

# DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# SPARKS

P. O. BOX 342768 MEMPHIS, TN 38184-2768 / VOL. 10 / OCTOBER 2008



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

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

## October 2008 CLUB MEETING

**DATE:** October 14, 2008

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

**TIME:** 7:00 PM

**PROGRAM:** "Robocars", by David Campbell-KD4NOQ

**VE TESTING:** Don't forget the monthly Volunteer Examiner testing session. Registration begins at 5:30 P.M. and testing begins promptly at 6:00 P.M. Please remember to bring **two forms of identification** and **copies of any existing licenses or CSCE's** you might have. The ARRL VEC exam examination fee is \$14. Please be on time for registration, as you will not be allowed to enter the testing session after 6:00 p.m. This is to allow our volunteer VE team to finish in time to attend the club meeting. For more VE testing information contact...

Tom Fox, KA4LWQ, VEC  
Phone: 901-357-1633  
E-mail: ka4lwq@comcast.net

Please Remember: Deadline for Reports and Articles for the next issue of SPARKS is the last day of the month prior to the meeting. All articles **MUST** be in to me by the deadline in order to be published in the next issue. Please forward all articles and items of interest to:

KI4AJH@bellsouth.net

## Presidents Corner

We have fall, football, and all kinds of events in the air. October will be a busy month. Eddie, KD4QFW needs assistance with the Juvenile Diabetes Walk at Shelby Farms on October 4. October 4 is also the date for the ARES exercise. If you can help out with the walk I know that Eddie would really appreciate it. October 17 through 19 is the Chickasaw Council ScoutBase 2008 week-end. It is also Jamboree On The Air week-end. I would like to ask those of you who can to get together with a Girl Scout troop to expose them to this wonderful hobby. The idea is to get the scouts here talking with other scouts all over the world – that is assuming the propagation will be with us. Mark your calendar for December 6. This is the date for the Bartlett Christmas Parade. Jim, KI4I is captain for this event. If you can help out with this, let Jim know. That's it that I can remember about activities for the next couple of months.

Don't forget to bring a few extra dollars to pick up some tickets for the prizes at the eating meeting coming up. Anything that we make over the costs will go toward a standby repeater for the club. Yes, I have gotten some information about what we probably need from Lance, N4GMT. Thanks, Lance. There is a lot going on. Of course, that is why I am so involved in the club.

Come to the meeting, have fun, and meet new people on October 14. Until then.

PS

Here are the links to the pages that I was referencing in the program last month.

Ham Radio Deluxe – this talks on the PC's serial port to your transceiver. It allows you to control the frequency, mode, filter characteristics, mic gain, and bunch of other things about your rig. It also has a DXCluster window as well. It is FREEWARE.

<http://www.ham-radio-deluxe.com/>

VOA Prop – this program will read the sun's numbers from the NIST web site and plug them into formulae to provide an idea of the propagation to a particular spot in the world. This is also FREEWARE.

<http://www.g4ilo.com/software.html>

Tropo detection

<http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html>

APRS-based VHF Propagation

<http://www.mountainlake.k12.mn.us/ham/aprs/path.cgi?map=na>

Stations heard detection

<http://www.vhfdx.net/spots/map.php?Lan=E&Frec=144&Map=NA&mycall=&myloc=&freq=&prop=>

HF DX Cluster

<http://www.dxwatch.com/>

National Institute of Standards and Technology latest solar numbers

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpdir/latest/wwv.txt>

PS#2

My bad, I forgot to mention that the Memphis Marathon is December 6, there will be a sign up sheet at the meeting, This event takes a lot of hams to make it work. Please sign up if you can help out.

73,

Hugh WB4SLI

### **VE Corner:**

The Delta Amateur Radio Club sends congratulations to the following who have received their new license call signs.

Runnels, Shannon	KJ4GPB	Tech
Broy, Joseph	KJ4GPC	Tech
Wright, Macon	KJ4GPD	Tech

We are proud of you. I would like to invite you to come to our next meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of Oct. so that we can all congratulate you personally.

Tom Fox KA4LWQ ARRL VE Liaison

### **DARC Board Minutes of September 2, 2008**

WB4SLI-Hugh called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. KI4TQA-Bill, N2LAZ-Dean, KI4AJH-Roger, KD4NOQ-David, KK4D-Darrell, and K4POM-Lisa attended.

We discussed upcoming programs with KD4NOQ-David. KI4TQA-Bill gave the treasurer's report and K4POM-Lisa presented 2 new member applications. The Board unanimously accepted all and voted in the following new members:

KJ4BDO-Marie Haley and KC0BDX-Andrew Dandridge.

We discussed purchasing a new plug and play repeater and commissioned KD4NOQ-David to get with N4GMT-Lance Morris to find this at the best price for our club. We also decided to present this to the membership at the following meeting and ask for any monies brought in-- over budget needs-- be applied to this purchase of a new repeater.

WB4SLI-Hugh adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm.

WA4OVO-Joe asked the group present to let him know if they were interested in taking the basic electronics class that Dean N2LAZ would be teaching. It will be in the old Shelby County Hospital building for 6 Saturdays from Sept 27th to Nov 8th except Oct 4th. Please contact Joe for this information.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Lisa Sheffield-K4POM  
DARC Secretary

## **DARC General Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2008**

WB4SLI-Hugh called the meeting to order with the introductions of the members and guests present at 7:00 pm.

K4POM- Lisa requested for the secretary's report to be accepted as corrected and printed. ( new member's callsign was initially printed incorrectly.) NF5B-Richard motioned to accept and the group unanimously seconded and agreed.

KI4TQA-Bill gave the treasurer's report which Jeff Krause motioned to accept and Kathleen Anderson seconded. The membership unanimously voted in to accept it as presented and printed.

WD4Q-Henry Leggette advised the group of the upcoming elections within ARRL's Delta Division.

Lisa advised the group of the boards decision to purchase a plug and play repeater and how we would like to pay for it without affecting the budget. (Please purchase tickets at the next few meetings.)

Pat Lane advised the members of a QSO contest he and Nina had worked the 1st weekend of September.

WA4OVO-Joe Lowenthal, KE4NDH-Bob Holdford, and KJ5DG-Denise Ganuchau agreed to be the nominating committee for 2008 to make recommendations for the 2009 DARC Board positions.

KK4D-Darrell gave the membership information on the MS150 Bike Tour arrangements and handed out maps to the volunteers present.

WA4OVO-Joe asked the group present to let him know if they were interested in taking the basic electronics class he would be teaching. It will be in the old Shelby County Hospital building. ( Didn't get the exact dates) Please contact Joe for this information.

KI4AJH-Roger asked the members present for input for the SPARKS. He wants feedback about viewing it online.

WB4SLI-Hugh taught the program-Propagation Simplified.

KD4EUZ-John won the door prize.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:  
K4POM-Lisa Sheffield  
DARC Secretary

## **Net Control Operators Needed**

We are in need of a net controller for Saturday nights. The net is a big part of our Delta Club activities and also serves as training for NCO s to help out in case of a disaster. Please consider serving in this excellent and enjoyable activity. You may contact me at [n4gmt@comcast.net](mailto:n4gmt@comcast.net)

Lance R Morris  
N4GMT

## **HAM LICENSE TRAINING for 2008**

*By Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Director of Training*

### **CLASS IN PROGRESS**

#### ***Basic Electronics Class 7-08 – September 27 – November 8, 2008***

Basic Electronics Class 7-08 started on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> with 14 enthusiastic students. The course is a preparatory bridge between the General Class license and Extra Class course. This class is using *The ARRL Understanding Basic Electronics* book. It covers the mathematics required for Extra Class exam as well as most of the electronics. Dean Honadle N2LAZ is the primary instructor. Dean has 10 years teaching electronics in the Navy, as well as 20 years at State Tech. Bill Stevens KI4TQA is assisting.



Dean Honadle N2LAZ providing mathematics instruction during the first of six Basic Electronics class sessions that is to be used when taking the Extra Class license exam. Photo by Bill Stevens KI4TQA

### **SCHEDULED CLASSES**

#### ***Technician-General Class 8-08 – November 3 – December 15, 2008***

A combined Technician and General class is scheduled to start November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Collierville Police Department Training Room, 91 Walnut Street in Collierville. This combined class will be on 7 Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm until December 15th. The first 4 weeks will follow the ARRL Technician Class DVD with additional General items which are complementary to the Technician topics. The fifth class will be a Technician Class review and FCC testing. The sixth class will be General Class material specific with a review and FCC testing on the seventh night.

If interested, send an email to [aj4kf@arrl.net](mailto:aj4kf@arrl.net) with your name, email address and phone number(s).

## HAM LICENSE TRAINING for 2008 (cont.)

### *Extra Class 1-09 – Early January 2009*

An Extra Class course will start in early January 2009. Tom Fox KA4LWQ is currently developing the class outline from the new Extra Class question-pool that became effective July 1, 2008. The course will probably be held on Saturdays for 6 weeks.

If interested, send an email to [wa4ovo@yahoo.com](mailto:wa4ovo@yahoo.com) with your name, email address and phone number(s).

### FUTURE CLASSES

#### TECHNICIAN CLASS

If you are interested in a Technician License Class, please let me know of your interest by sending me an email at [wa4ovo@yahoo.com](mailto:wa4ovo@yahoo.com) with subject line "Technician Class." Or you can go to the Delta Club webpage [www.deltaclub.org](http://www.deltaclub.org); click on Training Classes; and then click on Technician Class to send me an email, or call at 901-683-2701. 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 highly suggested as well as study of the 392 question and answer Technical Class License question pool. Memphis Amateur, 1465 Wells Station Rd, 683-9125 is a local ham radio store that sells the manuals.

Practice tests are highly recommended. The [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com) website is free. To access the sample tests, scroll down and click on Practice Tests on the left side of the QRZ home page. Another site is [www.hamtestsonline.com](http://www.hamtestsonline.com). It costs \$49.95, but it is good for 2 years for the Technician, General and Extra Class tests.

The 35-question FCC exam will be given at the end of class by a Volunteer Examiner (VE) team. There is a \$14.00 ARRL VE Exam fee.

#### GENERAL CLASS

If you are interested in a General License Class, please let me know of your interest by sending me an email at [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; and then click on General Class to send me an email, or call at 901-683-2701. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set.

#### EXTRA CLASS

Please pre-register by going to the Delta Club web page [www.deltaclub.org](http://www.deltaclub.org); click on Training Classes; and then click on Extra Class to send an email to Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, at [wa4ovo@yahoo.com](mailto:wa4ovo@yahoo.com) or call at 901-683-2701. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set.

#### COMPLETED CLASSES IN 2008

To date in 2008, we have had six classes resulting in 27 Techs, 16 Generals, and 10 Extras.

#### *Technician Class 6-08 – July 14-August 18, 2008 UPDATE*

Since Tech Class 6-08 ended, Danny Banks KJ4FXZ and Lee Race W8ZQX (formerly KJ4FYC) obtained their General Class licenses on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### COMPLETED CLASSES IN 2007

During 2007 we had 7 classes (one at the VA-Memphis Hospital) with 68 new hams and 18 Generals.

**AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE .....**

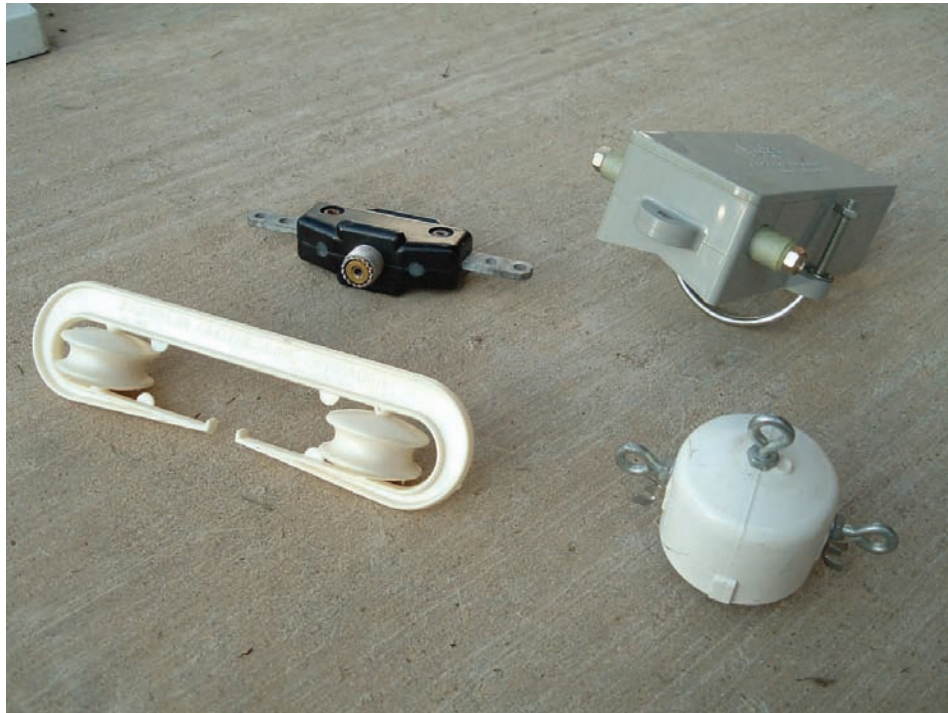
Many times we want to put up antenna for use on the HF bands to work digital modes. These may be low enough on the band that we need a cheap antenna that will get the job done. One of the cheapest antennas today is a wire type antenna. It can be a Zepp or dipole ETC . vertical antennas and beams all work well but wire is still the cheapest way to go. One company called DX Engineering has kits for wire antenna at a really good price. They sell a universal wire antenna kit for under \$20.00 . They also sell connectors and baluns. For accessories they have are rope to support the wire elements and ladder line supports. DX engineering also sells multiband wire antennas for about \$50.00 . If you want to look at wire antennas check out DX Engineering at <http://www.dxengineering.com/>

James Butler  
KB4LJV

**AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE .....**

Many times we build up our own antennas. By doing this we learn more about propagation and antenna theory as well as saving money. It also allows us to have back antennas ready to deploy in times of emergency. One of the most common antenna types to build up is the wire antenna. The dipole is one of the most popular as it can be built for a particular band and trimmed for a good match. We either run coax or ladder line from our radios out and up to the antenna. At the antenna we have to hookup the two connections to our wires of the dipole etc. Some folks make their own connection point out of a piece of scrap plastic but manufacturers make this part to make it easier to homebrew a wire antenna. Some are molded plastic with a strain relief made for ladder line. Others have an SO239 connector built in. They also have a way to hang up the antenna with a ring or hook. There are many different styles for this connectors. Some also include a balun as part of the units. You can buy one of these and build up different types of antennas to try them out.

James Butler  
KB4LJV



**TENNESSEE NETS**

<b>Net Name</b>	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>UTC</b>	<b>Day</b>
Tennessee CW Net	3563	0100	Su-Sa
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
CUSEC (Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)	3810	As needed	
CUSEC (Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)	7180	As needed	

**MedMERS moves East  
(submitted by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO)**

The MedMERS net has changed primary frequency to the 146.73 repeater with a 107.2 tone which gives better handheld coverage. The net is on Wednesdays at 12 noon CT.

The repeater is at St. Francis Hospital on Park Avenue. The secondary frequency is the 145.130, -600kHz, 107.2 tone on Methodist North.

**Delta Amateur Radio Club  
October 2008 Treasurers Report**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>September 2, 2008</b>	<b>\$7,312.83</b>
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**Expenses**

AT&T	Phone	\$61.90
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<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$61.90</b>
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SubTotal **\$7,250.93**

**Income**

Membership Dues	\$45.00
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Raffle Tickets	\$10.00
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<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$55.00</b>
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<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>October 1, 2008</b>	<b>\$7,305.93</b>
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Submitted by Bill Stevens KI4TQA



# DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Jeanette KC5VYJ	2 <b>MARA Club Meeting</b> (1st Thursday) Karen KC4VRL Ann WB4FAA	3	4
5	6	7 Barbara	8 Paul KC4VSM	9	10	11 Dave KI4UJS
12 Frank KA4SJM	13	14 <b>Delta Club Meeting</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> (2nd Tuesday) Keith WA5LPW	15	16	17	18 Charlie KE4NTM
19 Barney KI4QAQ Aubrey KG4YZW Earshel WK4KRA	20	21	22	23	24 Ray N4ARH	25 Beverly W4BBJ
26	27	28 <b>ARES Meeting</b> <b>6:45 PM</b> (4th Tuesday) Mark Daniel KI4COW Angie W4XJV	29	30	31	

# 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@bellsouth.net (2,4, 8, 15)

N9ACQ (Extra) Bill Kuechler 368-0532  
n9acq@arrl.net (1, 8, 13)

WA2IQC (Gen) Gary Blinckmann 794-5289  
realgary2@yahoo.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)

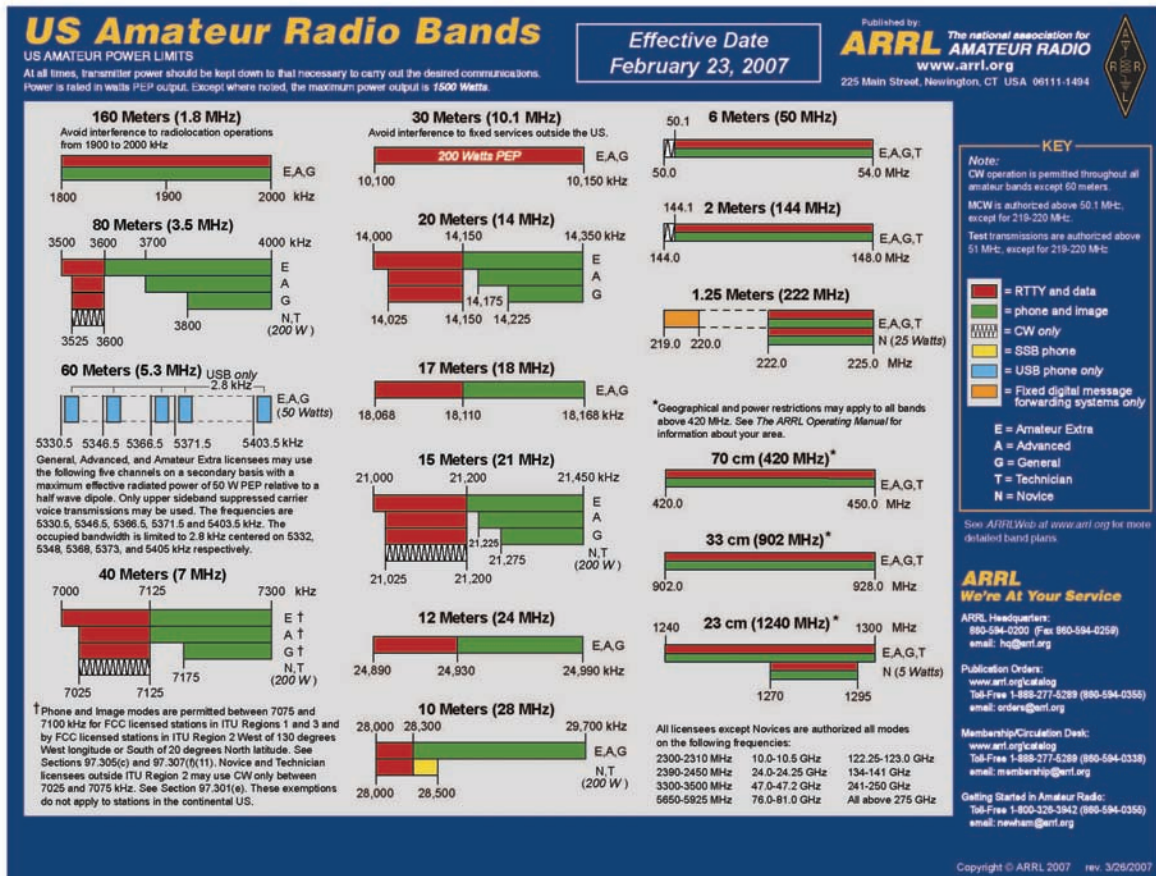
W4GMM (Extra) Ham Hilliard 372-2337  
hamh@bellsouth.net (All categories)



## Frequency Changes as of February 23, 2007

Here is the link for the frequency chart effective 2/23/07 in color:  
[http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/Hambands\\_color.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/Hambands_color.pdf)

Here it is for the black and white version:  
[http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/Hambands\\_bw.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/Hambands_bw.pdf)



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

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

## 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. CST except the second Tuesday of the month on the 146.82 W4BS repeater and requires 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? (Take immediately)

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

Is there a NTS Liaison station on frequency?

Is there any station wishing to list formal written traffic?

Does any station have announcements for the net?

Does any station have any questions or need any fills?

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

We now will take checkins phonetically by suffix only if your suffix begins INDIA through KEE-BECK please come now and remember to spread them out?

We will now take checkins 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 Lisa K4POM at 872-3367.

We will now take late checkins from anywhere in the alphabet ALPHA through ZULU please come now and spread them out by waiting for the courtesy tone.

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 CLUBS 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

**AREA HAMFESTS OF INTEREST**

4th Annual Fayette AR Tailgate  
Oct 11, 2008  
Fayette, AL

LEARS Hamfest  
Oct 11, 2008  
Logan, IL

Halloween Hamfest  
Oct 25, 2008  
Saint Louis, MO

EARS & Ham Station  
Nov 29, 2008  
Evansville, IN

**SPARKS** is published monthly by the Delta Amateur Radio Club and is emailed to club members and other interested parties. All information published in this newsletter is provided as a service. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the Delta Amateur Radio Club and its officers assume no liability resulting from errors or omissions. All correspondence may be mailed to:

**Delta Amateur Radio Club**  
**P.O. Box 342768**  
**Memphis, TN 38184-2768**

**2008 Board of Directors**

***President***

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

-

***Vice President***

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

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***Secretary***

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

-

***Treasurer***

Bill Stevens, KI4TQA  
901-603-3448 (KI4TQA@bellsouth.net)

-

***Director of Training***

Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO  
901-683-2701 (WA4OVO@yahoo.com)

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***Director of Publications***

Roger Schlichter, KI4AJH  
901-386-8457 (KI4AJH@bellsouth.net)

-

***Director of Programs***

David Campbell, KD4NOQ  
901-388-6166 KD4NOQ@arrl.net)

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***Director of Hospitality***

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

-

***Repeater Trustee***

Suresh Kagoo, N9GSA  
901-752-5900 (N9GSA@comcast.net)