

# SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 \* Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 \* Volume 97 \* February 2024



**Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC)**

**Sparks Newsletter**

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

**Facebook:**

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

## **W4BS**

### **REPEATER SYSTEM**

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

This month's meeting will be **IN PERSON ONLY** at 7 pm on Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

The 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.

### **Programs:**

- "Choosing Coax" by Ham Hilliard, W4GMM
- "Local HF Communications" by Dan Price, WA4RHK
- "Ham Clock Appliance" by Rick Kanschat, N0KYN

**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](mailto:KW4RJ@ARRL.net)

# Announcements

## Articles for Sparks

If you come across an interesting article that would benefit the Delta Club, please send it to Mike Harrison at [mheagle85@gmail.com](mailto:mheagle85@gmail.com) for possible inclusion in Sparks. We want to hear from you!

## MARA FreeFest (Bartlett, TN) – April 6th

The annual MARA FreeFest will be held April 6<sup>th</sup> at Bartlett Station Municipal Center, 5868 Stage Rd, Bartlett, TN. Admission to FreeFest is free. Door prize tickets will be for sale at the meeting by Rick Tillman, WA4NVM and Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO. All door prize ticket sales go to LeBonheur Children’s Hospital. Price for 1 sheet (6 tickets) is \$5 or 5 sheets for \$20.

## Delta Club Training

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](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com) with Subject line: Tech, General or Extra Class and name, email address and cellphone number in text.

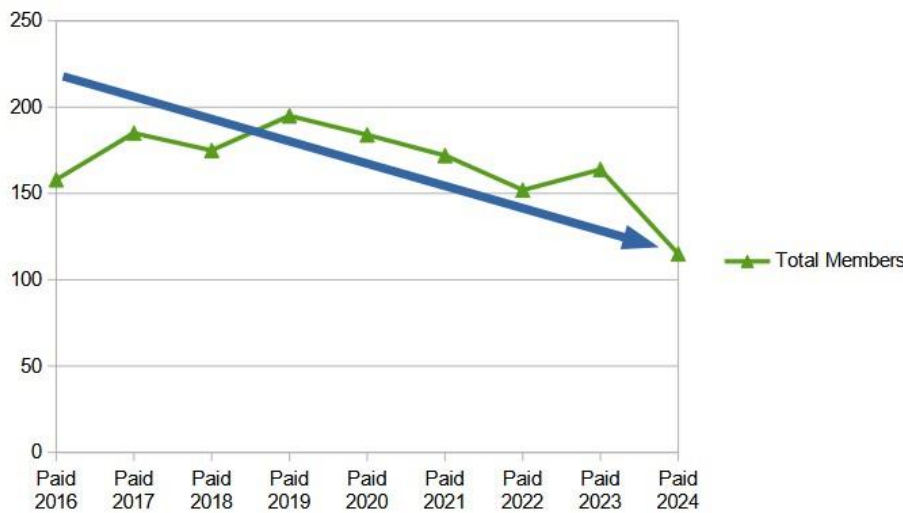
The next **Tech** Class 2-24 will be conducted February 22 – March 23, 2024

The next **General** license class will probably start in early November 2024.

The next **Extra** license class will probably start in early January 2025.

## A Quick note about our Membership

To our membership. I wanted to quickly share with you some data that I have pulled from the club records. This data goes back to 2016 and carries forward to 2024. The graph below is a



plot of the club’s paid membership from 2016 to the current numbers for 2024. I do not necessarily want to call out the actual numbers, but if you are interested in them, please contact me, but I really want to call out the slope of the Blue line in the graph below. The blue line is the trend line for all of the data. That trend line is down. I want you our members to know this and to see this. I would like

to call you to make the highest deposit into the club by asking your friends to join us.

Remember, our club allows non-licensed and licensed people to join. What better way to get

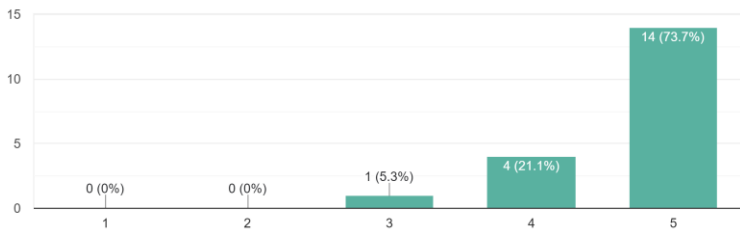
your friends involved in the hobby you love. Ask them to join our club and to attend our events. Who knows we may just end up hooking them into our great hobby.

### January Membership Meeting Signal Report

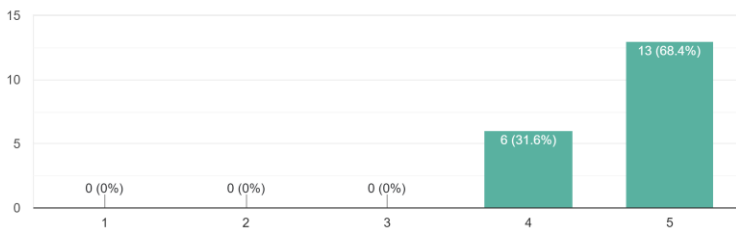
I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the January meeting. We had 50 people on the sign in sheet and 19 surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback on how things are going. We want to hear from the membership, both good and bad. It gives us the opportunity to hear from you and respond. Our surveys allow us to quickly respond to things that are liked and things that are not liked. If we are doing something that is not getting good feedback we are committed to changing it and making it better. Please enjoy the results from January below.

Thank you.

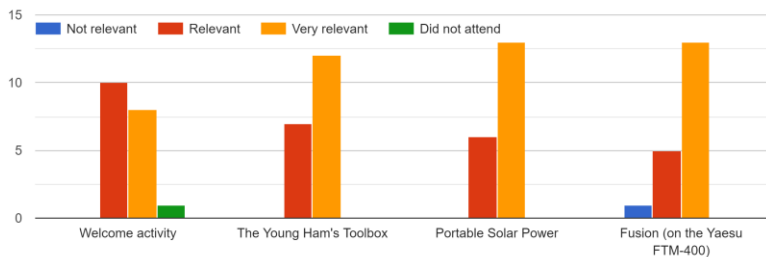
How satisfied were you with the event?  
19 responses



How relevant and helpful do you think it was to our hobby?  
19 responses



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



## 2023 New Ham of the Year

Please congratulate James Freed, KQ4GGX on being selected as the 2023 Delta Club New Ham of the Year!



## ARRL Dues Increase

ARRL Dues went up from \$49 to \$59 per year on January 1, 2024. There is a discount for 3 year renewals. You can renew your membership any time and the term will be added to the current expiration date. If you renew your ARRL membership through the club, the club will receive \$5. Complete the ARRL application and make checks payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club.

## YL Net

The YL Net is every Saturday at 8:45 pm on the 146.820 W4BS repeater, which has a PL tone of 107.2 Hz. The secondary frequency is on the 443.700 W4BS repeater, which has a +5 MHz offset and a PL Tone of 107.2 Hz.

**President's Corner**  
Submitted by Ty McMahan, KX4MQ

How do YOU ham?

We kicked off 2024 with this question. This month, I want to focus once again on that question.

In the wide world of Ham Radio, there are many different aspects of the hobby with which one may become interested. However, I recently overheard some hams on the air saying, “new hams ought to start out on mode X” and such things. These sort of broad statements are somewhat alarming to me and I hope to you, too. As ham club numbers everywhere decline, it becomes more obvious than ever that while we can keep our tried and true analog gear, we also need to also keep an open mind for all the next generation hams that want to have fun and experiment with the “new stuff”, (whatever that may be at the time). Right now the “new” digital modes are FT8 on HF, or M17, C4FM, or DMR for local VHF/UHF repeaters. We should remember that not that long ago sideband was considered “new stuff” and not immediately accepted or adopted - despite technical superiority over “AM”. As one ham recently reminded me, CW was really the original “digital” mode.

Therefore, I encourage us all to reflect on our hobby and the great freedoms it affords us. We have almost carte blanche permission from the government to experiment and do anything except cause interference or injury to others. Think about that incredible power and responsibility! Let’s commit ourselves to creating a safe culture of experimentation that we can enjoy and pass on to future generations of hams, as is the tradition of our hobby. Let’s HAM openly. Onward!

73,  
Ty McMahan, KX4MQ  
President

**Treasurer's Report**  
Submitted by Jim Martin, KD4FUU

A new year is upon us! 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 dues are \$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 applicable membership fees, to any in-person meeting. Feel free to contact Jim Martin KD4FUU at [\*\*treasurer@deltaclub.org\*\*](mailto:treasurer@deltaclub.org) with any questions or concerns regarding application submission and/or payment of annual dues.

**LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS**  
December 30, 2023 through January 31, 2024

SUMMARY			
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$21,064.18</b>	Minimum Daily Balance	\$19,782
Deposits & Credits	\$694.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$20,008
Withdrawals	\$5.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$1,276.89 -		
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$20,476.29</b>		

DEPOSITS & CREDITS			
01/29	Deposit - Thank You		210.00
01/29	Deposit - Thank You		484.00
Total Deposits & Credits			\$694.00

WITHDRAWALS			
01/10	Returned Deposit Item # of Itm(S) 0001		5.00

CHECKS					
Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
01/12	1611	100.00	01/05	1614	25.00
01/02	1612	461.80	01/04	1615	211.19
01/02	1613	43.42	01/02	1616	435.48
Total Checks					\$1,276.89

\* Break In Check Number Sequence.

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY						
Date	Balance		Date	Balance	Date	Balance
01/02	20,123.48		01/05	19,887.29	01/12	19,782.29
01/04	19,912.29		01/10	19,882.29	01/29	20,476.29

<b>Applications Received - January 2024</b>		
(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$0.00
(1) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(2) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$40.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Family		\$0.00
(27) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$540.00
(3) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$75.00
(1) Donations Received		\$39.00
	<b>Total Dues Received</b>	<b>\$694.00</b>
<b>Other Deposits &amp; Credits</b>		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)		\$0.00
(0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$0.00
ARRL Affiliated Club - Individual Membership Fees		\$0.00
	<b>Total Other Deposits</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
	<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$694.00</b>
<b>Withdrawals</b>		
Returned Item - ARRL commission - Deposit from 12/27/2023		\$5.00
	<b>Total Withdrawals</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>Checks</b>		
Check #1611 - Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary - Donation		\$100.00
Check #1612 - James Martin - Reimbursement for prizes purchased for November 2023 club meeting		\$461.80
Check #1613 - James Martin - Reimbursement for Costco Check Printing		\$43.42
Check #1614 - Joe Lowenthal - Reimbursement for ARRL Membership - (1) @ \$25.00		\$25.00
Check #1615 - Scott Adams - Reimbursement for club refreshments and December potluck hams/supplies		\$211.19
Check #1616 - James Martin - Reimbursement for payment to Hanover Insurance for club's equipment and liability policy premiums		\$435.38
	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>\$1,276.79</b>

## SMALL BUSINESS CD \*8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,107.73	5.020 %	\$0.00	\$50.76
<hr/>			
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER *8481			
<hr/>			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$7.75	\$107.73	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	11/25/2023	1/22/2025	
<hr/>			
▲ Hide More Details			

## SMALL BUSINESS CD \*8503

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$11,311.39	2.230 %	\$63.34	\$5.52
<hr/>			
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER *8503			
<hr/>			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$63.34	\$248.05	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	1/28/2024	11/26/2024	
<hr/>			
▲ Hide More Details			



<b>2024 Budget Proposal</b>	<b>2023 Proposed</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Proposed</b>
Donations (cash)	50.00	400.00	50.00
Consignment Donated Gear	0.00	0.00	0.00
Membership (Jan. thru Dec.)	2,000.00	1,640.00	2,000.00
ARRL Affiliated Club Commissions	0.00	155.00	0.00
Club Patches	0.00	0.00	0.00
Estate Sale	1,500.00	5,882.65	1,500.00
Advertisement	0.00	0.00	0.00
Huntsville Trip	2,500.00	1,857.00	2,500.00
Donations - Huntsville Hamfest Bus Scholarship 2023	0.00	746.00	0.00
Donations - Huntsville Hamfest Bus Scholarship 2024	0.00	0.00	200.00
<b>Total Estimated Income:</b>	<b>6,050.00</b>		<b>6,250.00</b>
<b>Total Actual Income:</b>		<b>10,680.65</b>	
Tn. Annual Report	-120.00	-20.95	-120.00
Meeting Space Donation	-300.00	-500.00	-300.00
Training	-50.00	-50.00	-50.00
Meeting Refreshments	-500.00	-754.43	-800.00
Food (Dec. Meeting)	-100.00	-64.98	-100.00
Door Prize	-500.00	-461.80	-500.00
PO Box (Annual Rental)	-312.00	-312.00	-332.00
Equipment Insurance	-236.00	-235.48	-236.00
Club Liability Insurance	-200.00	-200.00	-200.00
Repeater System Upgrades	-1,000.00	-4,010.45	-1,000.00
SouthEastern Repeater Assn.	-35.00	-35.00	-35.00
Field Day	-250.00	-227.65	-250.00
DARC Board Discretionary Fund	-1,000.00	-1,305.95	-1,000.00
Huntsville Trip	-3,000.00	-2,758.78	-3,000.00
Free Fest Donations	-200.00	0.00	-200.00
<b>Projected Total Expenses</b>	<b>-7,803.00</b>		<b>-8,123.00</b>
<b>Actual Total Expenses</b>		<b>-10,937.47</b>	
<b>Projected Net Operating Results (income-expenses)</b>			
Checking Acct:	20,112.52		21,696.94
CD #8481	5,025.01		5,107.73
CD #8503	11,062.00		11,248.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,199.53</b>		<b>38,052.72</b>

## **DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

### **DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**February 6, 2024**

**Attendees:** Joe Plunk NS4E, Perry Hayes N4GJ, Jim Martin KD4FUU, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Mike Harrison KM4MRW, Scott Adams KM4PMU, Barry McDonald W5CJ

**Absent:** Ty McMahan KX4MQ, John Reiners KN4BVH, Mary Jean Hall KY4FB

**Guest:** Matt Ryan W2MJR

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors (BOD) was held on Tuesday, February 6 at 6:30pm on a Zoom video conference call, with the Vice-President serving as chair and the Secretary being present. Vice-President Joe Plunk NS4E called the meeting to order.

#### **New and Old Business**

Vice-President Joe Plunk NS4E nominated Matt Ryan W2MJR for the office of Public Information Officer (PIO). After a brief discussion, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO made a motion to appoint Matt Ryan to the post of PIO, seconded by Jim Martin KD4FUU. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-President Joe Plunk NS4E made a motion for the BOD to form a Technology Committee. The committee would look at technology for the club, including repeaters. There was a discussion regarding the need for such a committee, the number of people who would be on the committee and which board member would be responsible for the committee. There was not enough support for a vote on the motion, so Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO moved to table the matter, seconded by Barry McDonald, W5CJ. The motion to table the matter passed unanimously.

Vice-President Joe Plunk NS4E moved that the BOD form a Business Committee to assist the Treasurer, Jim Martin KD4FUU. There was a discussion about whether the Treasurer needed assistance. Joe Plunk NS4E withdrew the motion.

Vice-President Joe Plunk NS4E announced that there would be a demo of HamClubOnline, a free club management software package being considered by the BOD. The software is written by an amateur radio operator, who asks users to make a voluntary donation. The demo will occur at the March meeting. Joe Plunk NS4E also announced that the BOD is now using Google Workspace.

Vice-President Joe Plunk NS4E discussed purchasing a \$90 piece of software called Google Sheets, which might assist Treasurer Jim Martin KD4FUU. Treasurer Jim Martin KD4FUU said he wanted to hold off on purchasing the software.

Vice-President Joe Plunk NS4E discussed shortening the length of the *Sparks* newsletter by removing material about former training classes and information that had appeared in previous editions. There was not enough support to bring the matter to a vote. Joe Plunk NS4E deferred the discussion of this matter until the March meeting.

### **Officer Reports**

Vice-President Joe Plunk NS4E discussed the results of the *Signal Report* survey from the January membership meeting. He also discussed the significant number of new and renewal membership applications received during January. Joe Plunk NS4E noted that the club does experience attrition in membership, and encouraged everyone to recruit new members to the club.

Treasurer Jim Martin KD4FUU presented the Treasurer's Report for February, and a proposed budget for 2024. There was a motion by Vice-President Joe Plunk NS4E to table the discussion about the budget. There was not a second on this motion and there was a discussion about the club bylaws requiring the proposed budget to be published in the February issue of *Sparks*. Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO moved that the proposed budget be published in the February issue of *Sparks*, which was seconded by Mike Harrison KM4MRW. The motion passed with one nay vote.

Treasurer Jim Martin KD4FUU discussed the possibility of accepting online payments in the future, and how the club might want to offset the service fees on those transactions. He also said the club may want to consider obtaining a debit or credit card - to facilitate online payments, and to alleviate the need for members to make these payments and seek reimbursement.

Treasurer Jim Martin KD4FUU moved that the BOD ask former Secretary Paul Broom KY4MX to perform an audit of the club's accounts. Paul has experience as a former audit CPA. There was a discussion about the time period that should be included in the audit. Jim Martin KD4FUU amended his motion and asked the BOD to approve an audit of up to the previous two years, with the time period to be set by Paul Broom KY4MX. There was a second by Perry Hayes N4GJ. The motion passed unanimously.

Secretary Perry Hayes N4GJ presented the board with all of the new and renewal applications for membership that were submitted in January. There were two new applications, 27 individual renewal applications and 3 family renewal applications. Joe Plunk NS4E made a

motion to approve all of the application requests, which was seconded by Barry McDonald, W5CJ. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-President Joe Plunk NS4E discussed the programs that will be presented at the February Membership Meeting. This information was submitted by Director of Programs John Reiners KN4BVH.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO reported that 2 students in the current Extra Class license class have already passed their exams. There is one class remaining and a testing session. Joe said that a Technician Class license class would begin on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The upcoming class will be a hybrid, with four classes held via zoom and the last two held in person.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO said that the club spent \$170 to purchase a battery to be donated as a door prize at this year's Memphis Freefest. The BOD had previously approved spending up to \$250. The battery vendor, Hamsource, also donated two multimeters. Joe reminded the BOD that the club's Zoom license will be up for renewal soon.

Director of Events Scott Adams KM4PMU had nothing to report.

Public Information Officer Matt Ryan W2MJR outlined his ideas for using social media to promote the club, provide information about club activities and encourage new members to join the club.

Director of Publications Mike Harrison KM4MRW reported that the February issue of *Sparks* would be ready to publish, once the BOD officers submitted their February reports. Mike said that he has not received any articles for publication this month, but hoped that he would receive articles that could be published in the future.

Repeater Trustee Barry McDonald W5CJ reported that he visited the club's repeater sites in Brunswick and Germantown. Everything looked good at both locations.

Vice-President Joe Plunk NS4E told the BOD that Immediate Past-President Mary Jean Hall KY4FB was scanning some of her papers and documents that relate to the club. She will offer those documents to the club at a later date.

Vice-President Joe Plunk NS4E adjourned the meeting at 7:59pm. The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for March 5, 2024 at 6:30pm, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Perry Hayes N4GJ, Secretary

## **Minutes of Last Month's Club Meeting**

Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

### **Delta Club Membership Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2024**

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

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. The President served as the chair and the Secretary was present. Club President Ty McMahan KX4MQ called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. There were 50 members and visitors in attendance.

President Ty McMahan KX4MQ welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked everyone to complete a survey before leaving. He invited everyone to introduce themselves to the people at their tables.

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

Ham Hilliard W4GMM moved to accept the Treasurer's report and Secretary's minutes, as published in Sparks. Jeff Krause AJ4GY seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by the club without objection.

#### **Announcements**

Vice-President Joe Plunk NS4E announced that there were 49 responses to the recent membership survey. He encouraged everyone to complete the "Signal Report" survey before leaving the meeting.

President Ty McMahan KX4MQ asked everyone to submit a membership application for 2024. The form is available on the club's website, [deltaclub.org](http://deltaclub.org).

Steve Frazier KK4VPT announced that the Swamp Stompers race would be held on Saturday, January 13th at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park from 7:00am until 4:00pm. An HT is sufficient to communicate, and the frequency will be 146.82. There were enough hams to cover the event, but interested parties were asked to contact Steve.

Director of Training, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO announced that an Extra Class license class was ongoing, with 9 students. A Technician Class license class will begin on February 22nd.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO recognized James Freed KQ4GGX as New Ham of the Year for 2023.

Dennis Foster KJ4BDU announced that the Memphis Freefest will be held on Saturday April 6, 2024. Volunteers are needed for setup, teardown and especially in the kitchen. Additional information is available at <https://sites.google.com/a/maraonline.org/mara-online/freefest>.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Programs**

President Ty McMahan KX4MQ made a presentation entitled “The Young Ham’s Tool Kit.” Ty McMahan discussed and showed examples of soldering equipment, meters, heat shrink tubes, wire cutters, crimpers, Anderson Powerpole connectors, power distribution blocks, dummy loads and coax adapters.

Director of Programs, John Reiners KN4BVH made a presentation on the use of solar power for ham radio. John discussed his camper project, where he used solar power to run his television, lighting, radio equipment, laptop computers and other mobile devices. John calculated how much power he would need to run his equipment, how much battery capacity he would need to store that power and how many solar panels would be needed to provide the energy. John covered solar panels, batteries, solar controllers and his rolling toolbox setup.

Jeff Krause AJ4GY and Joe Krause KQ4KLH gave a presentation on Yaesu Fusion radios, entitled “Fusion: Is it really as easy as I heard?” Using a factory-reset radio, Jeff was able to make analog and digital contacts with Joe in just a few moments. Jeff discussed the various modes available on these radios, including FM and Digital Narrow. Jeff also talked about Wires-X, which is Yaesu’s system for amateur radio communications over the internet.

### **Closing Remarks**

President Ty McMahan KX4MQ adjourned the meeting. The next meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club will be held at 7:00pm on Tuesday, February 13th at the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry Hayes N4GJ  
Secretary

## Delta Ham License Training, 2024

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](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com) with the class name; ie, Tech Class, General Class, or Extra Class, on the Subject line and name, callsign if you have one, email address, and cellphone number in the text.

### *Licenses Earned in 2023 from Delta Classes*

13 Technician

6 General

4 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 Tenth Edition with question pool that became effective July 1, 2023 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](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com) with Subject line: Tech, General or Extra Class and name, email address and cellphone number in text.**

The next **General** license class will probably start in early November 2024.

The next **Extra** license class will probably start in early January 2025.

### **Tech Class 2-24 – February 22 – March 23, 2024**

A hybrid Technician license class will be held on five Thursday nights on February 22, 29, March 7, 14, 21 and one Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00am-1:00PM. The first four classes are to be via Zoom. The 5<sup>th</sup> in-person class will be a review of the question pool and opportunity to take the FCC exam. The sixth in-person class will be equipment demonstrations on analog repeater operations, Amateur Packet Reporting System (APRS), satellite operations and possible contact, and basic FM digital concepts of D-STAR, Fusion, DMR and Echolink operations.

There are 14 students registered for the class.

To register, send an email to [wa4ovo@gmail.com](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com) with Subject line: Tech Class with name, email address and cellphone number in text by February February 19<sup>th</sup>.

## CURRENT CLASSES

### **Extra Class 1-24 – January 6 – February 17, 2024**

An Extra Class license class is being held on six Saturdays on January 6, 13, 20, 27, February 10 & 17. (The February 3<sup>rd</sup> date is the Jackson MS hamfest.) There will be five Zoom instructional periods with the sixth one an in-person opportunity to take the FCC exam on the last date. The eight students are Robert KN4OEP, Reggie KJ4FER, Ric KK4SZO, Stacy KJ4MDA, Loy KQ4LPM, Stuart KQ4KIH, Jay KJ5CFY and Jeff KQ4KII.

The instructors are Joe WA4OVO, John KN4BVH, Joe NS4E, David KY4FH, Barry W5CJ, Dave AD4Q, Park AI5CY, Paul KA4X, Carolyn KX4QF and Bobby KD5BS.

The Delta Club ARRL VE team will provide the FCC exam session.



## PREVIOUS CLASSES

### General Class 4-23 – November 6 – December 11, 2023

An in-person General Class license class was held on five Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm from November 6<sup>th</sup> to December 11<sup>th</sup> at Semmes-Murphrey Clinic training room, 6305 Humphreys Blvd, Memphis 38120. The dates were November 6, 13, 27, December 4 and 11. The first four classes were instructional with the fifth class the opportunity to take the FCC exam.

There were eight students in the class-Jeff KQ4KKS, Sean KQ4KNI, James KQ4GGX, Jack KN4FDK, Bill KQ4DTS, Loy KQ4LPM, Jay KJ5CFY, and Julian KO4ZPS.



General Class 4-23



Photos by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors were Park AI5CY, Steve KK4VPT, Perry N4GJ, Carolyn KX4QF, Ken KI4AOH, Barry W5CJ, Joe NS4E, John KN4VBH, Paul KA4X and Joe WA4OVO.

The Delta ARRL VE Team headed by Bob KW4RJ provided the FCC test session on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Semmes-Murphrey Clinic.

General Class 4-23 FCC Test Session  
Photo by Joe Plunk NS4E



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

A Technician license class was held in person on six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on July 10,14,21,28, August 7 & 14. There were 12 students the first night. The first four classes were instructional and the sixth class was informational on FM radio basics, APRS, satellite, and digital modes the students can operate on. Classes were at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms Station precinct, 6850 Appling Farms Pkwy, Memphis. The instructors were Paul KA4X, Park AI5CY, Paul KY4MX, John KN4BVH, Perry N4GJ, Joe WA4OVO, Steve KK4VPT, and KX4QF.



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



Perry N4GJ teaching chapter 6, Modulation

The fifth class on August 7<sup>th</sup> was a review of the 399 questions and answers in the FCC question pool with an opportunity to take the FCC exam. Ten students completed the classes. All 10 became Technician licensees. Congratulations to Jeff Cline KQ4KKS, Joe Krause KQ4KLH, Laura Meanwell KQ4KLI, Tayloe Nickey KQ4KLJ, Lorenzo Winners KQ4KLN, Randy Snodgrass KQ4KMR, Sean Faust KQ4KNI and Jay Simmons KJ5CFY who earned their Technician licenses. Additional congratulations to Herish Boyd KQ4KCH who tested early for Technician and then upgraded to General when the class tested.



Tech Class 3-23 Testing  
 Photos by Mary Jean Hall KY4FB

Tech Class 3-23 VEs Barry W5CJ, Eric WD5FTA,  
 Rick WA4NVM, Perry N4GJ and Joe WA4OVO

The Laurel VE Team provided the FCC testing opportunity. Thanks to Barry W5CJ, Eric WD5FTA, Perry N4GJ, Mary Jean KY4FB, Rick WA4NVM and Joe WA4OVO for being the VEs.



Joe WA4OVO presenting Joe KQ4KLH his CSCE  
 with proud parents Stacy KJ4MDA and Jeff AJ4GY  
 Photo by Perry Hayes N4GJ



Rick WA4NVM on satellite SO-50  
 Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The equipment demonstrators were Joe WA4OVO, Rick WA4NVM/Richard K4DXF, Rick KJ4NWQ and John KN4BVH.

## **Are you making your Deposit?**

Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

Are you curious about the title of this article? Let me share some background regarding the question. When I was much younger and advancing in leadership with the Memphis Junior Chamber of Commerce, I was mentored by the sitting president (she, as well as others, would later help me go on to become the president of the chapter) and she shared this phrase “No Deposit, No Return.” Now, many of you may recognize this phrase—it is still common today—it is mainly still seen on bottles. The term originated on glass bottles that you purchased. The purchase price included a “deposit” on the bottle that was in essence saying you would bring the bottle back to get your deposit. As a gentle reminder most of the bottles had a phrase printed on them “No deposit, No Return.” You may now be asking how does this have anything to do with a Ham Radio club. Well, my mentor said this phrase in the context of my club activities with the JC’s. She reminded me in a very gentle way that if I did not make a deposit I would not get a return from my club. So, how can you make a deposit in your Delta Amateur Radio club? Make deposits by participating in and attending meetings, renewing your membership, early or on time, and the biggest deposit you can make is by asking someone to join our club.

Let’s explore what a deposit of attending and participating in meetings looks like. When you attend a meeting, you get to see and interact with your other club members, you get to share your experiences, and you get to listen to the speaker’s experiences. Interacting with other club members is a wonderful experience. Through the experience you build camaraderie, friendship, and knowledge. The speakers appreciate that you are attending the meeting since they enjoy sharing their presentation with a large audience. Everyone benefits from your attendance deposit by being able to see how other members are doing as well. One of the best ways to finalize your attendance deposit is by letting the club leadership know what you thought about the meeting through feedback either via the surveys or a verbal conversation.

Additional deposits are made when you renew your membership early or on time. Your membership renewal allows for the club leadership to know how many people to expect to engage during the year. An additional benefit is that it allows the club leadership to know how many dollars are available to the club for budgeting. Budgeting impacts the club in so many ways—programs, activities, field trips, social gatherings, repeater maintenance and many other things. Our membership has told us that many of these things are important to them via our membership survey. One of the things that having a reliable understanding of our funding for the year does is to allow the club leadership to make plans early and then get those plans publicized. So, making a deposit by renewing early or on time helps greatly.

One of the most significant deposits that you can make as a current club member is to ask someone to join our club. This deposit is the largest one you as an individual member can make. It is telling us that you are receiving value from the club, so much so that you are willing to take a risk and ask someone, most likely, a friend of yours, to join the club with you. To the club leadership, this is a huge boost! It shows confidence that you believe in the club and the value

that it represents. It is a deposit in confidence, excitement, and trust. The deposit of asking someone to join our club is the single, most important way that you help the club. It helps us grow, it adds to our experience, and it perpetuates the cycle of passing knowledge throughout our hobby.

As our club is embarking into the next chapter, we are excited to see our members continue to make deposits regardless of which deposit you choose to make, whether it is attendance, renewing, or asking a friend to join. Please continue to make those deposits. We are encouraged to see members returning to ask for the deposit back. We are thrilled to be able to say “Thank you for the deposit here is your return!”

### Packet Update

By: James Butler, KB4LJV

We are always looking for more information on ham radio and electronics. It is called the Eclectic Tech Podcast. The ARRL and Icom sponsored this pod cast. It started in 2020 and ran until the end of 2022. There are 67 episodes of these audio podcasts. They were hosted by Steve Ford, WB8IMY. Each of the audio podcasts is about 20 minutes long. You can still access these on the ARRL website. This is another great resource from the ARRL. The web address is <http://www.arrl.org/eclectic>

James Butler  
KB4LJV

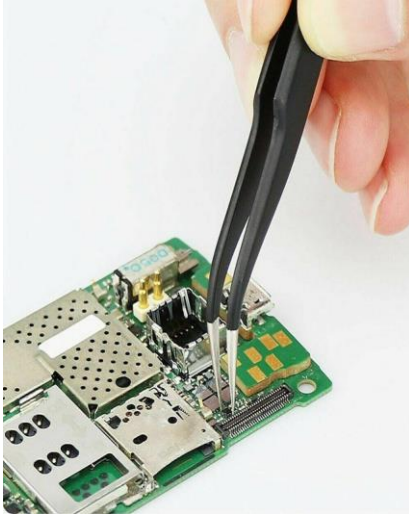
### Amateur Hardware Update

By: James Butler, KB4LJV

Many times we repair our own electronics equipment. Older equipment has larger components which you can grab with your fingers to remove and insert into circuits. Newer equipment has much smaller components used in the circuits. Handling these parts can be hard given the new smaller size. Repairing your equipment now means you have to have the proper tools to do this work. One of the new tools needed is the tweezer. By having a variety of styles on hand you can pick just the right one. The new tweezers can be different lengths. They also have a variety of tips such as point, flat, curved, and wide. The material of these new tools can be plastic, ceramic, or metal. Some have an antistatic coating to protect electronics components when handling them. Companies even offer tweezers with a reverse action that grips part until you squeeze the handles. You can add these to your tool collection for only a small amount. Complete sets can be bought for under \$10. Having tweezers can make the difference for an

easier repair. To see all the different tweezer styles available just do a search on Ebay for “electronic tweezers”.

James Butler  
KB4LJV



## 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:

- Digital access to all four ARRL publications -- QST, On the Air, and QEX. QST is the official membership journal of ARRL or On the Air aimed at helping new and emerging radio communicators get active and on the air, 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](http://www.arrl.org/join/WE1) to renew or call us toll-free at: 1-888-277-5289 (US Only) , Monday Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET. International members call (860) 594-0338. **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

In 2022 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 Delta Amateur Radio Club to the meeting or mail your check 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 \(wsimg.com\)](#)



**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 W4BS repeater, which has a PL tone of 107.2 Hz. The secondary frequency is on the 443.700 W4BS repeater, which has a +5 MHz offset and a PL Tone of 107.2 Hz.

Each YL Net has a designated “general discussion” section, which is a great time for hams of all experience levels to discuss various topics ranging from ham radio to gardening and then some! You do not have to be a YL to check in on the YL Net - everyone is welcome!

**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>.

## 2024 Board of Directors

### **President**

Ty McMahan, KX4MQ  
[KY4MQ@icloud.com](mailto:KY4MQ@icloud.com)  
901-833-7119

### **Vice President**

Joe Plunk, NS4E  
[NS4E@access-tech.com](mailto:NS4E@access-tech.com)  
901-491-2755

### **Secretary**

Perry Hayes, N4GJ  
[pshayes@gmail.com](mailto:pshayes@gmail.com)  
901-626-2279

### **Treasurer**

Jim Martin, KD4FUU  
[KD4FUU@gmail.com](mailto:KD4FUU@gmail.com)  
248-830-8179

### **Director of Training**

Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO  
[wa4ovo@gmail.com](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com)  
901-628-4318

### **Director of Publications**

Mike Harrison, KM4MRW  
[mheagle85@gmail.com](mailto:mheagle85@gmail.com)  
731-609-1948

### **Director of Programs**

John Reiners, KN4BVH  
[KN4BVH@comcast.net](mailto:KN4BVH@comcast.net)  
901-541-0310

### **Director of Meetings & Special Events**

Scott Adams, KM4PMU  
[scottedadamsjr@hotmail.com](mailto:scottedadamsjr@hotmail.com)  
901-573-6280

### **Public Information Officer**

Matt Ryan, W2MJR  
[publicinfo@deltacub.org](mailto:publicinfo@deltacub.org)

### **Immediate Past President**

Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB  
[ky4fb@arrl.net](mailto:ky4fb@arrl.net)  
901-356-1475

### **Repeater Trustee**

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

## Upcoming Events

Middle Tennessee Amateur Radio Society Tullahoma Hamfest (Tullahoma, TN) – March 8th  
FreeFest (Bartlett, TN) – April 6th

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

## Memphis Area VHF/UHF Nets

<b>Name of Net</b>	<b>Frequency (MHz)</b>	<b>Offset/Tone</b>	<b>Local Time</b>	<b>Day of Week</b>
Mid-South Bullfrog Net	146.535	[simplex]	7:30p	Daily
Delta Club Info Net (Primary)	146.82	- (107.2)	8:00p	Daily
Delta Club Info Net (Secondary)	443.7	+(107.2)	8:00p	Daily
Crittenden ARO	147.15	+ (107.2)	7:30p	Sunday
Sunday Super Niner Net	927.6125	- (146.2)	8:30p	Sunday
Elmer Net	444.175	+ (107.2)	9:00p	Sunday
Desoto County EMA	146.91	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Monday
MedMERS Net	146.82	- (107.2)	12:00p	Wednesday
Tipton ARS	145.49	+ (100.0)	7:30p	Thursday
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
ARES Training Net	146.85	- (107.2)	9:00p	Thursday
TN Statewide DMR Net	Digital – DMR		8:00p	Friday
Four-Forty Net	443.7	+(107.2)	8:30p	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



**Hamsource**  
Quality Accessories for the Shack and Field

**John Kalotai, N1OLO**  
Owner

456 Long Hill Avenue  
Shelton, CT 06484

203-556-8700

john@hamsource.com  
http://www.hamsource.com

**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)



**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

**Joe Miller**  
Owner