

SPARKS

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



Welcome to the Delta Amateur Radio Club

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

EMAIL: darc4you@gmail.com

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

w4bs

REPEATER SYSTEM

146.820 ^{-107.2}	147.360 ^{-107.2}
146.625 ^{-107.2}	443.200 ^{-107.2}
224.420	

NEXT CLUB MEETING (2nd Tuesday of each month)

DATE/TIME: April 14, 2015 – 7:00 PM

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

PROGRAM: Glen Popiel, kw5gp - author of Arduino for Ham Radio

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

DARC Exam Candidates “March” on! Rich Ervin, wa4dzw - added the sought after /AE to his call sign by successfully completing his Amateur Extra exam at our 3/10/2015 test session. Despite other obligations, Rich was able to briefly extend his visit though part of regular club meeting, and your hospitality convinced him to join our ranks. I found this photo of Rich on the bulletin board at the local Post Office (*just kidding*) – please look for Rich and all our new members/visitors, and welcome them to our Ham radio family.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Submitted by: Joe Wray, wd4gxi

This year's Board continues working hard to improve our club. In discussions at this month's Board of Directors (BOD) meeting, we debated several issues that we're asking for member input on. Please consider these items and let us know your position. At our meeting on April 14th, we'll have a special event for several of our past Club Presidents; it will be a great opportunity for you to come out, see some old friends, and let your voice be heard as we move the club forward for the future. We understand if other obligations prevent you from attending in person, but would appreciate your responses via EMAIL to darc4you@gmail.com.

- **Do you want to pay your club membership dues with credit card? (*club has to pay approximately 74 cents per transaction*).**
- **Do you want – would you use - a club issued membership ID card? (*see comments in BOD Meeting Minutes section*).**
- **Do you want to participate on a sub-committee reviewing possible changes to our Charter and By-Laws Document?**

I'm also happy to report that the injury sustained to my leg is healing nicely, and I plan to walk extensively as I survey the many offerings at the upcoming Memphis Freefest® on April 11th. Please join me there, as well as at our regular April meeting on Tuesday!

73

Joe Wray

UPCOMING COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS?

Submitted by: David Webb, kv4qi

Thanks to Linda Laseter, kj4ctx for submitting an article this month on the March of Dimes – March for Babies event coming up on Saturday, April 25th at the Memphis Botanic Gardens. Please make the special effort it takes to support this half-day activity, and the many other events for which Ham operators are uniquely qualified to lend their special technical support. Not only do you get the satisfaction of getting on the air, but you also contribute greatly to the overall health and safety of event participants. Need I mention that it's also a lot of fun and there are refreshments?

If you're aware of a community service event in the coming year for which Delta Club volunteers would be helpful, please let me know the details. I'll add them to an upcoming events section; so that everyone will have plenty of time to arrange their calendars accordingly.

Your membership matters to Delta Amateur Radio Club, and Delta Club members matter in our many surrounding communities!

As always, thanks for your continued support of DARC and related events.

Warmest personal regards,

David Webb

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by: Rick Tillman, wa4nvm

Beginning Balance	as of March 1, 2015	\$10,669.77
--------------------------	----------------------------	--------------------

Expenses

Bill Stevens	Repeater Parts	\$100.30
--------------	----------------	----------

Total Expense	\$100.30
----------------------	-----------------

Subtotal **\$10,569.47**

Income

Membership Dues	Year 2015	\$255.00
Tickets	November Drawing	\$60.00
Donations		\$5.00
Donated Gear		\$374.00
Bus Trip 2015		\$55.00
Mid-South ARS	Advertisement	\$90.00

Total Income	\$839.00
---------------------	-----------------

Ending Balance	as of March 31, 2015	\$11,408.47
-----------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------

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	\$26,713.70
--------------------------	----------------	--------------------

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

Officers and Directors Present: Joe Wray, wd4gxi - Michael Knight, kk4ioh - Barri Munday, wb4swp – Rick Tillman, wa4nvm - Jim Cissell, ki4i - Joe Lowenthal, wa4ovo - Jim Sheats, kk4vgl - David Webb, kv4qi – Bill Stevens, wc9s.

1. Treasurer's Report provided by R. Tillman in advance of meeting was reviewed and approved.
2. J. Cissell confirmed that Glen Popiel will speak on Arduino for Ham Radio at the April 14th club meeting.
3. Board voted to give 2 \$100 bills as an April 11th Memphis FreeFest ® prize.
4. Trailer and crank up tower will likely be transported to a closer storage property, so that prospective buyers will have easier access to view it.
5. J. Lowenthal presented the jackets which will be presented to several DARC Past Presidents at the April 14th club meeting.
6. J. Lowenthal updated status on recent and planned training classes.
7. Board members not present for last regular club meeting were updated on the voice vote at the March club meeting in which nobody indicated a desire to use a credit card (via PayPal or similar type processing service) if the club incurred a transaction cost. Proponents of making this option available opined that because not every club member was at the March, 2015 meeting; the item should be re-addressed via the April SPARKS Newsletter and again raised to attendees at the April 14, 2015 meeting. As noted in the March newsletter, Ray Miller, aa4uk - advised (DARC paid) PayPal's non-profit rate of 2.2% + 30 cents equated to \$.74 per transaction at the current membership rate of \$20 per year for individual membership.
8. Board again discussed the issue of club membership ID badges. Summary of some of the considerations raised:
 - a. Some individuals like the plastic laminated club cards, and enjoy having repeater information printed on the back
 - b. Cost of individual card production can vary from 70 cents to approximately \$1.20
 - c. Main focus of info on any ID card should be large, easily readable name and call sign
 - d. If there is no administrative requirement for the use of member ID cards, why spend the money when folks have their own preferences of badges, hats, etc.
 - e. Membership badges may counteract the desire to make visitors feel more welcome.
 - f. If membership cards are pursued, they must be printed in a sustainable manner (i.e. not dependent on borrowing equipment from a friend of the club); must be readily available to new members joining; reprinted when call signs are updated; must not have to be reprinted every year (i.e. use an updateable date sticker process)
 - g. Should there be a charge for lost ID card reprints?
 - h. DARC members should be surveyed for their thoughts/opinions in a manner similar to that being used on the topic of credit card use for dues payments.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES (continued)

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

9. The May 12, 2015 member meeting presentation topic will be presented by Michael Knight, kk4ioh – on the subject of Field Day, 2915.
10. A Board subcommittee consisting of David Webb, kv4qi – Bill Stevens, wc9s – and Michael Knight, kk4ioh - was appointed by President J.Wray to begin looking at possible updates to the Delta Club Charter and By-Laws. Up to 2 additional members (their participation desired by the Board, but not specifically required to proceed) will be solicited from the general membership to participate in the development of proposed changes. Planned process will have sub-committee proposed revisions prepared with involvement of legal counsel, and subsequently presented to the entire Board for summary review. Once that draft is accepted, the resulting document will be published via SPARKS newsletter, and presented for membership vote the following calendar month.
11. Proposed Huntsville bus ticket rates were approved by the Board.
12. Move to adjourn made by J. Sheats and seconded by M. Knight. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30p

GENERAL CLUB MEETING MINUTES

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

1. Introduction – Joe Wray, wd4gxi - welcomed everyone & made announcement as to whether anyone would be interested in paying annual club dues per credit card. No interest was expressed. Everyone was then asked to introduce themselves.
2. Feb2015 Treasurer's report - Rick Tillman, wa4nvm - read the report. Ham Hilliard, w4gmm - made a motion to approve. Bill Covington, kc4sxt seconded. The report was approved by voice acclamation.
3. February Meeting Minutes: Ham Hilliard made a motion to approve the minutes as published in the Sparks Newsletter & Jeff Krause, aj4gy - seconded. Minutes were approved by voice acclamation.
4. Joe Lowenthal, wa4ovo provided the following Training update: Extra class 2-15 was successfully completed. General training class began on 2/28 with 5 students, testing to be done on 4/11/2015 at the Memphis FreeFest©. A Tech training class is planned for July, and will be finished in time for testing before the Huntsville Hamfest.
5. Joe Lowenthal announced tentative information on proposed Huntsville Bus Trip
6. Local swap meet reminder was made: St James Catholic Church - 3/21/2015 from 9a-1p
7. Tony Brignole, wa4khn - provided an update on the April 11, 2015 Memphis FreeFest©: 104 inside table spots are sold out, outside parking lot space is available. Raffle Tickets are available for purchase, and 100% of raffle ticket sales goes to Methodist-LeBonheur Hospital. \$5.00 for 6 Raffle tickets on a sheet. Some of the prizes are an I-pad Air & Yaseu radio. Details at URL <https://sites.google.com/a/maraonline.org/mara-online/freefest>
8. VE Testing: Rich Ervin, wa4dzw earned his Extra Class license.
9. Armed Forces Day at Millington and WKNO on 5/9/15 – more details coming
10. Bill Stevens, wc9s - Asked if anyone had started using the new repeater on 146.625. Bill also noted DARC Board approval to buy a club spare Yaseu Fusion digital repeater for \$500.00 (a significant promotional discount rate offered to amateur radio clubs by Yaseu).
11. Pat Lane, w4oqg – reminded us that 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
12. It was reported that DARC Life Member Harry Scroggins, ki5uk became Silent Key.
13. Jim Cissell, ki4i - announced that he would like to offer a CW training class for at least 6 people, with objective being to have them transmitting in Morse Code at our June, 2015 Field Day exercise.
14. Tom Dichiarra, ac5mr – gave a PowerPoint presentation on his previous experiences in high altitude balloon operations using APRS position tracking.
15. Motion to adjourn was made by Ham Hilliard, seconded by Jeff Krause and club membership confirmed their agreement through an orderly departure.

20 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – MARCH OF DIMES / MARCH FOR BABIES

Submitted by: Linda Laseter, kj4ctx

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>CONTACT INFO</u>
Saturday April 25, 7:30AM	Memphis Botanic Gardens 750 Cherry Rd, Memphis	Linda Laseter lindalaseter@gmail.com (901) 268-1766

Exciting changes for the March for Babies! This year the March for Babies will be held at the Memphis Botanic Gardens instead of Shelby Farms. Ham volunteers will not have to arrive at the "crack of dawn". You can sleep in and join in around 7:30 or 8:00 a.m. Volunteers should be finished around noon.

The March will be trying to set a world record for the most strollers at an event. The current record is 746 and they hope to have well over that number. A stroller must have a baby, dog, or other animal, and/or doll as a stroller passenger to qualify.

The marching route will leave the Botanic Garden and take a right on Southern, right on Perkins, right on Park, and right on Cherry back to the Gardens. Instead of two plus miles, this year the march will be four miles.

This is a great event for new hams and a fun time for all volunteers. There will be food and drinks for all.

We will need twenty (20) volunteers; so please email me at lindalaseter@gmail.com, call me at (901) 268-1766, or sign up at this month's Delta Club meeting.

Thank you and look forward to working with you this year.

Linda Laseter

URL for more event info: http://www.marchofdimes.org/tennessee/events/10226_3136333533.html



HUNTSVILLE BUS TRIP

Submitted by: Joe Lowenthal, wa4ovo

DARC is sponsoring a 50-passenger bus trip to go to the Huntsville Hamfest on August 15, 2015. There is a graduated scale fare for the bus trip. The fare is \$55 if paid by May 31, 2015, \$60 if paid by June 30, 2015, \$65 if paid by July 31, 2015, and \$75 if paid on or after August 1st. There are no refunds if you cannot go. However, you can sell your reservation to someone else. The fare includes the \$8 HamFest entry ticket. There will be biscuit sandwiches, water, sodas, chips, and fruit on the bus going to Huntsville and whatever is left for the trip back.

Cash or checks will be accepted for payment. Make checks payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club. You can pay at a meeting or send your check to Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, 6675 Ashbridge Cove, Memphis, TN 38120. Please include your name, call sign, cell phone number, and email address.

Reservations will be on a first come first paid basis.

The bus will leave Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Highway 70, Bartlett, TN at 6:00am on August 15th. A second pickup point will be at Germantown Baptist Church, 9450 Poplar Avenue at Johnson Road, Germantown, TN at approximately 6:30am. The bus will leave Huntsville immediately after the 4pm door prize drawing and return to Germantown Baptist Church approximately 7:30pm and Ellendale Church of Christ at approximately 8:15pm.

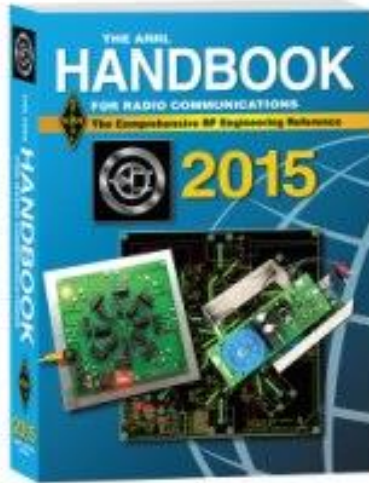
Ellendale Church of Christ has asked us to park in the larger parking lot on the west side of the building to leave the east side open for church activity parking.

The pickup point at Germantown Baptist Church will be on the east side of the church (toward Collierville) just north of the baseball diamonds and south of the gym (called the CORE) between the gym and the baseball diamonds to the front.

AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE

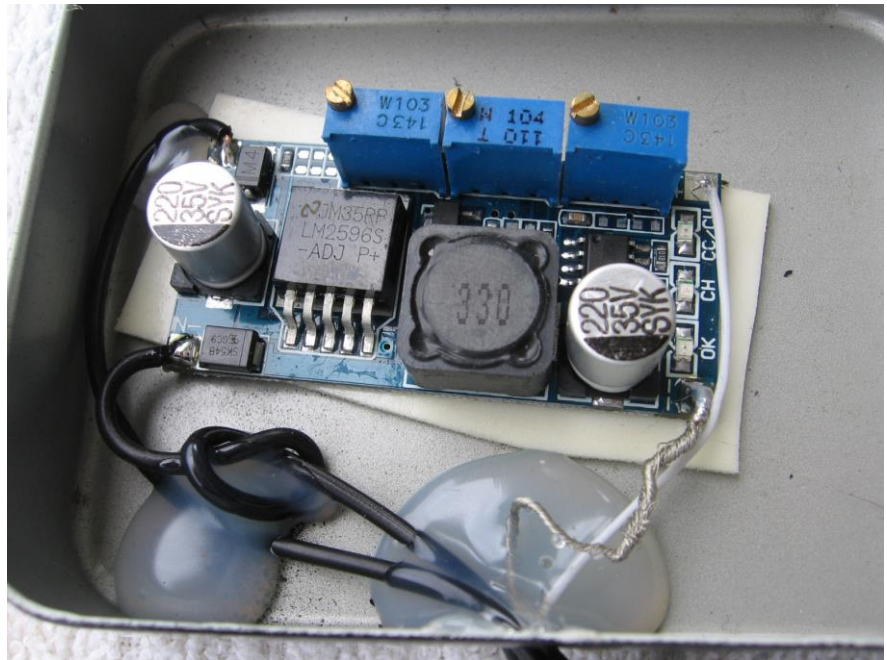
Submitted by: James Butler, kb4ljv

When operating radios we constantly need answers to questions on hardware, modes and operation. The go-to book for this is The Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) 2015 Handbook for Radio Communications which includes chapters for basic electronics, home-build projects, and antenna theory/design. This time-proven information source covers many topics and different operating modes available - including digital. The book comes in both hardcover and soft cover editions. If you want to add a great reference for your personal ham radio library, check out this publication from the ARRL. The URL for the book is <http://www.arrl.org/shop/ARRL-Handbook-2015-Softcover-Edition>



AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Submitted by: James Butler, kb4ljv



Last month, the tech savvy Mr. Butler started an interesting series on a useful mod to the popular Baofeng UV-5R, with info on modifying an empty 6AA battery pack for under \$7.00 that he drilled out to accommodate a charging connector (photo on left). He continues his mechanical and electronics wizardry in this month's conclusion. Makers; heat up your tools, and build up another fun GOTA project! (*Get On The Air – words of encouragement for someone new to the world of HAM radio)*

This month's project is the battery charger for my UV-5R battery pack. The easiest and cheapest way is to order a smart battery charging module off Ebay. The small circuit board has a DC input and DC output. The three variable resistors set the maximum voltage, maximum current to the batteries, and the voltage to stop charging. The board has 3 LEDs to indicate the charging state and when the batteries are fully charged. I mounted mine in an old Sucrets tin. I set my max current at ¼ amp. I set the max voltage to 8.4 volts for the 6 AA batteries. It works great and I can let the radio stay plugged in while monitoring. The best thing is the smart charger PC board is under \$3.00. Go to Ebay and search "LM2596 CONSTANT CURRENT" to find all the boards for sale.

Photos 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

1 General

6 Extra

GENERAL CLASS UNDERWAY

General Class 2-15



Photo and Article by David Webb

DARC Training Director Joe Lowenthal demonstrates many different antennae build styles for General training class participants during a Saturday session at the EMHC Ambulance Service training room. Seated from left to right are Mike Sparks, kk4vpz; Steve Frazier, kk4vpt; Kimberlee Norwood, kj4thc; and Janice Shaner, km4hzy. Bob Shaner (no call sign) participated in this class, but is not pictured in this session.

Noted in background is a home-built “tape measure antennae” – you can find several plans to build one for yourself at URL <http://www.instructables.com/id/The-Tape-Measure-Antenna/?ALLSTEPS>

Tech Class 3-15; March 23 – April 27, 2015

Tech Class 3-15 began with 12 students at EMHC ambulance company training room on Appling Farms Parkway. We are pleased to have two boys in the class. The instructors are Joe Lowenthal, wa4ovo - and Pat Lane, wa4oqg. Elmers are Tom Ernst, n4lia; Jeff Krause, aj4gy; and Ray Tant, ki4vdj. The Delta Club Volunteer Examiner (VE) team will provide a test opportunity on April 20th.



Photo and Article Info by Joe Lowenthal

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 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.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 website is free. To access the current 2014-2018 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 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
- www.aa9pw.com
- <http://kb0mga.net/exams>
- 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 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 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).

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; 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 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 10th 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.

<p><i>Licenses Earned in 2014 from Delta Classes</i></p> <p>25 Technician 12 General 6 Extra</p>
--

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/emergsaftety.shtml>

The application is at www.tn.gov/revenue/forms/titlereg/f1312601Fill-in.pdf

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

Submitted by: Rosalinda Melena, wn2v

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>CONTACT INFO</u>
April 18, 9:00AM	6631 Vallendar Cove, Bartlett	w4gmm@bellsouth.net

J-Pole Antennae Construction Class

Mid-South Amateur Radio Supply will host a J-Pole antenna construction class on Saturday, April 18, 2015. Participants will learn about j-pole antennas and each attendee will construct their own antenna and take it home with them.

The class fee of \$30.00 covers all materials and supplies needed to construct a 2 meter J-Pole style antenna using copper tubing. You may pay by check made out to JAMS Enterprises or pay in cash (please make sure you have correct change available).

You must e-mail Ham Hilliard at w4gmm@bellsouth.net by April 15, 2015 or register in person at the April 14th Delta Club meeting. If you are not signed up before April 16th, you will not be able to build an antenna, as necessary materials will be purchased on that date.

Class will be held at 6631 Vallendar Cove, Bartlett, TN - emergency contact number at the location is (901) 371-9700. The class will start at 9 am and run until all antennas are completed (approx. 1 pm).

For more information call Ham Hilliard at (901) 387-9051.

MARS CROSSBAND EXERCISE

Submitted by: Joe Lowenthal, wa4ovo

May 9th will be this year's 2015 Armed Forces Day Communications Test, frequently called the MARS Crossband exercise. There will be two MARS stations active in the Memphis area this year. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will activate WUG-2 at the WKNO transmitter site at 7192 Raleigh LaGrange Rd. For more information on Army MARS operations, contact Pat Lane, w4oqg at (901) 301-9738

Navy Support Activity Mid-south will participate from Millington at the W4ODR station in Building N-100. For more information on Navy MARS operation, contact Ham Hilliard, w4gmm at (901) 387-9051.

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

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

Vice-President:

Michael Knight kk4ioh
901-832-8636
kk4ioh@arrl.net

Secretary:

Barri Munday – wb4swp
901-756-5259
annbarrimunday@att.net

Treasurer:

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

Director of Training:

Joe Lowenthal – wa4ovo
901-628-4318
wa4ovo@yahoo.com

Director of Publications:

David W. Webb – kv4qi
901-465-8315
dwebb1518@gmail.com

Director of Programs:

Jim Cissell – ki4i
901-326-5544
james4296@aol.com

Director of Meetings & Special Events:

Jim Sheats – kk4vgl
901-756-0031
jdsheats@bellsouth.net

Repeater Trustee:

Bill Stevens – wc9s
901
wc9s@att.net

Immediate Past President:

Rosalinda Melena – wn2v

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

HAMFESTS OF LOCAL INTEREST

DATES	EVENT URL LINK	LOCATION
April 2015 11th	Memphis FreeFest@ https://sites.google.com/a/maraonline.org/mara-online/freefest	Bartlett, TN
May 2015 15th Thru 17th	Hamvention http://www.hamvention.org/	Dayton, OH
August 2015 15th & 16th	Huntsville Hamfest http://www.hamfest.org/	Huntsville, AL

OTHER NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST

Delta Club Information Net Manager “Changing of the Guard”

We're pleased to welcome Phil Fentress, ak4ue – to his new duties as Net Manager effective April 1st. Phil has signed up for at least for a one-year tour of duty, on the condition that we triple the pay he received as a volunteer member of our nightly Net Control Operator crew. Trust us; Phil is infinitely better at running our Net than he is at negotiating salaries!

While it's always hard to pass the reins from a tried and true performer, we extend our sincere thanks to Ray Turner, ae0ae - for his 3 years of outstanding service as Net Manager for our Delta Club Information Net. Job well-done Sir! Enjoy retirement (and remember that we still know your call sign and where you live)!

The Delta Club Information net simply doesn't run without the true professionalism of an all-volunteer group of Net Control operators being capably led by individuals like Ray and Phil. Please join us in thanking everyone involved by getting on the air at 146.82 at 8:00p (except 2nd Tuesday of each month). You can pick *any* night – our dedicated Net Control Operators are there *every* night

Your Action Needed – please let the Board of Directors know your views - in person or via EMAIL to darc4you@gmail.com

- **Do you want to pay your club membership dues with credit card? (club has to pay approximately 74 cents per transaction).**
- **Do you want – would you use - a club issued membership ID card? (see comments in BOD Meeting Minutes section).**
- **Do you want to participate on a sub-committee reviewing possible changes to our Charter and By-Laws Document?**

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

World Amateur Radio Day on Saturday, April 18, 2015

This year's event will be observed on Saturday, April 18th – learn more by visiting ARRL's related newspaper at URL <http://www.arrl.org/news/world-amateur-radio-day-is-april-18>

ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB Event on Sunday, April 19, 2015

The ARRL Rookie Roundup (SSB version) begins at 1800 UTC and continues through 2359 UTC on Sunday, April 19th. For the purposes of this operating event, a "Rookie" is any radio amateur licensed within the current calendar year or in the previous two calendar years, regardless of license class. Contesting rules apply as "Rookies" attempt to log contacts on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. For more information, consult ARRL website at URL

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-rookie-roundup-returns-ssb-event-is-sunday-april-19>

2015 ARRL Field Day on Saturday and Sunday, June 27- 28th

This will again be a joint activity with Mid-South Amateur Radio Association and Tri-State Repeater Association. Location will be the Country Club Estates Clubhouse - 2417 Lacosta in Bartlett, TN. More details on this year's activity will be the subject of a presentation by Michael Knight, kk4ioh - on Tuesday, May 12th at the regular DARC member meeting.

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/application-15-2.pdf>

**Thanks for Your Active Support of Delta Amateur Radio Club
Membership Matters!**

MILLINGTON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXPO

Bill Stevens, wc9s (left) and Joe Lowenthal, wa4ovo (middle) represented the Delta Club and ARES for Millington Get Ready on March 31st from 5-8pm at the Harvell Civic Center. The event was sponsored by the City of Millington, West Tennessee Seismic Safety Commission, The University of Memphis, and CERTPlus. On the right, prospective Tech Class candidate Betty signs up for upcoming DARC training.

In lower photo, Barry Moore, ke4kag with the West Tennessee Seismic Safety Commission pulls door prize winners



Photos and Article Info by Joe Lowenthal

MEMPHIS AREA VHF/UHF NETS

Name of Net	Freq. MHz	Tone	Local Time	Day of Week
Delta Club Information Net	146.820	- (107.2)	8:00p	Daily
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
4. For membership information contact Barri, wb4swp - at 756-5259 or by EMAIL at annbarrimunday@att.net
5. For training information contact Joe, wa4ovo - at 628-4318 or by EMAIL at 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 Blvd.

For Drawing Ticket Sales, contact
Tony Brignole WA4KHN 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
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		
\$50.00			\$25.00			\$15.00			\$10.00		
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