

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 58 * November 2020



Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC)
Sparks Newsletter

Website: <http://deltaclub.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/daremem>

W4BS **REPEATER SYSTEM**

146.820-107.2	* 147.360+107.2
146.625-107.2	443.200+107.2
224.420-107.2	443.700+107.2
144.390 Digipeater	*Fusion

We do plan to meet this month via “ZOOM.”

Steve Frazier is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Delta Club November Member Meeting

Time: **Nov 10, 2020 07:00 PM** Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85662312580?pwd=N1FpV2xyYWtpUjJORDRnMCs0K21yUT09>

Meeting ID: 856 6231 2580

Passcode: 653795

Program: DMR programming by Ian KN4OEK

For Ham License testing information, Contact Jeff Krause, AJ4GY at AJ4GY@comcast.net or call at 901-301-6776 for information.

Announcements

As you may have heard or read, the FCC is proposing to increase the fee charged for license applications or changes to \$50. The ARRL is opposed to the proposal and has asked members to file personal oppositions to the proposal. The Board of Directors for the Delta Amateur Radio Club add their support to ARRL in opposition and want to make sure you are aware of what you need to do if you agree.

The attached file from ARRL will give you more information about what you need to do.

The deadline to submit your comments to the FCC is November 16. We will have our November membership on November 10, so we will be able to discuss and help you more before the deadline.

You do not need to be a member of ARRL or Delta to add you comments to this proposal.

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Regulatory/ARRL_Guide_to_Filing_Comments_with_FCC_Oct_2020.pdf

Thank you for your support.

President's Corner
Submitted by Steve Frazier, KK4VPT

Fall has always been my favorite time of the year. I enjoy the cooler temperatures and all the colors of the changing leaves. Fall also signals the end of the year is not far away and I think we all agree we will be glad to see the end of 2020.

Because Veterans Day is on or near our November meeting, I have used that time to recognize and thank our members who are military veterans. I usually recognize our veterans in groups based on the time period they served. I do this to show the members we have from these different times in our history. I want you to know we appreciate your service regardless of when you or how you served.

November is also when we have our Board of Directors election. We will do the election on the Zoom meeting. Current polls are showing the following are leading in their races - President: Steve Frazier, Vice President: Mary Jean Hall, Treasurer: Jim Martin, Secretary: Carolyn Horne, Programs: Ray Cole with Ian Lucas, Publications: Mike Harris, Meeting and Special Events: Scott Adams.

I have been in contact with the Race Director for the 2021 Swamp Stomper 25k/50k. They are planning to do the event on Saturday January 16 and they are counting on Delta Club to provide communication support again. Stay tuned for more on this.

Until we can meet again in person, continue to stay in touch and up-to-date by checking in on the net every night at 8pm on the 146.82 repeater.

73 to all
Steve Frazier
KK4VPT

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by David Jackson

Please RENEW your Delta membership right away, so you won't forget about it! Download the new member or renewal form: <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/58124ffd-d6ca-4502-9af3-7fa04c033729/downloads/application-15-3.pdf?ver=1574454355059>

Membership for one is \$20 or family is \$25. You can fill out the form online and email to David Jackson KM4SEC. davidjackson@bellsouth.net

If you prefer you can print the form and bring the completed form, along with the membership fee to any meeting.

LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS					
October 1, 2020 through October 30, 2020					
SUMMARY					
Beginning Balance	\$25,360.10	Minimum Daily Balance	\$25,245		
Deposits & Credits	\$20.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$25,334		
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -				
Fees	\$0.00 -				
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +				
Checks	\$135.00 -				
Ending Balance	\$25,245.10				
DEPOSITS & CREDITS					
10/02	Deposit - Thank You			20.00	
CHECKS					
Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
10/19	1538	100.00	10/27	1539	35.00
				Total Checks	\$135.00
* Break In Check Number Sequence.					
DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY					
Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
10/02	25,380.10	10/19	25,280.10	10/27	25,245.10
DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB					
SMALL BUSINESS CD *0028					
Available Balance	\$10,614.59	INTEREST RATE	1.590 %	YTD INTEREST	\$126.06
				INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID	\$20.31
Activity					
 Pay with Personality - Personalize your Checkcard with Regions YourPix Studio® Learn more.					

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Mary Jean Hall KN4FBL

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for November 3, 2020

Attendees: Steve Frazier KK4VPT, Mary Jean Hall KN4FBL, David Jackson KM4SEC, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Bob Vawter KW4RJ, Ian Lucas KN4OEK, Scott Adams KM4PMU, Barry McDonald W5CJ and Len Grice W4MKS.

Absent: Bob Van Keuren KM4SEB

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. on a Zoom video conference call, with the President serving as chair and the Secretary being present. Two guests were present. President Steve Frazier KK4VPT called the meeting to order. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the board met online to abide by state and local guidelines.

David Jackson read the Treasurer's Report.

The board reviewed and voted on the memberships per the club's bylaws.

Joe Lowenthal said that six students signed up for the General Class, and three attended the Zoom class last night. He is working on scheduling an Extra Class to start in January 2021.

He let the board members know that Carolyn Horne KX4QF and Mary Jean Hall KN4FBL have volunteered to serve as Friday night Delta Club Net Control Operators since Carl Payne K4GPZ asked to be an alternate.

The board discussed the FCC's proposal to charge additional fees for amateur radio licenses. The board voted against the \$50 charge. More information will be listed in Sparks.

Ian Lucas said that the November program will cover DMR Radio Programming.

The board decided to start collecting 2021 membership applications, though it will only be through the mail at this time since the club has not been meeting in person. Membership applications can be found at <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/58124ffd-d6ca-4502-9af3-7fa04c033729/downloads/application-15-3.pdf?ver=1604800804540>

The club's post office box is listed at the top of the membership application.

The board members discussed the New Ham of the Year Award and Ham of the Year Award but decided to make a decision at the December meeting.

The board discussed the transition process for the 2021 Board of Directors.

Steve Frazier said that the organizers of the Swamp Stompers event set a date: Saturday, January 16, 2021. More information will be announced closer to time.

Without objection, Steve Frazier adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m. The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at Ellendale Church of Christ. Should it not be possible to meet in person, the board meeting will be held online through Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Jean Hall KN4FBL, Secretary

Minutes of Last Month's Club Meeting

Submitted by Mary Jean Hall KN4FBL

DARC Meeting Minutes for October 13, 2020

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club was held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. on a Zoom video conference call, with the President serving as chair and the Secretary being present. Club President Steve Frazier KK4VPT called the meeting to order and then welcomed everyone to the meeting. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the club met online to abide by state and local guidelines. At least 45 members and guests were present for the meeting.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO moved to “approve the minutes and Treasurer’s Report as published in Sparks.” Len Grice W4MKS seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted by the club.

Announcements

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO reminded the club members that visitation for Bill Stevens would be from 10 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. before the memorial service Saturday, October 17, 2020.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO announced that there is a General class planned, and it will start on October 26 from 6:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. It will be offered on Zoom and last through December 7, 2020, which is the date students will test. Email Joe at WA4OVO@gmail.com if you are interested in the class. Put “General class” in the subject line and include your name, call sign, email and cell number in the body.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO said that three individuals tested this past Saturday: two earned General and one upgraded to Extra.

Steve Kellett KF4SJU updated the club on upcoming ARES events.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO said that Ed Hudgens WB4RHQ is looking for net control operators for the Delta Severe Weather Net. Contact Ed or David Thomas KM4NYI for more information.

Rick Tillman WA4NVM reminded everyone about the Ham Breakfast at Danver's this Saturday morning.

Steve Frazier KK4VPT said that the Junk in the Trunk outdoor swap meet has been rescheduled to Saturday, October 24 from 8 a.m. – noon at the Ellendale Church of Christ.

Steve Frazier KK4VPT announced the nominees for the 2021 Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors:

President – Steve Frazier KK4VPT

Vice President – Mary Jean Hall KN4FBL

Treasurer – Jim Martin KD4FUU

Secretary – Carolyn Horne KX4QF

Director(s) of Programs – Ray Cole KX5RC and Ian Lucas KN4OEK

Director of Publications – Mike Harrison KN4MRW

Director of Meetings & Special Events – Scott Adams KM4PMU

Director of Training – Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

Steve continued saying that though these members are the ones who volunteered to serve on the board for next year, others wishing to serve can still be added to the ballot in November before the election. He encouraged anyone interested in running to let him know before next month to help with planning the meeting. The main requirements to serve on the board include being a paid-up member and having attended six meetings within the past year. The Zoom meeting attendance will be included for this requirement.

Discussion / Program

For the October presentation, David Norris K5UZ discussed ARRL goals, events and other helpful information. Club members discussed ARRL activities and the FCC fee proposal following the presentation.

Closing Remarks

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

The next Delta Amateur Radio Club meeting will be **Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** If the meeting is held in person, it will be at the Ellendale Church of Christ. If it is not possible to meet in person, the meeting will be held online, likely via Zoom. Check the current edition of Sparks or the Delta Amateur Radio Club Facebook page just before the scheduled meeting time for more information on where/how the meeting will be held.

Delta Ham License Training, 2020

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

There is no charge for classes, but the student is responsible for the purchase of the license manual and the \$15 ARRL FCC examination fee.

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 2020 from Delta Classes

20 Technician

5 General

4 Extra

Note:

The current Technician ARRL Ham Radio License Manual Fourth Edition with question pool that became effective July 1, 2018 for four years. This is the new question pool.

The current ARRL General Class License Manual is the Ninth Edition with question pool that became effective July 1, 2019 for four years.

The current ARRL Extra Class License Manual is the Twelfth Edition with question pool that became effective July 1, 2020 for four years.

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

As of late 2019, expired Amateur Radio license holders can get their license back by taking the current Technician exam and show proof of their previous license class. A previous Advanced Class licensee will only be able to get a General Class license.

PROPOSED CLASSES

All classes will be 3-1/4 to 4 hours long for six sessions; one per week on a weeknight 6:15pm-9:30pm or Saturday day 9am-1pm.

The next Amateur Extra class will probably start in early January.

The next Technician class will probably start in late February.

CURRENT CLASSES

General Class 4-20 – October 26 – December 7, 2020

General Class 4-20 is being held via Zoom with six students registered. It will be held on six nights on Monday and Thursday nights from October 26th to December 7th from 6:15-9:30pm. The nights are Monday October 26, Monday November 2nd, Thursday November 12th, Monday 23rd, Monday 30th and FCC testing Monday December 7th. The instructors are Perry N4GJ, Barry W5CJ, Paul KA9VAU, Len W4MKS, John KN4BVH, Pat W4OQG, and Joe WA4OVO.

SCHEDULED CLASSES

None

COMPLETED CLASSES

Tech Class 3-20 – June 25 – August 13, 2020

Tech Class 3-20 is being held starting June 25th on six Thursday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on a combination of Zoom online and planned in person classes. There are twelve students in the class. One of the students is eight years old. Both of his parents are in the class. The classes are being held on June 25, July 2, 9, 23, 30 and August 13. The Zoom classes continued thru the July 23rd class. The Laurel FCC test session was held in the gym at Germantown United Methodist Church, 2323 West Street, using social distancing.



Tech Class 3-20 Test Session

Photo by Rick Tillman WA4NVM

Congratulations to Carla Andrews KO4FVX, Ryan Bednar KO4FVY, Ransom Bowen KO4FVZ, David Harkleroad KO4FWB, Phillip Green II KO4FWC, Brian Richards KO4FWD, Cynthia Spain KO4FWE, and Philip Thomas KO4FWF for obtaining their Technician licenses. Additional congratulations to Ryan KO4FVY and Cynthia KO4FWE for also upgrading to

General. Thanks to Joe WA4OVO, Perry N4GJ, Barry W5CJ, Jelly N4HLT and Rick WA4NVM for providing the Laurel VEC test session.



Laurel VEs Jelly N4HLT, Joe WA4OVO, Perry N4GJ, Barry W5CJ with photographer Rick WA4NVM. The instructors were Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Paul Roberts KA9VAU, Len Grice W4MKS, Perry Hayes N4GJ, John Reiners KN4BVH, and Pat Lane W4OQG.

On August 13th the class met via Zoom for some of the equipment demonstrations. Rick Tillman WA4NVM gave a very informative instruction on satellite operations. Rick Pellicciotti KJ4NWQ informed the class on APRS. Joe WA4OVO presented more detailed information on Repeater Basics. The HF Wire Antennas by Pat W4OQG and programming handhelds has been deferred until we can meet. John KN4BVH provided FM digital instructions on DMR, Fusion, and D-STAR during an earlier class. Barry W5CJ provided earlier demonstrations on Echolink and information on Allstar.

General Class on Zoom – March 24 – April 10, 2020

Working with K1ZG in Massachusetts, I helped provide instruction with an online General license class on the Zoom platform. This General class was offered to the Tech Class 2-20 students. One student did participate from 1-2:30pm on week days. Students were from Massachusetts, upstate New York, Indiana, Texas and Tennessee. Barry W5CJ and Ed KV4LF were also instructors.

When FCC testing resumes, we will see how well the students retained their learning.

Congratulations to Kyle KD2TCA for upgrading on April 3rd at a drive-thru test session.

Congratulations to Debra Johnson from the Tech 2-20 for earning her General as noted below.

Tech Class 2-20 – February 22 – April 4, 2020

Tech Class 2-20 was held from February 22nd to March 21st on four Saturdays except March 14th from 9am to 1pm. The first three sessions were at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms Station precinct, 6850 Appling Farms Pkwy. Due to the coronavirus the last instructional class was held online on GoToMeeting. While the order for 10 or less people in a meeting was active, we had arranged to have the Laurel VE team provide testing at a student's shop with only five students testing at a time. However, the Safer at Home order cancelled those plans. Congratulations to Jennifer Boardman KX4YG for Tech, General and Extra; Deborah Johnson KO4DEP for Tech and General; and Thomas Clark KO4DEQ, Elliot Pope KO4DER and Marc Tester KO4DES for Tech. Thanks to the Tipton County ARS VE team led by Bob AI4GI with Ronny WA4RW and Bill KI4BIY for offering the test session. On July 30th with Tech Class 3-20 testing Michael Ehrhardt KO4FWA earned this Technician license.

Congratulations to Chris Smallwood for earning his Technician license on May 18th at the Tipton ARC test session. FCC testing for the others will be in the future after the Safer at Home declaration is lifted.



Tech Class 2-20 on first day of class. Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors were Paul Roberts KA9VAU, Pat Lane W4OQG, John Reiners KN4BVH, Perry Hayes N4GY, Len Grice W4MKS, and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO. There were no demonstrations for this class. Joe WA4OVO did cover the Repeater Basics at the end of the fourth class.

Extra Class 1-20 – January 4 – February 15, 2020

Extra Class 1-20 began on January 4th with six students for six Saturdays from 9am to 1pm at Memphis Police Department Neighborhood Watch training room at Appling Farms Station, 6850 Appling Farms Blvd. Congratulations to Bobby Stroud KK5PAC for upgrading early to Extra at the Jackson MS Capital City Hamfest on January 25th. Congrats to Brett Johnston KN4SMV for upgrading at the February 11th Delta Club test session. Congrats to Jim Harris KF5TPT for upgrading at the Olive Branch ARRL exam session on February 19th.



Dean Honadle N2LAZ demonstration left hand rule for Extra Class 1-20
Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors were Joe WA4OVO, Paul KA9VAU, Dean N2LAZ, Barry W5CJ, Dave AD4Q, David W4DWW and Pat W4OQG. The FCC testing was available on February 15th by the Delta Club ARRL VE team led by Jeff Krause AJ4GY.

Tech Review for CBU – February 5, 2020

A Tech Review class was held on February 5th for five Christian Brothers University students in the Engineering Department upper division elective course, Introduction to Unmanned Aerial Systems. Dr. Eric Welch WD5FTA requires the students to earn their FCC Technician license for this course.



All five passed with great scores. Congratulations to Judit Aubets Macia KO4BPP, Josue Bohorquez KO4BP Hammontree KO4BPT, Oscar Mendoza KI5ICD, and Samuel Ruleman KO4BPS.

The Laurel VEC team provided the FCC exam session. The VEs were Bill Stevens WC9S, Barry McDonald W5CJ, Len Grice W4MKS, Jelly Thompson N4HLT, Eric Welch WD5FTA, and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO.



CBU Introduction to Unmanned Aerial Systems Tech Class with professor Dr. Welch WD4FTA on left and instructor Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO on right.
Photo by Eric Welch WD4FTA

General Class 4-19 – November 7 – December 19, 2019

General Class 4-19 was held on six Thursday nights from November 7th thru December 19th from 6:15-9:30pm. The 11 students began with eight completing the class. The location was at the Germantown Police Department training room, 1930 South Germantown Road.

Congratulations to Rodney KN4WGV, Robert KN4KFL, Mike KM4MRW, Bobby KK5PAC and Robert KN4RBW who upgrade to General at the class test session. Congratulations of Russell Rutledge KO4ASW who earned his Technician and General licenses. Congratulations to Shawn KN4WKF for upgrading at Delta Club test session on March 10, 2020.

The instructors were Joe WA4OVO, Barry W5CJ, Paul KA9VAU, Len W4MKS, John KN4BVH and Pat W4OQG. The Delta Club ARRL VE Team tested on December 19th. Thanks to the VE team of Jeff AJ4GY, Stacy KJ4MDA, Barry W5CJ, Tom KK4ZZZ, Warren KC7ND and Joe WA4OVO for providing the testing opportunity.

General for CBU - November 20, 2019

A General test session was held on November 20th for six Christian Brothers University students in the Engineering Department upper division elective course, Unmanned Aerial Systems Design. Congratulations to Matthew Donnelly KN4ZNI, Nicholas Ireland KN4ZNK and Zhaoliang Ni KN4ZNN for upgrading to General.

Tech Review for CBU - October 30, 2019

A Tech Review class was held on October 30th for eight Christian Brothers University students in the Engineering Department upper division elective course, Unmanned Aerial Systems Design. Dr. Eric Welch WD5FTA requires the students to earn their FCC Technician and General Class licenses for this course. There are 11 students in the class with three who had earned their Tech license last February in the Intro class.

All eight students earned their Technician license and five upgraded to General. Congratulations to Mat Donnelly KN4ZNI, John Clark KN4ZNI, Nicholas Ireland KN4ZNK, Jonathan Looney KI5GZS, Pablo Marin KN4ZNM and Zhaoliang Ni KN4ZNN who earned their Technician licenses. Congratulations to Riggs Markham KN4ZNL and Zach Yancy KN4ZNO who earned Tech and also upgraded to General. Congratulations to Josue Becerra KN4SQK, Ian Dover KN4SQQ and Bryce Whitfield KI5DLE who upgraded to General.

Dr. Welch WD5FTA is the Department Chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The Laurel VE Team of Dr. Welch WD5FTA, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Bill Stevens WC9S, Barry McDonald W5CJ and Perry Hayes N4GJ administered the FCC test session.

Tech Class 3-19 – July 8 - August 12, 2019

Tech Class 3-19 was held on six Monday nights from July 8th thru August 12th from 6:15-9:30pm. The location was at the Germantown Police Department training room, 1930 South Germantown Road. Eleven students originally registered for the class, two more became students, and two resigned. So, eleven students completed the class. There was one ham who audited the class.

Congratulations to Rodney Adams KN4WGV, Daniel Brieck KN4WGW, Robert Broom KN4WGX, David Cary KN4WGY, Jim Dollar KN4WGZ, Joshua Foster KN4WHA, Vicky Gamber KN4WHB, Lauren Martin KN4WHC, Matthew Massey KI5FYA, Jonathan Pesce KN4WHD, and Shawn Thomas KN4WKF who earned their Technician licenses. Congratulations also to Robert Broom and David Cary who also earned their General licenses, as well as, Mary Jean

Hall KN4FBL who upgraded to General. Six more of the students tried for General but did not pass.

The instructors were Joe WA4OVO, Paul KA9VAU, Pat W4OQG, John KN4BVH, Perry N4GJ, and Len W4MKS. Barry W5CJ presented Echolink and Allstar information. John KN4BVH demoed DMR with information on D-Star and Fusion. On Monday, August 12th there was equipment demonstrations. Joe WA4OVO and John KN4BVH provided repeater basics and a CHIRP demo. The students checked into the Delta Net. Rick WA4NVM and Richard K4DXF made a live SO-50 satellite contact while Rick KJ4NWQ informed on APRS. Pat W4OQG showed off the non-FM side of ham radio with his Kenwood TS-2000 HF SSB setup with a long wire and talked about MARS.

The Laurel VE team of Joe WA4OVO, Bill WC9S, Jelly N4HLT, David W4DWW, Karen AG4CC, Barry W5CJ, Len W4MKS and Perry N4GJ administered the 20 exams.

Tech Class 2-19 – February 21-March 28, 2019

Tech Class 2-19 was held on six Thursday nights from February 21 thru March 28th. The location was the Germantown Police Department training room, 1930 South Germantown Road. Sixteen students signed up for the class with thirteen attending the first class and a self-study Tech auditing the class. Eight students earned their ham radio licenses.

Congratulations to Chuck Chow KN4TMR, Al Dyer KN4TMQ, Brian Hagood KN4TME, Andrew Humphreys KN4TMG, Thomas Humphreys KN4TMF, Bryan Parker KN4TMH, Mark Parrish KN4TMO, and Bob Stroud KI5DWP who earned their Technician licenses. Chuck also earned his General Class license. Since the class Chuck has upgraded to Extra as KX4RE. Congratulations to Tom Thibeault KN4SLP who audited the class and upgraded to General. Two others will test at a later date.

Thanks to the Laurel VEC team of Bill WC9S, Barry W5CJ, David KV4QI, Len W4MKS and Joe WA4OVO for providing the FCC test session.

Demonstrations were given on March 28th. John KN4BVH previewed DMR, Fusion, and Echolink. Joe WA4OVO instructed on programming FM radios and APRS while Pat W4OQG showed off HF and long wire antenna. Rick WA4NVM and Richard K4DXF made a satellite contact.

Tech Review for CBU February 20, 2019

A Tech Review class was held on February 20th for 11 Christian Brothers University students in the second Engineering Department upper division elective course, Introduction to Unmanned Aerial Systems. All 11 students earned their Technician license. The students were either Electrical, Mechanical or Computer Engineering majors. Dr. Eric Welch WD5FTA is the professor. He is

Department Chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The Laurel VE Team of Dr. Welch WD5FTA, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Bill Stevens WC9S, Barry McDonald W5CJ and Len Grice W4MKS administered the FCC test session

Extra Class 1-19 January 5 – February 16, 2019

Extra Class 1-19 began on January 5th through February 16th excluding January 26th (Jackson MS Hamfest) on six Saturdays from 9am-1pm at the Memphis Police Department Northeast Precinct, Appling Farms Station, at 6850 Appling Farms Parkway. Nine students began with seven completing the class.

Congratulations to Steve Evans KM4VYA, Carolyn Horne KX4QF, Jerry Kirkscey KX4QE, Robert Murry KN4OEF, and Bob Waters KN4PDW for earning their Extra Class license at the class ARRL FCC test session. Congratulations to Jim Martin KD4FUU who upgraded at the Delta Club test session on April 9th. The Delta Club VE Team of Jeff Krause AJ4GY, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Barry McDonald W5CJ, Bill Stevens WC9S, and David Webb KV4QI provided the FCC test session on February 16th.

HOW TO PRINT YOUR FCC LICENSE

1. Go to **<https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp>**
2. Enter your FCC Federal Registration Number (FRN) and Password
 - a. If you do not know your FRN, go to Search box and click on License
Click on Amateur; Enter your callsign in Callsign box;
Your FRN is in center of page after your name
(If you do not know your Password, click on Contact Tech Support after Forgot your Password)
3. In When My Licenses screen comes up, click on **Now** in the green line reading “Change your paper authorization preferences [here](#), or download your official electronic authorizations now”
4. In Under Download Authorizations screen, highlight your callsign in the My Authorization area at the bottom left.
5. Click on ADD to right of the highlighted callsign.
6. Highlight your callsign in Authorization to Download and then click on Download on bottom right of screen.
7. If pop-ups are blocked, click on Allow One
8. Click Open at bottom and Print your License.

VE FCC Test Session Held in October

For a second month in a row the Delta Club has offered FCC Amateur Radio examinations. Our ARRL VE Liaison Jeff Krause AJ4GY held a session at 10am on Saturday October 10th on the first floor at Ellendale Church of Christ. Three took their tests and three passed. Congratulations to Phillip Mahnken WA2JXD for upgrading to Extra. Congratulations to Kent Brown KO4HOB for upgrading to General and Michael Payne KO4IID for earning his Technician and General licenses.



VE Test Session on
October 10, 2020
Photo by Joe Lowenthal
WA4OVO

Thanks to the VE team
of Jeff AJ4GY, James
KM4USQ, TJ W4BNT,
Dan W4DTA and Joe
WA4OVO.

ARRL Benefits

ARRL amateur radio community. When you renew, a few of the benefits you will enjoy are:

- Your choice of a print magazine. Eligible US-based ARRL members can elect to receive QST, the official membership journal of ARRL or On the Air, aimed at helping new and emerging radio communicators get active and on the air.
- Digital access to all four ARRL publications -- QST, On the Air, and now QEX, covering topics related to radio communications experimentation, and National Contest Journal (NCJ), covering radio contesting.
- Access to ARRL's Technical Information Service to assist with technical problems and help with your projects.
- Free FCC license renewal and modification service.

To secure these amazing members-only benefits and many more in the coming year, visit www.arrl.org/join/WE1 to renew or call us toll-free at: 1-888-277-5289 (US Only) , Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET. International members call (860) 594-0338.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Emergency Coordinator (EC) - John Reiners KN4BVH

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

YL News
submitted by Linda

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.

Amateur Hardware Update
Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

In the past we have had to load software on our computers to use a program. Later they came out with portable software we could run without having to install on computers. Now the latest is the cloud based software which resides on the internet and we just access it to run what we want. Google has free Apps that run under the chrome operating system. Word processors, spreadsheets, and power point programs are available. Printed circuit board development software, programming editors, and lots of ham radio programs are also on the internet. These cloud based programs offer several advantages. Since they are in the cloud they get automatically updated and you always run the latest version. It is hard to get your computer infected with viruses when running cloud based software. You can also store your files in the cloud so you do not have to worry about a hard drive



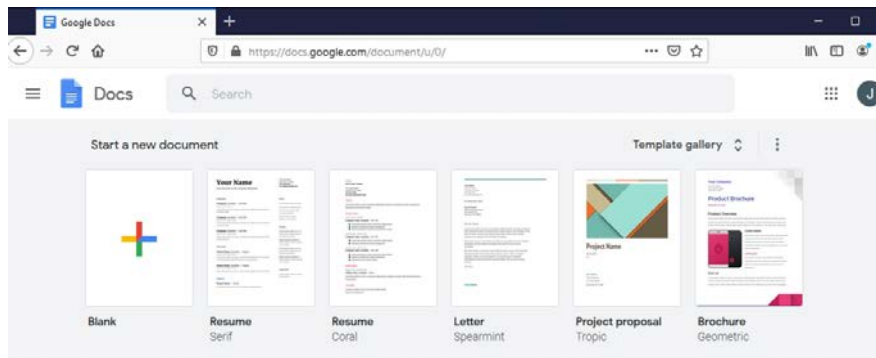
failure on your computer causing massive file losses. On my computer I have an internet shortcut on my main computer screen for quick access. I see cloud based software will be used more and more in the future due to the security feature and ease of access .

James Butler
KB4LJV

Amateur Packet Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

The ARRL has lots of great books with information to help us in our hobby. They have offered a book on antennas and antenna theory for many years. This book has always had lots of information and is over 1000 pages this year. To make this text easier to handle it is now in a 4-



volume set. Antenna theory and projects to construct your own antennas are included in the books. Volume one is antenna fundamentals. Volume two is LF, MF, and HF antennas. Volume three is VHF through microwave and specialty antennas. Volume four covers transmission lines and building antenna systems. If you are looking for comprehensive

books on antennas in easy to carry volumes, check out these from ARRL. The web address is <http://www.arrl.org/shop/ARRL-Antenna-Book-Boxed-Set/>

James Butler
KB4LJV

Logbook Of The World (LOTW) User Guide

If you are a new user or planning to use "Logbook of The World" (LoTW), Gary, ZL2IFB, has put together an easy step-by-step guide or should we say manual (about 33 pages with pictures) to help you use LoTW.

The PDF file is available for download at:
https://www.g4ifb.com/LoTW_New_User_Guide.pdf

73, W4WTN

Chicken Stick

This one doesn't come with peanut sauce. A chicken stick is a device used to actively discharge components before working on a tube amplifier or other equipment that has high voltages. It consists of a non-conductive body, a wire with an alligator clip or ring terminal connected to ground, and a conductive tip. After a piece of gear is unplugged from the AC mains and any capacitors are given time to discharge, the chicken stick is grounded to the chassis and the tip touched to various components to ensure there is no stored charge. In an amplifier, anything in the power supply and RF deck that you could possibly come in contact with is a candidate for "touches," including coils, capacitors, chokes.

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/?issue=2020-10-14>

73,
W4WTN

New Repeater in West Memphis & Buy/sell Facebook Group

There is a new System Fusion repeater in West Memphis.
The frequency is 442.400 with a PL Tone of 107.2 for non System Fusion users.

Also, Marc says there is a Buy and Sell Facebook Group for the Memphis Metro Area. The link is:

www.facebook.com/groups/memphismetroareahamradioswapshop

73,
Marc Gwin AG5QY

FST4 Protocol Harmonized!

ARRL Logbook of The World Harmonizes Designation of FST4 Protocol

The Logbook of The World (LoTW) Committee worked with WSJT-X developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, to harmonize the designation of FST4 among WSJT-X, the ADIF standard, and LoTW. At present, FST4 is only supported in a recently released beta version of WSJT-X. The committee's action was to avoid the sort of confusion that cropped up among LoTW users logging contacts in FT4 when that protocol was first included in WSJT-X. In the case of FST4, the committee acted proactively to help users avoid difficulties and obtain the maximum number of contact matches. The ADIF standard has been updated to support FST4 as a sub-mode of MFSK, and configuration file CONFIG.xml for LoTW has been updated to version 11.13, accordingly, to support FST4. Users will be offered the update when they run TQSL.

Again, FST4 is only available in WSJT-X. An ADIF file emitted by WSJT-X should properly identify FST4, so that contacts will upload smoothly into LoTW, provided the CONFIG file has been updated. — Thanks to Greg Widin, K0GW

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-logbook-of-the-world-harmonizes-designation-of-fst4-protocol>

73,
W4WTN

FCC Headquarters Relocates

FCC Headquarters has moved. The new address is 45 L St. NE, Washington, DC 20554. The change is effective immediately. The FCC announced plans to move last spring, but the transition was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The FCC, like many federal agencies, has its own zip code, so there will be no disruption in mail delivery sent by USPS to the former address. The FCC still prohibits the delivery of hand-carried documents, and all COVID-19 restrictions or instructions regarding access to FCC facilities remain in place at the new location.

“The FCC continues to balance its efforts to be accessible to the public with the need for heightened security and health and safety measures and encourages the use of the Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) to facilitate the filing of applications and other documents when possible,” the FCC said in an October 15 Public Notice.

Due to the pandemic, the move was accomplished by professional movers without the presence of any employees, all of whom had been working from home. An attempt was made during the summer to let employees back into headquarters for a day to pack up their offices and remove personal belongings, but that plan had to be scrapped after several employees tested positive for COVID-19.

Most FCC staff continue to work from home and are not expected to be physically present in their new offices before next June.

In anticipation of the planned move, the FCC last spring also announced the adoption of a new FCC seal. The redesign is the product of an agency-wide contest that solicited proposals from employees and contractors. The revised design incorporates several elements: communications technologies; four stars on the outer seal border, drawing from the legacy of the predecessor Federal Radio Commission (FRC) seal, retaining the three-wire dipole supported by two towers; 18 stars on the shield, recognizing the current number of bureaus and offices; and the eagle and shield, identifying the FCC as a federal government agency.

Official use of the new seal was to begin following completion of the FCC’s move from The Portals to its new location on L Street NE.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-headquarters-relocates>

73, W4WTN

Don Keith N4KC

Author and filmmaker Don Keith, N4KC, has announced that his new film, *Colors of Character*, will debut in selected theaters nationwide on November 11. The film follows young African-American artist Steve Skipper, who was frustrated at every turn. Keith also wrote a biography of Skipper, titled *Dream On: A Journey to Deliverance*.



Keith wrote the book that became a movie "**Killer Hunter**" about a nuclear submarine skipper who became entangled in a Russian coup attempt. Don lives in Alabama and has been seen with his books at the Huntsville and Birmingham Hamfest's in the past.

Sparks Newsletter and 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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Immediate Past President

Ken Laseter, KI4AOH
KenLaseter@gmail.com
901-487-9103

Public Service Events

Swamp Stompers is scheduled for Saturday, January 16, 2021. More info next month.

Tennessee Amateur Radio License Plate Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

• **As of October 2018, all you need to renew your ham tag is to provide a copy of your FCC license with a copy of your last year's registration or a renewal notice, if you received one, and your payment.**

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>

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.

Memphis Area VHF/UHF Nets

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
Sunday Super Niner Net	927.6125	- (146.2)	8:30p	Sun
TN Statewide DMR Net	Digital – DMR		8:00 p	Friday

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 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 & **5:30 PM** (beginning Nov. 9 evening)

Saturday - 8:00 AM & 5:30 PM

Sunday - 8:00 AM only

Holidays - 8:00 AM only

Used equipment for sale
Please ONLY contact the person offering the equipment.

If you would like to advertise equipment you have for sale, please email Bob. My email address is vawter.bob@gmail.com

1. Alinco VHF/UHF Twin Band DR 735 (new in the box)
2. Alinco EDS 30 (new in the box)
3. 2 Speakers Kit HSN4039 (new in the box)
4. Kenwood THK 20A 144 mhz FM Transceiver (new in the box)
5. Galaxy Blue Light Digital Frequency Counter (new in the box)
6. Kenwood Charger (new)

If anyone is interested, please email me lelnicholson@gmail.com or call me @ 901-413-6096 Lel Nicholson

If you have new members just starting out as Ham operators and could use some sections of Rohn Tower, I have some that I am willing to part with. They have been out of use for many years and at 79 years of age, I have no revival plans for them. Currently stored at ground level. Not too pretty but I do have the top cap.

Respond to Earl Barker, 5940 Bishop Dale Dr, Memphis, Tn 38141-6954

Contact via USPS only until further info is exchanged.

For Sale: Ringo Ranger VHF antenna. 6 db gain! Well used, but still works great. About 12 feet long. I have the complete antenna and I printed a set of instructions for set up and tuning.

\$25 contact Bob Vawter KW4RJ at vawter.bob@gmail.com

DELTA CLUB ADVERTISEMENTS

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)



Joe Miller
Owner

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