

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 29 * June 2018



**Welcome to the
Delta Amateur Radio Club**

Website: deltaclub.org

Contact via [Email](mailto:)

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 ^{-107.2}	
144.390 Digipeater	*Fusion

This month's meeting begins at 7pm on June 12, 2018, at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Highway 70 Memphis, TN (1 ½ miles north of Highway 64 (Stage Road)).

Our program will be presented by **Rick Tillman WA4NVM** for the N3FJP logging program we will use for Field Day logging (see more later in this newsletter).

Delta Club FCC testing sessions are held monthly except December. Registration begins at 5:30 PM; testing begins by 6:00 PM. Please bring a photo ID and another form of identification, copies of existing licenses or CSCEs, and your FCC Registration Number (FRN) if one has been issued. Please be on time for registration to allow our Volunteer Examiner (VE) team to complete their work prior to the club meeting. The 2018 test fee is \$15 (cash or check). Individuals receiving their initial FCC license grant at a Delta Club test session or through a Delta Club training class will receive a complimentary individual club membership for the remainder of the current calendar year when they also show proof of ARRL membership. For more information, please email our VE Liaison, [Jeff Krause, AJ4GY](mailto:), or call at 901-301-6776.

Congratulations to those who passed exams during Delta's May 2018 test session:
Moses Anderson KA4LIB Extra, **Jeffrey Breyer KN4MFJ** Tech & General,
Gregory Cook KN4MGH Tech, **Gary Nace WB4MOR** Extra

President's Corner

Submitted by Steve Frazier, KK4VPT

I would like to start with a confession. On Field Day 2014 my alarm went off at 5:30am and I heard the storm that most of you will remember on that Field Day. So I rolled over and went back to sleep. I have come to regret that I missed what should have been my first Field Day. From what I have heard, there were not many contacts logged that year but I am sure there were a lot of one on one contacts that I missed. If you have not participated in a Field Day I encourage you to join us this year. We can use your help starting with setup Saturday morning at about 9am through take down on Sunday at about 1pm. Come anytime you are able during the weekend and I am sure you will learn something while you are there.

Field Day is the best place to see several radios and antennas being used for CW, phone and digital by a great group of people who are there to share their knowledge and experience. We have more details about Field Day included in this issue of Sparks and we will be talking about Field Day at the June meeting.

I look forward to seeing you at the June meeting. And I promise not to roll over and go back to sleep this Field Day, so I hope to see you at Field Day too - Rain or Shine !!

73

Steve

KK4VPT

It's Time to Renew Your 2018 Annual Memberships! Download the latest Delta Club [Membership Application Form](#). The 2018 membership renewal fee remains a very modest \$20 for an individual, with an additional \$5 fee for family membership. Thanks for Your Active Support of Delta Amateur Radio Club!

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Monthly Treasurer's Report
For month ended May 31, 2018
 Submitted by Linda Laseter Treasurer

CHECKING ACCOUNT

BEGINNING BALANCE	
BEGINNING BALANCE as of May 1, 2018	\$4,722.13

INCOME		
Date		Amount
05/15/18	Huntsville Trip	\$ 540.00
05/16/18	DARC polo shirts	\$ 249.00
05/16/18	Membership	\$ 55.00
05/21/18	Huntsville Trip	\$ 60.00
05/30/18	DARC polo shirts	\$ 135.00
05/30/18	Estate sales - Free Fest	\$ 1,347.00
05/31/18	Huntsville Trip	\$ 120.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 2,506.00 \$ 2,506.00

EXPENSES				
Date	Check #	To	Description	Amount
05/08/18	1448	Postal Service	PO Box rental	\$ (91.00)
05/08/18	1449	Scott Adams	Refreshments	\$ (91.81)
TOTAL EXPENSES				\$ (182.81) \$ (182.81)

ENDING BALANCE as of May 31, 2018 **\$ 7,045.32**

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT			
	Maturity Date	Balance as of	
Certificate of Deposit #1	10/10/2018	4/29/2018	\$ 10,600.31
Certificate of Deposit #2	10/19/2022	3/29/2018	\$ 10,200.16

TOTAL DARC CASH ASSETS **\$ 27,845.79**

This Month's Board Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2018 Submitted by Mary Jean Hall KN4FBL

Attendees: Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, Bob Van Keuren, KM4SEB, Mary Jean Hall, KN4FBL, Linda Laseter, KJ4CTX, Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Bob Vawter, KW4RJ, Scott Adams, KM4PMU, and Barry McDonald, W5CJ.

Absent: Len Grice, W4MKS

Guests present: N/A

Steve Frazier called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Ellendale Church of Christ.

Linda L. read the Treasurer's Report.

The board discussed pending consignments, as well as the current procedure for accepting and processing consignments. Occasionally individuals contact Delta Club members to assist in selling radio equipment from estates, and the club members will take the items to meetings, ham fests and other events. Some items may sell quickly, but many of the less popular items might be taken to different events over the span of a few years, so storage can become an issue. Currently, the club might receive about 20 percent of the value of an item in order to help offset the time, effort and expenses of carrying the consignment/estate items to the events. Several members discussed concerns about the length of time that the items were having to be processed, and there was discussion about raising the club's percentage to help offset the cost and effort with dealing with the types of items that take longer to process. The board discussed setting different rates, maybe setting a time limit, and donation letters.

Joe WA4OVO, said that, so far, eight have signed up for the Technician Class, which will start Thursday, June 28. He expects more to sign up, too. So far, 18 have signed up for the Huntsville HamFest on August 18, and 39 are needed to break even on the bus fees.

Bob KW4RJ, reminded everyone to let him know if anything needed to be updated in Sparks or on the website.

Bob KM4SEB, followed up with the previous discussion and said that guidelines needed to be established for future estate sales and consignments.

Steve KK4VPT, reported that everything was set for Field Day. Joe L. said that the Field Day in Germantown is now listed on the ARRL website.

Barry W5CJ, announced that the repeaters are now completed and operational with All Star, he was just working on a few things. Echolink is working. Everything cost less than \$100 to update. He is also working on changing the Trustee name with the FCC.

Steve KK4VPT, discussed the overview of Field Day. He also reminded the board that the role of Director of Programs still needed to be filled.

The motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 7:27 p.m. The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes of Last Month's Club Meeting
May 8, 2018 Submitted by Mary Jean Hall KN4FBL

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Club President Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Ellendale Church of Christ. Everyone then introduced themselves by name and call sign.

Secretary's Report

Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, moved to approve the previous meeting's minutes as published in Sparks. Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by the club.

Treasurer's Report

Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as recorded in Sparks. Dan Wehner, KN4FBJ, seconded the motion. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved by the club.

Announcements

Jim Cissell, KI4I, and Pat Lane, W4OQG, said that they had items for sale.

Armed Forces Day Communications Exercise

Pat Lane, W4OQG, announced that the Armed Forces Day Communications Test is scheduled for Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. A number of military stations will be operating on amateur bands. The US Army Corps of Engineers will activate the WUG-2 call sign from the WKNO transmitter site at 7192 Raleigh LaGrange Rd. Ham Hillard, W4GMM, will be organizing the station at the Millington Naval Base starting at 7 a.m. on May 12. Hams are encouraged to visit both locations to help, or learn how to, log and operate. New and experienced hams are welcome to attend!

HQ 101

June's Ham/HQ 101 will feature how to install PL259 connectors. Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, will demonstrate how to install them, both the hard way and the easy way. HQ 101 is for new hams, old hams, and hams who want to know more about their hobby. HQ 101 is offered at 6 p.m. before the DARC monthly meeting, upstairs at the Ellendale Church of Christ.

MARS Communications Exercise

Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, reminded everyone that Warren Zimmer, KC7ND, will be taking check-ins for the MARS communications exercise, Tuesday – Friday, May 8 – 11. They will be gathering information from ham operators to put out over the MARS network about situation awareness for each county. Shelby County residents will just need to give their name, while hams from other counties will need to give a full report. Warren will give additional information out on the 146.820 repeater, Wednesday, May 9 at noon.

Huntsville Hamfest Bus Trip

The Huntsville HamFest is August 18, 2018, and you can now make your reservation for the chartered bus ride! The price of the bus trip depends on the time of signup, and includes the bus ride, \$10 admission fee, 2 breakfast biscuits (bacon or ham), and drinks and snacks for the bus trip:

May - \$60

June - \$65

July - \$70

August - \$75

During the HamFest the bus will back up to the loading dock, which will give you an option to sit in a nice, soft seat during the day should you need a break from the shopping. The bus will leave Huntsville right after the 4 p.m. drawing to return to Germantown by 8 p.m. The bus will leave from Germantown Baptist Church at 6:30 a.m. and should arrive in Huntsville by 9:30-9:45 a.m.

Training/Technician Class

The next Technician Class will start Thursday, June 28 and go for six Thursday nights, with the last class date set for Aug. 2. The location is being finalized. The class is starting earlier in the summer to encourage younger participants before the school session gets going in August. More information can be found in Sparks, and anyone interested in attending should email Joe Lowenthal at wa4ovo@gmail.com.

YL News

Linda Laseter, KJ4CTX, announced that the next YL Luncheon will be at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, May 26 at Corky's (1740 N. Germantown Parkway). Also, don't forget to join the YL Net every Saturday at 8:45 p.m. on the 146.820 repeater!

VE Testing

Tonight's VE testing produced four new licensees, with five exams being passed: Technician, Technician/General and two Extras. Jeff Krause, AJ4GY, said that he is looking for someone to take over the VE testing in January 2019. Contact him if you are interested in serving in that role.

Memphis FreeFest Recap

Dennis Foster, KJ4BDU, thanked everyone who participated and volunteered at the Memphis FreeFest in April. Over \$4,300 was raised for LeBonheur Children's Hospital, and with the endowment fund, that amount will be doubled to be over \$8,000 donated! Steve Frazier later read the thank you letter from the Mid-South Amateur Radio Association for the Delta Club's participation and support of FreeFest.

Shirt Order

Delta Club is organizing another club shirt order, and they are expected to arrive in time for Field Day. All orders must be placed by May 25, which will allow the club to have the shirts in by the June meeting. Both men's and women's polo shirts are available.

Director of Programs Position

Delta Club has an opening for the Director of Programs position. Anyone interested should contact club president, Steve Frazier.

Concerns

Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, explained to the club why Sparks was slower to come out this month. There was an issue at FreeFest and it was being worked through for how to put it in the minutes. Steve said that if anyone has an issue or concern, something you'd like to see different, or something that you think needs to be addressed, bring it to the board before it becomes an issue.

Presentation

Dr. Eric Welch, WE5FDA, presented an "Introduction to Unmanned Aerial Systems and Amateur Radio." Joe Lowenthal introduced Dr. Welch, and his bio can be found in the May 2018 Sparks. Dr. Welch discussed the history of drones, from both the government and commercial sides. He also discussed various uses, challenges and more.

Drawings and Closing Remarks

Several members won prizes:

Ned Savage, KA4BLL, gift cards for Chick-fil-A; Cindy Foster, KJ4VUV, Coupon for a Handgun Carry Permit class at Top Brass in Millington, TN.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m. The next Delta Amateur Radio club meeting will be Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the Ellendale Church of Christ.

HQ 101

Submitted by Ham Hilliard W4GMM

HQ 101 is for new hams, old hams, and hams that want to know more about their hobby. This class is for you and I need to know what you want to learn about, so if you have a subject you are curious about let me know and if there is enough interest I will offer it one month. Email me at w4gmm@bellsouth.net.

HQ 101 meets at 6:00 pm upstairs at the Ellendale Church of Christ

This month we will discuss how to properly solder those **PL-259** plugs!

Ham Hilliard W4GMM



HAM LICENSE TRAINING for 2018

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.

If you want to take a class, send an email to Joe at wa4ovo@gmail.com with the class name; ie, Tech Class, General Class, or Extra Class, on the Subject line and name, callsign if you have one, email address, and cellphone number in the text.

Licenses Earned in 2017-2018 from Delta Classes

23 Technician

3 General

7 Extra

Note:

As of September 3, 2015 there is no longer any charge for Vanity callsigns.

The current Technician ARRL Ham Radio License Manual Third Edition with question pool that became effective July 1, 2014 for four years. This question pool expires June 30, 2018

The current ARRL General Class License Manual is the Eighth Edition with question pool that became effective July 1, 2015 for four years.

The current ARRL Extra Class License Manual is the Eleventh Edition with question pool that became effective July 1, 2016 for four years.

CLASSES SCHEDULED

The next **Technician class** will start June 28th for six Thursday nights from 6:15-9:30pm with the new question pool effective July 1st. The location will be at EMHC Ambulance Company training room 6972 Appling Farms Parkway. There are eight students currently enrolled. If you know anyone interested, send an email to wa4ovo@gmail.com with Subject Line: Tech Class and name, email address and cellphone number in the text.

The next **General class** will probably start in early November in the evenings.

The next **Extra class** will probably start in early January 2019 on Saturday mornings.

CLASSES in PROGRESS

None

CLASSES COMPLETED

Tech Class 2-18 February 24 – April 7, 2018

Tech Class 2-18 was held from February 24th to April 7th except March 10th and 17th on five Saturdays from 9am to 1pm or 9am to 4pm at EMHC ambulance company training room on Appling Farms Pkwy. There were nine students in the class with five finishing testing.

Congratulations to Carrie Blackwell KN4LCU, Phillip Green KN4LCT, Jim Hambrick KN4LCS, David Robertson KN4LCW and John Volmer KN4LCV for earning their Technician licenses. Additional congratulations to Phillip KN4LCT and John KN4LCV for advancing to the General Class license.



Rick WA4NVM at doorway on Tech Class 2-18 satellite contact to keep out of the downpour. Richard K4DX holding the Elk antenna.

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO



Tech Class 2-18 taking their exam:(from left to right) David Robertson, John Volmer, Phillip Green, Jim Hambrick, and Carrie Blackwell
Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO



The WCARS VE team: (left to right) Gary W5EMA, David KV4QI, Perry N4PSH, Denise KM4IRR, Bob KW4RJ and (not pictured) Joe WA4OVO
Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors were Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Barry McDonald W5CJ, Pat Lane W4OQG, David Webb KV4QI, Len Grice W4MKS, Perry Hayes N4PSH, and John Reiners KN4BVH. The equipment demonstrators on April 7th were Joe WA4OVO on repeater basics, Rick Tillman WA4NVM on satellites, Pat Lane W4OQG on HF/MARS/Winlink, John Reiners on ARES and Rick Pellicciotti on APRS. Michael Knight KK4IOH gave an Echolink, D-STAR, and DMR digital presentation on March 24th.



Tech Class 2-18 with Barry W5CJ instructing. Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

Extra Class 1-18 January 13 – February 24, 2018

Extra Class 1-18 was held on 5 Saturdays and one Sunday from January 13th to February 24th from 9am to 1pm on four Saturdays, 1-5pm on Sunday January 28th, and at 2:30 on Saturday February at EMHC ambulance company training room, 4th for FCC testing. All classes were at EMHC ambulance company, 6972 Appling Farms Pkwy. There were 10 students taking the class with two recent Extras auditing the class.

The students were Dan KN4FBJ, Janet KN4FBI, Billy K4IOA, Jim KN4GJF, David KM4SEC, Todd W4RTV, Ed K7EDT, Mac KJ4EHE, Carlos KK 4CRO, and Robert KN4FVT. The auditing Extras were Nathan KX4IA and Rick WB9TCB.



Extra Class 1-18 FCC test session. Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

Congratulations to Carlos KX4IS (previously KK4CRO) and Todd W4RTV for their Extra upgrade at the February 13th Delta Club test session. Congratulations to Robert Horn KN4FVT, David Jackson KM4SEC, Ed Taggard K7EDT, Mac Tidwell KJ4EHE, and Dan Wehner KN4FBJ for their upgrade to Extra.

Thanks to the Delta Club ARRL team for providing the FCC test session. The VEs were Jeff AJ4GY, Stacy KJ4MDA, Perry N4PSH, Barry W5CJ, Tom KK4ZZZ, Bob KW4RJ, David KV4QI and Joe WA4OVO.

The instructors were Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Paul Roberts KA9VAU, Dean Honadle N2LAZ, Barry McDonald W5CJ, David Webb KV4QI, and Pat Lane W4OQG.



Dean N2LAZ instructing on Electrical Principles for Extra Class 1-18
Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO



Barry W5CJ providing propagation instruction to Extra Class 1-18
Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

Tech Review for CBU January 29, 2018

A Tech Review class was held on January 29th for 18 Christian Brothers University students in the initial Engineering Department upper division elective course, Introduction to Unmanned Aerial Systems. All 18 students earned their Technician license while one also earned her General Class license. The students were either Electrical or Mechanical Engineering majors. Eric Welch WD5FTA is the professor. He is Department Chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering.



Tech Review Class at CBU Photo by Len Grice W4MKS

Thanks to the Laurel VEC team led by Tim Jones N5PYQ for providing the VE session.



Laurel VE Team (left-right) Rick KF5WVJ, Joe WT4N, standing left Tim N5PYQ, Jim KE5RHM, Weldon N5YW and not pictured is Ed KF8PD. Joe WA4OVO, standing right, is helping with the registration paperwork.
Photo by Len Grice W4MKS

May 2018

YL NET – Please join us each Saturday night at 8:45 p.m. on the 146.820 repeater for the YL Net. We enjoy hearing from you.

When we started the YL Net in 2016 we had no idea how much our Net would grow. We had just five or six check-ins on our first official YL Net. This month we have three to four times that many checking in each week. Many of the check-ins are now regulars on our net and we truly appreciate the support.

Vacation time is here and I know at least two of our regular YL check-ins will be on vacation in June. We will miss you on the Net but know you will be having lots of fun on your adventures.

Set your alarm for 8:45 p.m. Saturday night and join us on the net. It only takes 10 to 15 minutes of your time and it is great practice using your radio.

YL LUNCHEON – We had a good turnout for our luncheon at Corky’s this month. The food was good and the fellowship was great! We ordered dry ribs, salad, pulled pork plates and much more. Really like the rolls too but not fond of their coleslaw. In fact, I think I ate more rolls and butter than I did of my rib order just because I love the rolls.

Welcome Carrie KN4LCU to the YL luncheon! We enjoyed having you and hearing all about your upcoming ARRL Teachers Institute experience (see the YL News Section below for more information).

Ann WB4FAA won the door prize at this month’s luncheon. A beautiful welcome board with hooks for your keys. We are going to change her name to “Lucky” because she has won the most door prizes of anyone over the last two years. Congratulations Ann!

YLS this is your chance to make new friends, share ideas, ask questions, and learn something new. Not to mention all the fun and food you are missing. We would love for you to join us!

JUNE’S LUNCHEON WILL BE:

“First Aid in Disaster Situations” “What Can I Do, What Am I Willing To Do”

Presented by David Webb KV4QI

June 16, 2018

11:30 a.m.

Saturday

Ellendale Church of Christ (the regular DARC meeting location)

7365 US-70

Memphis, TN 38133

YL NEWS - Wow! I think the YLs set a record at the May Delta Club meeting. We had 12 YLs in attendance and another young lady interesting in working on her license. I possibly see a YL table or two in our future. What fun that would be!

Congratulations to Cindy KJ4VUV for winning the May Delta Club door prize (certificate to a Top Brass Hand Gun Permit Class). Cindy was very excited that she won because she had been thinking of taking a HGP class.

The weather was perfect for the March of Dimes March for Babies event this year. It was fun watching some of the YLs riding around on the golf cart with the Logistics Chair and I think they had fun too. We did not require as many ham radio operators this year as in the past years due to the event being in a more confined area. Thank you to all the YLs and OMs who volunteered this year (Carrie KN4LCU, Gale KI4VDI, Janice KX4BB, Bill KK4VPS, Ed K7EDT, Joe WA4OVO, Ken KI4AOH, Roger WR4R, and Sean KM4VFN). Really appreciate your help.

Congratulations to Carrie KN4LCU for being chosen to attend the 2018 ARRL **Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology** at ARRL headquarters in Newington, Connecticut. The Teachers Institute is an expenses-paid, professional development seminar that provides teachers with tools and strategies to introduce basic electronics, radio science, space technology, and satellite communication, weather science, intro to micro-controllers, and basic robotics in their classrooms. The Institute curriculum is designed for motivated teachers and other staff to learn more about wireless technology and bring that knowledge to their students.

David Webb KV4QI will be presenting our program for the YL luncheon on Saturday, June 16th. David has put together a program on **“First Aid in Disaster Situations” “What Can I Do, What Am I Willing To Do”**. This should be a very interesting and informative program. We will be serving hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, watermelon, etc. to celebrate the 4th of July early.

Congratulations to Jackie KG4DMW and her husband Ross on the birth of their twin girls Melody and Sarah. The girls were born on 5/4 a little after 6 pm. Sarah was first and she weighed 5 lbs. and 7 oz at 19 inches. Melody was one minute later and she weighed 5 lbs. and 14 oz at 18.5 inches. As of 5/31 Sarah was 6 lbs., 2 oz and Melody was 6 lbs, 8.5 oz.



Amateur Hardware Update

Article and image submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Many of our electronics now allow the use of a keyboard. These usually connect via a USB port. Companies now sell a small keyboard that is wireless. It has a pre paired 2.4G transmitter and receiver that plugs in the USB port to communicate with the keyboard. Range is about 30 about feet. The keyboard also has a USB charger cable to keep the keyboard battery charged. The keyboard is available in different colors and also has LED back lighted keys. The mini keyboards also have a touch pad built in. I have several of these and they work great. The best part is these are on Ebay for under \$10. Do a search on Ebay for “mini 2.4G keyboard”.

James Butler
KB4LJV



Mini Keyboard 2

Amateur Packet Update
Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Many amateurs use 12 Volt DC power supplies on our equipment at home. One of the new ones is the Alinco DM-30. This is a 120 VAC to 12 Volt DC power supply rated at 30 amps max current. The unit allows for variable voltage adjustment or fixed 13.8 VDC output. The power supply has over current protection along with over temperature protection. The power supply has rear terminal style connections. On the front is also has two Anderson Powerpole connectors. This switching power supply also has a front panel control to vary the switching frequency to move switching noise away from your radio receive frequency to eliminate interference. The supply includes a nice digital LCD panel to display voltage and current. If you need a new switching 12 Volt DC power supply then check out this nice unit from Alinco. These are available at Gigaparts for under \$150. The web address is <https://www.gigaparts.com/alinco-dm-30-30a-13-8v-adjustable-digital-power-supply.html>

James Butler
KB4LJV



Alinco DM-30 switching power supply

Armed Forces Day Military to amateur Crossband tests **Submitted by Pat W4OQG & Joe WA4OVO**

May 12th was the annual Armed Forces Crossband Test. This event occurs the weekend before Armed Forces Day so as not to conflict with the Dayton Hamvention. Memphis was fortunate to have two military stations on the air out of 18 from around the world. Pat Lane W4OQG coordinated with Jim Pogue KH2AR to put the US Army Corps of Engineers station WUG-2 on the air from the WKNO transmitter site on Raleigh LaGrange Rd. Ham Hilliard W4GMM coordinated the Air Force MARS entry AFM4AF from the Millington Navy ham shack W4ODR.

At the WKNO transmitter site the antennas were already up. We operated on 13,910.5 KHz listening in the 20 meter amateur and simplex on the 60-meter frequency of 5403.5 KHz. The Corps of Engineers' Memphis District call WUG-2 made 150 contacts during the day between 8am to 6:00pm. Propagation was very sporadic even during a single QSO. The 60 meter frequency was alive from 8-9am. Then it died-only 3 contacts for the next hour and a half. The lull in activity allowed for nap time after lunch. Then it picked up again around 5:30pm. The 20 meter frequency was more active with over 100 contacts. But many of those contacts were difficult to make. The operators were Pat W4OQG, Jim KH2AR, Joe WA4OVO, Barry W5CJ, Janice KX4BB, and Barri WB4SWP.

The Millington Air Force MARS station was on the air from 8am to 5pm. Ham reported that propagation was not good. Due to several problems they only made 75 contacts. Ham said that they would do better next year. There were about eight operators. Some of those were Ham W4GMM, William K1AWT, Merrie K1BWT, Gary WA2IQC, and Gary Martin.



Pat and Joe after a big lunch!

(Actually there was a lull on 60 meters and this
provided for a quick nap)!

Photo by Barry W5CJ

Field Day 2018

Saturday, June 23 beginning at 1:00 pm and lasting 24 hours. Field Day will be held for the third year at Morgan Woods Park & Pickering Center – 7771 Poplar Pike, Germantown in front of the Germantown Horse Show arena. Field day is a collaboration of several area Amateur Radio clubs and the Germantown Fire Department to demonstrate the ability to communicate even when all other forms of communication are out during an emergency. Anyone is invited to view several displays of emergency radio equipment and Amateur Radio operators.

Click [here](#) for pictures from Field Day 2017. Submitted by Joe WA4OVO.

DARC June program notes

FIELD DAY LOGGING

Rick Tillman WA4NVM will provide insight and instruction for the N3FJP logging program we will use for Field Day logging. He has used N3FJP software for his over 16,000 satellite contacts. Rick will go over not only the logging of the contact, but also how to make a typo correction, change the band and/or operator. For Field Day the logger will need to know the different ARRL section abbreviations. Most are obvious since they are just the state abbreviation. However, a number of states have multiple sections in the state. California has nine sections that usually have the most errors in the logging process. Contacts outside of the US other than Canada are logged as DX.

ARRL / RAC Section Abbreviation List	Puerto Rico PR South Carolina SC US Virgin Islands VI	8 Michigan MI West Virginia WV Ohio OH
1 Connecticut CT Rhode Island RI Eastern Massachusetts	5 Arkansas AR North Texas NTX Louisiana LA Oklahoma OK Mississippi MS South Texas STX New Mexico NM West Texas WTX	9 Illinois IL Wisconsin WI Indiana IN
EMA Vermont VT Maine ME Western Massachusetts WMA New Hampshire NH	6 East Bay EB San Diego SDG Los Angeles LAX San Francisco SF Orange ORG San Joaquin Valley SJV Santa Barbara SB Sacramento Valley SV Santa Clara Valley SCV Pacific (Hawaii, Guam)	Ø Colorado CO Missouri MO Iowa IA Nebraska NE Kansas KS North Dakota ND Minnesota MN South Dakota SD
2 Eastern New York ENY Northern New York		Canada Maritime MAR Saskatchewan SK Newfoundland/Labrador
NNY NYC / Long Island NLI Southern New Jersey SNJ Northern New Jersey NNJ Western New York WNY	PAC	NL Alberta AB Quebec QC British Columbia BC Ontario East ONE Manitoba MB Ontario North ONN Northern Territories NT Ontario South ONS Greater Toronto Area
3 Delaware DE Maryland – DC MDC Eastern Pennsylvania	7 Alaska AK Nevada NV Arizona AZ Oregon OR Eastern Washington EWA Utah UT Idaho ID Western Washington WWA Montana MT Wyoming WY	GTA. Non US / Canadian stations should be logged as DX Revised: 1/2017
EPA Western Pennsylvania		
WPA 4 Alabama AL Southern Florida SFL Georgia GA Tennessee TN Kentucky KY Virginia VA North Carolina NC West Central Florida WCF Northern Florida NFL		

Dayton/Xenia Hamvention

May 18-19, 2018, submitted by Bob Vawter KW4RJ

Max K1MAX picked me up around 7 am on Wednesday, May 16 for the trip to Dayton. We picked up my friend David WO4V in Jackson, TN and had a great breakfast at Casey Jones museum and restaurant. Max has a very nice HF rig in his car, so we made a few QSOs along the way. We went a day early so we could attend the unveiling of the Memphis Belle B-17 opening day. There were 1000s of people at that event, and the 'Belle looks great. Several of our DARC members were able to view the 'Belle being renovated during the Hamvention last year. We toured the Wright-Patterson museum again and it never gets old. I think it is has a bigger variety of aircraft than the National Air and Space Smithsonian. We checked the weather (again) to see that rain was indeed in the forecast (of course, it is Dayton)!

Thursday morning we left the motel at 7:30 to head over to the Hamvention. We rode with friends from Huntsville who had rented flea market space, so we were able to ride right into the flea market area.

We had two big surprises that morning: 1) Traffic was not bad in Greene county! There were police cars at every intersection and local traffic was routed away. It only took about 35-40 minutes from our motel (Drury on Miller Lane) to the Greene county fairgrounds in Xenia. Wow! Big improvement over last year! 2) asphalt "crumbles" were put onto all the paths around the flea market to battle the mud. This worked remarkably well in spite of the fact that there was no "base" put down under the asphalt (see photos below). Max and I decided we would give the Hamvention an "A" for traffic solutions and a "C" for the mud solutions. Better overall, but some improvement still needed. It wasn't as hot this year and that helped with comfort levels.

All the major vendors were represented as well as many of the "less" major ones. ARRL was there in force, offering a free book with membership renewal.

Tom Medlin W5KUB (W5KUB.com), was there recording simulcasts with Dave Casler, Astronaut Colonel Douglas H. Wheelock, and others. Tom is from Collierville, TN.

I visited with the "Huntsville group" including Randy KB4CQ, Tim KK5H, Bill AB5EJ, Ernie WA4BPS, Megan KE8FMP, Jim VB8NNJ, Chester K9FEH and Greg KA8GKT. These guys had the flea market spaces we were able to use for rest and relaxation. They usually also have a booth at Huntsville in the far corner.

I made it home without buying a new radio, and there were some great deals! Wow. If you haven't ever been to the Dayton/Xenia Hamvention, you should go sometime, and plan a visit to the Wright Patterson Aircraft Museum while you're there! Following are pictures from my trip:



LONG line into the Wright Patterson museum!



The Memphis Belle looks brand new!



I read that they even used the same type PAINT from the '40s.



This view of the flea market on Thurs. evening



This view of the flea market on Friday after a rain.



Another view of the flea market on Saturday after another rain.



Over around the main buildings on Saturday. Hamvention administrators reported 25,000+ attendees!



W5KUB interview with Col. Wheelock



Yours truly with Dave Casler!

Huntsville HamFest

August 18, 2018

HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST BUS TRIP - AUGUST 18, 2018

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Director of Training

DARC is sponsoring a 50-passenger bus trip to go to the Huntsville HamFest on Saturday, August 18, 2018. The fare is \$65 by June 30th, \$70 by July 31st, and \$75 in August. The fare includes the \$10 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. There are no refunds, but you can sell your seat to someone else if you cannot go. Let me know.

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

Reservations will be on a first come first paid basis.

The bus will leave Germantown Baptist Church, 9450 Poplar Avenue at Johnson Road, Germantown, TN at 6:30am. The bus will leave Huntsville immediately after the 4pm door prize drawing and return to Germantown Baptist Church approximately 7:30pm.

Germantown Baptist Church has asked us to park in the back on the northeast side of the church so there will be security cameras on the cars.

The Huntsville HamFest website is www.hamfest.org.

ARES
Amateur Rescue Emergency Service

If you are interested in joining Shelby County ARES, complete an application at www.tnares.com. Click (do not pull down) on INFORMATION on the top right of the page. Then, go to TN ARES Membership and Appointment Application Forms and then click on ARES Membership Application: FSD-98. Complete the form and click on Submit at the bottom. You should get an acknowledgement soon after submitting.

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, neither 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

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! Go to <https://www.facebook.com/darcmem>.

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Public Service Events

If you are a coordinator for any of these events, please review the listed information. Please [email](#) corrections or additions.

2018 Date	Event	Contact Information
Jan. 14	Swamp Stompers 50K/25K Run	Keith Barton, KT4EP
May 5	March of Dimes March for Babies	Linda Laseter, KJ4CTX
Sep. 8	2018 Bike MS: FedEx Rock-N-Roll	Darrell Sheffield, KK4D
Oct. 6	Bluff City Blues 100 Ride	tbd
Dec. 1	St. Jude Marathon	Roger Schlichter, WR4R

Area HamFests

January 26-27	Capitol City Hamfest in Jackson, MS
February 9-11	HamCation 2018 in Orlando, FL
February 17	LCARC's 2018 Winterfest in Hoxie, AR
March 2-3	BirmingHAMfest 2018 in Birmingham, AL
March 24	Ides of March HamFest in Union City, TN
April 14	Memphis FreeFest in Bartlett, TN
May 18-20	Hamvention in Xenia, OH
July 28	Greater Nashville & Middle TN HamFest in Lebanon, TN
August 18-19	Huntsville HamFest in Huntsville, AL

Tennessee Ham Radio License Plate

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

The link below is for information and instructions about Tennessee ham radio call sign Emergency/Safety automobile license plates:

<https://www.tn.gov/revenue/title-and-registration/license-plates/available-license-plates/emergency-safety.html>

The application can be found at this link:

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/revenue/documents/forms/titlereg/f1312601Fill-in.pdf>

As of July 1st, 2017, you must send a copy of or show an ARES membership card to keep from paying the \$25 surcharge for new plates or renewals. If you send a renewal in by mail with the lesser amount and do not include a copy of your ARES membership card, they will return your renewal and check due to insufficient funds.

If you want to become an ARES member, complete an ARES Registration Form FD-98 on the TNARES.com website. The click on Information in the upper right. Scroll down and click on ARES Membership Application: [FSD-98](#).

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSekaoB6a2YrGNKoSvCq1M7UST9aE_RwnewMuT-DfgYmWJ_QRg/viewform

If you are not an ARES member and you do not want to pay the \$25 surcharge for renewal, you can get a regular plate for no additional charge. You will need a copy of your previous registration or there is an additional \$3 charge.

If a spouse is also a ham, only one of the couple needs to be an ARES member if the auto is registered in both names. If registered in the spouse's name, the spouse must have an ARES membership card.

The following link from the Tennessee Department of Revenue <https://www.tn.gov/revenue/title-and-registration/license-plates/available-license-plates/emergency-safety.html> has the Amateur Radio auto tag information and listed below:

Amateur Radio

Available to: Tennessee residents who hold an official FCC-issued amateur radio license (unrevoked and unexpired).

Documentation Required: Application supported with copy of the FCC Amateur Radio license.

Cost: Annual fee of \$51.50; Members of emergency, rescue squad and Amateur Radio Emergency Service - \$26.50.

Memphis Area VHF/UHF Nets

Updated January, 2018

Name of Net	Freq. MHz	Offset/Tone	Local Time	Day of Week
Delta Club Information Net	146.820	- (107.2)	8:00p	Daily
YL Net	146.820	- (107.2)	8:45p	Sat
Mid-South Bullfrog Net	146.535	[simplex]	7:30p	Daily
Elmer Net	145.210	- (107.2)	9:00p	Sun
MedMERS Net	146.820	- (107.2)	12:00p	Wed
ARES Training Net	146.850	- (107.2)	9:00p	Thu
Super Sunday Niner Net	927.6125	- (146.2)	8:30p	Sun

Delta Club sponsored Nets are shown in red.

TENNESSEE HF NETS

As of January 2018

All times are Central Time

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 Alternate Phone Net	7.238		As needed
CUSEC	3.810		As needed
CUSEC	7.180		As needed

(Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)

3980 kHz – Tennessee Phone Net

Mon-Fri - 5:40 AM, 6:45 AM & 6:30 PM

Saturday - 8:00 AM & 6:30 PM

Sunday - 8:00 AM only

Holidays - 8:00 AM only

DELTA CLUB ADVERTISEMENTS



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Mid-South Amateur Radio Supply, (MSARS.COM) is owned and operated by local hams who are dedicated to promoting the hobby and providing help to anyone interested in ham radio. We actively support the local amateur radio clubs and are ARRL members.

MSARS offers free antenna building classes each year and help many new hams with guidance on their first radio, setting up a ham shack, programming a radio and much more. We are proud to be a part of the ham radio community and are *here to help you*.

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)
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Joe Miller
Owner

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This space is available!

We offer our continued thanks to EMHC ambulance company for generously providing their training room for the many ham radio classes given there.

Advertisement forms can be downloaded from our website – <http://w4bs.org/aboutUs.html>