

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 91 * August 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, August 8, 2023.

*****NEW MEETING LOCATION FOR AUGUST*****

The August meeting will be held at Mid-America Theological Seminary located at 2095 Appling Rd, Memphis, TN 38016. See the Delta Club webpage at: <http://www.deltaclub.org> for detailed instructions on how to find the correct entrance. Parking is in the back of the south end of the building. The meeting will be in the Betty Howard Special Events Room.

There will be FCC Testing Tuesday in Room B201.

Program: “*Huntsville Hamfest Overview & Repeater Discussion*” led by John Reiners KN4BVH

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

HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST BUS TRIP - AUGUST 19, 2023

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Director of Training

DARC is sponsoring a 50-passenger bus trip to go to the Huntsville Hamfest on Saturday, August 19, 2023. The fare is \$119. A spouse or child living at the same address can accompany a full fare rider for \$75. The fare includes the \$15 hamfest entry ticket. There will be biscuit sandwiches, water, sodas, chips, and fruit on the bus going to Huntsville and whatever is left for the trip back. There are no refunds, but you can sell your seat to someone else if you cannot go. Let me know.

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

Reservations will be on a first come first paid basis.

The bus will leave Germantown Baptist Church, 9450 Poplar Avenue at Johnson Road, Germantown, TN at 6:30am. The bus will leave Huntsville immediately after the 4pm door prize drawing and return to Germantown Baptist Church approximately 7:45pm.

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

The Huntsville Hamfest website is www.hamfest.org.

Announcements

Volunteers Needed for Delta Club Board of Directors Nominating Committee

We are approaching election time and we need two more individuals to serve on a Nominating Committee to nominate the upcoming Delta Club Board of Directors. This Nominating Committee will be appointed at the upcoming August meeting. Perry Hayes N4GJ will serve as the chairman of the committee.

The members on the Nominating Committee will work together to make sure that each of the elected Delta Club Board of Directors positions have at least one nominee. These names will be placed into nomination at the October membership meeting. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Perry Hayes N4GJ at pshayes@gmail.com or 901-626-2279 by the August membership meeting.

Board of Directors Election Approaching

If you are looking for a way to get more involved in Delta Club, consider serving on the Board of Directors! Nominations for the 2024 year will open during the October 10, 2023 membership meeting. Every position is open, but some of the current board members have expressed interest and willingness to serve another year. There will be some vacancies that will be discussed at upcoming meetings.

All nominees must be members of the DARC in good standing and possess voting rights. To be nominated, one must have attended at least six of the past twelve membership meetings at the time of election, which is Tuesday, November 14, 2023. If you are unsure of how many meetings you have attended, check with Paul Broom KY4MX.

More information about the board responsibilities and the election process can be found in Article IV of our bylaws: https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/58124ffd-d6ca-4502-9af3-7fa04c033729/downloads/DARC%20Bylaws_2021.pdf?ver=1690123687369. (The bylaws are posted at the bottom of the Membership page on www.deltaclub.org.)

If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Nominating Committee Chairman Perry Hayes N4GJ at pshayes@gmail.com or 901-626-2279. If you have questions about the responsibilities of the board, ask any current and/or former board member.

2023 ARRL Dues Update

Click the link to see the new ARRL Dues rate: <http://www.arrl.org/2024-dues-rates>

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>

President's Corner

Submitted by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB

The upcoming August membership meeting is one that you do not want to miss! We have lots of events coming up, from the Huntsville Hamfest to community service activities and more! As always, we will discuss these upcoming events and opportunities during the meeting.

This month's program will be a two-parter. First, John Reiners KN4BVH will give us an overview of what to expect during the upcoming Huntsville Hamfest. After that, he will moderate the discussion on the W4BS repeater system. The board and/or repeater committee will update the club on the status of the 82 repeater. We also want to open the floor for questions or comments that you may have about the system. Many of you have reached out over the past few months to ask questions or offer suggestions. We want this to be a time to answer all of your questions. This is a time to discuss as a club what we want out of the repeater system, so I encourage you to use this as an opportunity to share any suggestions, too. This should serve as a good opportunity for members to see why we are able to offer or not offer certain functions on certain repeaters, as well.

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

July 1, 2023 through July 31, 2023

SUMMARY

Beginning Balance	\$22,156.63	Minimum Daily Balance	\$21,524
Deposits & Credits	\$812.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$22,110
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$653.91 -		
Ending Balance	\$22,314.72		

DEPOSITS & CREDITS

07/12	Deposit - Thank You	416.00
07/18	Deposit - Thank You	297.00
07/24	Deposit - Thank You	99.00
		<hr/>
Total Deposits & Credits		\$812.00

CHECKS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
07/05	1592	193.78	07/20	1595 *	21.91
07/11	1593	438.22			
					Total Checks
					\$653.91

* Break In Check Number Sequence.

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>
07/05	21,962.85	07/12	21,940.63	07/20	22,215.72
07/11	21,524.63	07/18	22,237.63	07/24	22,314.72

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,074.59	1.980 %	\$74.59	\$1.11
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER			
*8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$24.98	align="right">\$0.00	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	7/28/2023	align="right">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>
\$11,185.00	2.230 %	\$185.00	\$2.74
<hr/>			
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER			
*8503			
<hr/>			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$62.01	\$0.00	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	7/28/2023	11/26/2024	
<hr/>			
▲ Hide More Details			

Applications Received - July 2023

(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues	\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived	\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s)	\$0.00
(1) Membership Renewal(s)	\$20.00
(0) Donations Received	\$0.00

Total Dues Received \$20.00

Other Deposits & Credits

(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)	\$0.00
(0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)	\$0.00
Huntsville Hamfest - Collected Bus Fare (8 @ \$99)	\$792.00

Total Other Deposits \$792.00

Total Deposits \$812.00

Withdrawals

None	\$0.00
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Total Withdrawals \$0.00

Checks

Check #1592 - Joe Lowenthal - Huntsville Hamfest tables, Refreshments, & Fire Extinguisher refill	\$193.78
Check #1593 - Mary Jean Hall - Reimbursement for Field Day Food	\$438.22
Check #1595 - Mary Jean Hall - Reimbursement for purchase of storage bins for club equipment	\$21.91

Total Payments \$653.91

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Paul Broom, KY4MX

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for August 1, 2023

Attendees: Mary Jean Hall KY4FB, Perry Hayes N4GJ, Paul Broom KY4MX, Jim Martin KD4FUU, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Mike Harrison KM4MRW, Barry McDonald W5CJ and Len Grice W4MKS.

Absent: John Reiners KN4BVH and Scott Adams KM4PMU

Guests: Rick Tillman WA4NVM.

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, August 1, 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 recapped how the previous meeting went at the Mid-America Theological Seminary. The signage that Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO created and posted help greatly in directing people to the location. Joe also indicated that he had been in contact with Ellendale Church of Christ and it will likely be many months before the club can return to that location. Randy Redd KQ4HJH had previously indicated that he has drafted a request for approval of extended usage of the Seminary for club meetings. It was agreed to pursue using this location through the end of the year.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO gave an update on the bus for Huntsville Hamfest on August 19. A total of 22 have confirmed with some additional scholarships being given to assist with the cost shortfall and so the trip will be held. He also indicated that the club was granted a discounted entry fee for early confirmation and its regular attendance at the Hamfest.

New Business

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB announced that the ARRL Volunteers on the Air (VOTA) will be in Tennessee starting September 13, running for 5 days. John Reiners KN4BVH and Steve Frazier KK4VPT participated in the Spring for the first one. She also announced that the Bluff City Blues Ride is scheduled for September 30, but no further information is available at this time.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB raised a question of the possible need to do a review of where the club stands with its repeater equipment in regards to upgrades of equipment or functionality. Barry

McDonald W5CJ indicated that his current focus is to get the 146.82 repeater functional again. He indicated that there is an additional hard line that terminates in the repeater room and extends an additional 200 feet above the existing antenna location. He proposed that the 146.82 antenna be relocated to the higher location and utilize the related feedline. He further indicated that the alternate line had been traced and tested the last time climbers were engaged. He has been in discussions with Wallace Tower, and they have quoted a price for the work if it could be done in a few weeks when a crew would be doing other work in Memphis. Joe Lowenthal moved that the club engage Wallace Tower to climb the tower and move the antenna to the higher location for a price of approximately \$2,000. Perry Hayes 2nd the motion. The motion passed without objection.

Jim Martin KD4FUU reviewed the treasurer's report with the group.

One membership renewal application was received during the month. Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO moved that the renewal application be approved, with Barry McDonald W5CJ seconding the motion. The motion passed with no objections.

Perry Hayes N4GJ was appointed to lead the nominating committee for the November Club elections. The remainder of the committee will be finalized by the August member meeting.

Board/Officer Reports

Joe Lowenthal WA4VO gave an update on the Technician Training class that is currently underway. The first four classes covered the training materials and the test will be given on Monday August 7. He expects to have 11 or 12 to take the exam.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB asked that anyone let her know if there were any special request for refreshments for the upcoming meeting and she would pass on to Scott Adams KM4PMU. She also shared that John Reiners KN4BVH plans to give a Huntsville Hamfest Overview and will also lead a discussion on repeaters at the upcoming meeting.

Barry McDonald W5CJ had nothing further to report.

Len Grice W4MKS recapped the press releases and publicity received for Field Day.

Mike Harrison KM4MRW indicated that the website has been updated for the August meeting location and he is waiting on information for Sparks which will go out this weekend.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB informed the Board that she had gone through the items that had been stored at the church. Everything was placed in plastic storage tubs and has been placed in temporary storage at Steve Frazier's KK4VPT father's garage.

Perry Hayes N4GJ had nothing to report.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB adjourned the meeting at 8:29 pm. The next regular Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 5, 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 July 11, 2023

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club was held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Mid-America Theological Seminary, 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.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB reminded everyone to sign in at the front door and to sign one ticket for the November drawing. She also informed everyone about the handouts that were available. New members and guests were recognized and she asked that everyone greet them during a break or after the meeting. She also recognized Randy Redd KQ4HJH for arranging the use of Mid-American Theological Seminary for the club meeting. She then took a roll call of those present.

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 talked about the storm that came through the Bartlett/Memphis area on June 26th. She indicated that it was the sixth worst storm in MLGW history. Many, including her, were without power for a week or more. She indicated that she had learned a lot from this group

over the years since becoming a ham, and that made the power outage much more bearable. She also updated everyone about the damage at the Ellendale Church of Christ. Clean up has begun but it is unclear as to when we will be able to resume meeting there. She reminded everyone to listen in on the nightly information net for updates on meeting locations. Further information will also be available at the Delta Club website and the club's Facebook page.

Bob Vawter KW4RJ gave the VE update indicating there were 2 at testing with no new hams from the session.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO gave an update on the Technician class that started the previous evening. A total of 16 have signed up for the class with 10 in attendance at the first meeting. The class is being held in person at the Appling Farms Station of the Memphis Police Department. He is planning to have a General class in November and an Extra Class in January. He also thanked the instructors who are volunteering to teach sections of the class.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO provided an update on the bus for the Huntsville Hamfest that will be on August 19th. He polled the group for additional attendees and indicated an additional 11 people were needed for the trip to be viable for the club. Trip commitments were to be reviewed after the 12th to determine if the trip would be held. Mary Jean Hall KY4FB informed the group that the Hamfest is a great place to see equipment. Numerous vendors will be there and there is also a really large indoor flea market for used equipment and accessories. There will also be numerous seminars. The bus will leave from the Germantown Baptist Church parking lot at 6:30 am and will return at approximately 8:00 pm. The fare includes the bus transportation, soft drink and water, snacks and breakfast biscuits on the bus, and the \$15 Hamfest admission. She also indicated that there will be experienced hams on the trip who can provide guidance and recommendations on equipment and accessories. Joe also informed everyone that the concession stand at the hamfest will be cashless this year, accepting only debit/credit cards for payment. The pricing through July 12 is \$99, increasing to \$119 after that date. An additional household member can attend for \$75. Mary Jean asked that anyone who was interested in joining the trip to let Joe know before leaving the meeting.

Billy Freeman WL4B thanked Mary Jean Hall KY4FB for all the work and coordination she did at Field Day. Mary Jean commented that Field Day went well. There was a total of 60 people who signed in for the event which is the best attendance in recent years. Many people showed up on Saturday to catch up with other hams and there were also several new hams checking out the various setups that were in use for the event. She also thanked everyone who coordinated the various stations.

- Information Table – Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO and Len Grice W4MKS
- Get on the Air (GOTA) - Steve Frazier KK4VPT
- 15 and 80 meter phone – Matt Ryan W2MJR

- 20 meter phone – Fred Miller KS2X
- Digital utilizing solar – David Wilke W5DJW
- Satellite – Rick Tillman WA4NVM
- CW – Pat Lane W4OQG
- Logging and networking – John Reiners KN4BVH

John Reiners KN4BVH talked about the router and logging software that was used. While there were some issues it seemed to go really well. Mary Jean Hall KY4FB commented on the number of folks that stayed overnight, and also indicated that there were visitors that came up around midnight and stayed a few hours. Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO gave the information on contacts made during the event.

- 80 meters – 40 contacts
- 40 meters – 191 contacts
- 20 meters – 285 contacts
- 6 meters – 14 contacts
- Total all bands - 530 contacts

Pictures from Field Day are available in Sparks and on the club Facebook page.

Discussion / Program

John Reiners KN4BVH gave a presentation on Emergency Power and led a very active discussion on batteries and solar power, generators along with having the appropriate extension cords and a current fire extinguisher, uninterruptable power supplies, and power gates (basically, a 12-volt uninterruptable power supply).

Closing Remarks

Delta Club President Mary Jean Hall KY4FB adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM.

The next Delta Amateur Radio Club meeting will be Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Mid-American Theological Seminary.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Broom, Secretary (2023)



Photo of Delta Club meeting at Mid-America Theological Seminary by: Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

Delta Ham License Training, 2023

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

CURRENT CLASS

Tech Class 3-23 – July 10 – August 14, 2023

A Technician license class is being held in person on six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on July 10,14,21,28, August 7 & 14. The first four classes were instructional and the sixth class will be informational on FM radio basics, APRS, satellite, and digital modes the students can operate on. Classes will be at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms Station precinct, 6850 Appling Farms Pkwy, Memphis. There are 12 students attending class. The fifth class on August 7 th will be a review of the 399 questions and answers in the FCC question pool with an opportunity to take the FCC exam(s). The Laurel VE Team will provide the FCC testing opportunity.



John KN4BVH instructing on chapter 9, Safety
Photos by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO



Perry N4GJ teaching chapter 6, Modulation

The instructors are Paul KA4X, Park AI5CY, Paul KY4MX, John KN4BVH, Perry N4GJ, Joe WA4OVO, Steve KK4VPT, and KX4QF. The equipment demonstrators are Joe WA4OVO, Rick WA4NVM/Richard K4DXF, Rick KJ4NWQ and John KN4BVH.

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

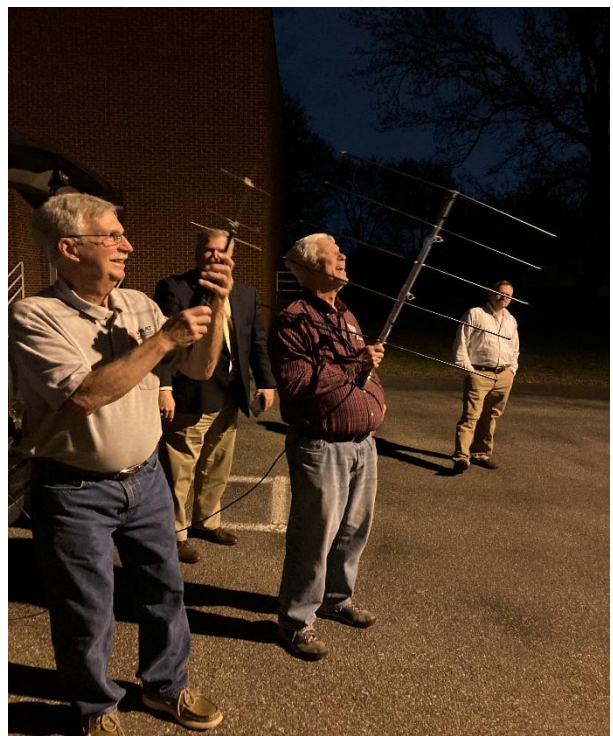
Photo by Mary Jean Hall KY4FB

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.

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

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 ARRLs 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. **If you join or renew through Delta Club, the club receives a commission. For new ARRL members or expired membership over 2 years there is a \$15 commission; for renewals a \$5 commission** ARRL Application.pdf

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

Many new products we buy are using a USB connection for a power supply and charging. The size of the chargers means we always have a shortage of wall outlets to handle them all. Manufacturers have now come out with a USB power hub or tower with multiple USB outlets to allow us to make these connections. They offer USB outputs marked with different max current capacities. The USB connections are marked with the maximum current available from each outlet. Some units lay flat on the table with multiple connections while other units use a vertical style to save desk space. You can also pick the number of USB ports you want on the chargers. Small units may only have 2 to 4 connections while large ones can have up to 12. To find the USB hub or tower you want search on Ebay for “USB charging station”.

Black



Amateur Hardware Update

By: James Butler KB4LJV

EBL batteries have been around for a long time. They have a reputation as good batteries that can handle 100s of recharges. These are sold on EBAY and Amazon and have good feedback. EBL offers different styles of rechargeable batteries including AA, AAA, and 9 volt using Lithium Ion and Nickel Metal Hydride chemistry. They are sold in packs of 4,8,16 and up. Their batteries also have different capacities you can buy. AA capacity is from 800 to 3000 milliamp hours. EBL also sells battery chargers for their batteries. These can be bought separately or along with the batteries as a combo. If you want good rechargeable batteries and chargers look at the offering at Amazon or Ebay. Do a search for “EBL battery”.



**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. We normally meet on the 146.820 frequency, which has a PL tone of 107.2 Hz. We are currently meeting on a secondary frequency, which is on the 443.700 W4BS repeater. This has a +5 MHz offset and a PL Tone of 107.2 Hz.

We encourage all YLs and OMs 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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Steve Frazier, KK4VPT
sfrazier1@bellsouth.net
901-218-6385

Repeater Trustee

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

Upcoming Events

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

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 Info Net (Primary)	146.82	- (107.2)	8:00p	Daily
Delta Club Info Net (Secondary)	443.7	+(107.2)	8:00p	Daily
Four-Forty Net	443.7	+(107.2)	8:30p	Friday
YL Net (Primary)	146.82	- (107.2)	8:45p	Saturday
YL Net (Secondary)	443.7	+(107.2)	8:45p	Saturday
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

Chick-fil-A Paragon Place
6282 Poplar Avenue
At Poplar and Massey
Memphis, TN 38119
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