

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 87 * April 2023



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

This month's meeting will be **IN PERSON ONLY** at 7 pm on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at the Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Highway 70 in Bartlett, TN (1 ½ miles north of Highway 64 / Stage Road).

There will be FCC Testing Tuesday.

Program: "Introduction to MARS" by Ham Hilliard, W4GMM

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 an FCC Federal Registration Number (FRN) **BEFORE** coming to the testing session. For more VE testing, or FCC FRN information, please contact:

Bob Vawter, KW4RJ, VE Liaison

Phone: 901-438-4563

Email: KW4RJ@ARRL.net

Announcements

HamTestOnline is closing June 30, 2023 unless someone buys it.



Going out of business, last chance to use our website!

Going out of Business

It's been a great 20 years!

20 Years

Rated 5.0/5 stars on eham.net

This is John, W1AI, the creator, owner, software developer, and coursemaster of [HamTestOnline™](https://www.hamtestonline.com).

I launched the [HamTestOnline™](https://www.hamtestonline.com) website in August 2002, and I've spent the last 20 years helping tens of thousands of students pass the ham radio exams. While it's been a tremendous amount of work, it's also been the most fun and personally rewarding portion of my career. However, I'm turning 68 this year, and I'm ready to retire.

Therefore (unless I find a serious buyer), we will be shutting down the website effective June 30, 2023.

I truly appreciate all the support and encouragement we've received from our loyal customers through the years!

2023 A Day In The Park

The Mississippi Section sponsors A Day in the Park once a year with clubs around the state.

This year it will be held October 14, 2023 at Olive Branch Park coordinated by both the Chickasaw Amateur Radio Association and the Olive Branch Amateur Radio Club.

The following is a link to their flyer:

<https://groups.io/g/CARA-MS/files/2023%20A%20Day%20in%20the%20Park%202.0/A%20Day%20in%20the%20Park%202023%20flyer.pdf>

VE Test Session at FreeFest

Ten people tested at the ARRL VE session at FreeFest. Congratulations to Ashton Bruce, Robert Marlow, Thomas Dyer, Dean Anderson, Christopher Bower and James Roach who earned their Technician licenses. Congratulations to David Little who passed his Technician and grandfathered to General since he was previously a General. Congratulation to Thyryn Price and Joshua Martin who upgraded to General.

President's Corner

Submitted by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB

April President's Corner

Submitted by Mary Jean Hall KY4FB

At the end of March over 60 people showed up for the National Weather Service's Shelby County SKYWARN Training. Most who showed up held an Amateur Radio license! Those individuals took time out of their busy schedules to learn about severe weather and how to report it during a time of need. Less than three days later, that knowledge was put to use as severe weather moved through the Mid-South and tornados caused damage across the region.

This weekend, many came out to support the Mid-South Amateur Radio Association's (MARA) annual FreeFest in Bartlett. It was nice to see so many fellow Amateur Radio operators while supporting a cause that raises money for LeBonheur Children's Hospital. Many area-hams walked away with new radios, antennas, and other radio gear. Hopefully that all gets put to good use in the upcoming year!

This upcoming week, Ham Hilliard W4GMM will give us an introduction into the Military Auxiliary Radio System, or MARS. There is an annual event in May, which is yet another way to get involved with ham radio in our community. Of course, Field Day is quickly approaching June 24 - 25.

If you are looking for a way to get involved in ham radio, the opportunities are there – you just need to take advantage of them!

See you all Tuesday!

73,
Mary Jean 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, 2023 through March 31, 2023

SUMMARY

Beginning Balance	\$20,368.58	Minimum Daily Balance	\$20,228
Deposits & Credits	\$712.20 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$20,398
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$425.61 -		
Ending Balance	\$20,655.17		

DEPOSITS & CREDITS

03/09	V4adj 26-3467100302	35.20
03/28	Deposit - Thank You	250.00
03/30	Deposit - Thank You	25.00
03/30	Deposit - Thank You	135.00
03/30	Deposit - Thank You	40.00
03/30	Deposit - Thank You	180.00
03/31	Deposit - Thank You	47.00
Total Deposits & Credits		\$712.20

CHECKS

Date	Check No.	Amount
03/28	1584	425.61

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY

Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
03/09	20,403.78	03/30	20,608.17	03/31	20,655.17
03/28	20,228.17				

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,025.01	1.980 %	\$25.01	\$17.75
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER			
*8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$25.01	\$0.00	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	1/28/2023	11/25/2023	
▲ Hide More Details			

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8503

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$11,062.00	2.230 %	\$62.00	\$44.02
<hr/>			
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER			
*8503			
<hr/>			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$62.00	\$0.00	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	1/28/2023	11/26/2024	
<hr/>			
▲ Hide More Details			

Applications Received - March 2023	
(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues	\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived	\$0.00
(1) New Membership(s)	\$20.00
(8) Membership Renewal(s)	\$160.00
(0) Donations Received	\$0.00
Total Dues Received	\$180.00

Other Deposits & Credits	
(1) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)	\$15.00
(2) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)	\$10.00
WHBQ Equipment Sale	\$40.00
Karen Chancelor Estate Sale	\$35.20
Other Equipment Sale	\$250.00
(5) Club Polo Shirt Order(s) - Two Deposits: \$135 & \$47	\$182.00
Total Other Deposits	\$532.20

Total Deposits	\$712.20
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Checks & Debits	
Check # 1584 - Midsouth Solutions - Club Polo Shirt Order	\$425.61
Total Payments	\$425.61

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
 Submitted by Paul Broom, KY4MX

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for April 4, 2023

Attendees: Mary Jean Hall KY4FB, Perry Hayes N4GJ, Paul Broom KY4MX, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Mike Harrison KM4MRW, John Reiners KN4BVH, Scott Adams KM4PMU, and Barry McDonald W5CJ.

Absent: Jim Martin KD4FUU, Len Grice W4MKS.

Guests: None.

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 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.

Unfinished Business

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB informed the board that the club polo order had come in and a few were distributed at the Skywarn training session. The others will be distributed at FreeFest or at next week's club meeting.

John Reiners KN4BVH gave a recap of the results of the club's participation in the ARRL's Volunteers on the Air (VOTA) Event that started on March 23rd at 5:00 pm and ran until March 24th at 8:00 am. He and Steve Frazier KK4VPT represented the club, operating as W1AW/4 during that time. Approximately 200 contracts were made, primarily using FT8 with some SSB, on 20 and 40 meters. He also indicated that another opportunity may come up later this year and is hopeful we can have additional participants.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB stated that FreeFest is this weekend on Saturday, April 8th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, and is working with Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO to send out emails to the Delta Club email list on Thursday or Friday before to remind everyone of the event. Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO indicated that he could use some help staffing the club's equipment sales booth and also is looking for Volunteer Examiners to assist with testing during the event.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO has started the process of obtaining a bus for the Huntsville Hamfest which is August 19th. He has received an initial quote and is currently negotiating pricing. He is also working to put together a comparison between last year's cost and this year's estimate.

Mike Harrison KM4MRW and Mary Jean Hall KY4FB gave an update on the potential integration of PayPal with the Delta Club Website. The PayPal account has been established and is currently linked to Jim Martin KD4FUU. They have determined how to link the website and PayPal together, and that individual links would be needed for membership dues payments and donations. It was also determined that the membership application would need to be modified to accommodate the option of using PayPal. The proposed processing for membership applications would be to download the application to a computer and fill in as needed. It would then be uploaded back to the website with instruction on how to then make the payment via PayPal. They will draft proposed changes to the membership application and will also draft instructions on how the process will work, both of which will be reviewed with the Board. PayPal could also be utilized for other things such as training cost and bus trips. PayPal charges a processing fee for these transactions and the club's intent is that the revised pricing would cover the cost of the transaction fees.

New Business

A discussion was held regarding the recent tornado and weather events. Mary Jean Hall KY4FB reached out to Bill Hughes KI4BIY, Tipton County Emergency Coordinator, on behalf of the Delta Club to see if any recovery assistance could be provided to him or any of their members. He indicated none of the members were hit by the tornado and that all the repeaters seemed to be working and safe from damage. She reiterated to him to let her know if the club could do anything for them and to let us know if/when needs arise. John Reiners KN4BVH gave a briefing on his stint as Net Control for the National Weather Service DMR talk group during the Friday storms.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB let everyone know that the register.com domain for the Delta Club will renew in June. The previous renewal was done 4 years ago. After discussion, it was decided to do the current renewal for an additional 4 years.

Board/Officer Reports

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO gave an update on training. One individual from the General class from Texas recently passed the exam. The Extra class has had several people complete testing, 2 in New Hampshire, 1 in Chattanooga and 2 or 3 locally. The Technician class had 3 take the test with all 3 passing. He also indicated that student engagement seems to be declining and that he is considering charging students for books and testing to try and stimulate more engagement and get more to complete the class and testing. A motion was made by John Reiners KN4BVH to allow Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO to consider charging students for training at his discretion. The motion was seconded by Scott Adams KM4PMU and passed without objection. He also mentioned that one of the estate items recently sold was missing a component. He indicated that he would do some research to see if he could get the missing component or consider refunding the item cost and shipping to the purchaser. A motion was made by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO to refund the money for the item and shipping if needed. The motion was seconded by Scott Adams KM4PMU, and passed without objection.

John Reiners KN4BVH announced the programs for the upcoming Delta Club meetings. This month's program will be an "Introductions to MARS" given by Ham Hilliard W4GMM. The May meeting will have a presentation "Introduction to Parks on the Air (POTA)" by Bobby Stroud KD5BS. In June Steve Frazier will be giving a presentation on N3FJP logging that will be used for field day. He is also working to try and get David Norris K5UZ, Delta Division Director, to speak at the July meeting.

Barry McDonald W5CJ had nothing new to report.

Scott Adams KM4PMU will be restocking drinks and snacks for the club meetings. He also raised an issue with the existing microphone system. He did some research and a replacement microphone would cost approximately \$40, or a completely new system with 2 microphones

would be \$80. Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO made a motion to purchase a new system for \$80. John Reiners KN4BVH seconded the motion and the motion passed without objection.

A discussion was held regarding new membership applications. Paul Broom KY4MX presented 3 new member and 9 renewal applications for approval. He made a motion to accept these new member and renewal applications, with John Lowenthal WA4OVO seconding the motion. The motion passed.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB reviewed the treasurer's report with the group.

Mike Harrison KM4MRW reviewed items to be included in Sparks, and indicated that everything received so far and been updated for the April edition. He indicated that Sparks would likely go out on Sunday.

Perry Hayes N4GJ is going to research possible options for additional outreach to new members.

Mary Jean Hall adjourned the meeting at 8:47 pm. The next regular Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 6:30 PM on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Broom KY4MX, Secretary

Minutes of Last Month's Club Meeting
Submitted by Paul Broom, KY4MX

DARC Meeting Minutes for March 14, 2023

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club was held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Ellendale Church of Christ, 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 39 members and guests were present for the meeting.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB took a roll call of those present. She reminded everyone to sign in on the membership roster and to sign one ticket for the year end drawing.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Ham Hilliard W4GMM moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Minutes as published in Sparks. Dan Wehner KN4FBJ seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by the club without objection.

Announcements

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB informed the club about the ARRL's Volunteers on the Air (VOTA) portable event that will be coming to Tennessee from March 22 through the 28th. The Delta Club has a time slot Thursday March 23 starting at 5:00 pm running through Friday March 24 at 8:00 am. The Club is not required to have people operating the entire time. The call sign to be used is the W1AW/4 (the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station) which is a unique opportunity. Contacts should be logged using the Logbook of the World. This includes nearly all bands with the exception of 2200-, 630-, 60-, 30-, 17-, and 12-meter bands. Only two-way contacts qualify for points (cross-band, cross-mode, and repeater contacts are not valid), using any mode (CW, phone, or digital). Members were encouraged to sign up and list preferred modes. Mary Jean Hall KY4FB will prepare a schedule.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO announced that 5 people completed testing before the meeting, 1 Technician, 2 General, and 2 Extra. The training update included 1 General upgraded in Texas. The recent Extra class had 1 pass in tonight's testing, 2 others in Portsmouth NH passed, along with 1 in Chattanooga that also passed. Two others in the class will be testing soon. The current Technician class had 13 enroll, but 10 are currently taking the course.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO also indicated that Freefest tickets are available, a sheet of 6 is \$5, and 5 sheets of 6 are \$20. All proceeds from ticket sales go to Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. There will be 8 grand prizes in addition to the door prizes. Mary Jean Hall KY4FB also stated that the date for Freefest is Saturday April 8 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Bartlett Station Municipal Center. Volunteers are needed for Friday afternoon at 4:00 to help with set up. Volunteers are also needed for Saturday. Food sales from the event go toward covering the cost of the facility.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB announced that the Huntsville Hamfest is Saturday August 19th. The Delta Club is considering chartering a bus to attend as has been done in the past. The bus leaves from the Germantown Baptist Church at 6:30 am. Breakfast biscuits are provided along with other drinks and snacks. The return trip usually arrives back at the Germantown Baptist Church at approximately 8:00 pm. The fee charged includes admission to the Hamfest. A show of hands was asked regarding interest in this trip, and approximately 19 people expressed interest.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB announced that the order for polos is about to be processed and that more sizes are now available now. Those who had expressed interest but had not paid were asked to do so by seeing Jim Martin KD4FUU to pay.

Ham Hilliard W4GMM indicated that Armed Forces Day Communications Exercise is also coming up on May 13th and he has received the authorization to put the Naval Support Activity Midsouth on the air along with 22 other military stations including Camp Baxter, Yorktown, Midway, Annapolis, Pentagon, Andrews Air Force Base. They will start at 7:00 am and go to about 5:00 pm and will be operating 2 stations, 40 meters and 20 meters. This will be at the Millington Fire Training Academy on the north side of the Naval base.

There was a short 10-minute break and the meeting resumed at approximately 7:38 PM.

Discussion / Program

John Reiners KN4BVH introduce Phil Baker KC5UNU from the National Weather Service in Memphis who gave a presentation on storm spotting and how to report to the National Weather Service.

An interesting Q&A followed.

Closing Remarks

Delta Club President Mary Jean Hall KY4FB adjourned the meeting at 8:17 PM.

The next Delta Amateur Radio Club meeting will be Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Broom, Secretary (2023)

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 implemented a \$35 administration fee on April 19, 2022.

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 2023 from Delta Classes

3 Technician

1 General

3 Extra

Note:

As of April 19, 2022 there is a \$35 FCC application fee for new hams, renewals, Vanity callsigns, etc except for license upgrade, systematic callsign issue, name, address or email changes. This is in addition to the \$15 ARRL VEC FCC exam fee.

The new Technician ARRL Ham Radio License Manual is the Fifth Edition with question pool that becomes effective July 1, 2022 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. *This question pool will expire on June 30, 2023,*

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.

If interested in a class, send an email to wa4ovo@gmail.com with Subject line: Tech, General or Extra Class and name, email address and cellphone number is text.

The next **General** license class will probably start in early November 2023

The next **Extra Class** license class will probably start in early January 2024

The next **Technician Class** license class will probably start in late June or early July.

CURRENT CLASS

None

COMPLETED CLASSES

Tech Class 2-23 – February 27 – April 3, 2023

A Technician license class began on six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3rd. There were thirteen students registered for the class. After the second class, it was down to ten. The first four classes were via Zoom. The fifth and sixth classes were in-person at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Hwy 70 (Summer Ave). The fifth class was an opportunity to take the FCC exam.

Congratulations to Scott Holmes KQ4HJF, Caleb Wise KQ4HGG and Randy Redd KQ4HJH for earning their Technician licenses.



Tech Class 2-23 Testing

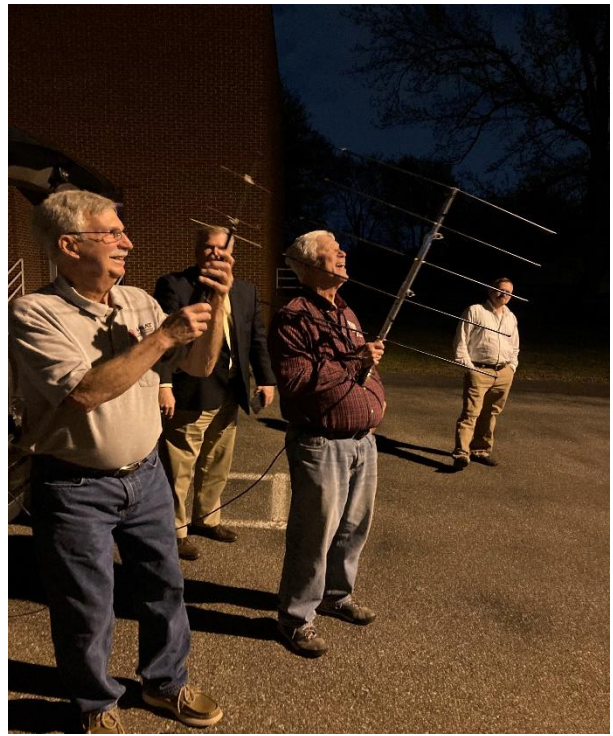
Photo by Mary Jean Hall KY4FB

The instructors were Joe WA4OVO, Paul KA4X, Park AI5CY, Bobby KD5BS, John KN4BVH, Perry N4GJ, David KY4FH and Carolyn KX4QF.



John KN4BVH on Digital Modes

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO



The sixth class was for equipment demonstrations. The demonstrators were Joe WA4OVO on FM Radio Basics and Echolink, Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS operations: John KN4BVH on DMR, DSTAR, and Yaesu digital modes; and Rick WA4NVM and Richard K4DXF working satellites and the ISS.

Extra Class 1-23 – January 7 – February 25, 2023

An Extra Class license class was held for five Saturdays from 9am to 1pm on January 7,14,21, February 11 and 18 via Zoom. There were eight students in the class; four from out of town. Since only two students were wanting to take the FCC exam on the 25th and Joe WA4OVO was in quarantine, they were directed to take their exam online by finding one on hamstudy.org or at the next local test session.

Congratulations to Peter Finch K1EXR who passed his exam at the Port City ARC (PCARC) test session on February 4th. Congratulations to Mark Estabrook KO4GQV who upgraded on March 2nd at the Chattanooga test session. Congratulations to Richard Werner KC1DZK for upgrading at the PCARC test session on March 4th. Two of the Memphis students should be testing on the 14th at the Delta Club test session and one at the CARA test session on the 20th. The instructors were Joe WA4OVO, John KN4BVH, David KY4FH, Barry W5CJ, Dave AD4Q, Paul KA4X. Pat W4OQG, Park AI5CY and Bobby KD5BS.

General Class 5-22 – November 7 – December 5, 2022

A General Class license class was held for five Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm from November 7th to December 5th. The first four classes were via Zoom with the fifth class in person at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Hwy 70 (Summer Ave). The ARRL FCC exam was

offered on the fifth night of class. There were 13 students registered for the class. Seven students completed the class with only four testing. Congratulations to Davis Colston K5TGR, Bob O'Gradr KO4ZCJ and Will Tenney KO4TLY for upgrading to General.



General Class 5-22 ARRL FCC test session Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

Congratulations to Dane Kunkler KI5EJD who upgraded at the Huntsville TX ARRL test session on March 11, 2023.



General Class 5-22 ARRL FCC test session Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors were Joe WA4OVO, Steve KK4VPT, Perry N4GJ, Paul KA4X, Barry W5CJ, Len W4MKS, Park AI5CY and David KY4FH.

The Delta Club ARRL VE Team of Bob KW4RJ, Mary Jean KY4FB, Perry N4GJ, Bob AI4GI and Joe WA4OVO provided the opportunity for FCC testing.



General Class 5-22 VEs

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

Tech Class 4-22 – July 7 – August 18, 2022

A Technician license class was held from July 7th to August 18th on six Thursday nights from 6:15-9:30pm excluding August 4th. The first four classes were via Zoom with the fifth and sixth classes in person at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Hwy 70 (Summer Ave). Nine students began the classes with seven completing the instructional period. The FCC exam was offered on the fifth night of class, August 11th.

Congratulations to all four students who earned their Technician license: David Colston KI5WQA, Morgan Fancher KI5WQL, Ilea Hymes KQ4CQF and Rod Robinson KQ4CNU. Thanks to Laurel VE team of Joe WA4OVO, Bob AI4GI, Jeff AJ4GY, Perry N4GJ, Rick WA4NVM and Mary Jean KY4FB.

The four students took the opportunity to obtain an Explorer QRZ-1 dual band 2m/70cm radio after they got their licenses.



Tech Class 4-22 Testing

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO



Three of the Laurel VEs grading the exams: left to right-Bob AI4GI, Jeff AJ4GY and Perry N4GJ. Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The sixth night was equipment demonstrations on FM Radio Basics by Joe WA4OVO, Satellite contact by Rick WA4NVM and Richard K4DXF, APRS by Joe WA4OVO, and digital radios by John KN4BVH.

The instructors were Joe WA4OVO, Paul KA4X, Pat W4OQG, Steve KK4VPT, David KY4FH and John KN4BVH.

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. The Equipment Demonstration sixth class was given in person on April 4th.

Congratulations to Frank Barton KI5UJH (now KI5FGB), Charlie Cole KO4ZCF, Matt Coolican KO4ZCG, Bob Garrelts KI5UJI, Billy Griffin KO4ZCH, Keith Miller kO4ZCI, Bob O’Grady KO4UCJ, and Kyle Turlington KI5UJJ for earning their Technician licenses. Congratulations to Sandra West KO4ZLM for earning her Technician license on April 8th who tested with Chattanooga ARC The two locals will test at a later date. 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.



Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS Demo
Photo by Joe WA4OVO



John KN4BVH on Digital Demos
Photo by Joe WA4OVO



Rick WA4NVM on F0-29 contact with Tech Class 2-22

Photos by Joe WA4OVO

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

FREEFEST PHOTOS
Submitted by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB









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.

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.

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.

ARRL MEMBERSHIP COMMISSIONS Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

Recently ARRL revised their membership commissions to ARRL clubs that process individual ARRL memberships through the club. The club can receive \$15 for new memberships or renewals of past ARRL memberships over two years old. Current renewals generate a \$5 commission. Current ARRL members can renew/extend their ARRL membership at any time. If you renew early, your ARRL membership is extended for the renewal period from the expiration of your current ARRL membership. The club only gets \$5 for each renewal application no matter how many years being renewed.

Here is a link to the ARRL membership renewal form.

[ARRL-Membership-Application.pdf](#)

Fill it out and bring a check made payable to ARRL to the meeting or mail to the Delta Amateur Radio Club at PO Box 342768, Bartlett TN 38134-2768. Or, you can pay Jim Martin KD4FUU in cash at a meeting. Even though credit card information is on the application, the Delta Club does not want to have access to credit cards so we will not accept an application with a credit card information for payment.

Also, here is a link to the Delta Club Membership Application:

[application-15-3.pdf \(wsimg.com\)](#)

Packet Update

By: James Butler KB4LJV

We always want more storage room for our digital data. Videos, Music, data files, and computer programs continue to take up more and more space. Manufacturers are designing solid state drives that are fast and store more. The new 3D Nand drive also let the drive last longer with more read and write cycles. These new drives also come in lots of different sizes and shapes to match you computer. The 2.5 inch SSD format goes inside of most computers. I added one to a tower computer that replaced the old mechanical disk drive. It boots and runs much faster now with no moving parts. New laptops use the new PCIe SSD drives which are even smaller and are used internally in some laptops. They also offer small external SSDs with USB interface that just plugs in a USB port. The prices of these continue to decrease with 256 GB drives costing about \$35. I have seen SSD drives up to 10 Terabyte size. The price is high for those super capacity drives. If you are looking for more storage check out the size and style you need. On Ebay do a search for “SSD DRIVE”.



Amateur Hardware Update

By: James Butler KB4LJV

Timewave is now making a new digital interface for digital modes. The unit is the top of the line for digital interfaces. The quality of Timewave has been great over the past years. All the extra features of this interface make this a top choice. The unit has a built-in sound card for the audio functions. It hooks to the computer with a single USB computer connection. The unit is USB powered. It has a built-in logic level converter for CAT rig control and RS-232. The unit also has the K1EL keyer interface for morse code. The Navigator also generates true FSK RTTY. The unit has no jumpers or switches to set as all settings are done in software. The Navigator has transformer isolation for all critical signals. A red LED lights up to show when rig PTT is activated. A yellow LED indicates data transfer between Navigator and the radio. This interface has more features than most other interfaces. To see all it will do you need to go to the web site to see them.

The web address is <http://old.timewave.com/>



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 Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB

The YL Net is every Saturday at 8:45 pm on the 146.820 frequency, which has a PL tone of 107.2 Hz. We encourage all YLs to check in with us on the YL Net!

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>.

2023 Board of Directors

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sfrazier1@bellsouth.net
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Repeater Trustee

Barry McDonald, W5CJ
W5CJ@ARRL.NET
901-853-0510

Upcoming Events

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

June 17, 2023:	Knoxville Hamfest and Electronics Convention / ARRL Tennessee State Convention (Knoxville, TN)
June 24-25, 2023:	ARRL Field Day
August 19, 2023	Huntsville Hamfest
September 30, 2023:	Bluff City Blues Bike Ride, Shelby Forest
October 14, 2023	A Day in the Park

Memphis Area VHF/UHF Nets

Name of Net	Frequency (MHz)	Offset/Tone	Local Time	Day of Week
Delta Club Information Net	146.82	- (107.2)	8:00p	Daily
YL Net	146.82	- (107.2)	8:45p	Saturday
Four-Forty Net	443.7	+(107.2)	8:30p	Friday
Mid-South Bullfrog Net	146.535	[simplex]	7:30p	Daily
Elmer Net	444.175	+ (107.2)	9:00p	Sunday
MedMERS Net	146.82	- (107.2)	12:00p	Wednesday
ARES Training Net	146.85	- (107.2)	9:00p	Thursday
Sunday Super Niner Net	927.6125	- (146.2)	8:30p	Sunday
TN Statewide DMR Net	Digital – DMR		8:00p	Friday
Crittenden ARO	147.15	+ (107.2)	7:30p	Sunday
Crittenden ARO	442.4	+ (107.2)	8:00p	Thursday
Olive Branch ARC	147.255	+ (79.9)	8:30p	Thursday
Linked	444.7	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Thursday
Desoto County EMA	146.91	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Monday
Tipton ARS	145.49	+ (100.0)	7:30p	Thursday

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)



Joe Miller
Owner

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