

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 61 * February 2021



Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC)

Sparks Newsletter

Website: <http://deltaclub.org>

Facebook:

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

W4BS

REPEATER SYSTEM

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

We do plan to meet this month via "ZOOM."

Steve Frazier is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Delta Club February Member Meeting

Time: Feb 9, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6317803269?pwd=N21XbHNlUc3lxSnhoaTNoQ1VOdGNtQT09>

Meeting ID: 631 780 3269

Passcode: 843647

Program: *"Communicating with the ISS"*

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

Announcements

Joe Loenthal, WA4OVO, spoke with Tom Vickers, N4TV, who is one of the owners of the 443.950 repeater. He said that the MTEARS signal is coming from the Lawrenceburg repeater in middle TN. That is why it is low audio. He does not know how it is getting into their repeater since they have a PL tone on the repeater. Must be some mixing going on with all the RF at that site.

President's Corner

Submitted by Steve Frazier, KK4VPT

It is hard to believe that this time just last year we were just beginning to hear about Covid-19 and did not have any idea that there would be a “new normal”. Now we all know more than we ever would have imagined we would know about Covid-19 and the “new normal” has become normal. During this transition due to COVID-19, the Delta Club has done a great job adapting to the ever changing changes. We have used online zoom meetings to continue our Board of Directors meetings and our Members meetings. We have continued to have training classes by doing the classes on line and have had in person testing sessions that follow guidelines for social distancing. We had a much scaled down Field Day and in October we had an outdoor swap meet that we called Junk in the Trunk. I know that we all want to return to the way things were this time last year, but it is beginning to look like that will not be any time soon. The good news is that Delta Club will continue to adapt and thrive.

You may remember that last year the FCC had proposed increasing the fees associated with amateur radio licenses. The increase did pass on December 29 for \$35 instead of the proposed \$50. The new fee will be for a new license application, a special temporary authority (STA) request, a rule waiver request, a license renewal application, and a vanity call sign application. All fees are per application. There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address. The fee increase is not in effect yet and ARRL is expecting we will have at least a 30 day notice before it does go into effect. Before this does go into effect, this would be a great time to apply for anything you may need before the change goes into effect.

I look forward to seeing you on the Zoom meeting on Tuesday and to joining you on the net that we have every night at 8pm except the second Tuesday of the month on the 146.82 repeater.

73 to all -
Steve Frazier
KK4VPT

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by David Jackson

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

Membership for one is \$20 or family is \$25. You can fill out the form online and email to Jim Martin KD4FUU at KD4FUU@gmail.com

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

LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS			
January 1, 2021 through January 29, 2021			
SUMMARY			
Beginning Balance	\$25,132.53	Minimum Daily Balance	\$19,205
Deposits & Credits	\$0.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$20,023
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$5,927.02 -		
Ending Balance	\$19,205.51		
CHECKS			
Date	Check No.	Amount	
01/05	1545	5,927.02	
DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY			
Date	Balance		
01/05	19,205.51		

SMALL BUSINESS CD *0028

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$10,656.64	1.590 %	\$0.00	\$20.43
View More Details			

Applications Received - January 2021

(2) New Members	\$40.00
(22) Renewals	\$450.00
(3) Donations (submitted w/ applications)	<u>\$70.00</u>
Total Received	\$560.00

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Carolyn Horne KX4QF

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for February 2, 2021

Attendees: Steve Frazier KK4VPT, Mary Jean Hall KN4FBL, Carolyn Horne KX4QF, Jim Martin KD4FUU, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Ian Lucas KN4OEK, Ray Cole KX5RC, Scott Adams KM4PMU, and Barry McDonald W5CJ.

Absent: Mike Harrison KM4MRW, Len Grice W4MKS.

Guests:

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. on a Zoom video conference call, with the President serving as chair and the Secretary being present. Two members were absent. President Steve Frazier KK4VPT called the meeting to order. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the board met online to abide by state and local guidelines.

Jim Martin read the Treasurer's Report. Mary Jean Hall made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Barry McDonald seconded it. The motion to approve it unanimously passed. Jim Martin presented the board with a thank you note from the Ellendale Church of Christ for the Delta Club's generous donation to the church. Jim Martin met with David Jackson to take possession of all financial documents for the Delta Club. This includes a laptop. They still need to set up a meeting to change the name on the bank account. Jim Martin said that the bank requires Steve Frazier to be involved since he is the main account holder.

Jim Martin received twenty-four membership application forms in our P.O. Box and forwarded pdf versions of them to Carolyn Horne for processing. He will retain the original forms until we are meeting again in person, then turn them over to the Secretary. Of the applications, two were for new members, twenty-two were renewals, and three renewals included a total of \$70 in donations. It was agreed upon that an invitation to give donations along with the applications be included in the SPARKS newsletter.

Jim Martin requested a new club-specific email address be used instead of his old address. The Secretary will update the records.

Carolyn Horne read the new and renewed membership requests. Ian Lucas made a motion to accept them. Joe Lowenthal seconded the motion. The motion to approve these new members unanimously passed. Carolyn Horne said she had emailed or mailed out letters and membership cards to all applicants confirmed in the January board meeting.

Ian Lucas and Ray Cole said they found a couple of videos on YouTube about what is currently operational for Ham Radio on the International Space Station (ISS). Ray Cole said he had two points lined up for presentation at the February Membership Meeting. First, he would like to discuss communications with the ISS relay station. Secondly, he may discuss facsimile download from the ISS using YouTube videos. As a backup he may offer an introduction to digital operations. Steve Frazier mentioned he heard there was a problem with the ISS Ham radio comms. He sent a link from the ARRL to the board: <http://www.arrl.org/news/ariss-and-partners-are-investigating-space-station-ham-radio-failure>. Joe said he had not heard news of that from AMSAT.

Ray Cole requested a program be scheduled to review all the repeaters in our area, including their special capabilities. Ray Cole mentioned he had faintly heard the Middle Tennessee Emergency Amateur Radio

System (MTEARS) on the 443.950 repeater and wondered how that may have occurred. Joe Lowenthal said that repeater is owned by Tom Vickers N4TV and two others, at Mullins Station on the Sheriff's Department tower. Barry McDonald said to ask him what equipment he is using. Joe Lowenthal spoke with Tom Vickers and sent a message to the board that the MTEARS signal is coming from the Lawrenceburg repeater in middle TN. That is why it is low audio. Somehow it is getting through without a PL tone, which that repeater requires. Barry McDonald and Joe Lowenthal discussed briefly how to implement MTEARS through local repeaters. More analysis would be required. (Note: Dedicated "MTEARS" UHF only repeaters serve as a "liaison net" during severe weather. A number of meteorologists at the National Weather Service Nashville are amateur radio operators and communicate with spotters on the MTEARS Repeater Link System. – www.mtears.org).

Joe Lowenthal said the Extra class has been extended due to running long, given the classes are 3 ¼ hours instead of the regular 4 hours. Jeff Krause and Joe Lowenthal are coordinating testing, which has been scheduled on February 18 at the Ellendale Church of Christ. A Tech Class has been scheduled for February 22 through April 5 and may be extended a week, but the exam is set for March 29. Joe Lowenthal said 17 people are already registered, including one in Oxford, MS. He and Steve Frazier talked about limiting the number of new applicants. Christian Brothers University (CBU) Tech Review class is tentatively set for Wednesday, February 24. Joe Lowenthal is trying to get it in before the FCC fee increase comes into effect.

Barry McDonald had two reports. First, he and Rick Tillman purchased a 100-amp-hour sealed lead acid battery backup for the 146.82 repeater site in Brunswick. The price was \$164.61, and it weighed about 63 pounds. Rick Tillman tested it with an amp meter and said it should provide power for about a week. There is a generator in the building, but it is wired into a circuit breaker that services other outlets. The breaker has tripped before leaving the repeater without power. Secondly, Barry McDonald has been visiting the 146.82 repeater site weekly to check on the progress of repairs to the Channel 30 waveguide. Staff there told him it will not be fixed for another three months, due to fulfillment issues on the new parts. For now, they have JB welded it together over a six-inch gap and are back up to full power. The staff member said our antenna and cable were not affected by the meltdown.

Scott Adams asked Barry McDonald about sending a signal from the UPS at the 146.82 site when it goes on backup. Barry McDonald said he will have to investigate that.

Mary Jean Hall is working on updating our by-laws. This will be up for discussion in a later board meeting. Steve Frazier said that the by-laws were reviewed in detail in 2017, so he and Mary Jean Hall thought the only issue to address is wording for Zoom meeting credits regarding officer requirements. However, we can review it in its entirety with new pairs of eyes. Steve Frazier said that if the board does not get to it by March, we may set up a special board Zoom meeting just to cover the by-laws. The board unanimously agreed to that. Mary Jean Hall said she noticed a flyer on Instagram for the Bluff City Blues ride scheduled for October 9, 2021. Visit www.bcb100.com for more information.

Joe Lowenthal notified the board that Jane Robilio, wife of Marshall Robilio KU4O, passed away. Marshall Robilio was the co-owner operator of Memphis Amateur Electronics from 1979 to 2003.

Steve Frazier said he is working on the President's Corner article for the SPARKS newsletter.

The board discussed COVID vaccines and their availability in Shelby County. The consensus was that given the rate of vaccine distribution, we can anticipate having Zoom meetings for quite a while.

Steve Frazier adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m. The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Horne KX4QF, Secretary

Minutes of Last Month's Club Meeting

Submitted by Carolyn Horne KX4QF

DARC Meeting Minutes for January 12, 2021

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club was held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. on a Zoom video conference call, with the President serving as chair and the Secretary being present. Club President Steve Frazier KK4VPT called the meeting to order and then welcomed everyone to the meeting. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the club met online to abide by state and local guidelines. At least 59 members and guests were present for the meeting.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Len Grice W4MKS moved to “approve the Treasurer’s Report as published in Sparks.” Steve Frazier KK4VPT said that was understood to include the minutes. Dan Wehner KN4FBJ seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted by the club.

Announcements

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO announced that the first Extra Class took place in January. On Thursday, January 14, Dean Honadle N2LAZ is teaching on calculators used for radio mathematics. They aim to finish the class by February 11 but may extend it a week, so testing would be on February 11 or 18, or perhaps on a Saturday evening. Another student was added this week, bringing the total to 7. A Technician Class may be scheduled in February. Anyone interested should email Joe at wa4ovo@gmail.com with “Technician Class” in the subject line. The body of the email should include your name, phone and email address.

John Reiners KN4BVH said that there is an ARES meeting scheduled next Tuesday. He added that ARES activity has been slow so far this year.

Jeff Krause AJ4GY said he will do FCC testing if he hears from at least 3 to 4 people.

Bobby Stroud KD5BS said the Mid-South Area Repeater Linking (MARL) Network is coming up on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. Though the repeaters are linked through WIRES-X, anyone can access their local participating repeater on FM analog. Jeff Krause AJ4GY said he will get with Bobby Stroud KD5BS to see about joining another repeater into the network.

Marc Gwin AG5QY had news about the West Memphis 442.400 repeater. A new duplexer has been inserted so he said hopefully that will increase the coverage area. He reminded everyone that this repeater has a PL tone of 107.2 Hz.

Rick Tillman WA4NVM said the Dayton Hamfest has officially been canceled this year due to the pandemic. Steve Frazier KK4VPT commented that there are still a couple of smaller ones scheduled, but they will have to play it by ear to see if those plans pan out. Rick Tillman WA4NVM talked about Freefest possibilities but noted that financial strains on the hospitals and other organizations have caused donations for prizes to be down from normal levels.

Steve Frazier KK4VPT announced that the Swamp Stompers event will be taking place on Saturday, January 16, 2021. He noted it is on Saturday instead of Sunday this year. He is leading that event and has a full roster signed up but could use a few volunteers as backups.

Rick Tillman WA4NVM reminded everyone that the ARRL VHF contest is coming up shortly. (The January VHF contest takes place from 1900Z, Jan 16 – 0359Z, Jan 18. Logs are due by 0359Z on Jan 28.) Steve Frazier KK4VPT added that Winter Field day is also coming up over the January 28–29 weekend, although we have not traditionally participated in that as a club.

Discussion / Program

Program: "Root Cause Identification and Corrective Action of the 82 Repeater Interference on the Brunswick Tower" by Barry McDonald W5CJ & Rick Tillman WA4NVM.

Closing Remarks

Delta Club President Steve Frazier KK4VPT adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

The next Delta Amateur Radio Club meeting will be Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Check the current edition of SPARKS or the Delta Amateur Radio Club Facebook page just before the scheduled meeting time for more information on the Zoom link for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Horne KX4QF, Secretary (2021)

Delta Ham License Training, 2021

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

Another year is in the books. I'm sure it has been challenging for all. We had four classes: the Extra Class was under normal circumstances. Then COVID 19 hit so we began the Zoom classes. As a result, our pass rate was somewhat lower than other years and those that did pass were not active. Hopefully, the New Year will bring more activity on the air.

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

If you want to take a class, send an email to Joe at wa4ovo@gmail.com with the class name; ie, Tech Class, General Class, or Extra Class, on the Subject line and name, callsign if you have one, email address, and cellphone number in the text.

Licenses Earned in 2021 from Delta Classes

0 Technician

0 General

0 Extra

Note:

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROPOSED CLASSES

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

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

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

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

SCHEDULED CLASSES

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

A Technician license class will be held one night a week via Zoom from February 22nd thru April 5th on Monday or Thursday nights. An in-person class will be held on March 29th for review and opportunity for FCC exam at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Hwy 70 (Summer Ave) in Bartlett. As of February 2nd there are 17 students registered for the class.

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

A Technician license review session is scheduled for February 24th with Laurel VEC FCC testing to follow.

CURRENT CLASSES

EXTRA Class 1-21 – January 4 – February 18, 2021

An Extra Class license class is being held via Zoom from January 4th thru February 11th on Monday or Thursday nights from 6:15-9:30pm. The Zoom classes will meet on January 4, 14, 21, 25 and February 1st. The in-person FCC exam opportunity will be on February 11th. The students are Carla KO4FVX, Ransom KO4FVZ, Mike KM4MRW, Russell KO4ASW, Jason KO4DOH and David KN4BXI.

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

COMPLETED CLASSES

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

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

Congratulations to Ransom Bowen KO4FVZ and Elliot Pope KO4DER for upgrading to General on December 7th. Also, congratulations to Carla Andrews KO4FVX for upgrading to General on December 21st at the Tipton County ARS (Atoka) test session. The others will test later. Congratulations to Kevin Kelly KO4KAO who earned his Technician license during the Delta Club test session.

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

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

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

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



Tech Class 3-20 Test Session Photo by Rick Tillman WA4NVM
Congratulations to Carla Andrews KO4FVX, Ryan Bednar KO4FVY, Ransom Bowen KO4FVZ, David Harkleroad KO4FWB, Phillip Green II KO4FWC, Brian Richards KO4FWD, Cynthia Spain KO4FWE, and Philip Thomas KO4FWF for obtaining their Technician licenses. Additional congratulations to Ryan KO4FVY and Cynthia KO4FWE for also upgrading to General. Thanks to Joe WA4OVO, Perry N4GJ, Barry W5CJ, Jelly N4HLT and Rick WA4NVM for providing the Laurel VEC test session.



Laurel VEs Jelly N4HLT, Joe WA4OVO, Perry N4GJ, Barry W5CJ with photographer Rick WA4NVM.

The instructors were Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Paul Roberts KA9VAU, Len Grice W4MKS, Perry Hayes N4GJ, John Reiners KN4BVH, and Pat Lane W4OQG.

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

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

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

When FCC testing resumes, we will see how well the students retained their learning. Congratulations to Kyle KD2TCA for upgrading on April 3rd at a drive-thru test session. Congratulations to Debra Johnson from the Tech 2-20 for earning her General as noted below.

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

Tech Class 2-20 was held from February 22nd to March 21st on four Saturdays except March 14th from 9am to 1pm. The first three sessions were at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms Station precinct, 6850 Appling Farms Pkwy. Due to the coronavirus the last instructional class was held online on GoToMeeting. While the order for 10 or less people in a meeting was active, we had arranged to have the Laurel VE team provide testing at a student's shop with only five students testing at a time. However, the Safer at Home order cancelled those plans.

Congratulations to Jennifer Boardman KX4YG for Tech, General and Extra; Deborah Johnson KO4DEP for Tech and General; and Thomas Clark KO4DEQ, Elliot Pope KO4DER and Marc Tester KO4DES for Tech. Thanks to the Tipton County ARS VE team led by Bob AI4GI with Ronny WA4RW and Bill KI4BIY

for offering the test session. On July 30th with Tech Class 3-20 testing Michael Ehrhardt KO4FWA earned this Technician license.

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

Tech Review for CBU – February 5, 2020

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



CBU Tech Review Class

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

All five passed with great scores. Congratulations to Judit Aubets Macia KO4BPP, Josue Bohorquez KO4BPHammontree KO4BPT, Oscar Mendoza KI5ICD, and Samuel Ruleman KO4BPS.

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

HOW TO PRINT YOUR FCC LICENSE

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

VE FCC Test Session Held in October

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

Payne KO4IID for earning his Technician and General licenses.



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

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

ARRL Benefits

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

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

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

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

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

YL News
Submitted by Linda KJ4CTX

YL NET – Please join us each Saturday night at 8:45 p.m. on the 146.820 repeater for the YL Net. We enjoy hearing from you.

Logbook Of The World (LOTW) User Guide

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

The PDF file is available for download at:

https://www.g4ifb.com/LoTW_New_User_Guide.pdf

73, W4WTN

New Repeater in West Memphis & Buy/sell Facebook Group

There is a new System Fusion repeater in West Memphis.

The frequency is 442.400 with a PL Tone of 107.2 for non System Fusion users.

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

www.facebook.com/groups/memphismetroareahamradioswapshop

73, Marc Gwin AG5QY

ARISS and Partners Are Investigating Space Station Ham Radio Failure

<http://www.arrl.org/news/ariss-and-partners-are-investigating-space-station-ham-radio-failure>

Arizona Congresswoman Introduces National Amateur Radio Operators Day Resolution

US Representative Debbie Lesko of Arizona has introduced a resolution designating April 18, 2021, as National Amateur Radio Operators Day, to recognize the important contributions of amateur radio operators.

"Amateur radio operators are critical in times of crisis and our communities are safer thanks to their dedication to sharing important information with the public," Lesko said. She was approached to introduce the resolution by 12-year-old Raymond, N7KCB, from Peoria, Arizona.

"I started Long Distance Responders so I can help prepare the community for emergencies with amateur radio," said Raymond. "There might be a price for a radio, but the ability and knowledge to help someone is truly priceless."

As Lesko's resolution notes, World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) is celebrated annually on April 18 to commemorate the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) in 1925, and she said her resolution recognizes the amateur radio community with a national day in the United States in 2021. The resolution cites the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) for providing "invaluable emergency communications services following recent natural disasters, including but not limited to helping coordinate disaster relief efforts following Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma, and Maria and other extreme weather disasters."

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arizona-congresswoman-introduces-national-amateur-radio-operators-day-resolution>

73,
W4WTN

Sparks Newsletter and Delta Club Information

SPARKS is published monthly by the Delta Amateur Radio Club and emailed to club members. All information published in this newsletter is provided as a service. While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure accuracy, neither the Delta Amateur Radio Club nor its officers assume any liability resulting from errors or omissions. All correspondence may be mailed to:

Delta Amateur Radio Club *P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38184-2768

Please note that you must provide your name and call sign if you're requesting specific actions or personal follow-ups, and also be aware that any profane or mean-spirited comments will be unceremoniously discarded without consideration.

Delta Club Members Can Like Us/Follow Posts On Facebook!

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/darcmem>.

2021 Board of Directors

President

Steve Frazier, KK4VPT
sfrazier1@bellsouth.net
901-218-6385

Vice President

Mary Jean Hall KN4FBL
kn4fbl@gmail.com
901-356-1475

Secretary

Carolyn Horne KX4QF
KX4QF@arrl.net
901-737-7296

Treasurer

Jim Martin KD4FUU
KD4FUU@gmail.com
248-830-8179

Director of Training

Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO
wa4ovo@gmail.com
901-628-4318

Director of Publications

Mike Harrison, KM4MRW
mheagle85@gmail.com
731-609-1948

Co-Director of Programs

Ian Lucas KN4OEK
KN4OEK@gmail.com
901-828-6209

Co-Director of Programs

Ray Cole KX5RC
raycole@bellsouth.net
901-219-8468

Director of Meetings & Special Events

Scott Adams, KM4PMU
scottedadamsjr@hotmail.com
901-573-6280

Public Information Officer

Len Grice, W4MKS
W4MKS@arrl.net
901-522-6711

Immediate Past President

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

Repeater Trustee

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

Public Service Events

N/A

Tennessee Amateur Radio License Plate Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

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

The link below is for information and instructions about Tennessee ham radio call sign Emergency/Safety automobile license plates:

<https://www.tn.gov/revenue/title-and-registration/license-plates/available-license-plates/emergency-safety.html>

The application can be found at this link:

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/revenue/documents/forms/titlereg/f1312601Fill-in.pdf>

The following link from the Tennessee Department of Revenue

<https://www.tn.gov/revenue/title-and-registration/license-plates/available-license-plates/emergency-safety.html> has the Amateur Radio auto tag information.

Memphis Area VHF/UHF Nets

Name of Net	Freq. MHz	Offset/Tone	Local Time	Day of Week
Delta Club Information Net	146.820	- (107.2)	8:00p	Daily
YL Net	146.820	- (107.2)	8:45p	Sat
Mid-South Bullfrog Net	146.535	[simplex]	7:30p	Daily
Elmer Net	444.175	+ (107.2)	9:00p	Sun
MedMERS Net	146.820	- (107.2)	12:00p	Wed
ARES Training Net	146.850	- (107.2)	9:00p	Thu
Sunday Super Niner Net	927.6125	- (146.2)	8:30p	Sun
TN Statewide DMR Net	Digital – DMR		8:00 p	Friday

TENNESSEE HF NETS

Net Name	Freq. MHz	Local Time	Day of Week
Tennessee CW Net	3.563	7:00p	Daily
Tennessee Slow CW Net	3.682	7:30p	Tue-Sun
Tennessee Alternate Phone Net	7.238		As needed
CUSEC	3.810		As needed
CUSEC	7.180		As needed
(Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)			

3980 kHz – Tennessee Phone Net

Mon-Fri - 5:40 AM, 6:45 AM & **5:30 PM** (5:30 pm beginning Nov. 9 evening)

Saturday - 8:00 AM & 5:30 PM

Sunday - 8:00 AM only

Holidays - 8:00 AM only

DELTA CLUB ADVERTISEMENTS

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

**P.O. Box 342768
Memphis, TN 38134-2768**

DARC Meeting: Second
Tuesday of every month
at Ellendale Church of Christ
7365 Hwy 70, Bartlett TN



W4BS REPEATER SYSTEM
146.82- 147.36+ (107.2Hz tone)
224.42- 443.20+ (107.2Hz tone)



Joe Miller
Owner

Chick-fil-A Paragon Place
6282 Poplar Avenue
At Poplar and Massey
Memphis, TN 38119
W - 901.766.1875
C - 901.230.3043
Joe.Miller@cfafranchisee.com
chick-fil-a.com