

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 62 * March 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 March Zoom meeting

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85904143320?pwd=dUJibnNTTTFTRmZ4Nk1jdWtIQm5Cdz09>

Meeting ID: 859 0414 3320

Passcode: 333527

Program: *"Memphis Area Repeaters and How to Navigate Them"*

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

There will be no Freefest this year.

President's Corner
Submitted by Steve Frazier, KK4VPT

In addition to our website - <http://www.deltaclub.org>, we also have a Facebook page which is Delta Amateur Radio Club. We have used the Facebook page to send out announcements about upcoming events and to share information following events. With over 100 views per post and 500 followers, I think it is safe to say that the Facebook page has been a valuable way for us to keep in touch - especially during this past year. But we are aware that not everyone uses Facebook and while Facebook is useful for current updates, it is not user friendly to find information in past post. Due to Covid-19, we have been using Zoom to continue to have our monthly meetings. We have saved recordings of the meetings and posted them on our Facebook page. But we needed a better way to share this information - and now we have an option that we hope will fill that need.

We now have a YouTube Channel! The name of our YouTube Channel is - Delta Amateur Radio Club. We hope that this addition to our social media presence will give more of you access to Delta Club information. This is not to take away from our website or Facebook page, hopefully this will be a welcome addition. With the YouTube Channel, we can post videos in a way that should be easier for everyone to find and view the information. We have added all our Zoom meetings and will add them each month. We have also added some other past videos that were on our Facebook page. If you have any videos that you would like to add, please contact me or another member of the board and we will get them added to the YouTube Channel. Feel free to check out the Channel and share with friends and family. During the March meeting on March 9th, I will do a quick review of the YouTube Channel and will welcome questions and comments. Now that we have this option; when we do start meeting in person, I would like for us to find a way to continue to record the meetings and continue to add the meeting videos to the YouTube Channel.

With our increased use of social media, I want to let you know that we have not lost sight of the fact we are a radio club. We still enjoy hearing you on the nightly net and other times you use your radio to stay in touch with your fellow amateur radio community.

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>

Annual membership fee is \$20 per individual or \$25 per family. You can fill out the form online and email to: Jim Martin KD4FUU at kd4fuu@gmail.com.

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

LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS

January 30, 2021 through February 26, 2021

SUMMARY

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Beginning Balance | \$19,205.51 | Minimum Daily Balance | \$19,765 |
| Deposits & Credits | \$925.00 + | Average Monthly Statement Balance | \$19,738 |
| Withdrawals | \$0.00 - | | |
| Fees | \$0.00 - | | |
| Automatic Transfers | \$0.00 + | | |
| Checks | \$0.00 - | | |
| Ending Balance | \$20,130.51 | | |

DEPOSITS & CREDITS

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| 02/01 | Deposit - Thank You | 265.00 |
| 02/01 | Deposit - Thank You | 295.00 |
| 02/26 | Deposit - Thank You | 85.00 |
| 02/26 | Deposit - Thank You | 280.00 |
| Total Deposits & Credits | | \$925.00 |

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY

| Date | Balance | Date | Balance |
|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|
| 02/01 | 19,765.51 | 02/26 | 20,130.51 |

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 | \$33.92 |
| View More Details | | | |

| Applications Received - February 2021 | |
|---|----------------|
| (0) New Members | \$0.00 |
| (16) Renewals | \$345.00 |
| (1) Donations (submitted w/ applications) | <u>\$20.00</u> |
| Total Received | \$365.00 |

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Submitted by Carolyn Horne KX4QF

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for March 2, 2021

Attendees: Steve Frazier KK4VPT, Mary Jean Hall KY4FB, Carolyn Horne KX4QF, Jim Martin KD4FUU, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Mike Harrison KM4MRW, Ian Lucas KN4OEK, Ray Cole KX5RC, Scott Adams KM4PMU, and Barry McDonald W5CJ, Len Grice W4MKS.

Absent: None

Guests: None

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. on a Zoom video conference call, with the President serving as chair and the Secretary being present. 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.

Ian Lucas and Ray Cole are doing a presentation on Memphis area repeaters at the March Membership Meeting. Ray Cole asked about updated repeater list on website. Mike Harrison said he will update it if he is sent the information. Joe Lowenthal said he can get that info for the Memphis and surrounding counties area. Ray Cole mentioned new linking of repeaters that people may not know about, for example the D-STAR links. Barry McDonald said the Olive Branch Amateur Radio Club's 2m and 70cm repeaters are linked permanently. Other repeaters currently listed have gone inactive. Steve Frazier asked if they had enough ideas for next month's presentation and Ian Lucas said they had received more than enough requests to cover that. Steve Frazier may still put out an announcement to remind people to put in their requests for programs.

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 said he still needs to set up a meeting with Steve Frazier and the bank to change the name on the club's account.

Jack Worth, WA0QZK, sent the club a laminated newspaper article from August 8, 1937 titled 'Roaming Around the World by Radio', featuring Memphis amateur radio operators. Jim Martin is forwarding that to Carolyn Horne for filing when we again meet in person. Joe Lowenthal mentioned that the Midsouth Amateur Radio Association, MARA, was looking for historical information relating to their club, but they did not receive their official club stats from the ARRL until 1944. Steve Frazier said to make Rick Tillman, President of MARA, aware of the article and we can make a copy so both clubs have one.

Jim Martin received sixteen 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, all were renewals, and one applicant included a \$20 donation. Mike Harrison asked if there was a place to mail new memberships. Jim Martin said the P.O. Box is on the form. Len Grice said we have a P.O. Box on it so people can mail in their checks. Jim Martin said some people use their bank's billing service and the bank cuts a check and sends it to us, saving postage costs.

Carolyn Horne read the renewed membership requests. Barry McDonald made a motion to accept them. Ian Lucas seconded the motion. The motion to approve these members passed. Carolyn Horne mentioned that the BOD Bios on the DARC website were from 2020 and need to be updated. It was agreed that we would send bios for new Board members to Mike Harrison and he will update them.

Joe Lowenthal said that two students passed the Extra exam: Mary Jean Hall, new call sign KY4FB and David Wilson, new call sign KY4FH. On Wednesday, February 24, he had a Tech Review class and testing at Christian Brothers University (CBU). Seven of nine students passed. He said that the class testing was down with the campus shut down the previous few days due to severe weather and the boil water advisory. Tech class 2-21 started February 22 with twenty-one students but was down to eighteen the following week, and he thinks it will narrow down to around fifteen to eighteen in the end. That means those on the waiting list will be able to get registered for the class. Review and testing are taking place on March 29 and the last class is April 5. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic social distancing restrictions, he does not want to open testing up for anyone else other than those wanting to take their Extra exam.

Barry McDonald reported that the repeaters are running well. He said Echolink and Allstar links for the National Weather Service DMR net are working well.

Scott Adams reported that all is well in his department.

Mike Harrison said to update our BOD Bios and send them to him. He can update those along with the frequency list maintained on the website, since some are out of date.

Steve Frazier asked about announcements for upcoming events. He said that Freefest has been canceled. Joe Lowenthal asked if we wanted to do the Huntsville Hamfest bus trip again and if so, we should start looking at booking a bus now. We should know by mid to late June if the event will take place, so would have time to cancel the booking if needed. Len Grice suggested doing a straw poll at the Members Meeting to see how many would be interested. Ian Lucas said to check on the bus policies regarding social distancing to determine the maximum allowed on the bus. Mike Harrison mentioned the Tullahoma Hamfest. For more information see [MTARS HAMFEST \(qsl.net\)](http://MTARS.HAMFEST(ql.net)).

Mary Jean Hall asked if we were going to do Field Day this summer. Steve Frazier said the Neshoba Club is interested if the Pandemic status improves. Len Grice said he thought that Germantown was not that keen on us doing it there and to discuss doing it somewhere else. Joe Lowenthal said that nationally there will be a Field Day like they had last year, with some operators able to stay at home. He said that some excluded categories from last year would be included this year. Steve Frazier thought we could do something at the Ellendale Church of Christ again. For more information see [Field Day \(arrl.org\)](http://FieldDay(arrl.org)).

Joe Lowenthal said that Jack Parnell, K4BSI, is in poor health with extreme dementia. He visited with Jack's wife and picked up some equipment she wants to sell. Jack Parnell was well known for radio and TV commercials he did around the world and his voice was well recognized here in the Memphis area for many years.

Mary Jean Hall is working on updating our by-laws. This will be up for discussion at a special board meeting on March 23 at 6:30 PM.

Steve Frazier announced that he started a YouTube Channel called the Delta Amateur Radio Club. He created playlists to group videos together and the Club is subscribed to other informative channels such as ARRL HQ. He said he will be announcing this in the President's Corner article for the SPARKS newsletter.

Mike Harrison made a motion to adjourn and Carolyn Horne seconded the motion. Steve Frazier adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m. The next regular Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, 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 February 9, 2021

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club was held on Tuesday, February 9, 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 55 members and guests were present for the meeting.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Ham Hilliard W4GMM moved to "approve the Minutes and Treasurer's Report as published in Sparks." Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted by the club.

Announcements

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO announced that we have an Extra Class going. Thursday, February 11 would be antenna feedline night and testing would be the Thursday after that. He said there are 7 people in the class and 3 others called who wanted to take the test. A Technician Class is scheduled starting February 22 through April 5. There are already 26 registered for the class. He has turned several people away already due to the class size. Steve Frazier KK4VPT asked if the classes would be recorded so that those who are interested could take the class that way. Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO said that he recorded one this summer but is hesitant to put it out on the internet. Steve Frazier KK4VPT said that was ok.

John Reiners KN4BVH said that he received an email from Gary Woodall and they have posted their Skywarn training schedule for this year. They are not doing it in person due to the COVID-19 Pandemic but will be conducting sessions on-line. You can go to https://www.weather.gov.meg/Skywarn_spring2021 (meg is the Memphis office) to view the Spring training schedule and on-line session links. Basic Spotter Training webinars run from February 25 through March 25. John Reiners KN4BVH said that the March ARES meeting has been moved up to the 22nd to take in one of these classes. Advanced Spotter Training class is on March 29. There are two additional classes, Spotter Network Operations on Tuesday March 30, and Basic Radar Interpretation on Thursday April 1.

Ham Hilliard W4GMM said February 23 the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) is having their first quarter exercise (named DOD COMEX 21-1). They plan to be operating almost exclusively on the 60-meter band. It is a test of interoperability between the MARS organization and the Ham radio group. Probably some active military units are coming in to participate. This is one of four national exercises MARS has every year. He said they might ask Ham radio operators to relay things back to a MARS member who will communicate that to the national network. The Department of Defense (DoD) will eventually receive it and give feedback. For more information, visit www.arrl.org/news/mars-announces-schedule-of-dates-for-60-meter-interoperability. Steve Frazier KK4VPT brought up the site and said this exercise runs through February 27. He noticed that times were not yet published. Ham Hilliard W4GMM said he would not know the times until he receives the fragmentary order (FRAGORD), but usually it starts on Channel-1 at approximately 16:00 Zulu / 9:00 AM Central Time. He also noted that they no longer have access to the Navy Base, as of May 2020. Bill Hancock WA4MJM noted that people can listen to WWV for more info. Ham Hilliard W4GMM said that on WWV at 10 past the hour every hour there is a MARS broadcast. They may ask you to go to the DoD website and report that you heard the broadcast as that is part of the exercise too. He said to note that part of the exercise involves encryption and regular Ham radio operators will not participate in that. For more information on WWV visit www.arrl.org/news/department-of-defense-to-transmit-interoperability-exercise-info-via-wwv-wwvh.

Carolyn Horne KX4QF announced that the Club received news that William Saulsberry KK4PRQ, who had been a past Delta Club member, passed away in August 2020, and is now a Silent Key.

Barry McDonald W5CJ gave an update on the 146.82 repeater. He and Rick Tillman WA4NVM were out at the Brunswick site the week prior and a climbing crew was out there to replace the two 3-inch heliax cables for Rock 103 backup and a TV station that has four transmitters, each of which transmits four or five channels. They have been shut down for about two and a half months because of the Channel 30 waveguide problem. Now they are finally back up. The permanent repair to Channel 30 is not going to happen for two to three months due to fulfillment issues on the waveguide. In the meantime, the crew cranked the waveguide together and used J-B Weld to join it. Straps are also holding it together to limit the stress. The crew said they were replacing all the supporting hangers, which need to be flexible, because they were worn out. Barry McDonald W5CJ said that since they started making repairs things on our repeater have been a whole lot better. He thinks this has fixed a lot of our problems. Steve Frazier KK4VPT agreed that it has been better but noted that during Swamp Stompers there were some issues early in the day, but he said those problems were mostly on the setup end, not the repeater end.

Dennis, a guest, had a question. He wondered whether he could get into the next Technician class on February 22. Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO said he could if someone drops out and directed him to email his name, cell phone number and email address with the subject 'Tech Class' to

wa4ovo@gmail.com so he could put him on a waiting list. Steve Frazier KK4VPT noted that it was unusual for us to have our classes full but said that there is more than one Technician class each year and he could get in on the next one. Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO said the second one this year would be towards the end of June or first part of July into August. Steve Frazier KK4VPT asked if anyone else was doing a Tech Class that our guest Dennis could get into. Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO said that the Atoka Club had started classes in January, two hours a night twice a week for twelve different nights.

Ray Miller AA4UK has an Icom 7600 with a 23 Amp power supply and matching speaker for sale for \$1500. It belonged to Tom Wilson, K4ZFV, now AA5AR, who has moved to Heber Springs, AR. For more information contact Ray@calendar.com. Steve Frazier KK4VPT asked him if he was planning on updating the calendar this year. Ray Miller AA4UK said he was rebuilding it from scratch and adding more functionality, so it is in the works. He also mentioned that Freefest has been canceled. Steve Frazier KK4VPT asked everyone to keep their eyes open for Hamfests and events to add to the calendar. He mentioned he heard of a few in East Tennessee that may be open this spring. Rick Tillman WA4NVM said they were planning to do another Junk-in-the-Trunk event but were waiting for the weather to improve.

Bill Hancock WA4MJM asked if anyone here was going to check into the Hospital Net on MTEARS. He said it is continuing at 12 noon Central Time on February 18. He said you can check in on Winlink, though our repeaters are not directly connected to it. Joe Lowenthal added that this is on the Middle Tennessee Emergency Amateur Radio System (MTEARS) coordinated by someone at the Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville.

Discussion / Program

Ray Cole KX5RC gave a presentation on the ISS in two parts: 1) Current Status of the ISS Ham Radio Stations 2) Slow-scan TV from the ISS by Michael Maartens KB9VBR. Next month the program will be an overview of our repeaters and their different capabilities. If anyone has any suggestions for future programs, contact Ray Cole KX5RC or anyone on the board of directors.

Closing Remarks

Steve Frazier KK4VPT reminded us about membership renewal and thanked those who have done that to date. He said payment online, though it has been requested, is not an option at this time due to a negative cost-benefit with our current membership volume.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO said at the Nashoba Club meeting this week they talked about having a joint field day if our club is interested.

David Cary KN4WGY posted in the Zoom chat that he need help putting up his antenna. He needs to abide by HOA guidelines. Ham Hilliard W4GMM cautioned him that HF antennas do not perform well in an attic and to avoid that option. Jeff Krause AJ4GY, who lives in the area, said he would come over and have a look. He has a slingshot to get the antenna up in a tree. Also, John Reimers KN4BVH and Scott KM4RT said they would assist.

Rick Tillman WA4OVO and Barry McDonald W5CJ did a study of the power draw on our 146.82 repeater and said the electricity only costs 34¢ per week (less than \$20 per year). Steve Frazier KK4VPT reminded the club that they put a battery backup on that repeater this month. Ham Hilliard W4GMM said he was getting ready to put a 100 Ah backup battery on his repeater (147.090) at the retirement home on the corner of Highland and Central.

Delta Club President Steve Frazier KK4VPT adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

The next Delta Amateur Radio Club meeting will be Tuesday, March 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

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 will implement a \$35 application fee in 2021.

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

None at this time

CURRENT CLASSES

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

A Technician license class is being 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. Twenty-two students were on the second Zoom session. The instructors are Paul KA9VAU, Perry N4GJ, Len W4MKS, John KN4BVH, Barry W5CJ, Pat W4OQG, and Joe WA4OVO. The equipment demonstrators are Rick WA4NVM and Richard K4DXF on Satellite, Rick KJ4QNWQ on APRS, John KN4BVH on Digital, and Joe WA4OVO on Repeater Basics.

COMPLETED CLASSES

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

A Technician license review session was held in Dr. Eric Welch (WD5FTA)'s junior level Introduction to Unmanned Aerial Vehicle class for nine Christian Brother University students on February 24th. Congratulations to Cesar Mireles KO4NFT, Allison Sorette KO4NFU, Brennan Griffin KO4NFV, Michael Longo KO4NFW, Jose Villa Hidalgo KO4NFX, Novy KO4NFY and Sean Williams KI5OEI, who earned their Technician licenses.

Thanks to the Laurel VEC Team of Barry W5CJ, Perry N4GJ, Jelly N4HLT, Rick WA4NVM, Eric WD5FTA and Joe WA4OVO for providing the FCC test session.

EXTRA Class 1-21 – January 4 – February 25, 2021

An Extra Class license class was held one night a week via Zoom from January 4th thru February 25th on Monday or Thursday nights from 6:15-9:30pm. The Zoom classes met on January 4, 14, 21, 25, February 1, 11 and tested a week late on the 25th due to snow on the 18th. The students were Carla KO4FVX, Ransom KO4FVZ, Russell KO4ASW, Jason KO4DOH, Mary Jean KN4FBL and David KN4BXI.

Congratulations to Mary Jean Hall KY4FB (formerly KN4FBL) and David Wilson KY4FH (formerly KN4BXI) who passed their Extra exam on the 25th.

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

Thanks to the Delta Club ARRL VE Team of Jeff Krause AJ4GY, Stacy KJ4MDA, Warren KC7ND, Tom KK4ZZZ, Barry W5CJ and Joe WA4OVO for providing the FCC test session.

In addition to the Extra Class students testing, congratulations to Brian Kelly KO4KAO for upgrading to General. Also, the following earned their Technician licenses: Dan Currey KO4NGZ, Rob Currey KO4NHA, Wilson Langford KO4NHB, Ebben Raves KO4NHC, David Wolford KO4NHD, Garrett Robinson KO4NHE, and Steven Porter KO4NHF.

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.

Amateur Hardware Update

By: James Butler KB4LJV

When moving our radios to portable and emergency sites we want to make sure they get there without any damage. One company that has come up with a solution is TAC-COMM. They build steel cases to enclose your radio gear and keep it protected. These cases are available in different sizes for specific radios. They include a tilt up stand on the case. The cases have slots in them to allow for radio cooling. The cases also have a handle to carry the radio. The company has lots of extras you can buy with the cases. The cooling slots can also be used to mount straps to hold batteries and other equipment. The optional front cover can be repositioned on top of the case to serve as an HT holder. If you are looking for a rugged case to transport your radio equipment safely, check out these from TAC-COMM. Their web address is <https://www.tac-comm.com/>



Packet Update

By: James Butler KB4LJV

For amateur radio we need to know what frequencies we can operate with our license. We also need to know the band limits for each band we can operate. Some bands also have a power level limit we can use. The different modes we use are also regulated on the bands. To make sure we are legal we need access to an up to date frequency allocation chart. A good place to get this information on the internet is the ARRL. They have information to answer your questions. A section on their website will allow you to look up all this information. The web address for their frequency allocation chart is <http://www.arrl.org/frequency-allocations>

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>.

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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)



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