

# Delta Amateur Radio Club

# SPARKS

*P.O. BOX 342768 MEMPHIS, TN 38134-2768 – Vol. 2 Feb 2010*



## **W4BS REPEATER SYSTEM**

**146.820-(107.2) 147.360+(107.2)**

**224.420- 443.200+(107.2)**

## **February 2010 CLUB MEETING**

**DATE:** February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**PLACE:** Ellendale Church of Christ  
7365 HWY 70, Bartlett TN

**Program:** Video Interview with Martin F Jue, MFJ.

**VE TESTING:** VE registration begins at 5:30pm with testing starting promptly at 6pm. A copy of your license and CSCE is required. For V. E. Information contact Tom Fox, KA4LWQ at 357-1663.

## The President's Corner

As everyone knows, there have been issues for quite some time with the 146.82 repeater "kerchunking". The transmitter was temporarily shut down and the repeater is receiving interference from what appears to be a digital signal. To solve the problem, the first attempt was to turn on the 107.2 tone, but there is an issue with activating the tone. The current plan is to install the "new" ICOM repeater as the 146.82 machine and then attempt to correct any issues with the old repeater. We will need to determine if it is repairable or if it has reached its usable life.

Unfortunately, when we purchased the ICOM, we didn't buy a new controller. It really doesn't make sense to connect the new repeater to the practical antique controller used by the current 146.82 machine. So, I think we need to discuss buying a new controller for the new repeater. Even if we get the old repeater working properly, we will still need a controller for the ICOM repeater. This indirectly brings up the subject of phone patch availability on the 82 repeater. I know we have dodged the issue for several months about phone patch capability on the 82 machine. Everyone has their own opinion, so gather your thoughts and make your own assessment if we need a phone patch on 82 and if it is worth the expense of a phone line for the repeater. We currently pay slightly more than \$60 per month for a phone line that could be replaced by a 440Mhz link to control the repeater. I think we need to discuss the issues and, if possible, make a decision at next week's meeting.

Thanks

Alan (KJ4BIX)

### DELTA CLUB MEETING MINUTES FOR January 12, 2010

Alan – KJ4BIX called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and asked for introductions of the attending 47 members and guest. He also called attention to the New Delta Club ID cards which were being provided to the Life members and annual members who had submitted there 2010 renewal applications and paid 2010 member dues.

Steve – KI4YOP was asked for minutes to be read of the last meeting. Ham – W4GMM made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in Sparks. The motion was seconded by Bill – KI4TQA and accepted by the attending membership.

Rick – WA4NVM gave the club treasurers report. Larry - WA4VXH made a motion to accept and was seconded by Bill – KC4SXT. Club attendance accepted.

Joe – WA4OVO gave his training report which was accepted by the Club attendance.

Rosalinda – KI4ZKW was asked to present information regarding the use of Freeman Park in Bartlett as a proposed location for the Delta Club's field day event. With the assistance of John – AJ4AT, they presented information about advantages, disadvantages and the cost of the event if held at the park. Upon conclusion of the presentation, the Club membership voted in favor of having the event at Freeman Park. Rosalinda and John will continue efforts on this project and keep the membership informed of their progress. Alan will contact and provide other area clubs with information about this endeavor and ask if they wish to participate and share in this event with the Delta Club.

After a short break, Billy – KD4EYW provided the scheduled program. Billy gave a very informative presentation on Emergency Communications. His PowerPoint program included many photos of actual events he had been a part as well as how the emergency communications are accomplished.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm

Respectfully Submitted By:  
Steve Smith – KI4YOP

DELTA CLUB BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES FOR January 5, 2010

Attendee's

Alan – KI4BIX  
Rosalinda – KI4ZKW  
Steve – KI4YOP  
Rick – WA4NVM  
Bill – KI4TQA  
Joe – WA4OVO  
Wayne – KI4TLB  
David – KD4NOQ  
Jeff – AJ4GY

Alan – KI4BIX called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and welcomed the new board members. He opened a discussion for old and new business.

Rosalinda – KI4ZKW presented information regarding the use of Freeman Park in Bartlett for the 2010 Field Day. The board engaged in an open discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of this subject. It was a unanimous decision of the board to pursue this further and to present it to the membership at the next meeting for additional discussion.

Bill – KI4TQA presented to the board a revised copy of a New Member CD as well as a proposed Welcome Letter. The board members are to review this information and get back with Bill with any comments so that the CD and letter can be finalized.

Rick – WA4NVM gave the treasurers report which was accepted by the board.

David – KD4NOQ announced that Billy Freeman – KD4EYW would be providing the program for the upcoming DELTA Club meeting. The program topic will be Emergency Communications.

Rosalinda – KI4ZKW and Steve – KI4YOP presented several new sample DELTA I.D. cards for the Boards review. After some discussion a card was selected from the samples by the Board. Rosalinda and Steve are to have cards for all Life Members and annual members who have submitted their 2010 renewal application and dues available at the January General meeting.

Joe – WA4OVO gave the Training report which was accepted by the board. Joe also brought to the attention of the Board that Ken - K4DIT was hosting the Delta Club web site at no cost to the club. A proposal was presented, discussed, voted upon and accepted by the board that as a token of appreciation, Ken should not pay annual dues and will be maintained in the club roster as a member in good standing for as long this arrangement continues.

Jeff – AJ4GY presented a draft copy of the revamped “Sparks” news letter. After some discussion and a change or two, the new “Sparks” was accepted by the board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM

Respectfully submitted by Steve – KI4YOP

## Treasury Report

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	as of <b>January 1, 2010</b>	<b>\$11,720.19</b>
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Expenses		
AT&T	(phone line)	\$61.79
University of Memphis	(phone line)	\$22.94
Memphis Amateur	(gifts for 2010)	\$320.56
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>\$405.29</b>
SubTotal		<b>\$11,314.90</b>

Income		
Membership Dues		\$960.00
Donations		\$10.00
Add to Bal. to reconcile with Bank Balance		\$171.96
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$1,141.96</b>

<b>Ending Balance</b>	as of <b>January 31, 2010</b>	<b>\$12,456.86</b>
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Submitted by Rick Tillman WA4NVM

### Tennessee Nets

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

### Memphis Area Nets

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

## AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE .....

Many times we operate during emergencies and natural disasters. During these times we may be without power from the power company which means we will be on battery power. Many amateurs have batteries at home for power. One of my emergency batteries is a large lead acid battery. I would put it on my battery charger every month or so to make sure it had a charge. What I needed was a way to automatically keep it totally charged and ready to go when the power went out. I found the answer at a company called Harbor Freight. They sell a small battery maintenance charger that can be hooked up all the time and will automatically keep a full charge on the battery. This works with everything from motorcycle to car batteries. This unit is not made to charge up a dead battery but is designed to keep it at full charge topped off without overcharging and damaging the battery. The unit normally cost about \$10.00 but they put them on sale for \$4.95 during the year. The unit has a status LED and clamps to hook up to the battery. The unit is the Model 42292 Battery Float Charger. Now I know I will have a fully charged battery to use if I need it during an emergency. If you need a good float charger for a great price check this one out from Harbor Freight.



James Butler  
KB4LJV

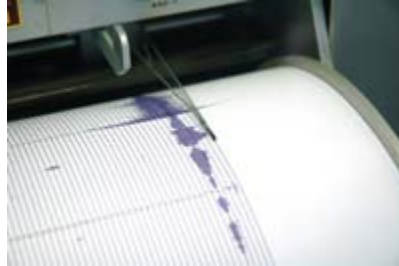
## PACKET UPDATE .....

For members of the ARRL they have come up with another nice benefit for members. They have expanded the article search section to let you look at more past articles. Now they let you search back before 1980. Actually they let you go all the way back to 1915 in the database. This means you can pull up reviews on a lot of older tube type amateur radio equipment. They include articles from QST on equipment reviews and modifications and fixes for equipment. The database also has articles for building homebrew test and radio equipment. These articles can be downloaded and come up as a PDF file on the screen. They can also be printed out on your printer. This is a nice benefit for ARRL members. If you want to check this out go to <http://www.arrl.org/> and click on the QST archive search.

James Butler  
KB4LJV

# Earthquake Preparedness

The recent tragedy in Haiti has reminded us all of the destruction a catastrophic earthquake can cause. As our thoughts and prayers go out to the citizens of Haiti we in the Mid-South need to examine our own earthquake risk. Now is the time to prepare your home and business in the event of a powerful earthquake in the Memphis area.



[The Center for Earthquake Research and Information](#) at the University of Memphis has all of the information you need to prepare for potential disaster.

## Fox Hunt on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

We had our first Fox Hunt for 2010 and we had quite a few hams show up. We all started at the Bass Pro Shop Parking lot over near I-40 and Sycamore View. It turned out to be a very nice day weather wise and was pretty sunny also. So right around 2pm in the afternoon the festivities began. Dwayne, N5XUL was the fox and a fisherman that day. Dwayne was eventually found by some of the hunters at a park on Alturia Rd just south of the railroad tracks with a lake. But it wasn't that easy. You could spot an antenna on a car in the parking lot. Once you got to the park, more hunting had to be done. Dwayne was actually farther back in the park disguised as a fisherman, and was actually fishing while he was waiting on us to find him. Unfortunately, before all the hunters found him, he had some technical problems with his radio and the hunt ceased before everyone could find him.



Waiting for the hunt to start.

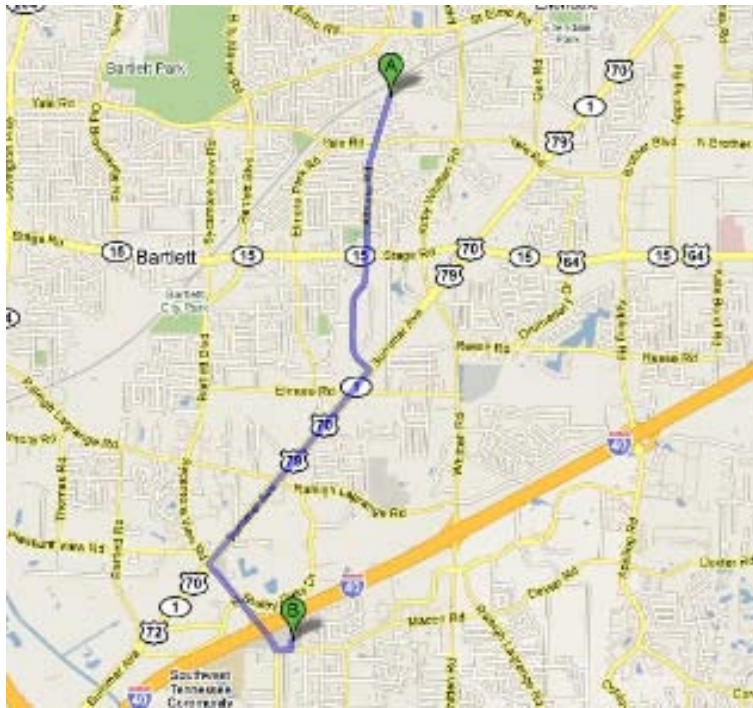


KF5CLC setting up his Doppler system for help finding the fox.



Dwayne with his antenna disguised as a fishing pole. He  
Said he caught 3 trout that day, but they say fishermen always lie.





The route to the fox by car

## 2010 Public Service Events

If you have any events you would like to add, please e-mail them to [aj4gy@arrl.net](mailto:aj4gy@arrl.net)

I am looking for volunteers to help with the March for Babies Walk on April 24, 2010. Sign up at the Delta Club meeting or e-mail me at [KF4NDH@bellsouth.net](mailto:KF4NDH@bellsouth.net).

Bob Holdford kf4ndh

Date	Event	Coordinator
<b>March</b> TBA	City Slickers Equestrian Event	Richard NF5B
TBA	March for Babies AKA March of Dimes Walk	
<b>May</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Memphis in May Triathlon	Ned KA4BLL
<b>September</b> 11th & 12 <sup>th</sup>	MS 150 Bike Ride	Darrell KK4D
<b>October</b> 2nd (1st Saturday)	Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk	Kathleen KC0HZU



December 4th	St. Jude Marathon	Roger KI4AJH
TBA	Bartlett Christmas Parade	Dennis KJ4BDU
TBA	Boy Scout Merit Badge	Hugh WB4SLI

**HAM LICENSE TRAINING for 2010**  
By Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Director of Training

**There is no charge for classes, but the student is responsible for the purchase of the license manual and the \$15 ARRL FCC examination fee.**

**SCHEDULED CLASSES**

***Technician Class 3-10 – February 15 – March 15, 2010***

Technician Class 3-10 will be held from February 15<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup> on 5 Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm at the Memphis-Shelby County Health Department East Campus across from the Penal Farm. Advanced registration is required with email to Joe Lowenthal at [wa4ovo@yahoo.com](mailto:wa4ovo@yahoo.com), or call 901-683-2701 with name, email address, and contact phone number, preferably a cell phone number. See Future Classes below for more information.

**CLASSES IN PROGRESS**

***Extra Class 1-10 – January 16 – February 27, 2010***



Extra Class 1-10 Photo left to right: 1<sup>st</sup> row-Mac Tidwell KJ4EHE, Jerry Klein N4POY, Danny Banks KJ4FXZ, Tom Hall N5DXL, 2<sup>nd</sup> row-Sonny Mounicou KF5CLC, Jim Walton K4ZFQ, Ken Lasester KI4AOH, Jay Tomasello KJ4RCR

Eight students are in Extra Class 1-10 on Saturday mornings from 9am-1pm at Memphis-Shelby County Health Department East Campus. The instructors are Tom Fox KA4LWQ, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, and Dean Honadle N2LAZ. The text is *The ARRL Extra Class License Manual*. FCC testing will be held on the last day of class.

## FUTURE CLASSES

### TECHNICIAN CLASS

If you are interested in the first amateur license class, Technician, please let us know of by sending an email to [wa4ovo@yahoo.com](mailto:wa4ovo@yahoo.com) with subject line "Technician Class" and give name, email address, and a contact phone number (preferably a cell number). Or you can go to the Delta Club webpage [www.deltaclub.org](http://www.deltaclub.org) click on Training Classes; then click on Technician Class to send an email, or call at 901-683-2701. We usually publish class schedules a month or two in advance. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set.

There is no charge for the class, but registration is required. Advanced study of *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual* is strongly suggested as well as study of the 392 question and answer Technical Class License question pool. Barnes & Noble Booksellers sells the manual. You can purchase it online from [www.arrl.org/catalog](http://www.arrl.org/catalog) or on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). The list price is \$24.95.

Please note that a new Technician License question pool has been submitted by the NCVEC ( <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=356> ) for review before publication. Testing for the new question pool starts July 1, 2010.

Practice tests are highly recommended. The [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com) website is free. To access the sample tests, click on Main Menu to the right of the Search button on the QRZ Home Page. Scroll down and click on Practice Amateur Radio Exams. Click on Start Test to enter QRZ Practice Test Center. Click on Technician 35 Questions. Click on Wait For Correct. (This feature gives you the ability to answer again to get the correct answer if you miss the first time. On each answer it will either show Wrong Answer or Correct.) Click on Begin Test. Statistics are given at the top of the screen with the number of Completed questions, the Accuracy percentage, and the Overall percentage of questions completed on the test. Be sure to study multiple QRZ tests. The first test is only the first question from each of the 35 subgroups of the question pool. The second test is only the second question from each of the 35 subgroups, and so on. It is recommended to take at least 15 of the sample tests to be able to see all 392-question pool questions.

Another very good site is [www.hamtestonline.com](http://www.hamtestonline.com). It costs \$74.95, but it is good for 2 years for the Technician, General and Extra Class tests. There are a number of other free sample-test sites. Just Google *ham radio practice exams*.

The 35-question FCC exam will be given at the end of class by a Volunteer Examiner (VE) team. There is a \$15.00 ARRL VEC FCC exam fee.

### GENERAL CLASS

If you are interested in a General License Class, please let us know by sending an email to [wa4ovo@yahoo.com](mailto:wa4ovo@yahoo.com) with subject line "General Class." Or you can go to the Delta Club web page [www.deltaclub.org](http://www.deltaclub.org); click on Training Classes; then click on General Class to send me an email with name, email address and contact phone, preferably cell number, or call at 901-683-2701. The textbook is *The ARRL General Class License Manual*. Lately, we have been running a combined Technician-General class. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set.

## BASIC ELECTRONICS CLASS

The Basic Electronics Class is designed to bridge the electronics-learning gap between the General and the Extra Class licenses. The class textbook is ARRL's *Understanding Basic Electronics*. The suggested calculator is the Casio fx-260 solar calculator, which can be purchased at Walmart for under \$10. There is no exam for this class. If you are interested in the Basic Electronics Class, please let us know by sending an email with name, email address and contact phone, preferably cell number to [wa4ovo@yahoo.com](mailto:wa4ovo@yahoo.com) with subject line "Basic Electronics Class" or call at 901-683-2701. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set.

## EXTRA CLASS

If you are interested in an Extra Class, please pre-register by going to the Delta Club web page [www.deltaclub.org](http://www.deltaclub.org); click on Training Classes; then click on Extra Class to send an email with name, email address and contact phone, preferably cell number 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. Classes have been held for 6 or 7 weeks in January and February.

## COMPLETED CLASSES IN 2010

### ***Technician Class 2-10 – February 3-4, 2010***

Technician Class 2-10 was held for two days at Memphis International Airport for 12 students from the Transportation Security Agency (TSA). The students earned their license so they can become operators for the TSA Memphis MARS agency station AAN4MEM.

## COMPLETED CLASSES IN 2009

The Delta Amateur Radio Club had a wonderful year in 2009 with 83 students receiving licenses or upgrades in the five license classes held. Eight of the 46 Technicians were young hams who can keep our great hobby going for many years to come. One of those young hams also earned his General license. Thanks go to all of the volunteers that helped to make 2009 a great year. A special thanks goes to Bill Stevens KI4TQA, Rick Tillman WA4NVM, David Gilbert AJ4LV, Pat Lane W4OQG, Dean Honadle N2LAZ, Tom Fox KA4LWQ, Win Guin W2GLJ, and Dennis Foster KJ4BDU for their help with the classes.

## Delta Club 146.82 Net Preamble

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

All licensed amateurs are encouraged to participate.

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

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

Is there an NTS Liaison station on frequency?

Is there any station wishing to list formal written traffic?

Does any station have announcements for the net?

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

Does any station have any questions or need any fills?

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

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

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

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

The DELTA CLUB meets the second Tuesday of each month at the ELLENDALE CHURCH OF CHRIST 7365 HWY 70 in Bartlett at 7:00 P.M. V. E. Registration begins at 5:30 with testing starting promptly at 6:00. A copy of your license and CSCE is required. For V. E. Information contact Tom, KA4LWQ at 357-1663. For membership information contact Steve KI4YOP at 493-8663. For training information contact Joe WA4OVO at 683-2701..

Are there any additional announcements?

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

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

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

GOODNIGHT AND 73: THE NET IS NOW CLOSED. \_\_\_\_\_ CLEAR

## February 2010 Important Dates

Delta Club Meeting – Tuesday, the 12<sup>th</sup>  
MARA Club meeting – Thursday, the 21<sup>st</sup>  
ARES Meeting – Tuesday, the 26<sup>th</sup>

## Area Hamfests

2-20-2010  
LCARC Winterfest  
Lawrence County Amateur Radio Club  
[http://w5wra.org/winterfest\\_2010.htm](http://w5wra.org/winterfest_2010.htm)  
Hoxie, AR

3-6-2010 thru 3-7-2010  
Alabama State Convention  
(BirmingHAMFEST)  
Birmingham Amateur Radio Club  
<http://w4cue.com>  
Birmingham, AL

3-20-2010  
Middle Tennessee Amateur Radio  
Society  
<http://www.qsl.net/mtars>  
Tullahoma, TN

3-20-2010  
Ides of March Hamfest  
Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club  
<http://www.reelfootarc.com>  
Union City, TN

## Delta Amateur Radio Club's 2010 Board Members

President:

Alan Anderson – KJ4BIX  
[kj4bix@arrl.net](mailto:kj4bix@arrl.net)

Vice President

Rosalinda Melena – KI4ZKW  
[ki4zkw@gmail.com](mailto:ki4zkw@gmail.com)

Secretary

Steve Smith – KI4YOP  
[ki4yop@arrl.net](mailto:ki4yop@arrl.net)

Treasurer

Rick Tillman – WA4NVM  
[wa4nvm@comcast.net](mailto:wa4nvm@comcast.net)

Director of Training

Joe Lowenthal – WA4OVO  
[wa4ovo@yahoo.com](mailto:wa4ovo@yahoo.com)

Director of Publications

Jeff Krause – AJ4GY  
[aj4gy@arrl.net](mailto:aj4gy@arrl.net)

Director of Programs

David Campbell  
[kd4noq@arrl.net](mailto:kd4noq@arrl.net)

Director of Meetings and Special Events

Wayne Monte

[wjmonte@comcast.net](mailto:wjmonte@comcast.net)

W4BS Repeater Trustee

Darrell Sheffield – KK4D

[Darrell.Sheffield@memphistn.gov](mailto:Darrell.Sheffield@memphistn.gov)



# More Fox Hunt Pictures



# Swamp Stomper Pictures

