

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 63 * April 2021



Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC)

Sparks Newsletter

Website: <http://deltaclub.org>

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}	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: April 2021 Member Meeting

Time: Apr 13, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87413148736?pwd=NEFrQ0tWZzdnb0Vmd1NKQUlnVTNEUT09>

Meeting ID: 874 1314 8736

Passcode: 123086

Program: "UHF / VHF Propagation" if time permits "HF Propagation"

For Ham License testing information: Contact Jeff Krause, AJ4GY at AJ4GY@comcast.net or call at 901-301-6776 for information. If enough testers are identified, Jeff will hold a special testing session.

Announcements

There will be no Freefest this year.

President's Corner
Submitted by Steve Frazier, KK4VPT

This time last year we were looking at options how we could have the April 2020 meeting while not meeting in person due to Covid-19. As we all know, it has been a long year with more challenges and changes than we could have imagined a year ago. You can be proud of the way that Delta Club has handled the challenges and adapted to the changes. With vaccines for Covid-19 becoming more available and more people eligible for the vaccine, we are hopeful that we will be able to meet in person again soon. Currently the number of Covid-19 in the United States is trending down, but there are some states showing large increases in the number of cases. This is giving mixed signals when things get back to the pre Covid-19 normal. We will continue to follow CDC and local guidelines for when large groups will be able to meet in person.

We have been able to continue to meet using online Zoom meetings. Once we do meet in person again, we will record the in person meetings and would like to even broadcast the meetings real time if that is possible due to the limited internet access where we meet. As we plan to get ready for recording and hopefully broadcasting the live meetings, if this is something you feel you would like to be involved with; let us know.

I hope you have had a chance to check out our new YouTube page - Delta Amateur Radio Club. We will continue to add to the page and if you have any videos of Delta Club events or activities now or in the future that you would like to have added to the page, let us know.

One positive sign that things will eventually be back to normal sometime this year is the fact that the Huntsville Hamfest is planned for Saturday August 21, 2021. We are planning to offer seats on a chartered bus again this year. We are still working out the details, but the cost is estimated to be \$70 - \$75 per person and will include admission to the Hamfest. If you are interested in joining us on the bus, send Joe Lowenthal (wa4ovo@gmail.com) an email with the Subject Line: Huntsville Bus Trip, and include in text your name, email address and cellphone number.

I look forward to seeing you on the Zoom meeting on Tuesday and don't forget the stay in touch every night at 8pm on the net on the 146.82 repeater.

73
Steve Frazier
KK4VPT

Treasurer's Report
Submitted by Jim Martin, KD4FUU

Please renew your membership right away, so you won't forget about it! The membership application may be downloaded from our website (for both renewals *and* new members) at:

<https://deltaclub.org/membership>

Annual membership fee is \$20 per individual or \$25 per family. Completed applications and payment may be mailed to:

**Delta Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 342768
Memphis, TN 38134-2768**

If you prefer you can print and bring the completed form, along with the membership fee, to any in-person meeting. Please contact Jim Martin KD4FUU at kd4fuu@gmail.com with any questions or concerns regarding application submission and/or payment of annual dues.

LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS
February 27, 2021 through March 31, 2021

SUMMARY			
Beginning Balance	\$20,130.51	Minimum Daily Balance	\$20,130
Deposits & Credits	\$0.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$20,130
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$0.00 -		
Ending Balance	\$20,130.51		

Date ▼	Type	Description	Amount	Balance
APR 2		DEPOSIT	\$115.00	\$20,245.51

SMALL BUSINESS CD *0028

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$10,698.48	1.590 %	\$41.84	\$8.39
▼ View More Details			

Applications Received – March 2021

(2) New Members	\$40.00
(3) Renewals	\$65.00
(1) Donations (submitted w/ applications)	<u>\$10.00</u>
Total Received	\$115.00

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Carolyn Horne, KX4QF

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2021

Attendees: Mary Jean Hall KY4FB, Carolyn Horne KX4QF, Jim Martin KD4FUU, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Mike Harrison KM4MRW, Ian Lucas KN4OEK, Ray Cole KX5RC, Scott Adams KM4PMU, and Barry McDonald W5CJ, Len Grice W4MKS.

Absent: Steve Frazier KK4VPT

Guests: None

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, April 5, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. on a Zoom video conference call, with the Vice-President serving as chair and the Secretary being present. Vice-President Mary Jean Hall KY4FB called the meeting to order. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the board met online to abide by state and local guidelines.

Carolyn Horne read the new and renewed membership requests. Joe Lowenthal made a motion to accept them. Ian Lucas seconded the motion. The motion to approve these members passed.

Jim Martin read the Treasurer's Report. We took in \$115 for memberships including a \$10 donation from a new member. The deposit went in on April 2, 2021. Barry McDonald made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Joe Lowenthal seconded it. The motion to approve it passed. Jim Martin said he still needs to set up a meeting with Steve Frazier and the bank to change the name on the club's account.

Jim Martin received five membership application forms in our P.O. Box and forwarded pdf versions of them to Carolyn Horne for processing. He will retain the original forms until we are meeting again in person, then turn them over to the Secretary. Of the applications, two were new and three were renewals.

Mike Harrison asked when our current CD matures. There was talk of rolling more of our cash account into a CD.

Joe Lowenthal said eighteen finished Tech Class 2-21. Thirteen from class tested with one testing in March. On April 5th test session two from CBU (Christian Brothers University) also tested. Everyone passed. Three took General and passed. One went for Extra and passed. The lady who tested in March also ran the table to Extra. And all nine CBU students passed and got their Technician licenses. Dr. Welch and Barry McDonald were VE's. Jacob White, nine years of age, passed Tech and is studying for his General. The next class will probably start at the end

of June or first part of July, but we will wait until May to announce the Technician class schedule.

Mike Harrison is working on the current issue of SPARKS. He will be updating the club website with a new frequency list. Joe Lowenthal has training info and photos to be uploaded. Mike Harrison said his computer has been updated and the operating system compresses files better for uploading, making the process easier.

Ian Lucas and Ray Cole are doing a presentation on VHF/UHF propagation at the April Membership Meeting. This will feature a 20-minute video by Dave Casler KE0OG. If time permits, they will also present a video by Dave Casler on HF propagation. Ian Lucas said they had a confirmed booking for Bob Heil to do a Zoom presentation at the May Membership Meeting.

The board discussed the possibility of meeting in person in May, with video streaming at the Ellendale Church of Christ. It was decided that it may not be timely since we are featuring such a high-profile guest and we may have to work out some kinks. Joe Lowenthal said to hold off until June to talk about opening that up.

Scott Adams reported that there should be snacks to draw from for a possible bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest. Carolyn Horne asked about getting snacks for those with dietary restrictions. Scott Adams said to give him a list and he would see about getting those.

Barry McDonald reported that the APRS antenna at Methodist North was damaged by a storm. Another 2m antenna, our 147.36 repeater, was hit by lightning. Rick Tillman WA4NVM and Barry McDonald were able to retrieve part of the APRS antenna that had ended up on another building. They put both antennas back up on 04/05/2021. They have photos of their work, which may be shown at the April Membership Meeting. Barry McDonald found and fixed an issue with the 146.82 repeater time-out. The repeater was timing out after two minutes, giving no warning. The controller was set for three minutes and does give a warning. He reprogrammed the repeater to set it for four minutes so the controller will give a time-out first. Barry McDonald said there was still no word on the permanent fix for Channel 30 waveguide.

Len Grice gave a reminder to add a person to our mailing list and Joe Lowenthal said that had been done. He said that our next big event will be Field Day and we should get mileage out of the COVID pandemic for that. People staying at home are more interested in Amateur Radio. Mary Jean Hall said that the Nashville incident where AT&T had a severe outage was also an incentive for people to get HT's.

Steve Frazier was not able to make this BOD meeting, so Mary Jean Hall filled in for him. Mary Jean Hall said that SKYWARN training attendance was good this year. Radar training was especially good. She encouraged all to get the radar training. Carolyn Horne mentioned

that NWS Memphis does post their training videos on YouTube if people were not able to attend the live sessions. Mary Jean Hall discussed plans for Field Day this year. Some options included a split between the Ellendale Church of Christ and members working at their home QTH, or the Agricenter, or Shelby Farms. Mary Jean Hall said the Agricenter is still closed to the public. We want someplace with shade or an air-conditioned building and must have washrooms. Joe Lowenthal suggested we pick this up again next month.

Joe Lowenthal said that eighteen people are confirmed and five are interested in the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest. He said that prices have increased for both Danver's fare and the bus rental. A 56-passenger bus costs \$2060 and a 40-passenger bus is \$1772. Joe said he was able to get the larger bus for the price of the smaller one before and will make a contact to try to do the same this time. He gave the board a breakdown on how many would need to go per bus at \$70 and \$75 to break even. He gave the board figures back to 2015 for comparison. Len Grice asked how much the club usually subsidizes the trip. The figures showed it varied each year from \$421 (2018) to a net gain of \$46 (2015). Mary Jean Hall said a waiver of liability should be signed by each attendee, considering the risks during the pandemic. Joe Lowenthal said he will make a reservation for a table. He is working on a price list of the items we have for sale and will have them available for publication in SPARKS by the end of April.

Mary Jean Hall is working on updating our by-laws. The board held a special ad-hoc meeting on Tuesday, March 23 at 6:30 PM via Zoom to begin the process. Another ad-hoc meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 22 at 6:30 PM.

Mike Harrison made a motion to adjourn, and Barry McDonald seconded the motion. Mary Jean Hall adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM. The next regular Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Horne KX4QF, Secretary

Minutes of Last Month's Club Meeting

Submitted by Carolyn Horne, KX4QF

DARC Meeting Minutes for March 9, 2021

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 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 57 members and guests were present for the meeting. Steve Frazier KK4VPT addressed the question of when we would be able to meet again in person. He said we need to follow the Ellendale Church of Christ's guidelines. We will meet when it's safe and try to do both live and on-the-air meetings.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Ned Savage KA4BLL moved to "approve the Minutes and Treasurer's Report as published in Sparks." Dan Wehner KN4FBJ seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted by the club.

Announcements

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO announced that Tech class 2-21 has had 2 classes. They are meeting Thursday, March 11 for the 3rd class, Monday, March 22nd for the 4th, Monday, March 29th for the 5th to include testing, and Monday, April 5th for an equipment demo. They are running a bit behind so may have to extend it one week. Testing last month for Extra saw 2 new licensees, KY4FB and KY4FH. For the Tech Review and Exam on February 24th at CBU, Christian Brothers University, there were 7 new technicians out of 9 participants. The 2 students who did not pass had evidently not studied. This is part of Eric Welch's 'Intro to UAS Unmanned Aerial Systems'. If they pass the test 10 points are added to their final grade. It keeps them legal flying drones for photography when they use the Ham radio frequencies.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO said that he got figures on the cost of a bus to the Hunstville Hamfest and did an analysis of the past 9 or 10 years (where he had figures handy), and it looks like it will be \$70-75 depending on how many people we get to go on the bus. We need 35 people at least to make it worthwhile. The bus has gone up \$300 from 2019, mostly due to COVID-19 cleaning guidelines. The bathroom is closed off unless someone on the bus other than the driver cleans the facility, so that is something we would have to address. Joe talked with the Hamfest coordinator who said that to enable social distancing, the Von Braun center is opening up 100% of the facility,

where we only had use of part of it in the past. This extra space is being provided free of charge however this means that the area usually used for trucks would be used as well, making ingress and egress of equipment difficult. The entry fee is \$10 as it was last year. With food and drinks provided it would be \$55-60 you would pay for the ride on the bus. Steve Frazier KK4VPT thought the price was reasonable considering the extra costs for cleaning and the increase in the cost of fuel. Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO asked for a head count of those who would be interested in going on the bus to budget accordingly. Steve Frazier KK4VPT agreed to that to see if it worth pursuing. There was a question about the date and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO announced that it would be August 21st. We leave early Saturday morning and get there by the time it opens, then leave after the drawing.

Steve Frazier KK4VPT said some people still drive up. The venue is adjacent to the Embassy Suites Hotel and the Hamfest has some rooms blocked out. Rick Tillman WA4NVM said if you go through the Huntsville Hamfest website you can book the rooms, otherwise the hotel will say they are booked up. The rooms are \$137 plus tax.

A show of hands gave a tally of 9 or 10 people currently interested. Steve Frazier KK4VPT said that's a pretty good indicator that it's not out of the question. He said before the next board meeting he will try to have an on-line sign-up sheet. Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO said he would also take emails to wa4ovo@gmail.com with the subject 'Huntsville Hamfest' with your callsign and phone number.

John Reiners KN4BVH said that Spring is here and the National Weather Service is doing Skywarn training. You can go to https://www.weather.gov/meg/Skywarn_spring2021 (meg is the Memphis office) to view the Spring training schedule and on-line session links. Basic Spotter Training webinars run from February 25 through March 25. John Reiners KN4BVH said that the March ARES meeting has been moved up to the 22nd to take in one of these classes. Advanced Spotter Training class is on March 29. There are two new classes this year, Spotter Network Operations on Tuesday March 30, and Basic Radar Interpretation on Thursday April 1. Damon Runion WA4HFN reminded people that as we enter the severe weather season, if you have a go-box test it to make sure it is in good working order and charge the batteries.

Steve Frazier said that along those lines, if you use Logbook of the World (LOTW) be sure to renew every 3 years, or you will not be able to add new log entries. Rick Tillman WA4NVM said it is the TSQ certificate that expires. It is much easier to renew it before it expires.

Rick Tillman WA4NVM said MARA will do a Junk-in-the-Trunk on May 1 as there will be no Freefest this year. It would be a loss for the hospital due to increased costs with COVID-19. Rick Kanshat N0KYN said that it is still listed in QST magazine under events and should be removed. Rick Tillman WA4NVM said they probably compiled that list quite a while ago to get it ready for publishing.

Danny Britt KK4CBI asked if there is a Hamfest in Corinth, MS. Ian Lucas KN4OEK said the SERA – Southeastern Repeater Association website has a flyer up for the April Fool Hamfest at the Crossroads Arena in Corinth March 27th and 28th.

Steve Frazier KK4VPT said the only other Hamfest he knew of was in Tullahoma. Toward the end of the month there is one in Sevierville, TN but it is a bit of a drive. He encouraged everyone who can to get to one of these to support them and they sure would appreciate it.

Discussion / Program

Ian Lucas KN4OEK gave a presentation on ‘Memphis Area Repeaters, Features, and Activity’. Mike Harrison KM4MRW said he would be updating the Delta Club website with the latest list of repeaters and frequencies.

Carlos O’Neill KB4CO said he had purchased a BlueCAT adapter online and it works well with repeaters. It is for Yaesu and Icom radios only. The adapter connects to a CAT port on the radio and links to an Android phone or tablet with the Repeaterbook app which shows all repeaters in the area, then you just click on one in the app, and it loads it into your radio. It is not available for iPhone or iPad. He said YouTube has many videos on this product (e.g. [BlueCAT for Yaesu and Icom - YouTube](#)). The manufacturer is MLS, Martin Lynch & Sons. You can email Carlos at carlosoneill@me.com and he will give you more information.

Closing Remarks

Steve Frazier KK4VPT in his President’s Corner article announced that we now have a new YouTube Channel called ‘Delta Amateur Radio Club’. He said he created it for a couple of reasons: some people are not on Facebook where he normally posts videos, and it is harder to search video archives there. He created Playlists such as one devoted to Member Meetings. He will also add the Program Topics to the titles of the videos in that group. The Channels tab provides links to other related YouTube sites. The About tab provides links to our website and Facebook page. He asked that if anyone has any videos that would be interesting to the club to contact him about getting them uploaded. The Member Meetings are usually posted the morning after our monthly meetings. He mentioned that David Campbell used to record a lot of our meetings and events. If anyone knows their whereabouts, please let him know. After Zoom meetings are no longer the norm, he wants to keep video recording our meetings and events, then upload them to our YouTube Channel.

Carlos O’Neill KB4CO has an HRI200 Wires-X box he would like to donate if we can use it. Barry McDonald W5CJ said if it requires an internet connection, we probably cannot use it since the Brunswick tower site where our Fusion repeater is located does not have internet. Bobby Stroud KD5BS said that you do not need an internet connection at the repeater site, but it can run in your shack and connect over the air to the repeater as long as it has permissions. He runs three of them himself. Carlos O’Neill KB4CO said that in that case he can run it in his shack to our C4FM Fusion repeater.

Delta Club President Steve Frazier KK4VPT adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

The next Delta Amateur Radio Club meeting will be Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. 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 the Zoom link for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Horne KX4QF, Secretary (2021)

Delta Ham License Training, 2021

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. The FCC will implement a \$35 application fee in 2021.

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 2021 from Delta Classes

22 Technician

4 General

4 Extra

Note:

Coming soon will be a \$35 FCC application fee for new hams, renewals, upgrades, etc except for address or email changes.

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 week night 6:15pm-9:30pm or Saturday day 9am-1pm.

After February the next Technician license class will probably start in late June or early July.

The next General license class will probably start in early November 2021.

The next Extra Class license class will probably start in early January 2022

SCHEDULED CLASSES

None at this time

CURRENT CLASSES

None

COMPLETED CLASSES

Tech Class 2-21 – February 22 – April 5, 2021

A Technician license class was held one night a week via Zoom from February 22nd thru April 5th on Monday or Thursday nights. Twenty-two students started on the 22nd with 19 finishing the training. An in-person class was held on March 29th for review and opportunity for FCC exam at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Hwy 70 (Summer Ave) in Bartlett.

Sixteen students tested and all passed.

Congratulations to Wallace Bell KO4OWD, Park Dodge AI5CY, Michael Engelken KI5PDQ, Arie McClanahan KI5PDR, Scott McDermott KO4OWE, Terrell Naylor KO4OWF, Craig Owen KO4OWG, Adam Shirley KO4OWH, Don Swindoll KO4OWI, Diane Thomas KO4OWJ, Anthony Tribo KO4OQK, and Bruce Swindoll KO4OWN. Additional congratulations to Michael KI5PDQ and Scott KO4OWE for upgrading to General. An extra congratulatons to Park AI5CY for running the table to Extra Class. Congratulations also to Ina Wiehl KY4GA for running the table to Extra Class at the Atoka TARS test session on March 15th.



Tech Class 2-21 test session left side Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO



Tech Class 2-21 test session right side Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

Also, two CBU students tested. Congratulations to Jose Bonafasi KO4OWL and Will Clayton KF0EYO.

Additionally, nine year old Jacob White KO4OWN earned his Technician license.



Photo back left to right:: 9 year old Jacob KO4OWN and proud grandpa Bob AI4GI;
front left to right: VEs Perry N4GJ, Bobby KD5BS, Jeff KJ4GY

Thanks to the Laurel VEC team of Joe WA4OVO, Perry N4GJ, Jeff AJ4GY, Barry W5CJ, Bobby KD5BS, Rick WA4NVM, and Eric WD5FTA for administering the FCC test session.

The instructors were Paul KA9VAU, Perry N4GJ, Len W4MKS, John KN4BVH, Barry W5CJ, Pat W4OQG, and Joe WA4OVO. The equipment demonstrators were Rick WA4NVM and Richard K4DXF on Satellite, Rick KJ4QNWQ on APRS, John KN4BVH on Digital, and Joe WA4OVO on Repeater Basics.

CBU Tech Review Class 3-21 – February 24, 2021

A Technician license review session was held in Dr. Eric Welch (WD5FTA)'s junior level Introduction to Unmanned Aerial Vehicle class for nine Christian Brother

University students on February 24th . Congratulations to Cesar Mireles KO4NFT, Allison Sorette KO4NFU, Brennan Griffin KO4NFV, Michael Longo KO4NFW, Jose Villa Hidalgo KO4NFX, Novy KO4NFY and Sean Williams KI5OEI, who earned their Technician licenses.

Thanks to the Laurel VEC Team of Barry W5CJ, Perry N4GJ, Jelly N4HLT, Rick WA4NVM, Eric WD5FTA and Joe WA4OVO for providing the FCC test session.

EXTRA Class 1-21 – January 4 – February 25, 2021

An Extra Class license class was held one night a week via Zoom from January 4th thru February 25th on Monday or Thursday nights from 6:15-9:30pm. The Zoom classes met on January 4, 14, 21, 25, February 1, 11 and tested a week late on the 25th due to snow on the 18th. The students were Carla KO4FVX, Ransom KO4FVZ, Russell KO4ASW, Jason KO4DOH, Mary Jean KN4FBL and David KN4BXI.

Congratulations to Mary Jean Hall KY4FB (formerly KN4FBL) and David Wilson KY4FH (formerly KN4BXI) who passed their Extra exam on the 25th.

The instructors were Joe WA4OVO, John KN4BVH, Dean N2LAZ , Barry W5CJ, Dave AD4Q, Paul KA9VAU and Pat W4OQG.

Thanks to the Delta Club ARRL VE Team of Jeff Krause AJ4GY, Stacy KJ4MDA, Warren KC7ND, Tom KK4ZZZ, Barry W5CJ and Joe WA4OVO for providing the FCC test session.

In addition to the Extra Class students testing, congratulations to Brian Kelly KO4KAO for upgrading to General. Also, the following earned their Technician licenses: Dan Currey KO4NGZ, Rob Currey KO4NHA, Wilson Langford KO4NHB, Ebben Raves KO4NHC, David Wolford KO4NHD, Garrett Robinson KO4NHE, and Steven Porter KO4NHF.

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

General Class 4-20 was held via Zoom with five students. It was held on five nights on Monday and Thursday nights from October 26th to December 7th from 6:15-9:30pm. The nights were Monday October 26, Monday November 2nd, Thursday November 12th, Monday 23rd and ARRL FCC testing Monday December 7th.

Congratulations to Ransom Bowen KO4FVZ and Elliot Pope KO4DER for upgrading to General on December 7th. Also, congratulations to Carla Andrews KO4FVX for upgrading to General on December 21st at the Tipton County ARS (Atoka) test session.

The others will test later. Congratulations to Kevin Kelly KO4KAO who earned his Technician license during the Delta Club test session.

Thanks to the ARRL VE Team of Jeff Krause AJ4GY, Warren Zimmer KC7ND, Tom Ungren KK4ZZZ, Dan Columbus AA4HV, Barry McDonald W5CJ and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO for providing the test session.

The instructors were Perry N4GJ, Barry W5CJ, Paul KA9VAU, Len W4MKS, John KN4BVH, Pat W4OQG, and Joe WA4OVO.

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.

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.

Amateur Hardware Update

By: James Butler KB4LJV

When moving our radios to portable and emergency sites we want to make sure they get there without any damage. One company that has come up with a solution is TAC-COMM. They build steel cases to enclose your radio gear and keep it protected. These cases are available in different sizes for specific radios. They include a tilt up stand on the case. The cases have slots in them to allow for radio cooling. The cases also have a handle to carry the radio. The company has lots of extras you can buy with the cases. The cooling slots can also be used to mount straps to hold batteries and other equipment. The optional front cover can be repositioned on top of the case to serve as an HT holder. If you are looking for a rugged case to transport your radio equipment safely, check out these from TAC-COMM. Their web address is <https://www.tac-comm.com/>



Packet Update

By: James Butler KB4LJV

For amateur radio we need to know what frequencies we can operate with our license. We also need to know the band limits for each band we can operate. Some bands also have a power level limit we can use. The different modes we use are also regulated on the bands. To make sure we are legal we need access to an up to date frequency allocation chart. A good place to get this information on the internet is the ARRL. They have information to answer your questions. A section on their website will allow you to look up all this information. The web address for their frequency allocation chart is <http://www.arrl.org/frequency-allocations>

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 KJ4CTX

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.

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

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

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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W5CJ@ARRL.NET
901-853-0510

Public Service Events

N/A

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 State of Tennessee is again making Amateur Radio License Plates since reconstruction of the building that was demolished by the tornado in Nashville in February 2020.

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	444.175	+ (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** (5:30 pm beginning Nov. 9 evening)

Saturday - 8:00 AM & 5:30 PM

Sunday - 8:00 AM only

Holidays - 8:00 AM only

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)



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Owner

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