

# SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 \* Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 \* Volume 21 \* March 2015



## Welcome to the Delta Amateur Radio Club

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

EMAIL: [darc4you@gmail.com](mailto:darc4you@gmail.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/darcmem>

## w4bs

### REPEATER SYSTEM

146.820<sup>-107.2</sup>      147.360<sup>-107.2</sup>

146.625<sup>-107.2</sup>      443.200<sup>-107.2</sup>

224.420

## NEXT CLUB MEETING (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month)

**DATE/TIME:**      **March 10, 2015 – 7:00 PM**

**PLACE:**              **Ellendale Church Of Christ, 7365 Highway 70**  
**Memphis, TN ( 1 ½ miles north of Hwy. 64 – Stage Road)**

**PROGRAM:**        **Tom Dichiara, ac5mr – High Altitude Balloons with APRS Tracking**

**FCC Amateur Radio License Testing:** Don't forget Delta Club FCC testing sessions are held every month except December. Registration begins at 5:30 PM and testing begins by 6:00 PM. Please remember to bring two (2) forms of identification, at least one a photo ID, and copies of any existing licenses or CSCE's you might have. You need to know your FCC Registration Number (FRN) if one has been issued. Please be on time for registration; this is to allow our Volunteer Examiner (VE) team to finish in time to attend the club meeting. 2015 test fee is \$15 (cash or check). In 2015, people who successfully test for their initial FCC license grant at a Delta Club test session will receive a complimentary individual club membership for the remainder of the current calendar year. For more information, please contact:

Jeff Krause, aj4gy, VE Liaison

Phone: 901-301-6776

Email: [aj4gy@comcast.net](mailto:aj4gy@comcast.net)

Congratulations our February meeting exam candidates! Gerald Carlisle who held a 1984 Tech Plus license has tested and re-qualified under FCC Rule 97.505(a) as a General Class operator (km4hzz); Janice Shaner earned her Technician license (km4hzy); and Eric Davis, kk4rxu - upgraded to Extra. Gerald and Janice are our latest members of Delta Club – please look for them at our club meetings and extend your personal welcome to the world of Ham radio.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Submitted by: Joe Wray, wd4gxi

Hello everyone. If you didn't know, I hurt my leg 3 weeks ago while helping take down a tower. Actually, it was already down when I had my accident. This brings me to my point; you don't have to be on a tower to have an accident. You need to be careful anytime you are doing antenna work. As evidenced in my case, you also need to use the proper tool for the job you are doing, and not be in a hurry. You will get work done faster and more safely if you take your time. By the way, I am doing much better and am looking forward to attending the Claremore, Ok Hamfest after the March meeting. <http://greencountryhamfest.org/>

Let me personally thank Michael Knight, kk4ioh - for stepping up and taking over the Feb meeting for me. I think everyone will agree that he did a great job. The reason he had to take charge was due to the previous paragraph. HI HI. I would also like to thank Keith Miller, n9dgg - ARRL Section Manager for Tennessee; and David Norris, k5uz - Director for Delta Division for presenting our program last month. If you didn't make it to the meeting, you will get a chance to meet them in April. Memphis FreeFest will host the Delta Division Convention this year. You can also look forward to a very interesting program again this month. Jim Cissell, ki4i - with the assistance of David Campbell, kd4noq - is doing a great job with our programs. I also want to thank all the attendees at our past meetings. We regularly have 60 to 75 attendees at our meetings. I think this is great. It tells me we are doing something right. Remember to introduce yourself to someone you don't know at the next meeting. We want everyone to feel welcome and want to return.

Don't forget the 146.82 Delta Club Information Net every night at 2000 hrs. (8:00p). I look forward to seeing everyone March 10<sup>th</sup>.

73

Joe Wray wd4gxi

## 2015 Club Dues – Are You Current?

Submitted by: David Webb, kv4qi

I'm in process of updating a history of Delta Amateur Radio Club, and have been going through some old copies of SPARKS going back to 1990. I learned that in 1991, club dues were \$20. WOW, the same price you're being asked to pay in 2015. **What else can you get today for the same price you paid in 1991?**

If you haven't yet paid your 2015 dues, please print the new membership application (.pdf version download from the [www.deltaclub.org](http://www.deltaclub.org) website), and bring it with you to our next meeting on March 10th. If you're unable to attend the next meeting in person, please mail the completed application along with a check for the amount due (individual or family) to:

Delta Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 342768  
Memphis, TN 38134-2768

If meeting sign-in sheets don't show your correct information, please check with Rick Tillman or David Webb for assistance.

Thank you to those who have already taken care of this – it's important that Club Officers and Directors have correct membership information against which future club policies, programs, and services will be reviewed.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by: Rick Tillman, wa4nvm

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>as of February 1, 2015</b>	<b>\$10,560.55</b>
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### Expenses

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Office Depot	Supplies	\$27.62
Jams Enterprises	Monthly Door Prizes	\$296.20
Costco	Snacks for Meetings	\$68.16
Bill Stevens	Repeater Parts	\$172.80

<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$564.78</b>
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SubTotal **\$9,995.77**

### Income

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Membership Dues	Year 2015	\$345.00
Tickets	November Drawing	\$114.00
Donations		\$20.00
Donated Gear		\$195.00

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$674.00</b>
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<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>as of February 28, 2015</b>	<b>\$10,669.77</b>
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Submitted by Rick Tillman wa4nvm

Certificate of Deposit #1	Balance	\$10,280.23
Certificate of Deposit #2	Balance	\$5,025.00
Total DARC Assets	Balance	\$25,975.00

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

7:00p - March 3, 2015 - Submitted by: Barri Munday, wb4swp

Officers and Directors Present: Joe Wray, wd4gxi - Michael Knight, kk4ioh - Barri Munday, wb4swp - Jim Cissell, ki4i - Joe Lowenthal, wa4ovo - Jim Sheats, kk4vgl - David Webb, kv4qi.

1. Treasurer's Report provided by R. Tillman in advance of meeting was reviewed and approved.
2. Following discussion, a majority of those present agreed that complimentary individual annual membership for remainder of current calendar year would be extended to anyone who received their initial license grant through any Delta Club test sessions. This includes training classes in which non-ARRL VEC resources (example of WCARS) are needed to support training agendas/schedules.
3. Board agreed to purchase a spare Yaseu System Fusion digital repeater at a limited offer – club promotion price of approximately \$500. Approximate retail value of unit is approximately \$1,700.
4. J. Cissell confirmed that March presentation would be Tom Diciara, ac5mr – subject of high altitude ballooning with APRS technology tracking.
5. Board discussed potential improvements for acknowledgement of new member application acceptance and membership renewal processing. Process will be reviewed with future recommendations to be made by a core committee consisting of the Secretary, Treasurer, and Director of Publications.
6. Noted that is a likely advisable to task someone other than the Treasurer with the sale of drawing tickets at club meetings, especially early in the calendar year when many members are attempting to submit membership applications and dues payments. This item will be included in committee recommendation described in previous item.
7. Board discussed advisability for the offer of adding smart phone point of sale devices (i.e. mobile payment services) to allow membership dues payments using credit cards. Option of using PayPal services was also discussed; Ray Miller, aa4uk - advised PayPal's non-profit rate of 2.2% + 30 cents equated to \$.74 per transaction. It was decided that topic would be addressed at the next general membership meeting, to gauge level of support by club members.
8. J.Cissell announced his intention to have Field Day as the membership presentation for June's monthly meeting; he also advised of his desire to conduct a special Morse Code training class for approximately 6 individuals to help them prepare for CW operations conducted during this year's Field Day exercise.
9. The potential for DARC to again sponsor a charter bus for the Hunstville, AL HamFest was generally discussed. It was agreed that the designated/responsible Club Coordinator (should activity again be undertaken) would not pay for a seat on the bus. D.Webb agreed to submit a draft proposal of several event marketing options for additional review and comment by board members.
10. D.Webb presented initial estimates of approximately \$1.50 per card production cost for club membership badges, and posed question of what value these badges actually bring to the membership. Agreed that this question should be addressed to the membership before proceeding further.
11. J.Lowenthal advised that progress was made on awards jackets for past Club Presidents – request to bring cost to total of \$510 was approved.
12. Motion to adjourn made by J.Sheats, seconded by D.Webb – meeting was adjourned at 8:45p

## GENERAL CLUB MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2015 - Submitted by: Barri Munday, wb4swp

1. Introduction – VP Michael Knight, kk4ioh - welcomed everyone and asked past Club Presidents to stand and introduce themselves. Ham Hilliard, w4gmm - Rosalinda Melena, w2nv - Ned Savage, ka4bll - and Alan Anderson, kj4bix were recognized.
2. Jan2015 Treasurer's report - Rick Tillman, wa4nvm - read the report. Ham Hilliard made a motion to approve and Jeff Krause, aj4gy seconded. The report was approved by voice acclamation.
3. Jan2015 Meeting Minutes - Ham Hilliard made a motion to approve the minutes as published in the SPARKS Newsletter and Bill Covington, kc4sxt - seconded. Minutes were approved by voice acclamation.
4. 2015 Proposed Club Budget - Ham Hilliard made a motion to approve the proposed budget & Ned Savage seconded. The 2015 proposed budget was approved by voice acclamation.
5. Jeff Krause reported that VE testing for the evening had 100% success rate with 1 Technician, 1 General & 1 Extra class license being attained.
6. Joe Lowenthal, wa4ovo - reported that the Extra training class was ongoing with 6 students. There is a General License training class scheduled for 2/28-4/11 with testing to be conducted at the upcoming FreeFest event in Bartlett. Joe concluded by announcing that he is continuing with efforts to get a Technician License training class scheduled,
7. Bill Stevens, wc9s - announced that another Ham Shack is being dismantled with proceeds from equipment sales being donated to DARC.
8. Ham Hilliard announced that he will conduct another J-Pole build class next spring. Class will be limited to 12 people, at cost of \$30 to cover build materials. More details on dates and registration will be forthcoming.
9. Pat Lane, w4oqg - reported the **TourdeCure** cycling event sponsored by the American Diabetes Association will be held May 30, 2015 at Mud Island in downtown Memphis. Pat needs approximately 12-15 people to help with chase cars/participant safety. HT and Mobile radios needed. Event details may be found at URL [http://main.diabetes.org/site/TR/TourdeCure/TourAdmin?pg=entry&fr\\_id=10184](http://main.diabetes.org/site/TR/TourdeCure/TourAdmin?pg=entry&fr_id=10184)
10. With voice acclamation of the membership, Delta Club announced that it will donate a total of \$200 to be awarded as cash prizes at the April 11<sup>th</sup> FreeFest (which will be the official 2015 ARRL Delta Division Convention). Tony Brignole - wa4khn - from Mid-South Amateur Radio Association took the floor to describe some of this year's prizes, and to add that anyone wishing to donate prizes of a "Non-Ham" nature would be most appreciated. Additional event details may be found at URL <https://sites.google.com/a/maraonline.org/mara-online/freest> As DARC fully supports FreeFest, DARC members were encouraged to sell raffle tickets to family, friends, and other associates, with 100% of raffle proceeds donated to LeBonheur Children's Hospital. Please contact Tony Brignole at [abrigno@comcast.net](mailto:abrigno@comcast.net) or at 372-2738 if you'd like to help sell raffle tickets.

## GENERAL CLUB MEETING MINUTES (continued)

February 10, 2015 - Submitted by: Barri Munday, kd4swp

11. Jim Cissell, ki4i - announced plans for upcoming DARC meeting presentations:
  - a. Mar2015 DARC member Tom Dichiaro, ac5mr - will speak on High Altitude Balloon release with APRS tracking devices.
  - b. Apr2015 Glen Popiel, kw5gp - author of Arduino for Ham Radio (\$29.95 at ARRL bookstore - ISBN 978-1-62595-016-1) – will make a 2<sup>nd</sup> presentation to DARC on the exciting field of microprocessor technology.
12. ARRL Delta Division Director David Norris, k5uz - presented information on recent Board Meetings and changes being considered by ARRL leadership. He emphasized the ARRL members would be solicited for their input and guidance in a variety of ways – including meetings such as this. ARRL TN Section Director Keith Miller, n9dgg - followed, encouraging everyone to promote their successors in the enjoyment in the diverse areas of amateur radio – especially our young people. DARC membership warmly applauded both gentlemen for taking time to attend our local club meeting.
13. Motion to adjourn was made by Ham Hilliard, seconded by Jeff Krause and club membership confirmed their agreement through an orderly departure.

## COAX Check for PL-259 Shorts

Submitted by: Pat Lane, w4oqg and Joe Lowenthal, wa4ovo

### USING AN OHM METER

This method is only good for longer runs of coax.

1. Set your VOM to the lowest setting (probably 200 Ohms)
2. Disconnect the coax from the antenna.
3. Short the two probes together and note the reading. It should be close to zero ohms.
4. Set one probe on the center conductor of the PL-259 and the other probe on the barrel of the connector to get to the shield side of the coax.
5. Read the scale:
  - If reading is about the same as #2 (maybe 0.6 ohms), then short is at the PL-259 or nearby.
  - If reading is several tenths of an ohm higher, then the short is towards the other end of the coax.

### USING AN MFJ-259/269 ANTENNA ANALYZER

1. Connect the antenna analyzer to one end of the coax via a PL-259.
2. Set the analyzer to the VHF or UHF meter setting. (For short coax, use UHF setting.)
3. Turn the dial and look for needle movement.
  - If the needle just indicates a high SWR and reactance 0 or very low, the short is at your end of the coax.
  - If the reactance needle moves across the whole dial and back, maybe several times as you sweep the frequencies, then the short is at the other end of the coax.



## Chuck Neal, w4vac Ham Shack Donation – Items for Sale

Submitted by: Bill Stevens, wc9s

Chuck Neal recently decided to move in with his daughter in Southaven, MS. Since he has not been active in ham radio in some time, he also decided to donate his entire ham shack to Delta Club.

*Many thanks Chuck!*

This gear is for sale and will be at the SwapFest on Saturday March 21st between 9a and 1p at St. James Catholic Church, 4180 Leroy Avenue, Memphis, TN 38108



## AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE

Submitted by: James Butler, kb4ljv

Many times when we are listening to our SSB radio, we want to be able to cancel out the interfering noise on the bands. In the old days, we had various narrow band filters tailored for the mode we were using. Now with microprocessor DSP (digital signal processing) equipment, we can lower the noise level instead of using an older filter. The BHI Company has a line of DSP speakers for any application. They have small units and they have a new 10-watt DSP speaker for desktop applications. The desktop unit has a 4-inch woofer and a 1-inch tweeter. It has a control for 8 levels of noise reduction. The unit also has a headphone jack. If you are looking into a DSP speaker amp setup for your station, check out the ones from BHI. Their web address is

<https://www.bhi-ltd.com/noise-cancelling/dsp-noise-cancelling-speakers/desktop.html>



*(Editor's note – BHI is in UK – GigaParts handles at least some of the BHI equipment in the U.S.A., along with W4RT Electronics in Huntsville, AL and Dockside Radio in Punta Gorda, FL)*

## AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Submitted by: James Butler, kb4ljv



One of the most popular HTs because of its features and low price is the Baofeng UV-5R. It comes with a short battery pack. You can actually buy an empty 6 AA battery pack to put your own batteries in for under \$7.00. I like this option, as rechargeable AA batteries will always be around. The case does not have charging connections on it. You have to take the case back apart to put the batteries in your own charger if you choose rechargeable batteries for the battery pack. I wanted a way to make a connection to the batteries so I could recharge them without having to take them out. The bottom of the case has a fill space that is empty. This allowed me to drill a hole in the case to mount a connector and wire up to the positive and negative connection inside the case. All I need now is a way to control the charge current to the rechargeable batteries for a complete system. This can be done with a resistor to current limit the energy going to the batteries or a smart charger circuit. Next month's project is the charger circuit for the batteries.

Photo by James Butler



## HAM LICENSE TRAINING 2015

Submitted by: Joe Lowenthal, wa4ovo

*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 to Date in 2015 from Delta Classes*

0 Technician

0 General

6 Extra

### EXTRA CLASS COMPLETED

DARC Amateur Extra Class 2-15 had a 100% success rate in testing on 2/21/2015! Congratulations to Paul Roberts, ka9vau; Tom Showers, ke5veb; Walter Rook, kj44uce; Jim Sheats, kk4vgl; Steven Johnson, kk4vzt; and Tom Ungren, kk4zzz. Fellow class member Bill Flanigan, kk4vps was delayed by bad weather and will take the Extra exam at a later date.

The instructors were Joe Lowenthal, wa4ovo; David Webb, kv4qi; Dean Honadle, n2laz; Pat Lane, w4oqg; and Ed Arndt, kv4lf.

The Delta Club ARRL VE team with Jeff Krause aj4gy (VE Liaison), Ray Turner, ae0ae; Joe Lowenthal, and David Webb administered the exam session on February 21st.

### CLASS UNDERWAY

#### *General Class 2-15*



*Photo and Article by David Webb*

Joe Lowenthal reviews Ohm's Law with General training class which started February 28<sup>th</sup> at the EMHC Ambulance Corporate Offices at 6972 Appling Farms Pkwy. Class meets each Saturday from 9:00a-1:00p (except on 3/14) ending with final exam at FreeFest on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Shown left to right are Bob Shaner; Janice Shaner, km4hzy, Mike Sparks, kk4vpz; and Steve Frazier, kk4vpt

## CLASSES PLANNED

### *Tech Class 3-15*

A Technician class is in the planning stage. If you are interested, send an email to Joe Lowenthal at [wa4ovo@arrl.net](mailto:wa4ovo@arrl.net) with Tech Class in the subject line and name, email address and cellphone number in the text. See the Future Classes Technician Class below for the text to be used.

### FUTURE CLASSES - TECHNICIAN CLASS

**Special Note:** Our recent training classes have resulted in positive feedback from students regarding the in-class viewing of some very well-done on line training materials offered by Mr. Dave Cassler – ke0og to accompany the ARRL training manuals we use. This free resource is available at URL <http://dcasler.com/ham-radio/training/> Videos are also posted on YouTube – search “ke0og” for links. All students are encouraged to use this supplemental resource in conjunction with their DARC training opportunities.

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 **Tech Class** and give your 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 901-628-4318. 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 Third Edition (effective July 1, 2014)*, ARRL Order #0222, ISBN 978-1-62595-015-0, is strongly suggested, as well as study of the 426 question and answer Technical Class License question pool.

You can purchase it online from [www.msars.com](http://www.msars.com), <http://www.arrl.org/shop/ARRL-Ham-Radio-License-Manual-3rd-Edition/> on Amazon.com or possibly Barnes & Noble booksellers.

The new Technician question pool which became effective July 1, 2014 can be seen at <http://ncvec.org/page.php?id=362>. The question pool is in the blue section in the back of the license manual. Practice tests are highly recommended. The [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com) website is free. To access the current 2014-2018 sample tests, go to [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com). From the QRZ home page click on **RESOURCES** in the blue band on the top right. Then click on 2014 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 426 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 on the internet. Here are some of the ham radio practice exam sites:

- [www.hamstudy.org](http://www.hamstudy.org)
- [www.aa9pw.com](http://www.aa9pw.com)
- <http://kb0mga.net/exams>
- [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com)
- <http://www.hamradioclass.org>

## FUTURE CLASSES - GENERAL CLASS

If you are interested in a General License class, please let us know by sending an email to [wa4ovo@arrl.net](mailto:wa4ovo@arrl.net) 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 your name, callsign, email address and contact phone, preferably cell number, or call at 901-628-4318. The current question pool became effective July 1, 2011 and valid through June 30, 2015. The text is *The ARRL General Class License Manual, Seventh Edition* with sample test CD, ARRL product #8119, ISBN 978-0-87259-811-9. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set if you have sent an email.

## BASIC ELECTRONICS – Internet Training Only

Basic Electronics is geared toward bridging the gap between the General and Extra Class licenses. Alan Proffitt, ae5rx, has created a Google website for basic electronics for the Delta Club with useful links. Click on <https://sites.google.com/site/darcelectronics/my-forms> and then click on syllabus.docx at the bottom of the list. One site inside this Google site is the US Navy Electricity and Electronics Testing Site (NEETS). There are 24 modules with excellent information. If you want to go directly to it, go to <http://jacquesricher.com/NEETS/>. Alan will assist anyone who would like additional help or refer them to another Elmer (please contact [alan.proffitt@comcast.net](mailto:alan.proffitt@comcast.net) ).

## FUTURE CLASSES - 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 your name, callsign, email address and contact phone, preferably cell number, to Joe Lowenthal, wa4ovo, at [wa4ovo@arrl.net](mailto:wa4ovo@arrl.net) or call at 901-628-4318. You will be notified by email or phone when the class is set. Classes are usually held on Saturdays from 9am-1pm for 6 or 7 weeks in January and February. The text is *The ARRL Extra Class License Manual 10<sup>th</sup> Edition*, ARRL Order #5170, ISBN 978-0-87259-517-0.

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

### *Licenses Earned in 2014 from Delta Classes*

25 Technician

12 General

6 Extra

## TENNESSEE HAM RADIO LICENSE PLATE

Submitted by: Joe Lowenthal, wa4ovo

The link below is for information and instructions about Tennessee ham radio callsign automobile license plates :

<http://www.tn.gov/revenue/vehicle/licenseplates/emergency/emergsaftey.shtml>

The application is at [www.tn.gov/revenue/forms/titlereg/fl312601Fill-in.pdf](http://www.tn.gov/revenue/forms/titlereg/fl312601Fill-in.pdf)

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

Submitted by: Joe Lowenthal, wa4ovo

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>CONTACT INFO</u>
<b>MARCH 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00PM</b>	<b>Lord of Life Lutheran Church 6865 Poplar Pike</b>	<b>Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO 901-628-4318 <a href="mailto:wa4ovo@arrl.net">wa4ovo@arrl.net</a></b>

NOAA's National Weather Service established SKYWARN® as a volunteer program and has nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.

NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service and access to communications to join the SKYWARN® program.

- Basics of thunderstorm development
- Fundamentals of storm structure
- Identifying potential severe weather features
- How to report information
- Basic severe weather safety

## 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

Alternative EMAIL address to generically offer Board your suggestions, ask questions, voice complaints is [darc4you@gmail.com](mailto:darc4you@gmail.com)

Please note that you must provide your name and call sign if you're requesting specific actions or personal follow-ups, and also be aware that any profane or mean-spirited comments will be unceremoniously discarded without consideration.

Delta Club Members Can Like Us/Follow Posts On Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/darcmem>

### 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:**

Joe Wray wd4gxi  
901-246-6113  
[wrayjoe@yahoo.com](mailto:wrayjoe@yahoo.com)

**Vice-President:**

Michael Knight kk4ioh  
901-832-8636  
[kk4ioh@arrl.net](mailto:kk4ioh@arrl.net)

**Secretary:**

Barri Munday – wb4swp  
901-756-5259  
[annbarrimunday@att.net](mailto:annbarrimunday@att.net)

**Treasurer:**

Rick Tillman – wa4nvm  
901-268-7047  
[wa4nvm@comcast.net](mailto:wa4nvm@comcast.net)

**Director of Training:**

Joe Lowenthal – wa4ovo  
901-628-4318  
[wa4ovo@yahoo.com](mailto:wa4ovo@yahoo.com)

**Director of Publications:**

David W. Webb – kv4qi  
901-465-8315  
[dwebb1518@gmail.com](mailto:dwebb1518@gmail.com)

**Director of Programs:**

Jim Cissell – ki4i  
901-326-5544  
[james4296@aol.com](mailto:james4296@aol.com)

**Director of Meetings & Special Events:**

Jim Sheats – kk4vgl  
901-756-0031  
[jdsheats@bellsouth.net](mailto:jdsheats@bellsouth.net)

**Repeater Trustee:**

Bill Stevens – wc9s  
901  
[wc9s@att.net](mailto:wc9s@att.net)

**Immediate Past President:**

Rosalinda Melena – wn2v

*Board members beginning their service in 2015 are listed in red.*

## HAM FESTS OF LOCAL INTEREST

DATES	EVENT URL LINK	LOCATION
<b>March 2015</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Birmingham Hamfest <a href="http://birminghamfest.org/">http://birminghamfest.org/</a>	Birmingham, AL
<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	Ides of March Hamfest <a href="http://www.reelfootarc.com/">http://www.reelfootarc.com/</a>	Union City, TN
<b>April 2015</b> <b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	Memphis FreeFest® <a href="https://sites.google.com/a/maraonline.org/mara-online/freefest">https://sites.google.com/a/maraonline.org/mara-online/freefest</a>	Bartlett, TN
<b>May 2015</b> <b>15<sup>th</sup> Thru 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Hamvention <a href="http://www.hamvention.org/">http://www.hamvention.org/</a>	Dayton, OH
<b>August 2015</b> <b>15<sup>th</sup> &amp; 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Huntsville Hamfest <a href="http://www.hamfest.org/">http://www.hamfest.org/</a>	Huntsville, AL



## MEMPHIS AREA VHF/UHF NETS

Name of Net	Freq. MHz	Tone	Local Time	Day of Week
<b>Delta Club Information Net</b>	<b>146.820</b>	<b>- (107.2)</b>	<b>8:00p</b>	<b>Daily</b>
Mid-South Barefooted Bullfrog Net	146.535		7:30p	Daily
Secret Service Net	224.780		8:30p	Mon
Elmer Net	444.175	+ (107.2)	9:00p	Mon
The Short Winded Net	146.850	- (107.2)	8:30p	Tue
MedMERS Net	146.820	- (107.2)	12:00p	Wed
CERTPlus Net	443.200	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Wed
ARES Training Net	146.880	- (107.2)	9:00p	Thu
Super Sunday Niner Net	927.6125	- (146.2)	8:30p	Sun

**Delta Club sponsored Nets are shown in bold/dark blue font style**

## TENNESSEE HF NETS

Net Name	Freq. MHz	Local Time	Day of Week
Tennessee CW Net	3.563	7:00p	Daily
Tennessee Slow CW Net	3.682	7:30p	Tue-Sun
Tennessee Early Morn Phone Net	3.980	5:40a	Mon-Fri
Tennessee Morning Phone Net	3.980	6:45a	Mon-Fri
Tennessee Evening Phone Net	3.980	6:30p	Tue-Sun
Tennessee Alternate Phone Net	7.238		As needed
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 (1/1/15)

Good evening, this is [first name and callsign] calling this session of the DELTA CLUB's Information Net. This net meets nightly at 8:00 pm central time except the second Tuesday of the month on the 146.82 w4bs repeater and requires a PL tone of 107.2 Hz. This net provides an opportunity to present information about club events and amateur related topics. This Net also provides new amateur stations training, and allows all amateurs a regularly scheduled session for testing their radios and communicating with the amateur radio community. In the event of severe weather this repeater is available for the National Weather Service Skywarn reports for the Memphis area.

All licensed amateurs are encouraged to participate. All stations are requested to refrain from transmitting without being acknowledged by net control. Stations not providing their callsign or suffix will not be acknowledged.

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.

Does any station have announcements for the net? (Does any station have any questions or need any fills?)

This is [first name and callsign] with the Delta Club's Information Net.

We will now take Early Check-Ins. Are there any stations that need to leave early? If so please come now, phonetically, with your suffix only, and please remember to spread them out by waiting for the courtesy tone. (Ask for additions or corrections only once)

We will now take check-ins phonetically, by suffix only if your suffix begins A – H, Alpha through Hotel. Please come now and remember to spread them out. (Ask for additions or corrections only once if you have a short list)  
This is [first name and callsign] with the Delta Club's Information Net.

We will now take check-ins phonetically, by suffix only if your suffix begins I – Q, India through Keebeck. Please come now and remember to spread them out. (Ask for additions or corrections only once if you have a short list)

We will now take check-ins phonetically, by suffix only, if your suffix begins R – Z, Romeo through Zulu. Please come now and remember to spread them out. (Ask for additions or corrections only once if you have a short list)

This is [first name and callsign] with the Delta Club's Information Net.

1. The Delta Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 HWY 70 in Bartlett at 7:00pm.
2. VE registration begins at 5:30pm, with testing starting by 6:00pm. A copy of your license and CSCE is required.
3. For VE information contact Jeff, aj4gy at 301-6776 or by email at [aj4gy@comcast.net](mailto:aj4gy@comcast.net)
4. For membership information contact Barri, wb4swp at 756-5259 or by EMAIL at [annbarrimunday@att.net](mailto:annbarrimunday@att.net)
5. For training information contact Joe wa4ovo at 628-4318 or by EMAIL at [wa4ovo@arrl.net](mailto:wa4ovo@arrl.net)
6. Local area code is niner – zero – one.

Are there any additional announcements? (does any station have any questions or need any fills?)

We will now take late check-ins from any anywhere in the alphabet, A- Z, Alpha through Zulu. Please come now, phonetically, with your suffix only, and please remember to spread them out. (ask for additions or corrections )

**CLOSE**

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

This is [first name and callsign] now closing this session of the Delta Club's Information Net. I would like to thank all \_\_\_\_\_ stations for checking in tonight, and would like to ask that everyone check in tomorrow night at the same time. Goodnight and 73, the net is now closed. This is [first name and callsign] clear.

## DELTA CLUB ADVERTISEMENTS

See Advertisement Order Form for Instructions.



### **Mid-South Amateur Radio Supply**

*Serving the Mid-South's Ham Radio Operators...*

#### **Locally Owned**

Located in Bartlett, Tennessee

tel 901.371.9700

fax 901.266.3174

**SALES@MSARS.COM**

**WWW.MSARS.COM**

*\*Authorized LDG Dealer*

**Antennas** (HF, UHF and VHF) -  
Base, HT, Mobile and Wire

**Bulk Cable** - Ladder Line 300 &  
450 ohm and Rotor

**Bulk Coax** - RG-8U Mini,  
RG-58A/U and RG-213U

**Connectors** -  
UHF, SMA, BNC and 'N'

Full Line of **Antenna Tuners\***

**Patch Cables, Antenna Wire  
and Insulators**

*Please thank our sponsors by using their services and mentioning  
that you saw their ad in the Delta Club SPARKS Newsletter!*

*This ad space is available*

## 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)

**Ben Richhart**  
Sales and Service Director



**Chick-fil-A at Paragon Place**  
6282 Poplar Avenue  
Memphis, TN 38119  
Phone: 901-766-1875  
Fax: 901-766-1878  
E-mail: ben@cfaparagonplace.com

*Please thank our sponsors by using their services and  
mentioning that you saw their ad in the Delta Club  
SPARKS Newsletter!*

**Memphis FreeFest®**  
**DARC co-sponsored event**  
**ARRL Delta Division Convention in 2015**  
**Mars Meeting, Seminars, VE Testing,**  
**Concessions**  
**One Day Only**  
**Saturday April 11, 2015**  
**9 am to 3 pm**  
**Bartlett Station Municipal Center**  
**5868 Stage Road Bartlett, TN**  
**North side of Stage Road just west of Bartlett**  
**Bld.**

For Drawing Ticket Sales, contact  
Tony Brignole WA4KHN [abrigno@comcast.net](mailto:abrigno@comcast.net)  
(901) 216-3263

*This ad space is available*

*This ad space is available*

**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 months you want your ad to appear in Sparks.
2. Submit this completed order form, your camera ready ad, via email at [dwebb1518@gmail.com](mailto:dwebb1518@gmail.com)  
Make check payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) at monthly Delta Club meeting, or send US Mail to club mailing address at P.O. Box 432768, Memphis, TN 38134-2768. Camera ready means that ad copy is exactly as you wish it to appear, scaled to fit within the dimensions specified below. Ads may be submitted in .gif or .jpg format, or submitted as a hard copy (we will scan and place your ad for you).
3. Your ad order and payment must be received on or before the first Tuesday of the **month before** you want it to appear in Sparks.


**SPARKS ADVERTISING**

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

# Hams - Please Make Sure Your Membership "Current" Is On!

Download the new and improved .pdf Delta Club Membership Application Form from the web at

[http://www.deltaclub.org/membership\\_info.html](http://www.deltaclub.org/membership_info.html)



Delta Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 342768, Memphis, TN 38134-2768  
Membership Application Form  
Please Print Clearly

20  
Enter membership year above - Jan through Dec

Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_  New Member  Renewal  Record Update

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_  Day  Night EMAIL1 \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Phone \_\_\_\_\_  Day  Night EMAIL2 \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member Exp Mo/Yr \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Designations Held (AEC, FI, OES, VE, etc) \_\_\_\_\_

ARES  RACES  CERT  SkyWam Spotter  Other \_\_\_\_\_ MARS Call \_\_\_\_\_

Radio/Emergency/Medical/Related Designations Currently Held \_\_\_\_\_

Other Related Organizational Affiliations \_\_\_\_\_ 1st Year Joined DARC? \_\_\_\_\_

- New Hams receiving 1st FCC license grant at a Delta Club test session receive complimentary individual membership through remainder of calendar year.
- For Individual New Members only (not for renewals or reinstatements), dues are prorated quarterly Jan-Mar (\$20) Apr-Jun (\$15) Jul-Sep (\$10) Oct-Dec (\$5)
- New Members in last quarter may elect to pay 100% dues amount to become members during remainder of current year and entire following calendar year.
- Memberships for any number of immediate family members living in your home may be included for \$5 addition to applicable individual membership fee.

Fill this section only if adding Family Membership

Last \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_  ARRL Mbr Exp Mo/Yr \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ Optional Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Last \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_  ARRL Mbr Exp Mo/Yr \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ Optional Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Last \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_  ARRL Mbr Exp Mo/Yr \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ Optional Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Last \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_  ARRL Mbr Exp Mo/Yr \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ Optional Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Special Notes or Requests Regarding Your Membership - Any personal information shared will not be sold or shared without your permission. You may also wish to share comments regarding your areas of special interest, skills, willingness to volunteer for extra club activities, etc.

Share the passion - encourage family and friends to join the amateur radio community and Delta Club - everyone is welcome!

<p><b>Amount Due through Dec 20</b></p> <p>Individual Renewal \$ 20</p> <p>New Member Prorated \$ _____</p> <p>Added Family \$ 5</p> <p>Donation Amount \$ _____</p> <p><b>Total Amount Paid \$ _____</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>Club processing only, Please do not write in this area</small></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Record Note _____</p> <p>Processed by Treasurer _____ Date _____</p> <p>Processed by Publications _____ Date _____</p> <p>Processed by Secretary _____ Date _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>Form last revised Mar, 2015</small></p>
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Thanks for Your Active Support of Delta Amateur Radio Club  
Membership Matters!