

# DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# SPARKS

P. O. BOX 750482 MEMPHIS, TN 38175-0482 / VOL. 16 / JANUARY, 2004



Happy New Year  
From the  
Delta Amateur Radio Club!  
Visit our home on the web at: <http://www.deltaclub.org>

**W4BS**  
**REPEATER**  
**SYSTEM**  
146.82, 147.36, 224.42  
443.2 & 145.03 packet

## JANUARY 2004 CLUB MEETING

**DATE:** January 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:** Dixie Fest, Ben Troughton

**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...

For more VE testing information contact...

Joan Thorne, KN4PM, VEC  
Phone: 901-737-5795  
E-mail: [joant@mem.net](mailto:joant@mem.net)

**Please Remember: Deadline for Reports and Articles for the next issue of SPARKS is Friday, January 16th. 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](mailto:paulsonrj@bellsouth.net)**

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

To all of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Members:

Thank you for electing the in-coming officers for the year 2004. We will do our best serve all of our membership, and hope that the year 2004 will be a good year for all of the club's projects.

As we have always done, I hope that our club will continue to provide many opportunities for individuals to obtain new amateur radio licenses and provide upgrade classes as well.

I am continuing to urge that we return the UHF 443.200 repeater to its old home at the U of M. Many of our members have asked about it, and I am one who used it frequently and miss it greatly.

I encourage all of our members to remember that we all want the Delta Amateur Radio Club to continue to be the best. One of my goals is to have all of our club's officers provide services that will allow the club's members to have fun and be kept informed at the monthly meetings. Another one of my goals is to do everything possible, within financial reason, to give our members ample means for quality communications via radio, and face to face.

Ned Savage, KA4BLL

**DARC  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
12/09/2003**

December's General Membership Meeting was held as a combination meeting and Christmas Pot Luck Dinner. Dinner started shortly after 7 pm with many goodies from which to partake. Thanks to all members and their YLs that provided all the great food.

The business portion of the evening began around 7:50 pm with 51 members and guests present. The usual introductions at the start of the meeting netted a few pending amateurs that had successfully passed exams earlier in the evening at the VE Testing session. Congratulations to all the new amateurs.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Ned asked the membership if anyone knew the current location of the club's gin pole. Several members offered suggestions as to who had it last. If you have the gin pole, please contact Ned, KA4BLL and let him know.

Jim, KI4I announced again that the Bartlett Christmas parade was coming up on Saturday night, December 13<sup>th</sup>. The parade starts at 5 pm and Jim needs anyone who can volunteer to be at the starting line by 4 pm or a little earlier.

Tommy, KD4TJO thanked everyone who gave up their Saturday morning on December 6<sup>th</sup> to help with communications for the St. Jude Memphis Marathon. Approximately 24 amateurs braved the early morning and cold conditions to help the kids at St. Jude. Tommy had t-shirts at the meeting for those that didn't get theirs on Saturday and will have the remainder at the January meeting for those that still haven't received their volunteer shirt.

James, KB4LJV presented the project of the month which is a QRP transmitter known as the "Pixie2" for 40 meters. It puts out a whopping 150 milliwatts and is on a fixed frequency of 7.040 MHz, the

QRP national calling frequency. James utilized an old computer printer switch box and painted it in HeathKit colors to finish off the project.

Randy, W4RMV with the help of Ned, KA4BLL handed out plaques to all the 2003 board members and winners of the annual club awards. Due to the SignMan being out of town for two weeks in November, the plaques couldn't be ready in time for the November meeting.

Gary, WA2IQC reported that he's run into problems with the Motorola Micor repeater that is to be the new 147.36 repeater. He said that whoever tried to do the mods on it to get in the ham band before he got it had not followed the proper specs. It is going to take longer to get it ready than he had said at the November meeting.

Randy read through the certificates left over from the November meeting and several people were in attendance this month to receive their award of recognition.

The special monthly door prize this month was a Yaesu FT-1500M, 2-meter mobile radio after drawing several tickets who were not in attendance, the ultimate winner was Bill, WA4MJM. Congratulations Bill.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was no new business.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.  
Submitted by: Tommy, KD4TJO – 2004 Secretary

**VE CORNER**

Another year has passed and the VE Team has been very busy. The members of the team have been very faithful in coming early and in December we gave 9 exams and I still was able to finish the session and attend my other hobby, a choir, which was practicing at 7:00 at the Fairgrounds.

Since we have not had many newsletters this passed year I will give a general account of all licenses earned this passed year and congratulate the new hams:

William Adkins - KD5YAD - Technician plus  
John Albright - KG4MUD - General  
Clinton Alexander - KG4YZW - Technician  
Greg Alexander - KG4WFN - Technician  
Tom Allison - N0THS - General  
Terry Barnes - KD4TXF - Extra  
Elaine Barton - KI4AJK - Technician  
William Beamann - KI4AUL - Technician  
Tim Bennett - KI4AUK - Technician  
Preston Block, Sr. - WD4PTJ - General  
David Brannon - KD5ZBU - Technician  
Stephen Brown - KI4BME - Technician  
Shannon Campbell - KI4DIX - Technician  
Aaron Carl - KI4CEX - Technician  
Ernest Christensen - WA6KOC - Extra  
Johnathon Cotner - KD5EAX - Extra  
Nathan Covington - KI4BYD - Technician  
Candace Crook - KG4ZDL - Technician  
James Crouse - KG4WJZ - Technician  
Sandra Duncan - KI4CEW - Technician  
Carolyn Duvall - KG4YZU - Technician  
Jimmy Duvall KF4RHZ - General  
James J. R. Eddy - KG4YKZ - Technician  
James P. Eddy - KG4YKY - Technician  
Ryan Ellegood - KG4ZDF - Technician  
Robert Faucett - KI4BYC - Technician  
John Ferrante - KI4COY - Technician  
Anthony Fischer - KC4VHF - General  
Trent Fleming - KG4ZDM - Technician  
Gene Ford - KI4DIY - Technician  
Mark Forrest - KI4AUJ - Technician  
Tom Fox - KI4AUI - Technician  
Robert Galbraith - KG4SMI - Technician  
George Garner - KG5SMH - Technician plus, General  
Daniel Garrett - KI4COW - Technician  
James George - KG4ZDI - Technician  
James Gilman - KI4AJJ - Technician  
Lyndell Goggans - N7PKM - General  
Gary Golightly - KB9IXX - Technician plus - KI4AJC  
Todd Goodwin - KG4WFM - Technician  
Charles Grieme - KG4ZDJ - Technician  
Robert Griggs - KG4ZDN - Technician  
Christopher Hall - KD5VPW - Technician, General  
Samuel Harris - KI4AUH - Technician  
Charles Hawks, Jr. KE4ETH - Extra

Eleen Hempling - KG4ZDE - Technician  
Gregory Henderson - KD4TVF - General  
Kenneth Herbison - KG4WVW - Technician  
Madeire Holdford - KI4AJI - Technician  
Joyce Howell - KI4DIZ - Technician  
Julian Ingram - KD5ZJJ - Technician  
Frank Jennings - KI4AUG - Technician  
Angela Johnson - KI4MBF - Technician  
Chelsea Jones - KG4YKX - Technician  
Eric Joyner - KI4BYB - Technician  
Scott Kircher - KG4YKW - Technician plus  
Steven Lindsey - KI4AUF - Technician  
Jeremy Lenderman - KD5VFG - Technician  
Kyle Maki - KI4BYA - Technician  
David Manson - N1CTI - Extra  
Michael Martin - KI4COX - Technician  
James Mason - KG4ZYB - Extra  
Aaron Mathis - KG4QDO - General  
Stephan Miller - KI4AUE - Technician  
Philip Mitchell - KG4ZDK - Technician  
Chris Oxford - KC4DSC - General  
Russel Palmer - KI4CEV - Technician  
Sally Paulson - KI4AUD - Technician  
Zachary Paulson - KG4WKA - Technician  
Robert Paxson - KI4BMG - General , Extra  
John Proffitt - KI4BXZ - Technician  
Wesley Reno - KD5VFH - Technician  
James Reyle - KG4YZV - Technician  
Lawrence Rock - K8LER - Extra  
Kevin Rudowski - KG4ZDH - Technician  
Nichole Rudowski - KG4ZDG - Technician  
Kurt Schafer - KD5ORL - General  
Roger Schlichter - KI4AJH - Technician  
Jeffrey Schlichter - KI4AJG - Technician  
Craig Schmidle - KI4BXY - Technician  
Darrell Sheffield Jr. - KI4DJB - Technician  
Sanford Simattis - KG4WWU - Technician, General, and Extra  
Roger Sisson =- KD5ZJT - Technician  
Stephen Smith - KC5BMG - Extra - AD5NI  
Roger Snow - KI4DJA - Technician  
Undwadi Srinath - KG4YLB - Technician  
Phillip Stegall - WB4EPG - General  
Jason Sykes - KI4BXX - Technician  
Mark Taylor - KI4AJF - Technician  
Melissa Vickers - KI4AUC - Technician  
Kenneth Welch - N4ABS - General  
Dennis White - KC5KLT - Extra - AD5NJ

Earnest White - KI4AJD - Technician  
Kenneth Widener - KG4YGA - Technician  
Bobby Williams - KD5YAC - Technician, General  
Steve Williams - KI4BMD - Technician  
Robert Witter - KG4WFK - Technician  
Victor Worley - KG4WKB - Technician  
John Yarbro - KI4AJE - Technician

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL AND WELCOME TO HAM RADIO

Without the following VE's though this would not be possible. Their help and reliability is amazing :

Arlene AA5GX, Ben KU4AW, Bill KC4SXT, Bill WA4MJM, Dick K3ORS, Don KJ4PO, Francis WA4ZYN, Frank KA4SJM, John Wood WV5J, Jim AG4KM, Jim KI4I, Ned KA4BLL, Paul WM5Q, Ray N4ARH, Richard AI4BN, Rick KE4NTI, Tom K4TTA, Tom K4ZVF, and Tom N4TV.

We have endured tragedy and miss Paul WM5Q. His wife Arlene seems to be missing since he became a Silent Key. I would like to tell her that she too is missed.

Dick K3ORS also lost his mother this year.

They have come from near and far. From familiar and not so familiar places (TILLATOBA, MISSISSIPPI).

I am looking forward to another busy year. The General Class question pool will change on July 1. The new pool is available on the ARRL Web site.

Please remember that anyone who took the general class exam and passed, but did not take the code exam, you have 365 days with the CSCE until you must retake the general exam.

73,

Joan KN4PM, ARRL VE Liaison

#### QRP VACATIONPEDITION

By Ken Gregg, K4DIT

“Minimal” was the keyword on my recent

QRP Vacationpedition to the sunny beaches of Florida. I've written in the past about my experiments operating QRP mobile, but this was a different experience. A Yaesu FT-817 with a 7 AH gel cell provided “full legal QRP” 5 Watt power. (No tuner, no amp.) The antenna system was equally elaborate – an Iron Horse vertical stuck in the sand with 4 radials made with speaker hook-up wire! I didn't exactly get outstanding signal reports, but I was really somewhat surprised to be heard at all. I tried 20, 30, and 40 meters, finding 20 to be the most active. I logged several states on CW, including Texas, Washington, Utah, Arizona, and Indiana, and even Ontario, Canada. On the weekend, the US County QSO Party cranked up on SSB, so I switched modes and worked several additional states. I also checked into the 14.300 MHz SSB Maritime net a couple of days. Something interesting that I observed on the net was my ability to hear stations that net control could not. The Maritime net NCS normally rotates his beam to different parts of the country, calling for check-ins. Unless he was pointed directly at calling stations, he could not hear weak stations. Since I was using an omni-directional vertical antenna, I could usually hear most everyone – especially stations on mobile or vertical antennas who could not beam directly at net control. Missed stations were usually relayed by other stations but, on at least one occasion, I was able to relay a missed mobile station to NCS in Pennsylvania.

Around sundown on the last day, while the XYL and I were waiting to watch the beautiful sunset over the Gulf, I decided to experiment a little with the antenna. I'm a fan of simple dipoles, so I pulled a couple of the speaker hook-up wire radials off of the vertical and cut them to the 33 foot half wavelength size for 20 meters (no knife or calculator, so I had to use my teeth to cut and strip the wire and long division to figure the length – told you it was a minimal event!). Then I wrapped the stripped wires around the coax connector on the antenna end and applied a couple of pieces of duct tape (even minimal events

*(Continued on page 7)*

PACKET UPDATE .....

Many times we may want to monitor digital modes on HF but do not have a radio to hook up. One way to make monitoring easier is to buy an older model used receiver. These are available from individuals and radio sources for a lot less than a new radio. They can be tuned to your favorite spot on the band and left there and hooked to the computer or TNC to monitor activity. The rigs can be left on for long periods of time without having to worry about excessive wear on your primary rig. Multiple memories, digital tuning and scanning capability are really not needed for this application. So if you are looking to monitor for digital activity find a nice older used rig for the shack as it will be a good investment.

James Butler, KB4LJV

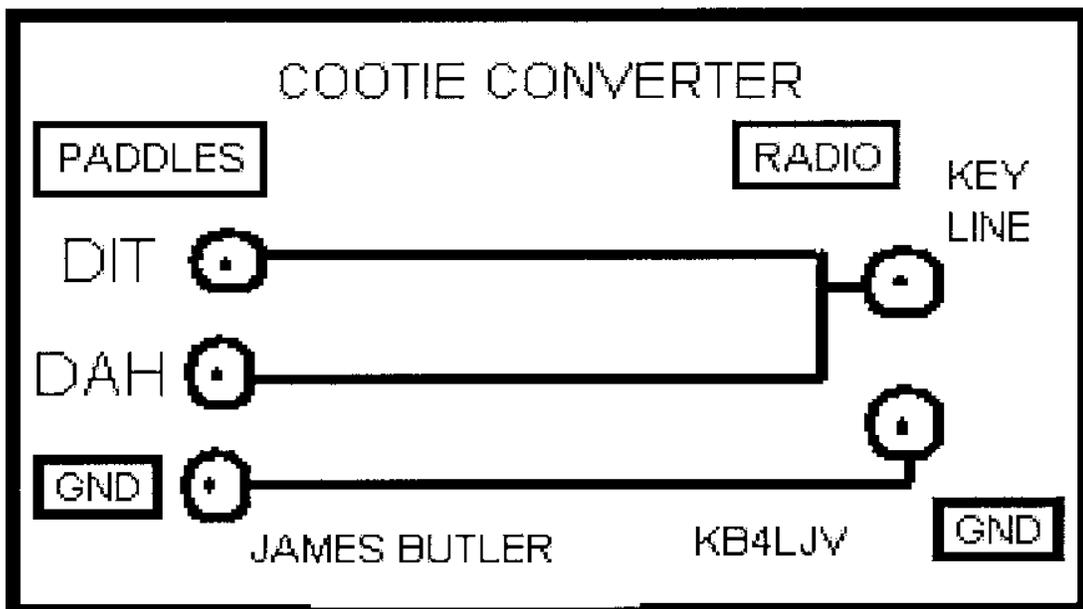
AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE .....

Originally morse code was done by using a straight key for sending. The next step in the evolution of sending was a single lever that was moved from side to side to make the dits and dahs. With this key both the dits and dahs were done manually. This type of key was known as the SIDESWIPER or COOTIE KEY. The advantage of this type of keying is that the key was much simpler in design than a semiautomatic bug type key or paddles that need electronics for operation. Single lever paddles can be used like a COOTIE KEY with a simple wiring change to the unit. Instead of changing the paddles I built up an adapter that lets you just plug in your favorite paddle, hook it to the radio key jack and start sending COOTIE STYLE. The adapter was easy to build up and is fun to play with. With a little practice you can start sending this way and experience how operators in the 1800s operated using this type of keying technique.

I will have the COOTIE KEYS ADAPTER at the meeting to show and answer questions about for those who wish to build up their own.

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING .....

James Butler, KB4LJV



# January

2004

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				<b>1</b> Tony, N4LKK Marry, KG4TLV	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Jim, WD8JAO
<b>4</b> Patsy, KD5SRF	<b>5</b> Janet, KD4DWW Kenneth, KD4EFO	<b>6</b> Barry, WA4MFF  <b>MARA Club Meeting</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Hugh, WB4SLI Roger, KE4NTJ	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Greg, KD4TVF	<b>13</b>  <b>Delta Club Meeting</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Kathryn McLemore	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Misty Morris
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Bill, AC4PU	<b>20</b> Evins, WB4SLJ	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Tom, N4TV	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Jim, N4OXY
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  <b>ARES Meeting</b> <b>6:45 PM</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Jim, N4YOK

# February

2004

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b> Lance, N4GMT	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Pat, W4OOG	<b>5</b> Curtis, W4WP <b>MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM</b>	<b>6</b> Jim, AF4WQ Jim, KG4ODD	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Bobby, KC4NBS Nancy Vickers	<b>14</b> Sharon, N4ZCS
<b>15</b> Bill, KI4BIY Nancy Morrow	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Tom, K4TTA Rebecca Wilson	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> John, KE4WEV	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Donald, KJ4PO	<b>25</b> Aaron, KG4QDO Sally, KI4AUD	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>						

*(Continued from page 3)*

require a roll of duct tape!). The next challenge was one I couldn't do much about – height off the ground. A dipole radiates best at least a half wavelength above ground, 33 feet in this case. I was on a flat beach with no trees or structures anywhere around, so I did the best I could – tied one end to a beach cart and the other to a broken kite stick stuck down in the sand. Maximum height above ground was about 3 feet. Impossible to expect this to work, you say? Think again. I switched on the rig, saw a flat SWR (long division pays off), tuned around and heard I2PJA, Antonio in Italy, calling "CQ Contest" on SSB. I'd like to say I busted the pileup and he answered me on the first call, but in truth it took me a few tries over about a 5 minute period to anticipate the best slot to call to get between the QRO callers, BUT HE DID EVENTUALLY CALL ME BACK! I'm sure it was part luck, part determination, part ingenuity, and a lot grayline (remember it was sunset), but it was a nice cap to what may become an annual minimal Vacationpedition for me!

73, Ken Gregg, K4DIT

### **Tennessee, Alabama Getting New Section Managers**

NEWINGTON, CT, Nov 18, 2003--New ARRL Section Managers will take the reins in Tennessee and Alabama, while incumbent SMs will continue in seven other ARRL sections. Ballots in contested races were counted today at ARRL Headquarters. Two-year terms for successful candidates begin January 1, 2004.

In Tennessee, Larry W. Marshall, WB4NCW, of Fayetteville beat back a challenge from Mark T. Wills, AG4OA, 664 to 191. An ARRL Net Manager since 2000, Marshall served from 1996 until 2001 as an Emergency Coordinator. An Extra-class licensee, he's also a member and past president of the Middle Tennessee Amateur Radio Society. Marshall will replace Terry Cox, KB4KA, as Tennessee SM. Cox, who has been SM

since 2002, decided not to run for another term.

In Alabama, Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, of Harvest, was the only nominee for SM and was declared elected. He now serves as ARRL Alabama Technical Coordinator. Sarratt will replace Bill Cleveland, KR4TZ, who did not stand for re-election. Cleveland has served as Alabama SM since 1999.

In the only other contested race, incumbent Kansas SM Ron Cowan, KB0DTI, outpolled Steve Hamilton, KB0JYL, 430 to 122. Appointed Kansas SM last January, Cowan has been completing the term of Orlan Cook, W0OYH, who stepped down.

Six incumbent ARRL Section Managers ran unopposed and were declared elected. They are David Stevens, KL7EB, Alaska; Randall Carlson, WB0JJX, Delaware; Ti-Michelle Connelly, NJ6T, East Bay; Bill Weatherford, KM5FT, New Mexico; Rob Griffin, K6YR, Santa Barbara; and Bill Voedisch, W1UD, Western Massachusetts.

ARRL will re-solicit for candidates for the position of Michigan SM, a post now held by Dale Williams, WA8EFK. Williams was appointed in June to replace Debbie Kirkbride, KA8YKK, who stepped down.

### **From The ARRL Letter, Vol 23, No 1 02 Jan 2004**

**ORGANIZATIONS' COMMENTS**  
**AUGMENT ALARM OVER BPL** Two organizations have filed comments with the FCC that augment previously expressed worries about potential interference from and to Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems. Picking up on the "grave concerns" the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) <<http://www.fema.gov/>> expressed over BPL December 4, the nonprofit Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association (DERA) <<http://www.disasters.org/>> called on the FCC to require impartial BPL field testing as well as additional public comment and full and open public hearings. "DERA concludes that serious interference to and disruption of critical emergency communications systems in several licensed services throughout North America would almost certainly result from BPL implementation as currently proposed," DERA said. Endorsing the earlier FEMA remarks, DERA said proposed BPL systems don't just pose a risk of interference, they've already been shown to "actually cause harmful interference to licensed radio services." Meanwhile, the Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation (AMRAD) has filed additional test data with the FCC to support preliminary findings suggesting that BPL systems are susceptible to interference from even modest Amateur Radio HF signals. AMRAD said its newest data demonstrated that amateur operation in the test neighborhood would cause many homes to lose their Internet service. "At least an area out to a radius of 0.51 miles from the transmitting station could have their

*(Continued on page 8)*

#### **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

Internet connection interrupted," AMRAD said. "Closer-in homes would almost certainly have their Internet service interrupted." For its RF susceptibility experiment, AMRAD used the Potomac Electric Power Company system test site. It features a mid-1960s vintage home with unshielded interior electrical wiring and overhead power lines. AMRAD found that at a distance of just over one-half mile, data transfer ceased in the face of a 100-W signal on 3980 kHz from a mobile transmitter. Adjacent to the test property, AMRAD said data transfer ceased in all but one instance at a transmitter power of just 4 W in the BPL operating band of from 4 to 21 MHz. The ARRL hopes to complete an independent BPL engineering study early this year. It will explore how BPL might affect HF and low-VHF amateur operation as well as how Amateur Radio operation could affect BPL systems. In related news, BPL equipment manufacturer Amperion Inc recently announced an "industry first" by successfully testing its high-speed "Connect" system on 69 kV transmission lines. Typical BPL systems have employed medium and low-voltage lines to deliver broadband and Internet access. Amperion said its tests, performed in conjunction with American Electric Power, demonstrated multi-megabit data transmission to a distance of nearly one mile without the need for a repeater. There's more information on Amperion's Web site <<http://www.amperion.com/press.asp?pid=89>>. Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>>. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>>.

**A BPL TALE OF TWO CITIES** A Virginia community is preparing to go forward with plans to deploy a city-owned BPL network, while a California city has decided against BPL for its own municipal broadband system. The city council in Lompoc, California <<http://www.cityoflompoc.com/>>--a community of some 42,000--opted December 16 to go with a wireless and fiber optic cable-based broadband network, rejecting BPL and

other possible options. ARRL Santa Barbara Section Technical Coordinator Paul Andreasen, K1JAN, said he and other members of the local Amateur Radio community lobbied hard to ensure that Lompoc would not pick BPL. After contacting Lompoc Mayor Dick DeWesse to spell out the downside of BPL, Andreasen said he subsequently received assurances from City Manager Gary Keefe that Lompoc's consultants would not entertain technology that would radiate in the HF/low-VHF spectrum. The report from McKibben Consulting noted the "ongoing controversy" about BPL and cited a 2003 British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) study that, McKibben said, "made it clear that there is very good reason to be concerned about RF interference." The consultant concluded that BPL's advantages failed to outweigh its disadvantages. The Washington, DC, suburb of Manassas, Virginia, meanwhile, indicates it will go ahead this month with plans to inaugurate BPL service in four subdivisions--a total of some 2100 homes. Manassas--with a population of nearly 35,000--hopes to be the first community in the US to deploy BPL citywide. Amateurs in the Manassas vicinity have pointed to FEMA's "grave concerns" that BPL could interfere with HF communications systems critical to national security and public safety. They've also cited Japan's banning of BPL deployment in the wake of Amateur Radio pressure as well as the BBC study, where the BPL system used the same Main.net technology Manassas plans to employ. City officials seem unimpressed. "Nobody has proven it's a problem," City Councilman Ulysses X. White told Potomac News <<http://www.potomacnews.com/>>. "If it is a problem, then we re-evaluate it. There's no reason not to go forward with it." The same article quotes City Utilities Director Allen Todd, W4VUB, as saying that the city will monitor the system and rectify any problems that crop up. No field testing for RF interference took place during the system's pilot program. Potomac News also quoted ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, saying that the risk of disrupting worldwide and emergency communications for BPL is shortsighted

and, as FEMA already has noted, carries potential national security implications.

**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA HAMS RESPOND TO EARTHQUAKE** Amateur Radio operators aided the American Red Cross after a magnitude 6.5 earthquake struck California's Central Coast region Monday, December 22. Amateurs in San Luis Obispo County provided radio links between shelters and the Red Cross San Luis Obispo Chapter office. Santa Barbara Section Manager Robert Griffin, K6YR, said the San Luis Obispo County Office of Emergency Services requested the assistance of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) teams. Griffin said San Luis Obispo ARES/RACES operators helped staff the county emergency operations center and backed-up communication for the Red Cross after cell phone service proved unreliable. "About 24 operators were involved," Griffin said. "By 10 PM Monday night, the primary American Red Cross communication resources were again reliable, and the ARES net secured." Griffin says a few operators continued communications support at the EOC. Griffin said the American Red Cross quickly established three shelters for quake victims--one in hard-hit Paso Robles, another in Morro Bay and a third in the southern part of the county. Hams staffed shelters to maintain contact with the Red Cross chapter office. Two people died in Paso Robles, some 25 miles from the epicenter. Force 12 President Tom Schiller, N6BT, reports the antenna manufacturer--located in Paso Robles--suffered "minimal damage" from the December 22 quake. "Most of it was confined to the front office, with ceiling tiles falling down, books and computers being tossed around," Schiller said in an update on the company's Web site. "Those who had a view out the front glass doors watched the cars and trucks in the street leave the ground as the shock waves rolled through." He said the quake took out electric power, telephone and cell service within less than a minute, although the power returned and telephones became sporadically operative within a few hours. Schiller reports his own house--about a



**CONTEST CALENDAR**

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

**ARRL Straight Key Night**, CW, sponsored by the ARRL, 0000 --2400 UTC January 1, 2004. See p 96 of Dec 2003 *QST*.

**ARRL RTTY Roundup**, Baudot RTTY, ASCII, AMTOR, PSK31, and Packet--

attended operation only) on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands, sponsored by ARRL; 1800Z Jan 3-2400Z Jan 4; see p 97 of Dec 2003 *QST*.

**Kid's Day**--Phone, sponsored by the Boring Amateur Radio Club, 28350 to 28400 kHz, 21380 to 21400, 14270 to 14300 kHz and 2-meter repeater frequencies with permission from your area repeater sponsor. Observe third party traffic restrictions when making DX QSOs, from 1800Z to 2400Z Sunday, Jan 4; see p 50 of Dec 2003 *QST*.

**North American QSO Party**--CW, sponsored by the *National Contest Journal* from 1800Z Jan 10-0600Z Jan 11.

Frequencies: 160-10 meters. [www.ncjweb.com/naqrules.php](http://www.ncjweb.com/naqrules.php).

**Hunting Lions in the Air**--CW/Phone, sponsored by the South African District 410B of the International Association of Lions Clubs from 0000Z Jan 10-2400Z Jan 11. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. [www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/lionita.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/lionita.asp)

**UK DX Contest**--CW, sponsored by the Scottish-Russian ARS from 1200Z Jan 10 - 1200Z Jan 11 (CW Jun 26 - 27, RTTY Jul 17 - 18) Frequencies: 160 - 10-meters. [www.srars.org/ukdxcruleseng.pdf](http://www.srars.org/ukdxcruleseng.pdf).

**DARC 10-meter Contest**--CW/SSB, sponsored by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club from 0900Z-1059Z Jan 11. Frequencies: CW 28.000-28.200 MHz, SSB 28.300-28.700 MHz. [www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcz.htm](http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcz.htm)

**North American QSO Party**--Phone, 1800Z Jan 17-0600Z Jan 18. [www.ncjweb.com/naqrules.php](http://www.ncjweb.com/naqrules.php).

**MI QRP Club January CW Sprint**--1200Z Jan 18-2400Z Jan 19. Frequencies: 160-6 meters. [www.qsl.net/miqrclub](http://www.qsl.net/miqrclub)

**LZ Open Championship**--CW, sponsored by the LZ1KPP Radio Club from 1200Z-2000Z Jan 17. Frequencies: 3.5 and 7 MHz. [www.qsl.net/lz1fw/lzopen/index.html](http://www.qsl.net/lz1fw/lzopen/index.html)

**HA DX Contest**--CW, sponsored by the Hungarian DX Club from 1200Z Jan 17-1200Z Jan 18. Frequencies: 160-10-meter. [www.mrasz.hu/engver/mraszen.html](http://www.mrasz.hu/engver/mraszen.html).

**070 PSKFest**--sponsored by the Penn/OH DX Society (PODXS) from 0000Z-2400Z Jan 18. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. [www.podxs.com/html/pskfest.html](http://www.podxs.com/html/pskfest.html).

**CQ WW 160-Meter Contest**--CW, sponsored by *CQ Magazine* from 0000Z Jan 24-2359Z Jan 25 (Phone is Feb 21-22). [www.cq-amateur-radio.com/infoc.html](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/infoc.html).

**REF French Contest**--CW, sponsored by the Reseau des Emetteurs Francais, 0600Z Jan 24-1800Z Jan 25 (Phone is Feb 21-

**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](mailto: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](mailto:k4tta@arrl.net) (1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15)

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

KB4LJV (Extra) James Butler 294-2540 (2, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14)

KD4NOQ (Adv) David Campbell 388-6166 [kd4noq@bellsouth.net](mailto: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](mailto:bktrough@mem.quik.net) (2, 4, 8, 15)

N9ACQ (Extra) Bill Kuechler 368-0532 [wkuechl1@midssouth.rr.com](mailto:wkuechl1@midssouth.rr.com) (1, 8, 13)

WA2IQC (Gen) Gary Blinckmann 794-5289 [garyblin@midssouth.rr.com](mailto:garyblin@midssouth.rr.com) (1, 7, 10, 14)

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

K4DIT (Gen) Ken Gregg 853-7384 [k4dit@arrl.net](mailto:k4dit@arrl.net) (4, 6, 8, 11, 15)

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



22). [www.ref.tm.fr/](http://www.ref.tm.fr/).

**BARTG RTTY Sprint**--sponsored by the British Amateur Radio Teletype Group from 1200Z Jan 24-1200Z Jan 25. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. [www.bartg.demon.co.uk/](http://www.bartg.demon.co.uk/)

**ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes**--sponsored by the ARRL, 1900 UTC Saturday, ends 0400 UTC Monday (January 24-26, 2004). [www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/jan-vhf-ss.html](http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/jan-vhf-ss.html)

**UBA Contest**--Phone, sponsored by the Royal Union of Belgian Amateur Radio from 1300Z Jan 31-1300Z Feb 1 (CW is Feb 28-29). Frequencies: 80-10 meters. [www.uba.be/](http://www.uba.be/)

### Special Events

**Atkinson, NH:** Atkinson Amateur Radio Club, K1D. 0501Z **Dec 21-0500Z Jan 5**. Celebrating Kid's Day and Amateur Radio Awareness. 28.380 21.380 14.280 7.230. QSL. Peter Schipelliti, 7 Dearborn Ridge Rd, Atkinson, NH 03811.

**Wall Township, NJ:** Ocean Monmouth ARC, N2MO. 1400Z **Jan 10-0000Z Jan 11**. To commemorate "Project Diana," the first ever successful moon bounce experiment from the historic Diana Site. Gen and Nov/Tech subbands 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m. QSL. OMARC Inc, PO Box 267, Oakhurst, NJ 07755. [arcep-logos.jpghhttp://www.omarc.org/](http://arcep-logos.jpghhttp://www.omarc.org/).

**Davidsonville, MD:** Anne Arundel Radio Club Jr, W3W. 1300Z **Jan 17-1800Z Jan 18**. Celebrating 3rd Anniversary of a club dedicated to kids. 28.335 21.365 14.265 7.237. Certificate or QSL. Andrew Kelly, K3ASK, 1561 Efford Rd, Pasadena, MD 21122. <http://kidshamradio.com/specialevent.html>.

**Oyster Bay, NY:** ARRL NY City/Long Island Section, W2V. 1300Z-

2200Z **Jan 18**. Ham Radio University 2004. 21.270 14.270 7.270. Certificate. George Tranos, PO Box 296, Bellport, NY 11713. <http://www.hudson.arrl.org/nli/hru2003.htm>.

**Various, England:** Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society, GB6ANZ. 0700Z **Jan 22-2359Z Feb 18**. 60th Anniversary of the Battle for Anzio 1944. 21.070 21.056 14.070 14.056. QSL. Mike Humphrey, G0SWY/KF4OFR, 4 Bluebell Rd, Bassett, Southampton, Hampshire, England SO16 3LQ. <http://www.rsars.org.uk/>.

**Quincy, IL:** Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club, K9E. 0000Z **Jan 23-2359Z Jan 25**. Arrival of the Bald Eagles on the Mississippi River. 7.250 14.250 21.350 28.350. Certificate. Robert G. Mitchell, 816 Long Dr, Quincy, IL 62305.

**Green Bay, WI:** Bay Area Relay League, W4P. 1200Z **Jan 24-1800Z Jan 25**. Packers Ice Bowl Remembered. SSB General bands; CW General and Novice bands. Certificate. George Russell, WN8VIX, 2530 Sun Terrace, Green Bay, WI 54311.

**San Diego, CA:** Challenger Middle School ARC, KI6YG. 1500Z-2400Z **Jan 28**. 18th Anniversary of the Challenger Disaster. 28.450 21.350 14.250 146.52 FM. QSL. Frank Forrester, KI6YG, Challenger Middle School, 10810 Parkdale Ave, San Diego, CA 92126.

**Punxsutawney, PA:** Punxsutawney Area Amateur Radio Club, K3HWJ. 1400Z-2100Z **Jan 31**. Commemorating Groundhog Day. 14.240 7.240 7.125 146.715. Certificate. Sherman Hollopeter, W3QOS, Box 20216 E Main St, Big Run, PA 15715. <http://www.qml.net/k3hwj>.

**Topeka, KS:** Local Area Amateur Radio Operators, N0G. 1600Z-

2200Z **Jan 31**. KS National Guard Museum Tribute. 28.400 21.350 14.310. Certificate. Steve Hamilton, 2523 SW Carlson Rd, Topeka, KS 66614.

**Lubbock, TX:** Buddy Holly Memorial, W5B. 1600Z **Jan 31-0400Z Feb 4**. 45th Anniversary of the death of Buddy Holly. 28.336 21.360 14.260 7.260. QSL. W5B Buddy Holly QSL, c/o Bryan Edwards, 3801-68th St, Lubbock, TX 79413. <http://www.amrc.com/W5B>.

**Nacogdoches, TX:** Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club, W5NAC. 1300Z-2400Z **Feb 1**. Shuttle *Columbia* Recovery Effort. 14.250 14.050 7.250 7.050. QSL. NARC, 167 County Rd 2093, Nacogdoches, TX 75965. <http://www.andersoft.com/narc>.

**Washington County, PA:** Washington Amateur Communications ARC, W3C. **Feb 5-Feb 8**. 2004 Washington County Sportmen's Show. 21.350 14.250 7.230 3.860. QSL. Washington Amateur Communications ARC, c/o Ed Oelschlager, N3ANI, 60 Carl Ave B2, Eighty Four, PA 15330.

**Chicago, IL:** Metro Amateur Radio Club, K9Y. 1600Z **Feb 7-2359Z Feb 8**. Chicago Harbor Brkw South Light (ARLHS 1185). 40, 20, 15, 10 m CW and SSB. QSL. Bill Borgstrom, 1330 W Columbia Ave, Chicago, IL 60626. <http://www.qml.net/mac/>.

**Saranac Lake, NY:** NCC Red Cross Radio Quick Response Team, W2C. 1500Z **Feb 7-2000Z Feb 15**. Celebrating over 100 years of Winter Carnival. 14.257 14.030 7.250 7.045. QSL. American Red Cross, KC2KEQ, 36 Broadway, Saranac Lake, NY 12983. <http://www.saranaclake.com/carny.shtml>.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

TREASURER'S REPORT Dec, 2003

Date: 22-Dec-03

Beginning Balance Dec 1, 2003                      \$3,654.80

**INCOME**

Membership Renewals	\$680.00
Sale of Radio	75.00

TOTAL INCOME    \$755.00

**EXPENSES**

Dixie Fest Sed Money Loan	\$1,500.00
Bell South (3 months billing)	178.99
440 Repeater (3 months billing)	68.82
Postage for Dec Sparks	142.68
KINKOS Membership forms -04	15.30

TOTAL EXPENSES    \$1,905.79

Ending Balance: Dec 22, 2003                      \$2,504.01

A credit of \$280.00 exists at Memphis Amateur Electronics.

**The Amateur's Code**

**The Radio Amateur is**

**CONSIDERATE**...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

**LOYAL**...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

**PROGRESSIVE**...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

**FRIENDLY**...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

**BALANCED**...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

**PATRIOTIC**...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

**--The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.**

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:

**Delta Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 750482  
Memphis, TN 38175-0482**

**2004 Board of Directors**

***President***

Ned Savage, KA4BLL  
901-682-8716 (ka4bll@arrl.net)

-

***Vice President***

Bill Covington, KC4SXT  
(wcoving1@midsouth.rr.com)

-

***Secretary***

Tommy Thompson, KD4TJO  
901-743-1949 (kd4tjo@arrl.net)

-

***Treasurer***

Bill Torkell, KG4VAW  
(wtork@aol.com)

-

***Director of Training***

Tom Richardson, K4TTA  
901-386-6268 (k4tta@arrl.net)

-

***Director of Publications***

Roger Paulson, K4KCU  
901-497-4132 (paulsonrj@bellsouth.net)

-

***Director of Programs***

James Butler, KB4LJV  
901-294-2540 (jbutler@slimfast.com)

-

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

Thomas LcLemore, KG4EOV  
901-386-8748 (troyjr@bellsouth.net)

-

***Repeater Trustee***

Gary Blinckmann, WA2IQC  
901-794-5289 (garyblin@midsouth.rr.com)

-

***Past President***

Randy VanVoorhis, W4RMV  
901-384-0487 (w4rmv@arrl.net)

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
P.O. BOX 750482  
MEMPHIS, TN. 38175-0482

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MEMPHIS, TN.  
PERMIT NO. 2810

**W4BS  
REPEATER  
SYSTEM**

**146.82** net, PL=107.2  
**147.36** PL = 107.2  
**224.42** 1.25 m reptr  
**443.20** patch, 107.2  
**145.03** packet / bbs

Club Meeting on Tue. January 13  
7365 Hwy 70 Bartlett, TN.

Attention Postmaster - Please deliver  
ON OR BEFORE January 12, 2004  
This is Time Sensitive Material

