

# SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 \* Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 \* Volume 96 \* January 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, January 09, 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:**

- *"The Young Ham's Toolbox: Tools, Soldering, Powerpoles"* by Ty McMahan, KX4MQ
- *"Portable Solar Power"* by John Reiners, KN4BVH
- *"Fusion (on the Yaesu FTM-400)"* by Jeff Krause, AJ4GY

**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

### **Membership: A New Year – A New Renewal, Please**

With the new year upon us it is that time of year for all of the Delta Club members to renew their memberships. Please find the membership form on the DeltaClub.org web site, fill it out and bring it and your payment to our January Meeting!

We look forward to seeing you!

Joe Plunk, NS4E  
Vice President

### **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!

### **ARRL Dues Increase**

ARRL Dues went up from \$49 to \$59 per year on January 1, 2024. There is a discount for 2 and 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 currently on a break. Please check in to the Delta Club Nightly Information Net for updates as they are available.

### **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 is text.**

The next **Technician** license class will probably start late February 2024

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

### **DARC Membership Survey**

How do YOU like to ham? The new year has new Board members, and we want to hear your input on where to go in 2024. Follow the link to give us a piece of your mind! Find the survey online: <https://forms.gle/5mTKzhXrQWrEzmSY7> We would be honored if you completed the

survey before January 9<sup>th</sup> as it will close after the Delta Club Meeting. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We welcome your feedback.

For the last month or so, we have been asking our membership to fill out a membership survey. Now I am pleased to report the results received thus far of that survey. So far, we had 46 responses representing 32.4% of the paid membership. The 46 responses were made up of 35 members and 11 non members. An interesting data point that came out of the survey was that 54.3% of the responses (25) hold their Amateur Extra license! One other interesting item that came out of the survey was that 23.9% (11) of the respondents do not operate HF! So now that we have some of the interesting things out of the way, let's see what the survey tells us about what the membership is interested in. Let's put a few graphs into this, since as they say, "A picture is worth a thousand words!"

Based on the survey responses the most active emergency service is Skywarn! Please see figure 1. This was followed closely behind by ARES.

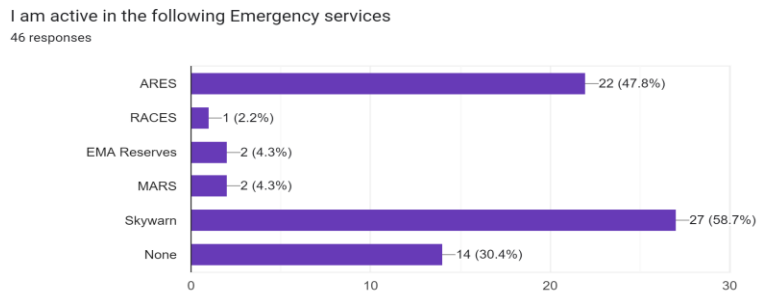
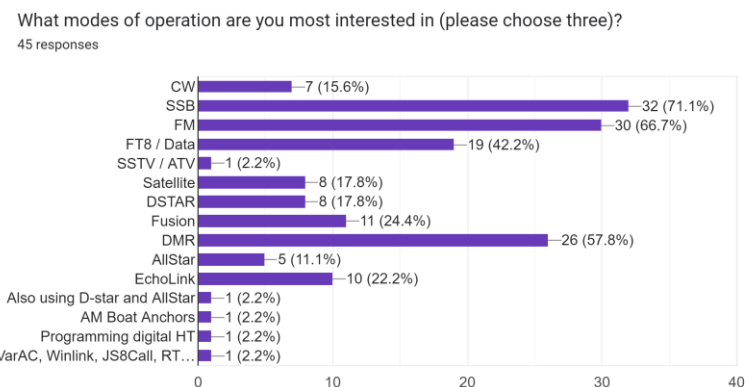


Figure 1: Most Active Emergency Service

Our next item of interest was the responses we received to the question: "What modes of operation are you most interested in?" We received a total of 45 responses to this question and the top two were no surprise: SSB and FM. However, DMR, with 26 responses came in a strong third place. Expect to see more information on this mode. Please see the full results in figure 2.



The last item of interest was the responses to the question: "Which topics would make you attend a future club meeting?" We received 42 responses to this question. The top response, by a good margin, with 33 entries was "How-To Presentations." Based on this clear direction from the responses your leadership team are actively making plans to adjust the activities that are offered. We have taken this directive to mean that you, our members, want more "How to do things" type of information. Please let us know what you think of this month's program. The complete set of responses are shown in figure 3.

So, based on the results of the survey data we see some clear things that our members are asking us to do in 2024. We are being asked for more programs on “How-To” do things. We are being asked to facilitate and embrace Skywarn. We are being asked to look into digital modes. Based on these clear directions we will be working with the board, the members, and our community to start integrating these items into our meetings and events. We need your help to start making these things happen so please reach out to myself, the board, or the president, to get involved and make new things happen!

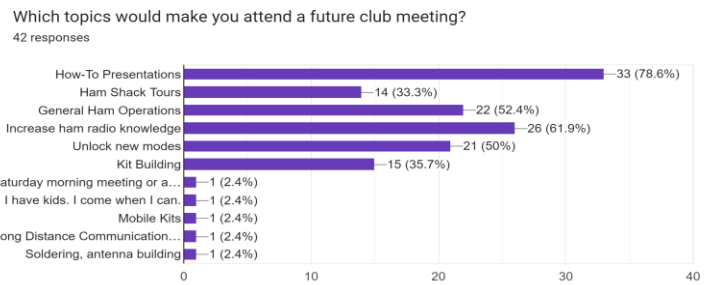


Figure 3: Which Topics Would Make You Attend a Future Club Event

I invite you to come to our membership meeting this month. I will have all of the results available at the meeting and would love to answer any questions that you might have regarding the survey. We have many additional items in the works. We look forward to seeing you.

73  
 Joe Plunk, NS4E  
 Vice President

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

Fellow Delta Club Members,  
 Welcome to the dawn of 2024! As we embark on this new year, we find ourselves surrounded by opportunities for growth and fresh beginnings.

In the spirit of embracing the new, I'd like to introduce two more elements to our collective experience: **NEW CHALLENGES** and **NEW OPPORTUNITIES**.

The Delta Club is buzzing with excitement and energy like never before. This year, we're on a mission to elevate the club and its members to unprecedented levels of radio-activity! I extend a personal challenge to each one of you, particularly those with Extra Class, to actively participate in a team or committee. Discover how you can make a substantial impact in your local ham radio community.

For those who have a passion for a specific aspect of the club but have struggled to find the right avenue to contribute in the past; 2024 is your year. Whether a board member approaches you or you find yourself passionate about a particular topic, I encourage and challenge you to dive in and extend a helping hand. The Delta Club thrives on the collective efforts of its

members, and it's clear that the willpower and strength of the entire membership are essential. As we navigate through numerous events and meetings, it's evident that relying solely on a few individuals on the board is not a sustainable path to growth as a club. We need to unite our efforts.

If any of you are uncertain about how to get involved or wish to voice your opinions on specific topics, please reach out to me. I am committed to ensuring that your concerns are addressed. Our meetings, starting with this one, adopt a bold new approach, filled with practical insights and discussions tailored for Summer and Winter Field Days, as well as Emergency Communications in general.

Let's make 2024 the year we each proclaim, "I want to contribute to the club that is making a significant impact in Memphis and its surrounding areas." Join the Delta Club, attend the meetings, and explore how you can actively engage and contribute. Let's make this year a transformative one for our community and the world of ham radio!

I'm looking forward to what 2024 has in store for this club. Onward!

73,  
Ty McMahan, KX4MQ  
President, Delta Club

**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 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 applicable membership fees, to any in-person meeting. Feel free to 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**

December 1, 2023 through December 29, 2023

**SUMMARY**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$21,696.94</b>	Minimum Daily Balance	\$21,039
Deposits & Credits	\$90.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$21,141
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$722.76 -		
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$21,064.18</b>		

**DEPOSITS & CREDITS**

12/13	Deposit - Thank You	65.00
12/27	Deposit - Thank You	5.00
12/29	Deposit - Thank You	20.00
Total Deposits & Credits		<u>\$90.00</u>

**CHECKS**

Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
12/07	1606	22.85	12/14	1609	140.00
12/04	1607	157.91	12/05	1610	70.00
12/04	1608	332.00			
Total Checks					<u>\$722.76</u>

\* Break In Check Number Sequence.

**DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY**

Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
12/04	21,207.03	12/13	21,179.18	12/27	21,044.18
12/05	21,137.03	12/14	21,039.18	12/29	21,064.18
12/07	21,114.18				

**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	\$26.76
<b>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>			
*8481			
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	
▲ Hide More Details			

## SMALL BUSINESS CD \*8503

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$11,248.05	2.230 %	\$0.00	\$45.44
<hr/>			
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER			
*8503			
<hr/>			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$63.05	\$248.05	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	10/28/2023	11/26/2024	
<hr/>			
<a href="#">▲ Hide More Details</a>			

<b>Applications Received - December 2023</b>		
(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$0.00
(1) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s)		\$0.00
(2) Membership Renewal(s)		\$40.00
(1) Donations Received		\$20.00
	<b>Total Dues Received</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>Other Deposits &amp; Credits</b>		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)		\$0.00
(1) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$5.00
ARRL Affiliated Club - Individual Membership Fees		\$25.00
	<b>Total Other Deposits</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
	<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$90.00</b>
<b>Withdrawals</b>		
None		\$0.00
	<b>Total Withdrawals</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Checks</b>		
Check #1606 - Steve Frazier - Reimbursement for flea market travel expenses.		\$22.85
Check #1607 - Robert Vawter - Reimbursement for website renewal fees.		\$157.91
Check #1608 - Postmaster - PO Box renewal fee.		\$332.00
Check #1609 - ARRL - Affiliated Club Membership dues.		\$140.00
Check #1610 - Barry McDonald - Reimbursement for two-year SERA membership renewal.		\$70.00
	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>\$722.76</b>



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

**Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ**

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for January 2, 2024

Attendees: Ty McMahan KX4MQ, Joe Plunk NS4E, Perry Hayes N4GJ, Jim Martin KD4FUU, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Mike Harrison KM4MRW, John Reiners KN4BVH, Scott Adams KM4PMU, Barry McDonald W5CJ and Len Grice W4MKS.

Guests: Mary Jean Hall KY4FB – Immediate Past President

Absent: None

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors (BOD) was held on Tuesday, January 2 at 6:32 PM on a Zoom video conference call, with the President serving as chair and the Secretary being present. President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ, called the meeting to order.

Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, presented the monthly Treasurer's report. He also went over the 2023 budget, the 2023 actual numbers and the proposed 2024 budget. The 2024 budget will be voted on by the board at the February BOD meeting and presented to the membership of the club during the February membership meeting. Several members asked Jim questions about the budget categories and numbers. Jim said he would be happy to answer any questions from the board in advance of the next BOD meeting.

Jim reported that Ty had been added to the signature cards for the club's bank accounts, and Immediate Past President Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB had been removed.

Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, presented 2 renewal applications and 1 new application for membership. Joe Plunk, NS4E, moved to accept these applications, and the motion was seconded by Mike Harrison, KM4MRW. The motion passed without objection.

Director of Meetings & Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, had nothing to report. He noted that the club purchased a new microphone and related equipment last year for use at the Ellendale Church of Christ. This may have made the actual expenditures for Meetings & Special events to appear higher than usual in 2023.

Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, discussed the topics to be presented at the next membership meeting.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, said that the Delta Club's Extra Class license class has 7 students registered. A new Technician Class license class is scheduled for late February. The class may be offered via Zoom, should there be a problem obtaining classroom space or if seasonal illnesses are severe this winter.

Repeater Trustee Barry McDonald, W5CJ, had nothing to report.

Public Information Officer Len Grice, W4MKS, had nothing to report. Ty McMahan said that he believed the club needed a better social media presence, and asked Len to look into that. Len Grice resigned as Public Information Officer. Ty accepted Len's resignation.

Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, reported that he was currently editing the January, 2024 edition of the Sparks newsletter. The deadline for submitting information to be published in Sparks is the Saturday before the next scheduled membership meeting. Immediate Past President Mary Jean Hall said that the transition of the club presidency to Ty McMahan was successful.

Vice-President Joe Plunk, NS4E, discussed the results of the recent membership survey. The BOD discussed these results and how they might be applied to the operation of the club and the monthly membership meetings. Joe, NS4E, said he would look into the amount of fees the club is currently paying for internet domain registration and hosting.

President Ty McMahan said that a new format is being introduced for the presentations at Delta membership meetings. There will be different tracks, or topics, which cater to Hams of different experience levels. Ty suggested the formation of a Tech Committee, comprised of members with expertise in electronic technology. Ty asked for the blessing of the board to look into Google G-Suite, a software platform that is normally free for non-profit groups. G-Suite may make it much more easy and efficient for the BOD to perform their tasks and to share information. Joe Plunk made a motion to support Ty's request, which was seconded by Mike Harrison. The motion passed without opposition. Ty also asked for the blessing of the board to look into HamClubOnline (HCO). HCO is a software package designed for all aspects of running an amateur radio club - including maintaining membership lists, tracking attendance at meetings, sending and receiving e-mail, and accepting online payments. Perry Hayes made a motion to support this request, which was seconded by Mike Harrison. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed donating an item to be used as a door prize at the Memphis FreeFest in 2024. Joe Lowenthal suggested donating a LiPo4 battery, as the club has done in previous years. Mike Harrison made a motion to spend up to \$250 to purchase a LiPo battery for this purpose. The motion was seconded by Joe Lowenthal, and passed without opposition.

Ty McMahan, KX4MQ, adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm. The next regular Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 6:30 pm on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Secretary

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

Submitted by Paul Broom, KY4MX

### **DARC Meeting Minutes for December 12, 2023**

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

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club was held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Mid-America Baptist 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. 36 members and guests were present for the meeting.

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

Ham Hilliard W4GMM moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Secretary's Minutes as published in Sparks. Ned Savage KA4BLL seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by the club without objection.

#### **Announcements**

Mary Jean Hall reminded everyone that the Swamp Stompers event will be on Saturday, January 13 at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park. More information will be made available closer to the event date.

She reminded everyone that now is a great time to go ahead and fill out your 2024 club membership application.

She also announced that the Board approved a donation of \$100 to the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. The donation will be mailed to the Seminary. She also expressed the club's thanks to the Seminary for allowing the club to use its facilities these past several months.

Joe Plunk NS4E asked everyone to consider filling out a membership survey to help guide the next year's programs and activities. The survey is available via a link in Sparks, and he also had paper copies for people to fill out.

After a short break, the annual potluck dinner was served. Thanks to all who brought side dishes and desserts. The dinner was enjoyed by all.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO gave an update on the General class. Testing was held the previous night and 4 of 5 students passed the exam. He also announced that an Extra class is planned to start on January 6. A minimum of 6 students are needed to hold the class, and 3 have already committed. He asked that anyone interested please send him an email with the subject line "Extra Class" and include their name, call sign, email address and cell phone number. The class will run for 6 Saturdays, excluding February 3 which is the Jackson Mississippi Hamfest.

Matt Ryan W2MJR informed the group about the loss of the original Marconi Factory in Roselle Park New Jersey was leveled with some historic equipment being lost in the demolition. It was also the site of one of the first regularly broadcast commercial radio stations in America WDY.

### **Discussion / Program**

After the potluck, Mary Jean Hall KY4FB hosted the annual service awards ceremony. Recognition was given to those who have given of their time and resources to support Club activities. Those recognized were:

### **Instructors**

Park Dodge AI5CY  
Steve Frazier KK4VPT  
Perry Hayes N4GJ  
Carolyn Horne KX4QF  
Ken Laseter KI4AOH  
Barry McDonald W5CJ  
Joe Plunk NS4E  
John Reiners KN4BVH  
Paul Roberts KA4X  
Rick Pellicciotti KJ4NWQ  
Rick Tillman WA4NVM  
Richard Martin K4DXF  
David Wilson KY4FH  
Dave Church AD4Q  
Pat Lane W4OQG  
Bobby Stroud KD5BS

### **Volunteer Examiners**

Perry Hayes N4GJ  
Jeff Krause AJ4GY  
Ken Laseter KI4AOH

Barry McDonald W5CJ  
Bob Vawter KW4RJ  
Mary Jean Hall KY4FB  
Park Dodge AI5CY  
Eric Welch WD5FTA  
Bob White AI4GI

### **Outgoing Officers**

Paul Broom KY4MX Secretary  
Mary Jean Hall KY4FB President

### **2023 New Ham of the Year**

This award is given to someone who has been licensed within the past 18 months or so and has been active in the club.

This ham has taken the initiative to get his license on his own as his parents are not hams. He has participated in many nets.

James Freed KQ4GGX

### **2023 Ham of the Year**

This award is given to a ham who has gone above and beyond to be active in Delta Club and the Amateur Radio Community.

This ham has been an Instructor and VE for a number of classes over several years.

Park Dodge AI5CY

### **Closing Remarks**

Delta Club President Mary Jean Hall KY4FB adjourned the meeting.

The next Delta Amateur Radio Club meeting will be Tuesday, January 9, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Mid America Baptist Theological Seminary.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Broom, Secretary (2023)

## 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](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

5 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 is text.**

The next **Technician** license class will probably start late February 2024  
The next **General** license class will probably start in early November 2024

## CURRENT CLASS

### **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 nine students are Robert W4SET, 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-Murphey 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



Rick KJ4NWQ helping on the satellite demo  
Photos by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO



Richard K4DXF aiming antenna with Rick WA4NVM checking azimuth direction

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

## 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 \(wsimg.com\)](#)

**Packet Update**  
**By: James Butler, KB4LJV**

One of the online ham stores is Quicksilver Radio. They carry lots of ham radio products. They carry the Hammo-can go kits for radios. They also have a collection of the Anderson power pole connectors which are the standard for emergency radios power connections. The company offers coax cable and antennas. The company also has a collection of tools and hardware for the Amateur. If you need some ham supplies check out Quicksilver Radio. Their website is <https://www.qsradio.com/>

## Amateur Hardware Update

By: James Butler, KB4LJV

One of the most common plugs for Test equipment is the Banana plug. The Banana plug has been around for almost 100 years. It provides a secure way to make a connection to equipment. These are available with wires attached for plug and go applications as well as just the plug to hook up your own wire. These plugs and assemblies are available on Ebay in different styles and colors. A supply of these at the house will make it easy to do temporary connections for testing radios and other electronic equipment. The housing for these can be metal as well as plastic. The connection can be chrome or gold plated. If you need a supply of these go to Ebay and do a search for “banana plug”.



**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 currently on a break. Please check in to the Delta Club Nightly Information Net for updates as they are available.

## 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**

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901-541-0310

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

### **Public Information Officer**

Vacant

### **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

Swamp Stompers – January 13<sup>th</sup>

Capital City Hamfest (Jackson, MS) – February 2-3

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](http://chick-fil-a.com)

Joe Miller  
Owner