engaged." His extensive and impressive academic resume includes five master's degrees and a doctorate (aerospace engineering). The US Senate must confirm

PACKET UPDATE

Saratoga Amateur Radio Products has come out with a new piece of hardware for running PSK as well as other software digital modes. They have had a complete set of interfaces in the EZ-PSK series pre-cabled for different radios that hooks into the RS-232 port on your computer. This newest EZ-PSK interface is a plug and play unit that works on the USB port of your computer. The new unit works with all digital mode software and comes with a CD that has DigiPan and Hamscope on it. The unit's audio connection is isolated in both directions. This interface also has a 1 year warranty. If you are looking for a USB interface to run digital modes, check out the EZ-PSK from Saratoga Amateur Radio Products. Their web site is www.saratogaham.com.

James Butler, KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

A lot of companies have come out with QRP radio kits for the amateur market. One of the better ones is OAK HILLS RESEARCH. They build a line of mono bander CW kits for the ham bands. The kit includes all the parts as well as a nice cabinet to put it in when you get through assembling it. The kit has a well written manual and even though it had a lot of parts, I was able to assemble the unit with little trouble. The output is about 5 watts maximum. I built up the kit for 30 meters. The kit has a lot of nice features for the \$140 price tag. Power is variable from milliwatts to 5 watts. It has full break in qsk keying. The receiver is very good. The unit also has variable gain control along with RIT. The case and knobs used with the unit are first class with the case already punched out for the holes and a nice silkscreen for the panels. The variable bandwidth control also makes operating on the band nice when conditions get a little crowded. If you are looking for a nice qrp kit with all the bells and whistles for CW, check this one out from OAK HILLS RESEARCH.

James Butler, KB4LJV



April

2005

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 Dan, N4QLK |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Ed, KD5IEI | 7 MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Rosie, K4MPQ | 11 | 12 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Thomas, KG4EOV |
| 17 | 18 James, KB4LJV | 19 | 20 Bill, KB4SQV | 21 Neal, W4EKD | 22 John, KG4OLG | 23 |
| 24 Jennifer, KE4RKH | 25 | 26 Shelby Cty., ARES Meeting 6:45 PM Jim, N4BSP James, N5JMY | 27 | 28 | 29 David, N5COO | 30 |



CONTEST CALENDAR

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

<http://arlhs.com/SL-2005-guidelines.html>.

VHF Spring Sprints--CW/SSB-- sponsored by the Eastern Tennessee DX Association as follows: 50 MHz--2300Z May 14-0300Z May 15; 144 MHz--7-11 PM local time, Apr 4; 222 MHz --7-11 PM Apr 12; 432 MHz--7-11 PM Apr 20; Microwave--902 MHz and higher--6 AM-1 PM May 7. For more information: <http://www.etsdx.org/vhf.htm>.

Missouri QSO Party--CW/SSB, sponsored by the Boeig Employees Amateur Radio Society of St Louis (BEARS) from 1800Z Apr 2-0500Z Apr 3, and 1800Z - 2400Z Apr 3. Frequencies (MHz): CW--40

kHz from band edge and 1810 kHz; Phone--1.850, 3.980, 7.280, 14.280, 21.380, 28.310, work MO stations once per band and mode. For more information-- www.qsl.net/w0ma.

Montana QSO Party--Phone/CW/ Digital--sponsored by the Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club from 2300Z Apr 2-2300Z Apr 3. Frequencies: 160 meters-70 cm, no categories, repeaters and IRLP are permitted. For more information: k7ncr@arrl.net.

QCWA Spring QSO Party--CW/Digital/SSB--sponsored by the Quarter Century Wireless Association from 1900Z Apr 2-1900Z Apr 3. Frequencies (MHz): CW--1.810, 3.540, 7.035, 14.040, 21.050, 28.050; Phone--1.845, 3.890, 7.244, 14.262, 21.365, 28.325 plus all VHF/UHF bands, no crossband or repeater QSOs. Categories: Phone, Digital, Mixed. 15 QSOs with each station maximum and only one QSO with stations in home QCWA chapter. For more information: www.qcwa.org/2005-qso-party-rules.htm.

EA RTTY Contest--sponsored by the Unión de Radioaficionados Españoles (URE.) from 1600Z Apr 2-1600Z Apr 3. Frequencies: 80-10 meters, according to IARU band plan. For more information: www.rttycontesting.com/rules/earttyrules2005.pdf.

SP DX Contest--CW/SSB--sponsored by the PZK Polish Amateur Radio Union and the SP DX Club from 1500Z Apr 2-1500Z Apr 3. Frequencies: 160-10 meters, according to the IARU Region I band plan, no crossmode QSOs. For more information: www.contest.spdxc.org.pl/en/index.php.

Kids Roundup--Phone, sponsored by the Anne Arundel Radio Club, Jr (AARC, Jr), from 1400Z Apr 2-2200Z Apr 3. Frequencies: 80 meters -70 cm. See Web site for categories and QSO Point rules. For more information: www.ki3ds.org.

DX YL to North American YL Contest--CW--sponsored by YLRL from 1400Z Apr 6-0200Z Apr 8, work 24 hours max (Phone--Apr 13-15). Frequencies: all HF

Lighthouse Spring Lites QSO Party--all modes--sponsored by the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society from 0001Z Mar 26-2359Z Apr 3. 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:

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 (1,2,3,5,9,10,12,14, 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)



bands. For more information: www.ylrl.org.

QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party--CW--sponsored by the QRP ARCI, from 1200Z Apr 9-2400Z Apr 10. (Same rules as Fall QSO Party, see Oct 2004 *QST*, p 98 or <http://2hams.net/ARCI/index.htm>)

EU Spring Sprints--SSB: Apr 9--managed by G4BUO, CW: Apr 16--managed by 9A6XX, from 1500Z-1859Z. Frequencies (MHz): SSB--14.250, 7.050, 3.730, CW--14.040, 7.025, 3.550. SO category only (results list LP with *), EU stations work everyone, non-EU stations work EU only. For more information eusprint@kkn.net.

Japan International DX Contest (JIDX)--CW--sponsored by *Five-Nine* Magazine from 0700Z Apr 9-1300Z Apr 10 (Phone--Nov 12-13). Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: <http://www.jidx.org/>.

Georgia QSO Party--CW/SSB--sponsored by SECC and SEDXC from 1800Z Apr 9-0359Z Apr 10 and 1400Z-2359Z Apr 10. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: <http://gqp.contesting.com>.

DX YL to North American YL Contest--Phone, Apr 13-15 (see Apr 6-8).

YU DX Contest--CW, sponsored by the Amateur Radio Union of Serbia and Montenegro (SCG) from 2100Z Apr 16-0500Z Apr 17 and 0900Z-1700Z Apr 17. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. Categories: SO-Lower (1.8, 3.5, 7 MHz), and SO-Upper (14, 21, 28 MHz), QRP (< 5W), LP, HP (> 100W). For more information: yudx.net.

Michigan QSO Party--CW/SSB--sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club, from 1600Z Apr 16-0400Z Apr 17. Bands: 80-10 meters. Fre-

quencies: CW--45 kHz from band edge, Phone (MHz)--3.850, 7.225, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450. Work stations once per band and mode, MI-to-MI QSOs allowed, mobiles and portables can be worked from each county. For more information: www.miqp.org.

TARA Skirmish--Digital Prefix Contest--sponsored by Troy ARA, 0000Z-2400Z Apr 16. Frequencies: 160-6 meters, work stations once per band. For more information: www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_dpx_rules.html or skirmish-manager@n2ty.org.

Holyland DX Contest--CW/SSB--sponsored by the Israel Amateur Radio Club from 0000Z-2359Z Apr 16. Frequencies: 160-10 meters according to IARU Region 1 band plan, work Israeli stations once per band and mode. For more information: www.iarc.org.

ES Open HF Championship--CW/SSB--sponsored by the Estonian Radio Amateurs Union from 0500Z-0859Z Apr 16. Frequencies: 80 and 40 meters. For more information: www.erau.ee/index.php?newlang=eng.

Ontario QSO Party--CW/Phone--sponsored by the Ontario DX Association from 1800Z Apr 16-1800Z Apr 17. 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. For more information: www.odxa.on.ca/oqphome.html.

EU EME Contest--any mode--sponsored by *DUBUS* and REF, 0000Z Apr 16-2400Z Apr 17. Frequencies: 50 MHz, 1.3, 10, 24 GHz and up. (May 14, 15--144 MHz, 2.3, and 3.4 GHz; Jun 11, 12--432 MHz and 5.7 GHz) Categories: Single and

Multi-band, QRP and QRO--based on EIRP, Pro, CW, Digital, Mixed, Assisted. Exchange: call signs TMO/RST and "R." For more information: www.dubus.org or info@dubus.de.

EU Spring Sprint--CW--see Apr 9. **EA QRP Contest**--CW, sponsored by the EA QRP Club from 1700Z Apr 16-1300Z Apr 17. Frequencies: 80-10 meters (see Web site for operating periods). For more information: www.eaqrp.com.

Florida QSO Party--sponsored by the Florida Contest Group from 1600Z Apr 23-0159Z Apr 24 and 1200Z-2159Z Apr 24, 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: www.floridaqsoparty.org.

Nebraska QSO Party--CW/SSB/Digital--sponsored by the Heartland DX Association 1700Z Apr 23-1700Z Apr 24. Frequencies (MHz): 160-2 meters; CW--1.805 and 35 kHz above band edge, Novices/Technicians--10 kHz above band edge; Phone--1.915, 3.865, 7.265, 14.265, 21.365, 28.465, 146.460. For additional information: www.qsl.net/hdxa.

Helvetia Contest--CW/SSB/Digital--sponsored by Union of Swiss Short Wave Amateurs (USKA) from 1300Z Apr 23-1259Z Apr 24. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For more information: www.uska.ch/html/en/index_e.htm

DX Colombia International Contest--Phone/CW, sponsored by DX Colombia, from 0000Z Apr 23-0000Z Apr 25. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For more information: www.dxcolumbia.com/contest.htm

FISTS/EUCW CW QRS Contest--sponsored by AGCW and FISTS, from 0001Z Apr 24-2359Z Apr 30.

Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For more information: www.agcw.de/eucw/euqrs.html.

2 GHz and Up World Wide Club Contest--sponsored by the San Bernardino Microwave Society, from 6 AM local Apr 30-12 midnight May 1, operate 24 hours max. Frequencies: For more information: www.ham-radio.com/sbms/.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Santa Ana, CA: Anaheim Police Amateur Radio Club, K6O. 0000Z **Apr 1-2400Z Apr 15.** 60th Anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa in WW2. 28.450 21.350 18.150 14.250. QSL. Mark McMullin, KM6HB, PO Box 27271, Santa Ana, CA 92799.

Gig Harbor, WA: Peninsula Amateur Radio Emergency Team, KA7EOC. 1600Z-2300Z **Apr 2.** Gig Harbor Health and Safety Expo. 14.270. Certificate. Mark Yordy, W7BBO, 8914 149th St NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98329.

St Joseph, MO: Missouri Valley Amateur Radio Club, W0P. 1400Z-2200Z **Apr 2.** Start of the Pony Express. 28.350 21.350 14.250 7.250. Certificate. Missouri Valley Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1533, St Joseph, MO 64502.

Tulsa, OK: Tulsa Health Department Amateur Radio Club, K5THD. 0000Z-2400Z **Apr 2.** Celebrating World Health Day 2005. 28.365 21.365 14.265 7.265. Certificate. Dave Cox, Tulsa Health Department Amateur Radio Club, 5051 S 129 E Ave, Tulsa, OK 74134. www.tulsa-health.org/k5thd.

Zebulon, NC: Triangle East ARA, WA4UQC. 1400Z-2000Z **Apr 2.** Scootworks Open House & ACS Relay for Life. 21.275 14.275 7.275 147.39. Certificate. Dave Hockaday, WB4IUY, 7804 River Dare Ave, Youngsville, NC 27596. www.

TEARA.org.

Brampton, ON: Peel/Mississauga Amateur Radio Clubs, VE3XR. 1300Z-1600Z **Apr 9.** Ham-Ex Annual Hamfest. 14.265 7.240. QSL. Via bureau or direct to Jeff Richardson, VA3QSL, 36 Crawley Dr, Brampton, ON, Canada L6T 2S1. www.peelarc.org. Note: US postage cannot be used in Canada.

Green Valley, AZ: Green Valley Amateur Radio Club, N7GV. 1500Z-2300Z **Apr 9.** Community Emergency Awareness in the Best Snowbird Nest in the Southwest. 21.375 14.245 14.050 145.29. Certificate. Gene Schouweiler, W0KAD, 214 N Crocodile Rock Dr, Green Valley, AZ 85614.

Indian Orchard, MA: *Titanic* Historical Society, W1MGY. 1330Z **Apr 9-0527Z Apr 15.** Commemorating the 93rd anniversary of the *Titanic* voyage. 14.260 14.033 7.033 3.860. QSL. *Titanic* Historical Society QSL, PO Box 51053, 208 Main St, Indian Orchard, MA 01151-0053. www.hcra.org/titanic.htm

Trento, Italy: Carabinieri On The Air (C.O.T.A.), I13CC. 0700Z **Apr 15-1900Z Apr 17.** XVI National Meeting ANC Associazione Nazionale Carabinieri. 28.500 21.280 14.280 7.070. QSL. Orlando Balisciano, IZ8DDG, Via Villa Bisignano, V Traversa no. 21, Napoli, Italy 80147. www.cota.cc.

Bethlehem, PA: Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, W3OK. 1700Z-1900Z **Apr 16.** National Library Week. 14.250 7.250 7.105 146.560. QSL. W3OK DLARC, RR 4 Greystone Bldg, Nazareth, PA 18064-9211. www.dlarc.org.

Blacksburg, VA: Virginia Tech Amateur Radio Association, K4KDJ. 1200Z-0000Z **Apr 16.** Tenth anniversary of the Virginia Tech Alumni Net. 21.350 14.260 7.260 3.980. Cer-

tificate. Virginia Tech Amateur Radio Association, 347 Squires Student Center, Blacksburg, VA 24060. www.vtara.org.vt.edu

St Louis, MO: Jefferson Barracks Amateur Radio Club, K0ZFK. 1600Z-2000Z **Apr 16.** West Point of the West, Jefferson Barracks. 28.238 14.238 7.238. Certificate. Jefferson Barracks ARC, PO Box 6553, St Louis, MO 63125-6553. www.jbarc.org.

Topeka, KS: Local Amateur Radio Operators, N0G. 1400Z-2200Z **Apr 16.** 150th anniversary of the Kansas National Guard. 28.400 21.400 14.300. Certificate. Steve Hamilton, KB0JYL, 2503 SW Carlson Rd, Topeka, KS 66614.

Piscataway, NJ: Piscataway Amateur Radio Club, K2VOA. 1600Z **Apr 16-2400Z Apr 17.** Former Voice of America relay station WBOU. 21.370 28.370 14.270 7.270. Certificate. Bill Toth, 6 Rivercrest Dr, Piscataway, NJ 08854.

Broken Arrow, OK: Wayne Rumley Amateur Radio, W5R. 0000Z **Apr 22-0000Z Apr 24.** 50th anniversary of Rock and Roll. 21.250 14.250 7.250 3.850. QSL. Wayne Rumley II, WA5YNE, 12315 E 61 St, Broken Arrow, OK 74012.

Asheboro, NC: Randolph Amateur Radio Club, NC4ZO. 1400Z-2000Z **Apr 23.** Celebrating spring at the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro. 28.400 21.350 14.260 7.275. Certificate. Butch Simpson, 6747 King Mountain Rd, Asheboro, NC 27205.

Norman, OK: South Canadian Amateur Radio Society, W5NOR. 1500Z-2100Z **Apr 23.** Commemorating the Oklahoma Land Run of 1889. 14.315. QSL. SCARS, PO Box 720993, Norman, OK 73070.

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 |

LOCAL HAMFESTS OF INTEREST

I-75 Corridor Hamfest

Anderson County ARS
Lake City, TN
April 24, 2005

Baton Rouge ARC Hamfest

Baton Rouge ARC
Baker, LA
April 29-30, 2005

**Hamfest Chattanooga
Chattanooga Amateur Radio club**

East Ridge (Chattanooga), TN
October 22, 2005

Delta Amateur Radio Club

March 2005 Treasurers Report

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Balance 2/28/2005 | \$6105.2 |
| <u>Expense</u> | |
| Dean Honadle (meeting supplies) | 17.89 |
| BellSouth (372-0479) | 58.42 |
| The University of Memphis | 22.94 |
| <u>Income</u> | |
| Dues | 456.00 |
| Balance 3/31/2005 | \$6462.37 |

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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