

# SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 \* Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 \* Volume 75 \* April 2022



**Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC)**

**Sparks Newsletter**

**Website: <http://deltaclub.org>**

**Facebook:**

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

## **W4BS**

### **REPEATER SYSTEM**

146.820 <sup>-107.2</sup>	* 147.360 <sup>+107.2</sup>
146.625 <sup>-107.2</sup>	443.200 <sup>+107.2</sup>
224.420 <sup>-107.2</sup>	443.700 <sup>+107.2</sup>
144.390 Digipeater	*Fusion

We plan to meet this month **via “ZOOM” and in-person.**

This month's meeting begins at 7:00pm on April 12, 2022 at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Highway 70 in Memphis, TN (1 ½ miles north of Highway 64 / Stage Road) and via ZOOM accessible with the link below.

Topic: Delta Amateur Radio Club Monthly Meeting – April 12, 2022

Time: April 12, 2022 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

**Program:** Sebastian Delmont, KI2D will be presenting on Grid Tracker

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/88354601388?pwd=VIINQ292VGU3Q01IZGI1TFZlZ0Y0dz09>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88354601388?pwd=VIINQ292VGU3Q01IZGI1TFZlZ0Y0dz09>

Meeting ID: 883 5460 1388

Passcode: 041257

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,88354601388#,,, \*041257# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,88354601388#,,, \*041257# US (Chicago)

There will be FCC Testing Tuesday night.

VE TESTING: Don't forget the monthly ARRL Volunteer Examiner testing session prior to in-person meetings. Registration begins at 5:30 PM and testing begins by 6:00 PM. Please remember to bring two (2) forms of identification, at least one a photo ID, and copies of any existing licenses or CSCE's you might have. Please be on time for registration, as you will not be allowed to enter the testing session after 6:00 PM. This is to allow our volunteer VE team to finish in time to attend the club meeting. Candidates MUST have a FCC FRN BEFORE coming to the testing session. For more VE testing, or FCC FRN, information, please contact:

Daniel Columbus, AA4HV, VE Liaison  
Phone: 901-208-1535  
Email: [aa4hv@arrl.net](mailto:aa4hv@arrl.net)

## Announcements

### FOUR-FORTY NET

The Delta Club has a weekly net, the Four-Forty Net, which is on 443.700 with a +5 MHz offset and a PL tone of 107.2 Hz. The Four-Forty Net is every Friday at 8:30 pm after the Delta Club Information Net. Please join us to test out your 70 cm equipment and see how well we get into this W4BS repeater.

Field Day is June 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, more to come....

Begin planning for the Huntsville Hamfest on August 20, 2022.

## President's Corner

Submitted by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB

It was great to get to see everyone at the Memphis FreeFest this past Saturday. If you were not able to attend, you definitely missed out on a fun time! It was nice to get to meet some of the new hams, see some familiar faces, and play a part in raising money for LeBonheur Children's Hospital. I'd like to express sincere appreciation for all of the Mid-South Amateur Radio Association (MARA) members who worked hard to plan FreeFest, the volunteers who helped work the event, the vendors, the prize donors, and anyone who attended FreeFest. It's exciting

to have an event like this so close to home. After seeing such a great turnout, especially early in the day, it's clear that many other hams are thinking the same thing.

If you weren't able to attend the event, then don't worry. It's that time of the year to start thinking about another fun Amateur Radio event: ARRL Field Day! This year's Field Day will be June 25 and 26. It's still in the planning phase, but we know that a local site will be at the Germantown Municipal Park, which is the same location as last year. Attend one of the upcoming club meetings or keep an eye on SPARKS for more information.

This month's membership meeting will be in-person/hybrid, and I would guess that we will be using this format for a while. I hope so anyway! We will still have the Zoom option for the time being for those who cannot make it to the meeting. We will add our pre-program break back into the meeting this month for those who want to mingle and catch up with some other hams.

We have an immediate opening for the Director of Programs position. Steve Romagni W4DTA has done an incredible job so far in his role, but unfortunately he informed us that he needs to step down. Steve, thank you for your service to Delta Club!! If you have an interest in talking with others to line up speakers, or if you have a wealth of ham radio knowledge to present, please let a board member know. We'd be happy to tell you about what to expect in the role. This position would run through December 2022.

73,  
Mary Jean Hall KY4FB

**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 38184-2768**

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**

March 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022

**SUMMARY**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$20,570.32</b>	Minimum Daily Balance	\$20,270
Deposits & Credits	\$1,475.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$21,092
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$611.38 -		
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$21,433.94</b>		

**DEPOSITS & CREDITS**

03/11	Deposit - Thank You	875.00
03/11	Deposit - Thank You	265.00
03/21	Deposit - Thank You	70.00
03/21	Deposit - Thank You	120.00
03/30	Deposit - Thank You	45.00
03/31	Deposit - Thank You	60.00
03/31	V4adj 26-2490100036	40.00
<b>Total Deposits &amp; Credits</b>		<b>\$1,475.00</b>

**CHECKS**

Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
03/07	1560	300.00	03/31	1562	200.00
03/11	1561	111.38			
<b>Total Checks</b>					<b>\$611.38</b>

\* Break In Check Number Sequence.

**DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY**

Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
03/07	20,270.32	03/21	21,488.94	03/31	21,433.94
03/11	21,298.94	03/30	21,533.94		

**SMALL BUSINESS CD \*0028**

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$10,869.94	1.590 %	\$42.53	\$8.05
<a href="#">▼ View More Details</a>			

### Applications Received - March 2022

(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues	\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived	\$0.00
(4) New Membership(s)	\$85.00
(12) Membership Renewal(s)	\$240.00
(0) Donations Received	\$0.00

**Total Dues  
Received      \$325.00**

### Other Deposits

Karen Chancelor Estate Sale	\$1,150.00
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**Total Other  
Deposits      \$1,150.00**

**Total Deposits      \$1,475.00**

### Debits/Payments

Donation to Ellendale Church of Christ	\$300.00
Meeting Refreshments/Supplies	\$111.38
Club prize donation to MARA Freefest 2022	\$200.00

**Total Payments      \$611.38**

**DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
Submitted by Carolyn Horne, KX4QF

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for April 5,2022

*Attendees: Mary Jean Hall KY4FB, John Reiners KN4BVH, Carolyn Horne KX4QF, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Mike Harrison KM4MRW, Steve Romagni W4DTA, Scott Adams KM4PMU and Barry McDonald W5CJ.*

*Absent: Jim Martin KD4FUU, Len Grice W4MKS.*

*Guests: Daniel Columbus AA4HV.*

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 6:30 PM on a Zoom video conference call, with the President serving as chair and the Secretary being present. President Mary Jean Hall called the meeting to order.

Mary Jean Hall discussed whether to have next week's Members Meeting only via Zoom or both in-person and via Zoom. The board determined that current conditions warrant having a hybrid meeting. The link to the meeting will be sent by email and may also be found in the SPARKS newsletter on the deltaclub.org website. Mary Jean said that our Zoom subscription will be good for a year. There was a discussion about the technical and audio aspects of conducting the hybrid meeting.

Steve Romagni announced that he will be stepping down from his position as Director of Programs due to his work schedule. The board of directors will appoint and vote on his replacement.

Mary Jean Hall gave a summary of findings from the committee meeting on digital payment options. The best solution is going directly through PayPal, using a form provided by them, but more research is needed. A surcharge of around \$1.00 would apply to those electing to renew their memberships using digital payment.

Mary Jean, in Treasurer Jim Martin's absence, read the Treasurer's Report the Jim provided. Joe Lowenthal said we have sold about \$5000 worth of estate equipment.

Mary Jean said she would like to get word out about the MARA FreeFest on April 9 in SPARKS. Mike Harrison will try to get this edition out by Friday.

Daniel Columbus, VE Liaison, said he is getting ready for testing at FreeFest and this month's Members' Meeting. ARRL sent him a new batch of tests. He said that FreeFest testing begins at 8:30 AM and ends at 11:00 AM, but cutoff time for beginning your test is 10:30 AM. He is emailing the ARRL VEs to assist in testing.

Joe Lowenthal said eight out of nine Tech students passed the exam and the remaining student will be testing at FreeFest. One student flew in from Texas to take the test in person. The last session, the night before the board meeting, was for demos on repeater basics, satellite/ISS (presented by Rick Tillman WA4NVM), intro to APRS (presented by Joe Pellicciotti KJ4NWQ), and digital modes (presented by John Reiners KN4BVH). He said there may be another Tech Class in June or early July.

Joe Lowenthal discussed plans for the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest. He is waiting to get a quote from Cline Tours but expects that due to inflation and increase in fuel costs, the tickets will be around \$80 this year. He anticipates having to pay \$2100 - \$2200 for the bus this year, versus \$1800 last year. Tickets for the Huntsville Hamfest are increasing from \$10 to \$15.

Joe Lowenthal is taking care of getting radio equipment onto our tables for the MARA FreeFest. Scott Adams said he would help man the tables. Anyone else wishing to help please contact Joe at wa4ovo@gmail.com.

Scott Adams discussed workable solutions for the Zoom audio feed at the Monthly Meeting. There is an amplifier available at the Ellendale Church of Christ, and he also has one at home he can bring but would need a suitable connecting cable to hook up to the laptop. Joe Lowenthal said that Bobby Stroud KD5BS will not be at the meeting to set up cameras for the Zoom livestream.

Barry McDonald gave an update on the 146.82 repeater and Channel 30 Brunswick Tower cable repairs. He said work is continuing. He saw that they are putting up a third 18" pipe next to the others but have completed only about 150 feet so they have a long way to go.

Steve Romagni said the program for the Members Meeting will be on Grid Tracker software, presented by Sebastian Delmont KI2D, one of the software developers.

Carolyn Horne read a list of 2 new and 11 renewed members and 1 renewed member family. Joe Lowenthal made a motion to accept them all, Steve Romagni seconded the motion, and all were in favor, with none opposed. Membership cards for these members are to be sent out this week.

John Reiners said he and Mary Jean Hall had set goals to attract new members and encourage/enable existing members to be more active. He discussed methods for mentoring new members. He is forming a small committee to achieve those goals. Steve Romagni suggested setting up an Elmer list.

Mike Harrison talked about setting up a pricing tier for advertisements in the SPARKS newsletter. He will research old editions of SPARKS for guidelines.

Mary Jean Hall was contacted by Fred Miller KS2X about the Delta Club's participation in this year's Field Day. It will be held at the Germantown Municipal Park as it was last year on June 25 and 26. So far, the Delta, Nashoba and MARA Clubs have indicated they will participate.

Mary Jean Hall adjourned the meeting at 7:46 PM. The next regular Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 6:30 PM 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 8, 2022

### **Call to Order and Opening Remarks**

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club was held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 7:00 PM at the Ellendale Church of Christ and on a Zoom video conference call, with the President serving as chair and the Secretary being present. Club President Mary Jean Hall KY4FB called the meeting to order and then welcomed everyone to the meeting. At least 46 members and guests were present for the meeting or via Zoom.

### **Minutes and Treasurer's Report**

Ham Hilliard W4GMM moved to “approve the Treasurer’s Report and Minutes as published in Sparks.” Richard Martin K4DXF seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by the club without objection.

### **Announcements**

Jim Martin KD4FUU presented the proposed 2022 budget. He said there hasn’t been much change from the previous year, but we did add \$200 for Zoom-related expenditures plus a bit more for estate sales. Ham Hilliard made a motion to accept the budget as presented. Richard Martin K4DXF seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by the club without objection.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB invited members to view the estate sale items displayed on two tables at the Ellendale Church of Christ (as listed in this month’s SPARKS). She said Zoom members should email Joe if they are interested in any items. Mary Jean reminded members that it is dues time. The dues are \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a family. Forms are available online on the [www.deltaclub.org](http://www.deltaclub.org) website. Just download and fill out the form and mail along with a check to the address at the top of the form.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO gave an update on training. He said the 7 out of 8 students in the 1-22 Extra Class got their license. A Tech Class started on February 28<sup>th</sup> and will run through April 4<sup>th</sup>. Twenty students have registered. Testing will be on March 28<sup>th</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup> will be for product demonstrations. The next training session will probably begin the end of June or beginning of July.



Joe was contacted by the owner of Comserv (<https://comservinc.com>) at 1246 Sycamore View near Mullins Stations who is looking for an electronics technician or someone who is interested in radios and repair (he will even do training if someone is interested). Contact Joe at [wa4ovo@gmail.com](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com) if you are interested in the job and he will send you the contact email.

Daniel Columbus AA4HV gave an update on VE testing. Six VE's came for testing before the meeting but no one showed up to take the test. He said we have been asked to do the testing at the MARA FreeFest in April. If any VE's can help with that, please let him know. Information on testing at FreeFest is available here: [VE Testing at FreeFest \(google.com\)](#).

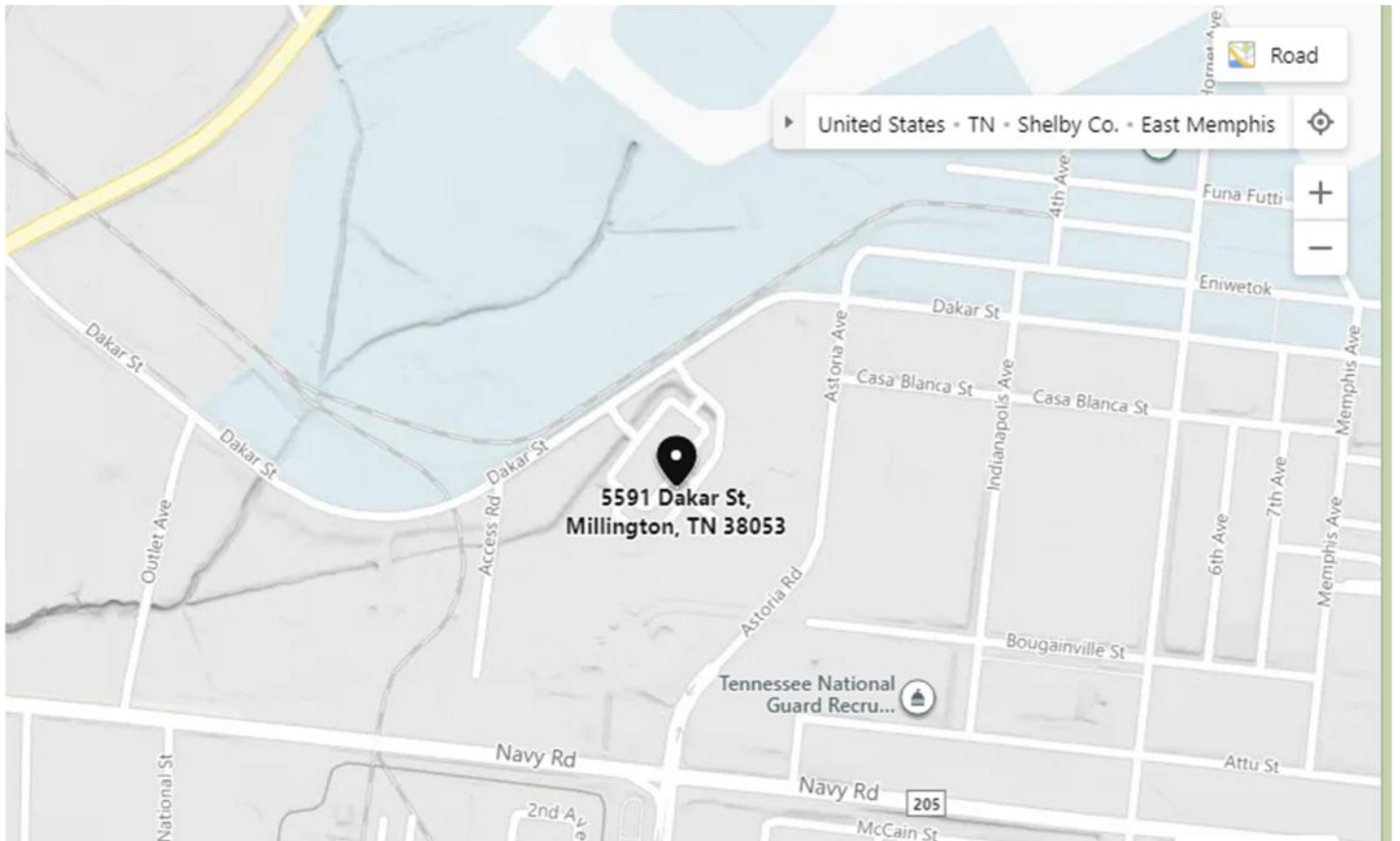
Rick Tillman WA4NVM reminded everyone that the MARA FreeFest is scheduled on April 9<sup>th</sup>. He asked that anyone wanting tickets please add their names to his list or he will add your name if you email him at [wa4nvm@comcast.net](mailto:wa4nvm@comcast.net). You can also purchase tickets at the door. He itemized the main prizes: iPad Pro 64GB with Otter Box case, 2000-Watt Predator Inverter/Generator, MFJ259D SWR Analyzer, IMD-109 Antenna, Tripod & Mast, Yaesu FT-2980R 144 MHz Transceiver, 20Ahr BLF-1220A LiFePO4 battery & charger, 40" HDTV, and MFJ-4230MV Power Supply. He said the food prices have been adjusted a bit due to inflation. Some major vendors have indicated they will be there.

Rick reminded folks that we have a breakfast the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of every month at 8 AM at Denver's, 1380 N Germantown Pkwy, in Cordova.

Barry McDonald W5CJ gave an update on the 146.82 repeater. He said the problems have not yet been totally resolved but work is proceeding on the Channel 30 antenna feedline repairs. He said all their equipment is still there and he will keep checking on it.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB told members that in response to multiple requests for digital payment of dues the board is researching what is involved in setting that up.

Ham Hilliard W4GMM announced that the MARS group is back at the Navy Base but not under Navy control. The City of Millington Fire Squadron has generously donated a spot for them a few hundred yards south of the radar dome at the Fire Training Center 5591 Dakar St.:



His group is putting the station back up with a 20-foot tower on top of the building, putting it up a total of about 40 feet. The plan is to activate the station for the Armed Forces Communications Exercise, Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. He issued an invitation to anyone who is interested in participating to come out between 7 AM and 3 PM that Saturday. He said they are using 2 EndFed antennas on the MARS side.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB asked if he planned on starting up HAM101 again. He said yes if there is any interest. Please email Ham at [w4gmm@bellsouth.net](mailto:w4gmm@bellsouth.net) if you are interested in attending along with subjects you would like Ham to teach.

### **Discussion / Program**

Director of Programs, Steve Romagni W4DTA, gave a presentation on 'DXCC – The Best Contact Sport' which focused on the basics of getting DXCC qualifications.

### **Closing Remarks**

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB asked in-person attendees to introduce themselves.

John Reiners KN4BVH reminded members that SKYWARN webinar training sessions are being held by county. The Shelby County session was to be held on March 14<sup>th</sup>. For information visit [SKYWARN Spring 2022 Training Schedule \(weather.gov\)](#).

Delta Club President Mary Jean Hall KY4FB adjourned the meeting at 8:09 PM.

The next Delta Amateur Radio Club meeting will be Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 7:00 PM in-person and /or 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 venue instructions or the Zoom link for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Horne KX4QF, Secretary (2022)

### **Delta Ham License Training, 2022**

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 sometime on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

If you want to take a class, send an email to Joe at [wa4ovo@gmail.com](mailto: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 2022 from Delta Classes**

18 Technician

2 General

7 Extra

#### **Note:**

The \$35 FCC application fee begins April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 for new hams, renewals, Vanity callsigns, etc except for upgrades, name, address or email changes.

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

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 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 or seven sessions; one per week on a week night 6:15pm-9:30pm or Saturday day 9am-1pm.

The next General license class will probably start in early November 2022  
The next Extra Class license class will probably start in early January 2023

### **PROPOSED CLASS**

The next Technician license class will probably start in late June or early July.  
If interested, send an email to wa4ovo@gmail.com with Subject line: Tech Class and name, email address and cellphone number is text.

### **CURRENT CLASS**

None

### **COMPLETED CLASSES**

#### **Tech Class 2-22 – February 28 – April 4, 2022**

A Technician license class began on February 28th for six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm. The first four classes were via Zoom. The class began with 15 students. Eleven students finished the four instructional classes with two students out of town. The fifth class was in-person with a review of the 421 questions and answers in the question pool as well as an opportunity to take the FCC exam.

Congratulations to Frank Barton KI4UJH, Charlie Cole KO4ZCF, Matt Coolican KO4ZCG, Bob Garrelts KI5UJI, Billy Griffin KO4ZCH, Keith Miller kO4ZCI, Bob O'Grady KO4UCJ, Kyle Turlington KI5UJJ for earning their Technican licenses. Congratulations to Sandra West KO4ZLM who tested with the Chattanooga ARC on April 7th. Additional congratulations to Frank Barton KI5UJH and Billy Griffin KO4ZCH for also upgrading to General.



Thanks to the Laurel VE team of Joe WA4OVO, Jeff AJ4GY, Barry W5CJ, David KY4FH, Bob AI4GI and Rick WA4NVM for being the VEs.

The instructors were Joe WA4OVO, Paul KA9VAU, Perry N4GJ, David KY4FH, John KN4BVH, and Pat W4OQG. The Equipment Demonstrators were Rick WA4NVM, Rick KJ4NWQ, John KN4BVH and Joe WA4OVO.

The Equipment Demonstration sixth class was in person on April 4th. The NCAA Final reduced the number of students for the demos.



Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS Demo  
Photo by Joe WA4OVO



John KN4BVH on Digital Demos  
Photo by Joe WA4OVO



### **CBU Tech Review Class 3-22 – February 23, 2022**

A Technician license review session was held in Dr. Eric Welch (WD5FTA)'s junior level Introduction to Unmanned Aerial Vehicle class for 13 Christian Brother University students on February 23rd. Congratulations to Juan KO4YBR, Juan KO4YBS, Hector KO4YBT, Jake KO4YBU, Dan KO4YBV, Joshua KO4YBW, Aldrin KO4YBX, Carlos KO4YCN, and James KE8UAR earned their Technician licenses.

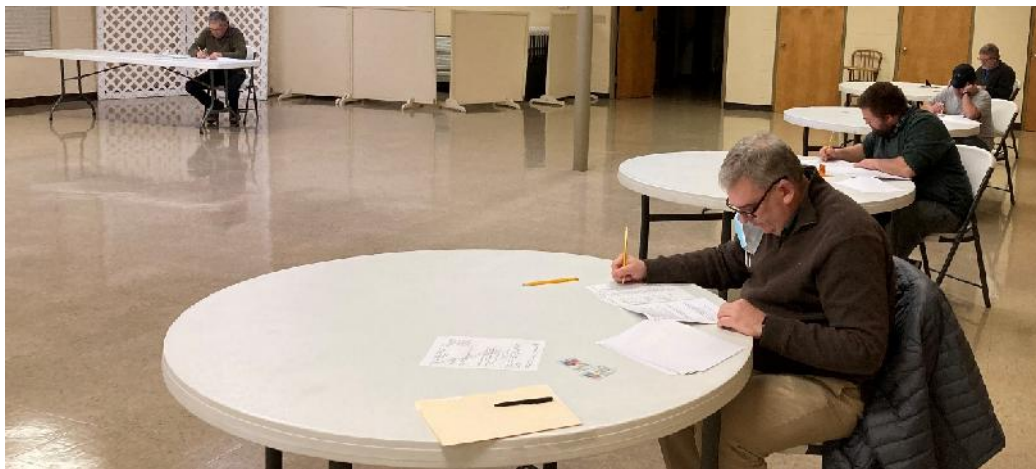
Thanks to the Laurel VEC Team of Barry W5CJ, Jelly N4HLT, David KY4FH, David AJ4KF, Eric WD5FTA and Joe WA4OVO for providing the Laurel FCC test session.

### **Extra Class 1-22 – January 3 – February 14, 2022**

Extra Class 1-22 license class is being held via Zoom and started on Monday night, January 3, 2022 from 6:15-9:30pm. The class is for seven Monday nights until February 14th.

There are eight students in the class: Paul Broom KN4WGX, Kevin Buddle KO4UTX, Charles Byars KI5HWA, Randall Haynes KO4KKA, Kevin Kelley KO4OAO, Dylan Martin KC4DTM, Scott McDermott KO4OWE, and Jan Slezak KC1QBB. Since last report one student dropped out and one joined.

Congratulations to Kevin Buddle KY4MI, formerly KO4UTX, for testing early with a W5YI on-line testing group and upgrading on January 25th.



Extra Class 1-22 Test Session

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors were Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, John Reiners KN4BVH, Dave Church AD4Q, Dean Honadle N2LAZ, Pat Lane W4OQG, Paul Roberts KA9VAU, and David Wilson KY4FH.

### **General Class 6-21 – November 1 – November 29, 2021**

A General license class was held on five Monday nights between November 1st and November 29th from 6:15-9:30pm. The Zoom classes were on November 1,8,15,22 with in-class FCC testing on November 29th. There were 14 students in the first class; two from California and another from North Carolina. The class ended with 11 students, excluding the California students.

The test session location was at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Hwy 70 (Summer Ave). Congratulations to Web Webster KC4WEB who tested early online for upgrading to General. Congratulations to Charles Byars KI5HWA, Dan Currey KO4NGZ, John Duty KK4LST, Jeff Foster KI5SEK Randall Haynes KO4KKA, and Dylan Martin KC4DTM for upgrading to General.

Thanks to the Laurel VE team of Joe WA4OVO, Perry N4GJ, Barry W5CJ, Bob AI4GI, and David KY4FH for providing the test session.

### **Tech Class 5-21 – September 20 – October 25, 2021**

A Technician license class was held on six Monday nights between September 20th and October 25th from 6:15-9:30pm. There were 16 students in the first class. The classes were held on September 20, 27, October 4,11 via Zoom.

The FCC exam was offered on October 18th after a review of the question pool questions and answers. Congratulations to Randy Clements KO4UDH, Ben Fonville KO4UDI, Kristine Howell KO4UDJ, Dylan Martin KO4UDK, Gordon Stark KO4UDL, Dan Taylor KO4UDM, Jeff Blackwell KO4UDN and Jeffrey Foster KI5SEK. Extra congratulations to Kristine KO4UDJ and Ben Fonville KO4UDI for also upgrading to General. The FCC test session was at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Hwy 70 (Summer Ave). Thanks to the Laurel VE team of Perry Hayes N4GJ, Steve Romagni W4DTA, Jelly Thompson N4HLT, Rick Tillman WA4NVM and Joe Lowenthal WA4NVM for providing the exam opportunity.

On October 25th there was an in-class equipment demonstration. Joe WA4OVO explained how to program radios for repeater operation, Rick WA4NVM showed Orbitron for satellite operations. He and Richard Martin K4DXF set up the satellite operations for an SO-50 pass. Rick Pellicciotti KJ4NWQ presented APRS and John Reiners KN4BVH informed the new hams about Shelby County ARES with an invite.





Class 5-21 Kristine KO4UDJ (seated) waiting to make SO-50 contact with the help of Rick WA4NVM and Richard K4DXF. Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO



Class 5-21 new hams learning about APRS from Rick KJ4NWQ Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO



### **Tech Class 4-21 – June 24 – August 12, 2021**

A Technician license class was held on six Thursday nights between June 24th and August 12th from 6:15-9:30pm. The original seven students have dwindled to five in the class and one auditing. It became a Zoom class due to the increase of Covid with the FCC test session the only in-person class. The classes were held on June 24, July 1, 8, 22, 29 and August 12th. The FCC exam was offered on July 29th at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Hwy 70 (Summer Ave). Two students took the exam(s). Congratulations to Chris Hadley KO4SHG and Dennis Lee KO4SHH for earning their Technician licenses. Additional congratulations to Chris KO4SHG for also upgrading to General. Bill Walter N4ELF also tested and upgraded from General to Extra. Congratulations to Ross Butler KI5REG for earning his Technician license at the August 17th Delta Club test session.

The Delta Club VE Team of Jeff Krause AJ4GY, Perry Hayes N4GJ, Barry McDonald W5CJ, Bobby Stroud KD5BS and Tom Ungren KK4ZZZ were the VEs.

The instructors were Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Paul Roberts KA9VAU, Perry Hayes N4GJ, David Wilson KY4FH, John Reiners KN4BVH, and Pat Lane W4OQG. The equipment demonstrators were John Reiners KN4BVH, Rick Pellicciotti KJ4NWQ, Rick Tillman WA4NVM, and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO.

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

A Technician license class was held one night a week via Zoom from February 22<sup>nd</sup> thru April 5<sup>th</sup> on Monday or Thursday nights. Twenty-two students started on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with 19 finishing the training. An in-person class was held on March 29<sup>th</sup> 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 congratulaton 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 15<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Mike Murell KO4QBT for earning his Technician and General licenses at the Olive Branch ARRL test session on April 20th.



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 Chrisitan Brother University students on February 24<sup>th</sup>. 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 4<sup>th</sup> thru February 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> due to snow on the 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 25<sup>th</sup>.

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.

## 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.

INDIVIDUAL EMAIL ADDRESS IN QRZ  
Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

Consider going to QRZ.COM and log in. Then enter your email address on their QRZ page so other hams can contact you vial email rather snail mail. Anyone looking for email addresses has to log in to QRZ to be able to see the ham’s email address.

## Find Registered Amateur Radio Operators Submitted by Bob Vawter, KW4RJ

To view licensed hams in your vicinity, go to <https://haminfo.tetranz.com/map>

## Dayton Hamvention is a 'Go' Submitted by Bob Vawter, KW4RJ

Dayton Hamvention 2022 is not just going to be a premier hamfest but a reunion, as organizers prepare for the first gathering at the Xenia Fairground and Expo Center in Ohio after two years of cancellations.

Hamvention's general chairman Rick Allnut WS8G said in a phone interview that committees have been meeting and volunteers are committed to making up for the time lost to pandemic cancellations.

Hamvention will be happening on Friday May 20th through Sunday May 22nd with an international reception scheduled on Thursday May 19th. Rick said the registration site is already taking bookings from vendors and inside exhibitors and individual visitors can already buy their tickets. All details are available on the [hamvention.org](https://hamvention.org) website.

Rick said: "Tickets are all printed and ready to go."

<https://hamvention.org/>

## Volunteer Monitor Program issues a caution to radio hams Submitted by Bob Vawter, KW4RJ

The ARRL report the volunteer monitor program has cautioned against operating beyond amateur radio license privileges

The ARRL story says:

Many of the Advisory Notices sent out each month by the ARRL Volunteer Monitor Program go to stations heard operating outside the operator's license privileges.

Typical cases often involve operators holding Technician- or General-class amateur licenses being heard on a frequency or band not permitted by their license privileges. Most recent incidents have frequently entailed FT8 digital mode operation by Technician licensees on 20 and 40 meters. Technician licensees do not have any operating privileges on 20 meters, let alone digital privileges, and FT8 is a digital protocol.

Technicians (and Novices) may operate CW between 21.025 and 21.200 MHz on 15 meters, from 7.025 and 7.125 MHz on 40 meters, and from 3.525 to 3.600 MHz on 80 meters, but they do not have any digital (data) mode privileges on these bands.

ARRL Volunteer Monitor Program Administrator **Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH**, said licensees who need a refresher course regarding their operating privileges may refer to Section 97.301 of the rules. ARRL also has a convenient chart on its website that details privileges available to all license classes, from Novice to Amateur Extra.

As monthly Volunteer Monitor reports indicate, some General-class operators have lost their way on some bands too, and Advisory Notices have gone out to those operating outside of the General-class phone subbands. For example, on 20 meters, Generals may operate phone from 14.225 to 14.350 MHz, but occasionally, General-class operators are heard outside of that subband. On 40 meters, the phone and image subband open to General licensees is 7.175 to 7.300 MHz. Of course, Technician- and General-class licensees may operate CW on any subband on which they have operating privileges, although operation within the CW subbands is preferred by band plan.

On 10 meters, Technicians have RTTY and data privileges — including FT8 — from 28.000 to 28.300 MHz, and SSB phone privileges from 28.300 to 28.500 MHz, and may operate on CW over the entire 28.0000 – 28.500 MHz segment. Technicians may enjoy all operating privileges at 50 MHz and above.

The ARRL Volunteer Monitor program is a formal agreement between the FCC and ARRL. Volunteers trained and vetted by ARRL monitor the airwaves and report evidence that may be used to correct errant operation or to recognize exemplary on-air operation.

Source ARRL

<http://www.arrl.org/news/view/volunteer-monitor-program-cautions-against-operating-beyond-license-privileges>

ARRL Volunteer Monitor Program

<https://www.arrl.org/volunteer-monitor-program>



# New Amateur Radio License Applications Fee To Become Effective April 19, 2022

Submitted by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB

ARLB010 New Amateur Radio License Applications Fee To Become Effective April 19, 2022

A Public Notice released by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on March 23, 2022, in MD Docket No. 20-270, announced that new application fees for Wireless Telecommunications Bureau applications will become effective on April 19, 2022. The new fees, mandated by Congress, apply to applications for Amateur Radio licenses including those associated with filing Form 605, the Amateur Operator/Primary Station Licensee Application.

The docket can be found online at,

<https://www.fcc.gov/document/effective-date-wireless-application-fee-rates>

Effective April 19, 2022, a \$35 fee will apply to applications for a new Amateur Radio license, modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, and vanity call signs.

Anticipating the implementation of the fee in 2022, the ARRL Board of Directors, at its July 2021 meeting, approved the "ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program." Under the program, ARRL will cover a one-time \$35 application fee for license candidates younger than 18 years old for tests administered under the auspices of the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC). Qualified candidates also would pay a reduced exam session fee of \$5 to the ARRL VEC. ARRL is finalizing details for administering the program.

ARRL had filed comments in opposition to imposing a fee on Amateur Radio license applications. The FCC initially proposed a higher, \$50 fee. In a Report and Order (R&O), released on December 29, 2020, the amount was reduced -- the FCC agreeing with ARRL and other commenters that its proposed \$50 fee for certain amateur radio applications was "too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications."

ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, explained that all fees are per application. "There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address. The fees will be the responsibility of the applicant regardless of filing method and must be paid within 10 calendar days of FCC's receipt of the application. For applications filed by a VEC, the period does not begin until the application is received by the Commission, a ULS file number assigned, and an email sent by the FCC directly to the applicant."

VECs and Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams will not collect the \$35 fee at license exam sessions. New and upgrade candidates at an exam session will continue to pay the \$15 exam session fee to the ARRL VE team as usual, and pay the new, \$35 application fee directly to the FCC by using the CORES FRN Registration system (CORES - Login).

The CORES Login can be found at, <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do> .

When the FCC receives the examination information from the VEC, it will email a link with payment instructions to each successful candidate who then will have 10 calendar days from the date of the email to pay. After the fee is paid and the FCC has processed an application, examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to their official license or explanation of other action. The link will be good for 30 days.

Somma also explained that applications that are processed and dismissed will not be entitled to a refund. This includes vanity call sign requests where the applicant does not receive the requested call sign. "The FCC staff has suggested that applicants for vanity call signs should first ensure the call signs requested are available and eligible for their operator class and area, and then request as many call signs as the form allows to maximize their chances of receiving a call sign."

Further information and instructions about the FCC Application Fee are available from the ARRL VEC at [www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee](http://www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee). Details for the ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program will be similarly posted there, when available.



## 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](http://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.

## Packet Update

By: James Butler KB4LJV

Many times before we buy a new radio we want to see how others with this equipment like it. One site we can look at is QRZ.COM . This site has equipment reviews by fellow ham radio operators telling their experience with the equipment. This is a great place to go to see if they have any problems with amateur gear they have bought. The QRZ.COM site also has lots of other Ham radio information you can access on the site. To look at the reviews section go to <https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?forums/amateur-radio-equipment-reviews.17/>

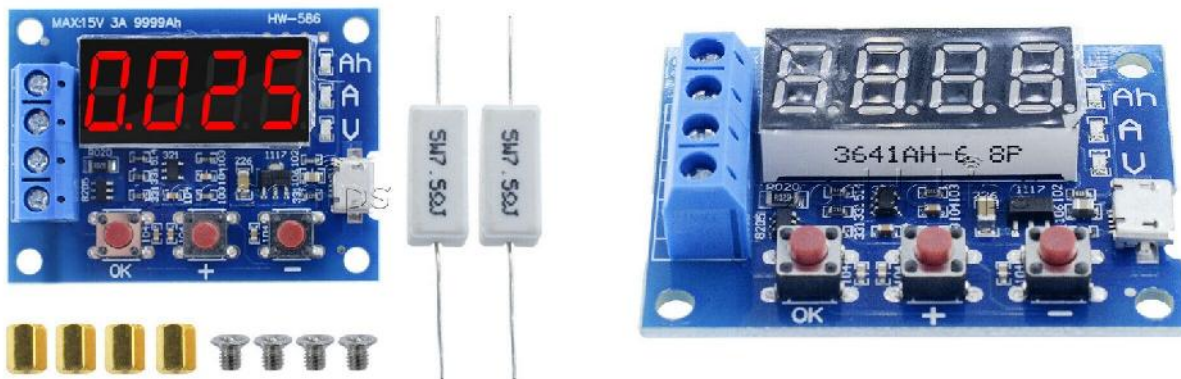
When you are on QRZ, be sure to enter your email address in your QRZ page. This allows other hams to email you if they have questions about a contact with you.

James Butler  
KB4LJV

## Amateur Hardware Update

By: James Butler KB4LJV

Many amateurs have started using rechargeable batteries in equipment. All rechargeable batteries have different capacities. Some cheap lithium ion batteries have very low capacity which means they do not last long. Ebay has a PC board circuit that you can hook to your battery and check capacity. It has a small microprocessor on the board with a display and programming push buttons. It uses a large load resistor to discharge your battery. You set the lower voltage to drain to. The computer calculates the total amp hours of the battery until it drains. This allows you to rate the battery against what they claim. It also allows you to compare different brands to see which ones have the highest charge capacity. The board runs on a USB power connection. Ebay has these for under \$10.00. Do an Ebay search for "Battery capacity meter discharge tester".



James Butler  
KB4LJV

**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.

**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 38134-2768**

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>.

## 2022 Board of Directors

### **President**

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### **Vice President**

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901-218-6385

### **Repeater Trustee**

Barry McDonald W5CJ  
[W5CJ@ARRL.NET](mailto:W5CJ@ARRL.NET)  
901-853-0510

## Upcoming Events

- Armed Forces Communications Exercise May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Dayton Hamvention May 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022
- Field Day June 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Huntsville Hamfest August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Bike MS: Rockin' Ride September 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Bluff City Blues Bike Ride October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

For more information go to <http://hamcalendar.com/>

## 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
Four-Forty Net	443.700	+(107.2)	8:30p	Fri
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

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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)



**Joe Miller**  
Owner

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