

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

P.O. Box 750482 * Memphis, Tennessee 38175-0482 * Volume 18 * October 2012



**Welcome to the
Delta Amateur Radio Club!**

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

W4BS

REPEATER SYSTEM

146.820^{-107.2} 147.360^{-107.2}
224.420 443.200

NEXT CLUB MEETING

DATE: October 9, 2012 (2nd Tuesday of each month)
PLACE: Ellendale Church Of Christ, 7365 Highway 70
Memphis, TN (1 ½ miles north of Hwy. 64 – Stage Road)

TIME: 7:00 PM

PROGRAM: “Cheap Yagi Antennas”
Presented By: David Campbell KD4NOQ

VE TESTING: Don't forget the monthly Volunteer Examiner testing session. Registration begins at 5:30 PM and testing begins promptly at 6:00 PM. Please remember to bring two (2) 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 PM. This is to allow our volunteer VE team to finish in time to attend the club meeting. For more VE testing information, please contact:

Bill Stevens, WC9S, VEC
Phone: 901-603-3448
Email: wc9s@att.net

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By: Rosalinda Melena WN2V

Happy October to all -

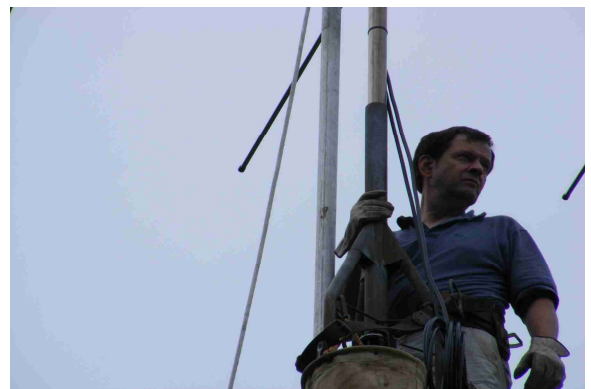
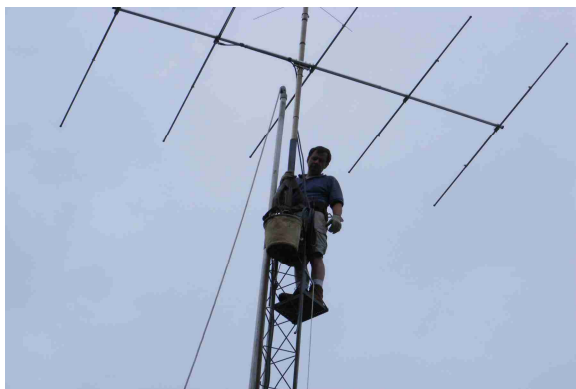
Over the course of several months, I've provided updates on my tower project. Well, I'm happy to report the project is COMPLETE!

We (Steve, KI4YOP and I) had a lot of help the day we raised the antennas. We had a great group of hams show up to watch, lend a hand and teach. What an experience!

Big, BIG thanks to Ham (W4GMM), Jeff (AJ4GY) and Gary (W5EMA) to name a few.



And a special thank you to Philip Fentress (AK4UE).



We couldn't have done it without you. Love you to tears. 88!

Everything is working great! We surprised a group of Jackson, TN hams when we hit their repeater from Bartlett on an Opek UVS-300 2M/440. They could hear us full-quieting. We also raised a Cushcraft A50S 6 Meter, four element beam and a Cushcraft A3S Tri-band (20/15/10) with a 40 meter add-on. The Tri-Band is also working well. We've never heard California well but we're hearing them now!

I know there's another "ham" project right around the corner. What it might be is anyone's guess but I'll be sure to keep the club informed.

As always, take care and be safe. 73!

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

Bv: Kenneth Laseter KI4AOH

If any member would like to serve as an officer of the Delta Amateur Radio Club, please let Thomas Raggett kj4lmh@arrl.net know. I believe there are two basic requirements 1) must be a club member, and 2) must have attended at least six (6) club meetings during calendar 2012. Also, if you know someone you think would make a good officer, submit their name and one of the Directors will contact them.

Currently, the nominations are:

President -----	Rosalinda Melena
Vice-President -----	Richard Martin
Secretary -----	Tom Raggett
Treasurer -----	Rick Tillman
Director of Publications -----	Kenneth Laseter
Director of Programs -----	David Campbell
Director of Training -----	Joe Lowenthal
Director of Meetings & Special Events -----	David Gilbert

Remember, our election of new officers will be held at the club meeting in November.

ST. JUDE MARATHON

Submitted by: Kenneth Laseter KI4AOH

Roger still needs 20 more operators for the marathon on Saturday, December 1st. There have been several changes in communication needs this year, plus St. Jude has added a relay race that will require additional radio operators. Please contact Roger at wr4r@bellsouth.net.

J-POLE CLASS

Submitted by: Ham Hilliard W4GMM

Mid-South Amateur Radio Supply will hold a J-Pole antenna construction class on October 20, 2012. Participants will learn about j-pole antennas and each attendee will construct their own antenna and take it home with them. There will be a fee that covers the materials needed to construct their antenna. 2 meter j-pole cost is \$25.00, 6 meter j-pole cost is \$45.00 220 j-pole cost is the same as the 2 meter as it takes the same amount of copper pipe and fittings. You must e-mail W4GMM at w4gmm@bellsouth.net by Oct. 17th or sign up at the Delta Club meeting October 9th. If you are not signed up you will not be able to build an antenna as materials will be purchased October 18. You may pay by check made out to JAMS Enterprises or if paying with cash, correct change please. Class will be held at 6631 Vallendar Cv, Bartlett, TN. Class will

start at 9 am and run until all antennas are completed (approx 1 pm). For more information call Ham W4GMM at 901 387-9051.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted By: Rick Tillman WA4NVM

Beginning Balance	as of September 1, 2012	\$8,394.91
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Expenses

November Gifts	Radio - WX Station	\$606.49
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Total Expense	\$606.49
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SubTotal	\$7,788.42
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Income

Membership Dues	Year 2012	\$39.00
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Tickets	November Drawing	\$159.00
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Donation		\$15.00
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Consignment Sale	Bill Stevens	\$25.00
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Donated Gear	Repeater Sales	\$250.00
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Total Income	\$488.00
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Ending Balance	as of September 30, 2012	\$8,276.42
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Submitted by Rick Tillman WA4NVM

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 4, 2012 - Presented by: Tom Raggett KJ4LMH Secretary

Attendees: Steve Smith, Rosalinda Melena, Rick Tillman, David Gilbert, Joe Lowenthal, Bill Stevens, Ken Laseter, Tom Raggett

1. Treasurer's Report—Rick Tillman presented Treasurer's report and was approved by the Board.
2. Trailer Status—Tires have been replaced as needed and many thanks to Frank Griffin for a place to store the trailer out of the weather.
3. Program for September—Gary Weatherford will give program on the use of Chokes and Baluns.
4. November prizes—There was discussion on prizes for November drawing and will be presented at the General meeting.

5. Rosalinda will make announcement about the November election of officers for the coming year. Will ask General meeting for nominees.
6. Meeting adjourned.

GENERAL CLUB MEETING MINUTES

September 11, 2012 - Presented by: Tom Raggett KJ4LMH

1. President Rosalinda Melena called the meeting to order. There was a moment of silence in remembrance of those who died in the tragic bombings of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.
2. Introductions were held with a total of 61 hams attending the meeting.
3. Treasurer's Report—Bill Stevens (substitute for Rick Tillman) gave the Treasurer's Report. Ham Hilliard made motion to accept, Bill Covington seconded. The report was accepted by the general meeting.
4. Testing—Bill Stevens reported there were 2 new techs, 2 new generals, 1 new extra.
5. Training—Joe Lowenthal reported that there will be a tech class starting Monday November 5, 2012 at the Lord of Life church. The time will be from 6:15-9:30pm, once a week and will last for 6 weeks.
6. MS150 Bike Tour—Darryl Sheffield gave a summary of the highlights of the MS150 and thanked everyone who helped during the weekend. Everyone did a good job and was appreciated by the MS150 organization.
7. Mt. Nebo—Bill Stevens gave summary of events during the Mt. Nebo weekend in Arkansas.
8. Antenna Trailer—Noted that the club had replaced the bad tires on the trailer and it was now stored in a covered area out of the weather, thanks to Frank Griffin.
9. New Officers—Rosalinda made request for anyone who would like to serve as an officer of DARC to please give names to Tom Raggett. She noted requirements for being an officer.
10. November Prizes—Rosalinda presented the prizes for November drawing.
11. Member Announcements
 - Ham Hilliard—There will be a J-Pole antenna class on October 20, 2012. Ham will need to know who will attend and what kind of J-Pole you want to build by the meeting on October 9, 2012.
 - Pat Lane, Nina Stone—Tennessee QSO party
 - Richard Webb—Richard is net control for the Tn Emergency net.
 - Jim Cissell—Needed help to take down tower for friend.
12. Program—Gary Weatherford, assisted by Ham Hilliard, presented program on Baluns and Chokes and the need for each.

13. Adjourned—Ham Hilliard made motion to adjourn, Roger Schlichter seconded.

AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE

By: James Butler - KB4LJV

One of the new digital modes available for us to use is WSPR. This stands for WEAK SIGNAL PROPAGATION REPORTER. The software is made for transmitting and receiving low power signals to test propagation conditions in the world at a given time. This works like PSK31 in that you need a SSB (single sideband) radio and run software on you computer hooked up to the audio of the receiver via the sound card. The software is open source and free. The site to find out information on this mode is <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/>. The site which you can watch connections from around the world via the internet is <http://wsprnet.org/drupal/wsprnet/map>. This way you can find out about propagation conditions on different bands to maximize your chances of a contact in the area you want.

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

By: James Butler - KB4LJV

Many times we need a place to store our equipment so we can safely carry and protect it. Lots of equipment today comes in black plastic “ blow molded “ cases. These end up laying around the house when the original equipment is replaced. Stores also carry universal cases like these for putting you stuff in. I used an old meter case to make a portable carry case for my new Baofeng HT. I put a copy of the manual in the top. I taped a printout of local repeaters on the inside lid for a reference. I included the radio and a carrying case. I also have the desk charger and extra batteries along with the speaker mic I got with it. I have more room for additional accessories if I need it. This worked out great and lets me transport the radio safely. Do not throw the old cases away. Try to reuse them.



PRIZES FOR THE CHRISTMAS DRAWING

Submitted by: Kenneth Laseter KI4AOH

Rick Tillman provided us with this list of three of the larger items that will be in our Christmas drawing along with links for a picture and additional information on each. Many other (smaller) prizes will also be available for the drawing, but havenot been procured at this time.

1. Icom ID-880H
<http://www.icomamerica.com/en/products/amateur/mobile/id880h/default.aspx>
2. LaCrosse Weather Station Model # 308-807
<http://www.lacrossetechnology.com/308-807/index.php>

3. MFJ Power Supply Model # MFJ-4230MV
<http://www.hamworldinc.com/product.sc?productId=58&categoryId=15>

2012 TRAINING CLASSES

Submitted 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.

Licenses Earned in 2012 from Delta Classes

49 Technician

10 General

6 Extra

CLASSES PLANNED

Technician Class 5-12 – November 5-December 10, 2012

Tech Class 5-12 will be held on six Monday nights from November 5th to December 10th at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 6865 Poplar Pike, one long block east of Kirby Parkway. The FCC exam will be offered on the fifth night of class. The sixth night will be Repeater Basics and Wouxun radio programming.

The instructor for this class is Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, who was recently honored as the 2012 Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year by the ARRL (American Radio Relay League).

If you are interested, send an email to Joe Lowenthal at wa4ovo@arrl.net with your name, email address, and phone number, preferably cell with subject line: Tech Class 5-12.

If you are interested in any of the classes, send an email to Joe Lowenthal at wa4ovo@arrl.net with your name, email address, and phone number, preferably cell with subject line of the class you are interested in.

CLASSES IN PROGRESS

None

CLASS INFORMATION

Technician Class

If you are interested in the first amateur license class, Technician, please let us know by sending an email to wa4ovo@arrl.net 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 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 if you send an email informing us of your desire to be in a class.

There is no charge for the class, but registration is required. Advanced study of *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual*, product #0977/ISBN 978-0-87259-097-7 (red-brick colored cover) is strongly suggested as well as study of the 396 question and answer Technical Class License question pool. Barnes & Noble Booksellers may have this manual. You can purchase it online from www.msars.com, www.arrl.org/catalog or on Amazon.com. The list price is \$29.95 (which includes a CD). The older ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, Second Edition was priced at \$24.95, but did not have a CD.

The current Technician License question pool, which was approved by the NCVEC on February 1, 2010, can be seen at <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=356>. Testing for this question pool started July 1, 2010.

Practice tests are highly recommended. The www.qrz.com website is free. To access the sample tests, go to www.qrz.com. From the QRZ home page click on **RESOURCES** in the blue band on the top right. Then click on 2010 Technician Exam Practice Test. When you start answering the questions, it will show you if you answered correctly or not with **CORRECT!** or **SORRY BUT THAT ANSWER IS NOT CORRECT**. Statistics are kept below the test question at **This Quiz** with the number of questions answered correctly and the percentage correct. Also shown is the number of questions answered correctly from the 396 questions of the question pool. It keeps track of your correct answers on subsequent tests. Below the **This Quiz** line is **Questions in This Test**, that is a list of the 35 question numbers of the current test. If answered correctly, the question number radio button turns green. If answered incorrectly, it turns red.

There are a number of other free sample-test sites. The following are some other ham radio practice exam sites:

- www.aa9pw.com
- <http://kb0mga.net/exams>
- <http://copaseticflow.blogspot.com/2010/06/technician-class-practice-test-gadget.html>
- www.qrz.com
- <http://www.hamradioclass.org>

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 twa4ovo@arrl.net with subject line "General Class." Or you can go to the Delta Club web page 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. A new question pool became effective July 1, 2011. The new textbook is *The ARRL General Class License Manual, Seventh Edition, item #8119, ISBN 978-0-87259-811-9*. This edition with its question pool is valid through June 30, 2015. 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, Second Edition*. The suggested calculator is the Casio fx-260 solar calculator, which can be purchased at Wal-Mart for about \$10. There is no exam for this class. The class has been held in the September-November time frame.

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@arrl.net 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; 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@arrl.net or call at 901-683-2701. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set. Classes have been held on Saturdays for 6 or 7 weeks in January and February.

COMPLETED CLASSES

Technician Class 4-12 – July 2-August 6, 2012

General Class 3-12 – March 26 – May 7th, 2012

Technician Class 2-12 – January 21st & February 4th, 2012

Extra Class 1-12 – January 14 – February 25, 2012

Tech Class 2-12 Revisited

Troop 457 Merit Badge College – February 11, 2012

Troop 225 Merit Badge Class – February 11, 2012

SPARKS NEWSLETTER & DELTA CLUB INFORMATION

SPARKS is published monthly by the Delta Amateur Radio Club and emailed to club members. All information published in this newsletter is provided as a service. While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the Delta Amateur Radio Club nor its officers assume any liability resulting from errors or omissions. All correspondence may be mailed to:

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

2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Rosalinda Melena– WN2V
901-921-4474
wntwov@gmail.com

Vice-President:

Richard Martin – K4DXF
901-372-3722
k4dxmf@att.net

Secretary:

Tom Raggett – KJ4LMH
901-517-0492
KJ4LMH@arrl.net

Treasurer:

Rick Tillman– WA4NVM
901-268-7047
wa4nvm@comcast.net

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Joe Lowenthal – WA4OVO
901-683-2701
wa4ovo@yahoo.com

Director of Publications:

Kenneth Laseter – KI4AOH
901-853-0400
kmlaseter@laseterinc.com

Director of Programs:

David Campbell– KD4NOQ
901-388-6166
kd4noq@arrl.net

Director of Meetings & Special Events:

David Gilbert– AJ4LV
aj4lv@hotmail.com

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS --- 2012

If you are a coordinator for any of these events, please review the listed information. If it is incorrect or changes need to be made, please provide me with the correct information. Please email corrections to me at kmlaseter@laseterinc.com .

DATE	EVENT	COORDINATOR	CONTACT INFO.
January 2012			
15 th	Swamp Stompers.	Danny- KJ4FXZ	kj4fxz@arrl.net
February 2013			
9 th	Boy Scout Merit Badge University.	Ken - KI4AOH	kmlaseter@laseterinc.com
March 2012			
None			
April 2012			
28 th	March for Babies (March of Dimes).	Linda - KJ4CTX	llaseter@laseterinc.com
28 th	Tour de Cure	Denise - KJ5DG	kj5dg.denise@gmail.com
May 2012			
19 nd	Memphis in May Triathlon	Ned - KA4BLL	ka4bll@arrl.net
September 2012			
8 th & 9 th	MS 150 Bike Ride	Darrell - KK4D	kk4d@xipline.com
December 2012			
1 st	St. Jude Marathon	Roger - WR4R	wr4r@bellsouth.net
1 st	Bartlett Christmas Parade	Dennis - KJ4BDU	dcvv3714@aol.com
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TBA	Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk	Kathleen - KC0HZU (No Contact Information)	

MEMPHIS AREA VHF/UHF NETS

Net Name	Freq. MHz	Local Time	Day
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
The 440 Net	443.200 + (107.2)	9:00p	W
Collierville CERT Net	444.125 + (107.2)	7:00p	W
TAC 2 Net	224.420 -	8:30p	Th
ARES Training Net	146.880 - (107.2)	9:00p	Th

TENNESSEE HF 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	

DELTA CLUB 146.82 NET PREAMBLE (Rev. 2)

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 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?

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 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 will now take checkins phonetically by suffix only if your suffix begins INDIA through KEEBECK 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 P.M. with testing starting promptly at 6:00 P.M. A copy of your license and CSCE is required. For V. E. Information contact Bill, WC9S at 603-3448. For membership information contact Tom, KJ4LMH at 517-0492. For training information contact Joe WA4OVO at 683-2701.

Are there any additional announcements?

We will now take late checkins 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

DELTA CLUB ADVERTISEMENTS

See Advertisement Order Form for Instructions.

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 342768
Memphis, TN 38134-2768

DARC Meeting: Second
Tuesday of every month
at Ellendale Church of Christ
7365 Hwy 70, Bartlett TN



W4BS REPEATER SYSTEM
146.82- 147.36+ (107.2Hz tone)
224.42- 443.20+ (107.2Hz tone)

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Installers of
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35 YEARS of EXPERIENCE

ADVERTISEMENT ORDER FORM



Delta Amateur Radio Club Sparks Advertising Order Form

Date: _____

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

TO PLACE AN ORDER

1. Mark the box below indicating the ad size you are purchasing and the three (3) months you want your ad to appear in Sparks.
2. Submit this completed order form, your camera ready ad, and your check payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) to Kenneth Laseter KI4AOH via mail at 684 Oasis Cove, Cordova, TN 38018 or give it to him at the monthly Delta Club meeting. Camera ready means that the ad you submit is exactly as you want it to appear in your ad and fits within the dimensions specified below. Ads may be submitted in gif or jpg format or submitted as a hard copy and we will scan and place your ad for you.
3. Your ad order must be received on or before the first Tuesday of the **month before** you want it to appear in Sparks.

SPARKS ADVERTISING

FULL PAGE \$50.00 for 3 Months 7" w X 8 ½" h <input type="checkbox"/>			HALF PAGE \$25.00 for 3 Months 7" w X 4" h <input type="checkbox"/>			¼ PAGE \$15.00 for 3 Months 3 ½" w X 4" h <input type="checkbox"/>			BUSINESS CARD \$10.00 for 3 Months 3 ½" w X 2" h <input type="checkbox"/>		
Jul 2012	Aug 2012	Sept 2012	Oct 2012	Nov 2012	Dec 2012	Jan 2013	Feb 2013	Mar 2013	Apr 2013	May 2013	Jun 2013