

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 86 * March 2023



Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC)

Sparks Newsletter

Website: <http://deltaclub.org>

Facebook:

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

W4BS

REPEATER SYSTEM

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

This month's meeting will be **IN PERSON ONLY** at 7 pm on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at the Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Highway 70 in Bartlett, TN (1 ½ miles north of Highway 64 / Stage Road).

There will be FCC Testing Tuesday night – Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO will be coordinating this session.

Program: National Weather Service Meteorologist Corey Chaskelson, N0VRQ, will be addressing the club.

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

Announcements

**NWS SKYWARN Training Course
Shelby County, TN**



**Tuesday, March 28, 2023
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM CDT**

**Lord of Life Lutheran Church
6865 Poplar Pike
Memphis, TN 38119**

weather.gov/memphis/skywarn_meetings

Upcoming Opportunity to Operate as W1AW during ARRL's VOTA Event

ARRL has designated 2023 as the "Year of the Volunteer." One special event, Volunteers on the Air (VOTA) encourages hams to get on the air and earn points for logging contacts with league volunteers, officials, and other ARRL members. As part of the VOTA event, W1AW (the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station) will operate portable from all states this year. In Tennessee, we will have W1AW/4 active from March 22-28. Delta Club has been issued Thursday, March 23 at 5:00 pm central time to Friday, March 24 at 8:00 am. There will not be a central station for this event; members can sign up to use the call from their home stations. More information and the guidelines can be found in this edition of SPARKS and will be covered during the monthly meeting. If you are interested in signing up for this event, email Mary Jean at ky4fb@arrl.net.

MARA FreeFest – April 8, 2023

SAVE THE DATE: The Mid-South Amateur Radio Association (MARA)'s annual FreeFest will be Saturday, April 8, 2023 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Bartlett Station Municipal

Center, 5868 Stage Road in Bartlett, TN. The webpage for FreeFest can be found at: maraonline.org/freefest. More information will also be announced at a closer date.

Club Polo Shirt Order

Additional sizes are now available for the Delta Club polos! Mens sizes 2XL, 3XL, 4XL and 5XL are now IN STOCK! Sizes XS and Small are not available. If you would like to order one of the sizes that are now available, let Mary Jean KY4FB know by the Delta Club meeting on Tuesday, March 14 so your polo can be added to the pending order.

See the graphic below for information and prices. If you would like to order an embroidered club polo shirt, email Mary Jean Hall KY4FB at ky4fb.tn@gmail.com or call/text at 901-356-1475. Cash or checks will be accepted; make checks out to: Delta Amateur Radio Club. If you would like to place an order for a shirt but cannot make the meeting, let Mary Jean know so alternative arrangements can be made.

CornerStone® - Select Snag-Proof Tactical Polo	
Pricing:	Price includes embroidered DARC logo with name/call sign
XS-XL:	\$41
2XL:	\$43
3XL:	\$47
4XL:	\$49
In the CS410: XS and Small are out of stock. All other sizes are now IN STOCK!!	
The CS411 is all in stock.	
CS410 (Mens cut)	
	<p>With strategically placed mic clips and dual pen pockets, our tactical polo is designed for event staff, security and law enforcement. Built for performance, this snag-proof, moisture-wicking, odor fighting shirt will keep you sharp and professional looking on or off the job.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.6-ounce snag-proof polyester • Rental friendly • Traditional, relaxed look • Tag-free label • Flat knit collar • 3-button placket with dyed-to-match buttons • Mic clips at center placket and shoulders • Raglan sleeves • Reinforced dual pen pockets on left sleeve • Side vents
Email Mary Jean KY4FB at ky4fb.tn@gmail.com if you are interested in ordering a polo.	
Color pictured: Royal	

CS411 (Ladies cut)



Product Description

With strategically placed mic clips and dual pen pockets, our tactical polo is designed for event staff, security and law enforcement. Built for performance, this snag-proof, moisture-wicking, odor-fighting shirt will keep you sharp and professional-looking on or off the job.

- 6.6-ounce snag-proof polyester
- Rental friendly
- Tag-free label
- Flat knit collar
- 3-button placket
- Dyed-to-match buttons
- Mic clips at center placket and shoulders
- Raglan sleeves
- Reinforced dual pen pockets on left sleeve
- Side vents
- Drop tail to stay tucked in

Delta Club Meeting Recordings on YouTube

Delta Club Member Meetings are being recorded and saved to our YouTube Channel! Search “Delta Amateur Radio Club” on YouTube or access the channel through this link: www.youtube.com/@deltaamateurradioclub405.

President's Corner

Submitted by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB

Nearly two-decades ago I was enrolled in a General Studies course in college. One lesson that stuck with me, though I found it rather silly at the time, was about the YOGOWYPI Factor. YOGOWYPI stands for “You Only Get Out What You Put In.” After discussing numerous upcoming events during this month’s Board of Directors meeting, I thought back to that lesson learned long-ago.

You can read through this month’s issue of SPARKS and find event after event that serves as opportunities for our members to be involved on the air and in the community. We have a unique opportunity to use the WIAW call sign for the ARRL Volunteers on the Air (VOTA) event this month. The National Weather Service

SKYWARN Training is this month in lieu of the Shelby County ARES meeting. Next month we can participate in and support the MARA FreeFest, which raises money for LeBonheur Children's Hospital. As the year progresses, Field Day, ham fests, races and other special events provide more opportunities to be involved. Ham radio operators can participate in local Nets every day, as well!

It costs a mere \$20 for an individual to join Delta Club. If nothing else, that \$20 goes a long way to help fund club activities or keep the local repeaters up and running. But if someone chooses, that \$20 can be so much more! If you choose to attend a club meeting, you could make new friends and learn about various ham radio topics during a program. If you choose to participate in a local Net, you will find yourself more comfortable with operating your radio. If you choose to volunteer at a community service activity, you could get hands-on experience with setting up a mobile station and learn how to react to a real-time event. Participating in ARES-sponsored events like emergency exercises or the NWS SKYWARN Training could help you become more prepared for natural disasters.

What you "get" out of Amateur Radio and Delta Club depends entirely on the effort you are willing to put in. I'm sure there will always be individuals who get their Technician license and don't do anything with it. Don't let that be you! Decide what you want to get out of Amateur Radio, and then find a way to get involved that could help you reach that goal. You'll be surprised by how much your radio skills and knowledge will grow if you simply try.

See you all Tuesday!

73,
Mary Jean KY4FB

Treasurer's Report
Submitted by Jim Martin, KD4FUU

Please renew your membership right away, so you won't forget about it! The membership application may be downloaded from our website (for both renewals *and* new members) at:

<https://deltaclub.org/membership>

Annual membership fee is \$20 per individual or \$25 per family. Completed applications and payment may be mailed to:

**Delta Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 342768
Memphis, TN 38184-2768**

If you prefer you can print and bring the completed form, along with the membership fee, to any in-person meeting. Please contact Jim Martin KD4FUU at kd4fuu@gmail.com with any questions or concerns regarding application submission and/or payment of annual dues.

LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS

February 1, 2023 through February 28, 2023

SUMMARY

Beginning Balance	\$20,112.52	Minimum Daily Balance	\$19,844
Deposits & Credits	\$600.65 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$20,047
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$344.59 -		
Ending Balance	\$20,368.58		

DEPOSITS & CREDITS

02/10	Deposit - Thank You	40.00
02/14	Deposit - Thank You	121.45
02/17	Deposit - Thank You	25.20
02/27	Deposit - Thank You	414.00
	Total Deposits & Credits	\$600.65

CHECKS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
02/13	1578	300.00	02/14	1583	36.15
02/07	1582 *	8.44			
	Total Checks	\$344.59			

* Break In Check Number Sequence.

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>
02/07	20,104.08	02/13	19,844.08	02/17	19,954.58
02/10	20,144.08	02/14	19,929.38	02/27	20,368.58

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,025.01	1.980 %	\$25.01	\$10.10
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER *8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$25.01	\$0.00	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	1/28/2023	11/25/2023	
▲ Hide More Details			

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8503

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$11,062.00	2.230 %	\$62.00	\$25.03
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER *8503			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$62.00	\$0.00	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	1/28/2023	11/26/2024	
▲ Hide More Details			

Applications Received - February 2023

(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues	\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived	\$0.00
(1) New Membership(s)	\$20.00
(10) Membership Renewal(s)	\$230.00
(0) Donations Received	\$0.00
Total Dues Received	\$250.00

Other Deposits & Credits

(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)	\$0.00
(0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)	\$0.00
Karen Chancelor Estate Sale	\$121.45
Karen Chancelor Estate Sale	\$25.20
(2) January Membership Dues	\$40.00
(4) Club Polo Shirt Orders	\$164.00
Total Other Deposits	\$350.65

Total Deposits \$600.65

Checks & Debits

Check # 1578 - Elendale Church of Christ - Donation	\$300.00
Check # 1582 - Mary Jean Hall - Purchase of Prize Ticket Roll	\$8.44
Check # 1583 - Scott Adams - Reimbursement for Club Meeting	\$36.15
Snacks	
Total Payments	\$344.59

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Submitted by Paul Broom, KY4MX

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for March 7, 2023

Attendees: Mary Jean Hall KY4FB, Paul Broom KY4MX, Jim Martin KD4FUU, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Mike Harrison KM4MRW, John Reiners KN4BVH, Scott Adams KM4PMU, and Barry McDonald W5CJ.

Absent: Perry Hayes N4GJ, Len Grice W4MKS.

Guests: None.

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 6:30 PM on a Zoom video conference call, with the President serving as chair and the Secretary being present. President Mary Jean Hall called the meeting to order.

Mary Jean Hall led discussion on in-person meetings. The process for recording of meetings is working and the videos are being posted to the club's YouTube page, as well as Facebook. A link to the recordings will also be placed under announcements in Sparks. After discussion, it was decided to continue with in-person meetings only.

Joe Lowenthal gave an update of the usage of Gmail for the distribution of the Sparks newsletter. He indicated that he had no problems sending the newsletters that way. There were a few minor email address issues, but those have been corrected. He indicated that he would continue using Gmail for the distributions, thus avoiding the need to obtain a paid subscribed for former mail service. Mike Harrison will maintain a backup distribution list, and any email additions or changes will be communicated to Joe Lowenthal, Mike Harrison and Paul Broom. Continuing with Gmail will also allow additional monthly email distributions such as a notice on estate sale equipment that will be available at Freefest.

Jim Martin gave a recap of the 2022 actual spending for the club versus the budget. He also reviewed the February treasurer's report.

Mary Jean Hall asked if membership application recently returned by the Post Office to the applicant had been resubmitted by the applicant. Jim Martin indicated that it had now been received by the club and that the original address information on the first submission had been correct. It is not known why the Post Office returned that submission, but after much discussion it was decided that no further action would be taken at this time.

Mary Jean Hall brought up the monthly reminder list for the Board for review and update. The listing was reviewed by month and updated to reflect current events, required planning or other actions that needed to be taken during a month.

A discussion was held regarding holding a special event such as W4M that was done for the Memphis Bi-centennial. After discussion was decided to defer holding any special events, including ARRL Kids Day, until next year.

Mary Jean Hall led a discussion on planning for this year's field day. She indicated that the club has committed to participating again with the Nashoba Amateur Radio Club.

This year's Huntsville Hamfest will be on August 19th. Joe Lowenthal will begin researching to cost of buses.

The ARRL's Volunteers On The Air (VOTA) portable event, operating as W1AW/4 (the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station), will be in Tennessee from March 22-28. The Delta Club tentatively has a time slot Thursday March 23 starting at 5:00 pm running through Friday March 24 at 8:00 am. Logbook of the World will be used to log all contacts. Given the timing it was recommended that this be done from people's homes rather than as a group event. This will be presented at the March club meeting to see if there is interest.

Joe Lowenthal gave an update on training. The Extra class has had 3 people complete testing, 2 in New Hampshire and 1 in Chattanooga. Local testing had to be postponed. The Technician class had 13 registered but has about 10 attending regularly.

Freefest is coming up on April 8. Tickets are available for purchase for those who are unable to attend the event by sending a check to either Joe Lowenthal or Rick Tillman. They will generate tickets and place them in the drawings. FCC testing will also be available from 9:00 to 11:00. He also indicated that Ham Source is providing free of charge the battery to be donated for the grand prize drawings. He then made a motion to provide Ham Source free advertising in exchange for the donation. The motion was seconded by John Reiners and passed without objection.

John Reiners gave an update on club programs, noting that the previous meeting's presentation by Carolyn Horne on Introduction to CW was fantastic. He mentioned that Skywarn training will be held on March 28th at Lord of Life Lutheran Church 6865 Poplar Pike, and indicated that Corey Chaskelson N0VQR from the National Weather Service will be speaking at the Delta Club meeting on March 14th. He will be speaking about Skywarn and the importance of ham radio. Future ideas are to have someone speak on Parks on the Air (POTA) and also David Norris the Delta Division Director.

Barry McDonald stated that everything seems to be working fine at present. He also recently visited the 146.82 site noted there was no construction going on.

Mike Harrison gave an update on website updates, including updated bios for the Board Members and the addition of the bylaws on the membership page. He asked that everyone get in their submission for this month's Sparks newsletter.

Scott Adams asked for people to let him know if anything needed regarding tables or snacks for the upcoming meeting.

Paul Broom presented 1 new member and 13 renewal applications for approval. He made a motion to accept these new member and renewal applications, with John Lowenthal seconding the motion. The motion passed.

Mary Jean Hall adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm. The next regular Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 6:30 PM on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Broom KY4MX, Secretary

Minutes of Last Month's Club Meeting
Submitted by Paul Broom, KY4MX

DARC Meeting Minutes for February 14, 2023

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Ellendale Church of Christ, with the President serving as chair and the Secretary being present. Club President Mary Jean Hall KY4FB called the meeting to order and then welcomed everyone to the meeting. At least 43 members and guests were present for the meeting.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB took a roll call of those present. She also announced that the Club has re-establish the membership drawings with prizes to be awarded during the November meeting. Each person present is to sign one ticket at each meeting attended with their name and call sign for the drawing.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Ham Hilliard W4GMM moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Minutes as published in Sparks. Jeff Krause AJ4GY seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by the club without objection.

Announcements

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO announced that 6 people completed testing before the meeting with one of those completing both Technician and General exams. He also announced that a Technician class will begin on Monday February 27. The class will meet on Mondays from 6:15 to 9:30 pm and will run for 6 weeks. The first 4 classes will be conducted via Zoom, the 5th class will be the in-person exam review and testing, and the final class being the in-person equipment demonstrations. The class currently has 10 students enrolled. He has also been in contact with Dr

Eric Welch of Christian Brothers University about providing classes and testing for 4 of Dr. Welch's students. An update was also provided on the current Amateur Extra class, which includes 2 student from New Hampshire and 2 students from Chattanooga. The class is currently on-going, but one of the New Hampshire students has already taken and passed the exam. He indicated that students are able to take the test in advance of completing the class. He especially encourage those taking the Technician class to study ahead and take both the Technician and General exams in order to allow them to get on HF more quickly. Lastly, he explained the ARRL club rebate program for those who process their ARRL memberships and renewals through their local clubs.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB announced a change in the email distribution process for Sparks and the monthly meeting. The previous system provider has instituted a change that would require the club to pay for using their system. The club has elected to change the distribution process to keep it free. We are now using the Delta Club's Gmail account along with Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO sending some out under his personal account (WA4OVO@gmail.com). She asked that anyone not receiving the emails to first check their email "junk" folders and then contact the club if emails are not received.

Steve Frazier KK4VPT gave an update on the recent Swamp Stompers event that was held on January 14th. He thanked everyone who helped with it and indicated that the repeater worked really well for the event. He also asked that if anyone was aware of other events that the club could possibly support to let the club know. This is a great way for the club to give back to the community and is also an opportunity for members to practice communication skills.

Ham Hilliard W4GMM gave an update on Winter Field Day event that was held at the Fire Training Academy in Millington. There were a total of 10 participants, 5 of which were non ham operators. They made approximately 100 contacts over the 6 hours they were active. He also indicated that Armed Forces Day is also coming up on May 13th and he has received the authorization to put the Naval Support Activity Midsouth on the air along with 26 other military stations including about 12 museum ships and a station in Okinawa. They will start at 7:00 am and go to about 5:00 pm and will be operating 2 stations, 40 meters and 20 meters. This will also be at the Fire Training Academy on the north side of the Naval base.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB indicated that she would be placing orders for club tactical polo shirts in February. Sizes, pricing and availability are published in the February edition of Sparks. Checks should be made payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club. There are no minimum order requirements so future orders can be made as other sizes become available.

Dennis Foster KJ4BDU, MARA President, gave an update on this year's Freefest which will be held on April 8th at the Bartlett Station Municipal Center from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Volunteers are

needed for setup on Friday April 7th and tear down on Saturday. Food sales go to cover the cost of the building rental, and ticket sales go directly to Le Bonheur. The cumulative giving total from Freefest is currently about \$75k.

Budget Presentation

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB asked Jim Martin KD4FUU to review the proposed budget that had been published in Sparks before the vote for approval. Ham Hilliard W4GMM made a motion to accept the proposed budget as published in Sparks. Mike Harrison KM4MRW seconded the motion and the motion passed.

There was a short 10-minute break and the meeting resumed at approximately 7:45 PM.

Discussion / Program

John Reiners KN4BVH introduce Caroline Horne KX4QF who gave a presentation entitled “Beginning CW using LCWO, Morse Code World, and SKCC”.

An interesting Q&A followed.

Closing Remarks

Delta Club President Mary Jean Hall KY4FB adjourned the meeting at 8:24 PM.

The next Delta Amateur Radio Club meeting will be Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Broom, Secretary (2023)

Delta Ham License Training, 2022

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

There is no charge for classes, but the student is responsible for the purchase of the license manual and the \$15 ARRL FCC examination fee. The FCC implemented a \$35 administration fee on April 19, 2022.

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

Licenses Earned in 2023 from Delta Classes

0 Technician

1 General

3 Extra

Note:

As of April 19, 2022 there is a \$35 FCC application fee for new hams, renewals, Vanity callsigns, etc except for license upgrade, systematic callsign issue, name, address or email changes. This is in addition to the \$15 ARRL VEC FCC exam fee.

The new Technician ARRL Ham Radio License Manual is the Fifth Edition with question pool that becomes effective July 1, 2022 for four years.

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

The current ARRL Extra Class License Manual is the Twelfth Edition with question pool that became effective July 1, 2020 for four years. *This question pool will expire on June 30, 2023,*

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

PROPOSED CLASSES

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

If interested in a class, send an email to wa4ovo@gmail.com with Subject line: Tech, General or Extra Class and name, email address and cellphone number is text.

The next **General** license class will probably start in early November 2023

The next **Extra Class** license class will probably start in early January 2024

The next **Technician Class** license class will probably start in late June or early July.

CURRENT CLASS

Tech Class 2-23 – February 27 – April 3, 2023

A Technician license class is being held on six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3rd. There were thirteen students registered for the class. After the second class, it is down to ten. The first four classes are via Zoom. The fifth and sixth classes are in-person at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Hwy 70 (Summer Ave). The fifth class will be a review of the question pool and an opportunity to take the FCC exam. The instructors are Joe WA4OVO, Paul KA4X, Park AI5CY, Bobby KD5BS, Pat W4OQG, John KN4BVH, Perry N4GJ, David KY4FH and Carolyn KX4QF. The sixth class is for equipment demonstrations: the equipment demonstrators are Joe WA4OVO, Rick KJ4NWQ, Rick WA4NVM, John KN4BVH and Barry W5CJ.

COMPLETED CLASSES

Extra Class 1-23 – January 7 – February 25, 2023

An Extra Class license class was held for five Saturdays from 9am to 1pm on January 7,14,21, February 11 and 18 via Zoom. There were eight students in the class; four from out of town. Since only two students were wanting to take the FCC exam on the 25th and Joe WA4OVO was in quarantine, they were directed to take their exam online by finding one on hamstudy.org or at the next local test session.

Congratulations to Peter Finch K1EXR who passed his exam at the Port City ARC (PCARC) test session on February 4th. Congratulations to Mark Estabrook KO4GQV who upgraded on March 2nd at the Chattanooga test session. Congratulations to Richard Werner KC1DZK for upgrading at the PCARC test session on March 4th. Two of the Memphis students should be testing on the 14th at the Delta Club test session and one at the CARA test session on the 20th. The instructors were Joe WA4OVO, John KN4BVH, David KY4FH, Barry W5CJ, Dave AD4Q, Paul KA4X. Pat W4OQG, Park AI5CY and Bobby KD5BS.

General Class 5-22 – November 7 – December 5, 2022

A General Class license class was held for five Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm from November 7th to December 5th. The first four classes were via Zoom with the fifth class in person at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Hwy 70 (Summer Ave). The ARRL FCC exam was offered on the fifth night of class. There were 13 students registered for the class. Seven students completed the class with only four testing.

Congratulations to Davis Colston K5TGR, Bob O'Gradr KO4ZCJ and Will Tenney KO4TLY for upgrading to General.



General Class 5-22 ARRL FCC test session

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

Congratulations to Dane Kunkler KI5EJD who upgraded at the Huntsville TX ARRL test session on March 11, 2023.



General Class 5-22 ARRL FCC test session Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors were Joe WA4OVO, Steve KK4VPT, Perry N4GJ, Paul KA4X, Barry W5CJ, Len W4MKS, Park AI5CY and David KY4FH.

The Delta Club ARRL VE Team of Bob KW4RJ, Mary Jean KY4FB, Perry N4GJ, Bob AI4GI and Joe WA4OVO provided the opportunity for FCC testing.



General Class 5-22 VEs

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

Tech Class 4-22 – July 7 – August 18, 2022

A Technician license class was held from July 7th to August 18th on six Thursday nights from 6:15-9:30pm excluding August 4th. The first four classes were via Zoom with the fifth and sixth classes in person at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Hwy 70 (Summer Ave). Nine students began the classes with seven completing the instructional period. The FCC exam was offered on the fifth night of class, August 11th.

Congratulations to all four students who earned their Technician license: David Colston KI5WQA, Morgan Fancher KI5WQL, Ilea Hymes KQ4CQF and Rod Robinson KQ4CNU. Thanks to Laurel VE team of Joe WA4OVO, Bob AI4GI, Jeff AJ4GY, Perry N4GJ, Rick WA4NVM and Mary Jean KY4FB.

The four students took the opportunity to obtain an Explorer QRZ-1 dual band 2m/70cm radio after they got their licenses.



Tech Class 4-22 Testing

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO



Three of the Laurel VEs grading the exams: left to right-Bob AI4GI, Jeff AJ4GY and Perry N4GJ. Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The sixth night was equipment demonstrations on FM Radio Basics by Joe WA4OVO, Satellite contact by Rick WA4NVM and Richard K4DXF, APRS by Joe WA4OVO, and digital radios by John KN4BVH.

The instructors were Joe WA4OVO, Paul KA4X, Pat W4OQG, Steve KK4VPT, David KY4FH and John KN4BVH.

Tech Class 2-22 – February 28 – April 4, 2022

A Technician license class began on February 28th for six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm. The first four classes were via Zoom. The class began with 15 students. Eleven students finished the four instructional classes with two students out of town. The fifth class was in-person with a review of the 421 questions and answers in the question pool as well as an opportunity to take the FCC exam. The Equipment Demonstration sixth class was given in person on April 4th.

Congratulations to Frank Barton KI5UJH (now KI5FGB), Charlie Cole KO4ZCF, Matt Coolican KO4ZCG, Bob Garrelts KI5UJI, Billy Griffin KO4ZCH, Keith Miller kO4ZCI, Bob O’Grady KO4UCJ, and Kyle Turlington KI5UJJ for earning their Technician licenses. Congratulations to Sandra West KO4ZLM for earning her Technician license on April 8th who tested with Chattanooga ARC. The two locals will test at a later date. Additional congratulations to Frank Barton KI5UJH and Billy Griffin KO4ZCH for also upgrading to General.

Thanks to the Laurel VE team of Joe WA4OVO, Jeff AJ4GY, Barry W5CJ, David KY4FH, Bob AI4GI and Rick WA4NVM for being the VEs.



Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS Demo
Photo by Joe WA4OVO



John KN4BVH on Digital Demos
Photo by Joe WA4OVO



Rick WA4NVM on F0-29 contact with Tech Class 2-22

Photos by Joe WA4OVO

The instructors were Joe WA4OVO, Paul KA9VAU, Perry N4GJ, David KY4FH, John KN4BVH, and Pat W4OQG. The Equipment Demonstrators are Rick WA4NVM, Rick KJ4NWQ, John KN4BVH and Joe WA4OVO.

CBU Tech Review Class 3-22 – February 23, 2022

A Technician license review session was held in Dr. Eric Welch (WD5FTA)'s junior level Introduction to Unmanned Aerial Vehicle class for 13 Christian Brother University students on February 23rd. Congratulations to Juan KO4YBR, Juan KO4YBS, Hector KO4YBT, Jake KO4YBU, Dan KO4YBV, Joshua KO4YBW, Aldrin KO4YBX, Carlos KO4YCN, and James KE8UAR earned their Technician licenses.

Thanks to the Laurel VEC Team of Barry W5CJ, Jelly N4HLT, David KY4FH, David AJ4KF, Eric WD5FTA and Joe WA4OVO for providing the Laurel FCC test session.

Extra Class 1-22 – January 3 – February 14, 2022

Extra Class 1-22 license class is being held via Zoom and started on Monday night, January 3, 2022 from 6:15-9:30pm. The class is for seven Monday nights until February 14th.

There are eight students in the class: Paul Broom KN4WGX, Kevin Buddle KO4UTX, Charles Byars KI5HWA, Randall Haynes KO4KKA, Kevin Kelley KO4OAO, Dylan Martin KC4DTM, Scott McDermott KO4OWE, and Jan Slezak KC1QBB. Since last report one student dropped out and one joined.

Congratulations to Kevin Buddle KY4MI, formerly KO4UTX, for testing early with a W5YI on-line testing group and upgrading on January 25th.



Extra Class 1-22 Test Session

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors were Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, John Reiners KN4BVH, Dave Church AD4Q, Dean Honadle N2LAZ, Pat Lane W4OQG, Paul Roberts KA9VAU, and David Wilson KY4FH.

W1AW / VOTA GUIDELINES
Submitted by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB

Operate as W1AW during ARRL's VOTA Event March 23-24

ARRL has designated 2023 as the "Year of the Volunteer." One special event, Volunteers on the Air (VOTA), encourages hams to get on the air and earn points for logging contacts with league volunteers, officials, and other ARRL members. Operators will upload contacts into Logbook Of The World (LOTW), which will automatically calculate the points daily. The leaderboard is now up and running for you to keep track of your VOTA points: <https://vota.arrl.org/>.

As part of the year-long VOTA event, W1AW (the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station) will operate portable from all states this year. In Tennessee, W1AW/4 portable will be active from March 22-28. Delta Club has been issued Thursday, March 23 at 5:00 pm central time to Friday, March 24 at 8:00 am. We will divide the time up by one- to two-hour time slots. We are not required to have someone operating as W1AW/4 the entire time.

There will not be a central station for this event; members can sign up to use the W1AW/4 call sign from their home stations. We can have multiple stations operating at the same time, even on the same band (only one mode at a time). For example, we can have three people in our club on 20 meters at the same time, so long as everyone is operating on different modes (one on phone, one on CW, and one on digital). Since Delta Club has access to all bands (with the exception of the WARC bands), we could theoretically have dozens of people on the air at the same time as long as they are operating within their respective privileges.

Logs need to be kept by all operators and emailed to David Thomas KM4NYI (km4nyi@arrl.org) in ADIF format once they're finished.

If you are interested in signing up for this event, email Mary Jean at ky4fb@arrl.net with the band, mode and approximate time that you'd like to operate as W1AW/4. You can also sign up during the March 14 Delta Club Meeting.

Operating W1AW/xx Guidelines for 2023 VOTA Operating Event

Operating: Operators must be polite at all times. Operators must operate using the privileges granted by their license class (or within the operator privileges of the highest-class Control Operator present and observing operations – Eg, a Novice/Technician Class license holder, however, can operate on General Class or above bands provided a properly licensed Control Operator is present with them at all times.) Operating frequencies must be selected carefully to avoid conflicts. Even if a frequency sounds clear, the operator should ask at least two times if it is in use before calling CQ [eg, complaints about being too close to a net or SSTV frequency (ie: the 14.300 MHz Intl Maritime Net, or frequencies that may be needed during weather related emergencies such as the Hurricane Watch Nets on 14.325 MHz or 7.268 MHz, and SATERN Net on 7.262 MHz) should be resolved by QSYing, not by arguing.] Operators must avoid operating too close to band edges as well.

You must use the call sign W1AW/4 at all times. While an operator may share their own personal call sign during the course of a QSO, the call sign for all identification purposes is W1AW/4.

Bands: Activity is encouraged on as many bands and modes as possible. The ONLY exceptions are 2200, 630, 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters. There is NO VOTA activity allowed on these particular bands. Important: No more than one station can be on any band/mode at the same time. That means only three (3) stations can be on the air from your activation on a single band at a given time (eg, just one station can be on 20m SSB, or 20m CW, or 20m Digital).

Goodwill: While the object of the VOTA Operating Event is to hand out as many contacts with W1AW/xx as possible, operators are encouraged to briefly detail the event and its purpose

should operating time allow. Encourage other operators to get on the air, make contacts, and have fun. Calling “CQ VOTA” is a great way to draw attention.

QSLs: There are NO QSL cards available for any of the W1AW/xx VOTA operating event stations during this event. All W1AW/xx contacts will be confirmed via LoTW only. Stations who contact W1AW at ARRL HQ can either upload such contacts to LoTW and/or can send QSL Cards (with SASE) to W1AW, ARRL HQ, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111 -- for contacts only made directly with the Hiram Percy Maximum Memorial Station at ARRL HQ.

Logging: It's expected that a W1AW/4 portable operation will make hundreds of QSOs over the course of the operating period. Therefore, it is important that logging be done by computer using ADIF format. **ELECTRONIC LOGGING MUST BE PERFORMED DURING THE COURSE OF THE OPERATING EVENT! NO PAPER LOGS WILL BE ACCEPTED!** Commonly used logging software such as N1MMLogger+ is recommended, but any software that will generate an ADIF-formatted file is acceptable. Ensure that each band mode operation is prepared to supply ALL station data (if possible) such as county, grid square, CQ/ITU zones, etc.

How to Print Your FCC License

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

6. Highlight your callsign in Authorization to Download and then click on Download on bottom right of screen.
7. If pop-ups are blocked, click on Allow One
8. Click Open at bottom and Print your License.

INDIVIDUAL EMAIL ADDRESS IN QRZ
Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

Consider going to QRZ.COM and log in. Then enter your email address on their QRZ page so other hams can contact you vial email rather snail mail. Anyone looking for email addresses has to log in to QRZ to be able to see the ham's email address.

ARRL Benefits

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

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

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

ARRL MEMBERSHIP COMMISSIONS Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

Recently ARRL revised their membership commissions to ARRL clubs that process individual ARRL memberships through the club. The club can receive \$15 for new memberships or renewals of past ARRL memberships over two years old. Current renewals generate a \$5 commission. Current ARRL members can renew/extend their ARRL membership at any time. If you renew early, your ARRL membership is extended for the renewal period from the expiration of your current ARRL membership. The club only gets \$5 for each renewal application no matter how many years being renewed.

Here is a link to the ARRL membership renewal form.

[ARRL-Membership-Application.pdf](#)

Fill it out and bring a check made payable to ARRL to the meeting or mail to the Delta Amateur Radio Club at PO Box 342768, Bartlett TN 38134-2768. Or, you can pay Jim Martin KD4FUU in cash at a meeting. Even though credit card information is on the application, the Delta Club does not want to have access to credit cards so we will not accept an application with a credit card information for payment.

Also, here is a link to the Delta Club Membership Application:

[application-15-3.pdf \(wsimg.com\)](#)

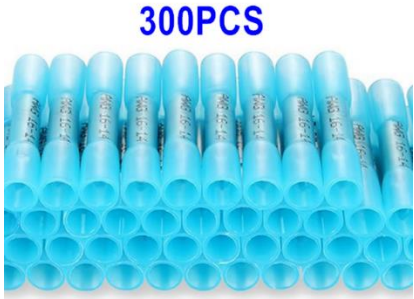
Packet Update
By: James Butler KB4LJV

Many times we need to make wire connections on our equipment. For connections outside of a box soldering or butt splicing works, but I always end up wrapping with electrical tape to make it weather proof. One better way to make the connection is a weather proof butt splice. The butt splices are color coded for the wire gauge that it will work with. The best feature is after you make the crimp connection with the butt splice you can heat the splice with a hot air gun or lighter and it will shrink down around the wire for a weatherproof connection. You can buy these in the multicolor pack so you will always have the right one depending on the wire gauge.

COLOR CODE :

- Red is for 22-18 gauge wire
- Blue is for 16-14 gauge wire
- Yellow is for 12-10 gauge wire

These are available on Ebay. Do a search for “heat shrink butt wire splice connectors”.



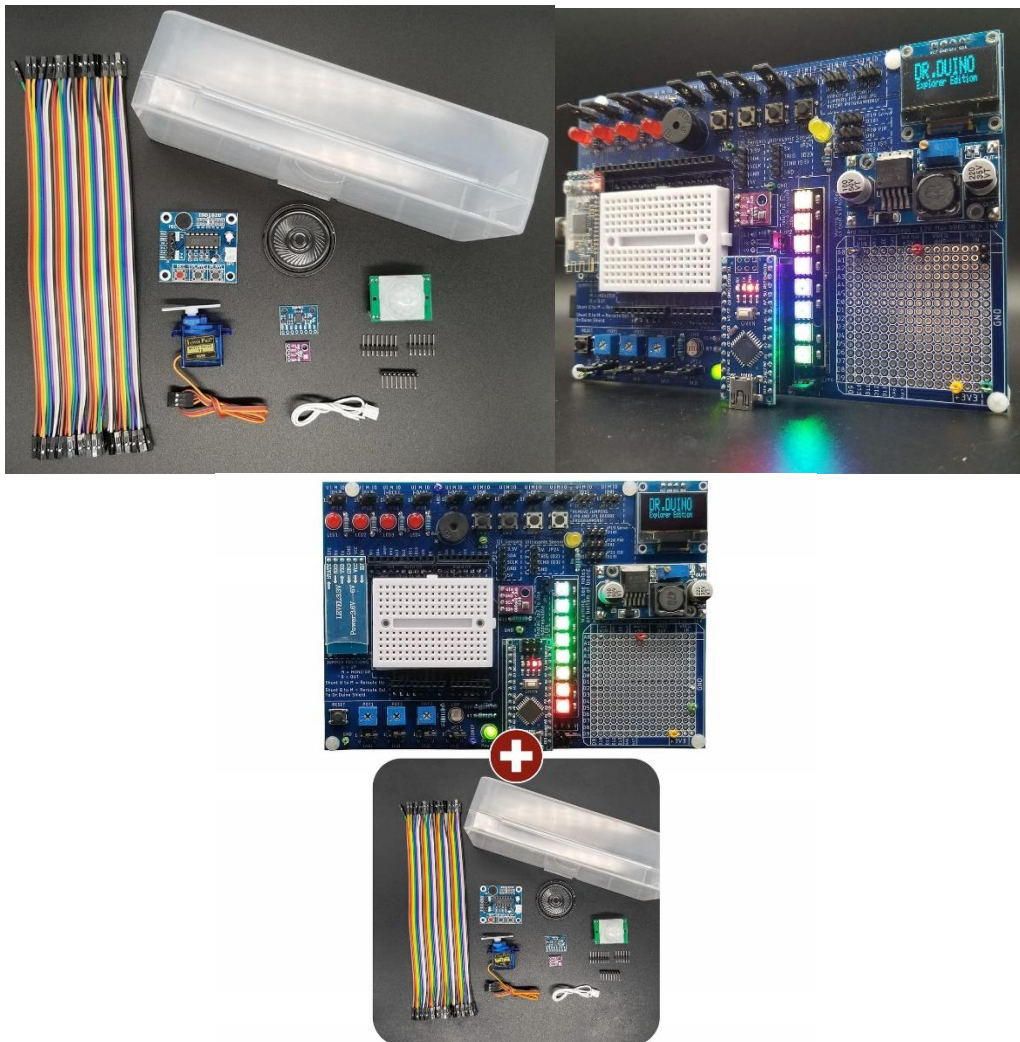
300PCS

16-14AWG/1.5-2.5mm²

Amateur Hardware Update

By: James Butler KB4LJV

One of the most common small microprocessor boards is the Arduino. This is used to teach programming as well as do projects for control and ham radio circuits. One new company is now offering aux I/O boards and sensors to use as a trainer for the Arduino. The company is called "DRDUINO". Their EXPLORER PC trainer board has a prototype plug in circuit board area. The board also has LEDs you light up. It has an on board power supply for 5 VDC. The printed circuit board even has a small OLED display screen where you can send text to the screen. Push buttons are provided to allow you to hook these to the Arduino and add them to your program. The package also includes a small servo you can hookup and control. They also send some addition sensor boards to hookup and program. They have even included all the cables needed to plug in sensors and external board parts. This is a kit with all the parts needed to start programming with the Arduino. The web address is <https://www.drduino.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 Linda KJ4CTX**

The YL Net is every Saturday at 8:45 pm on the 146.820 frequency, which has a PL tone of 107.2 Hz. We encourage all YLs to check in with us on the YL Net!

Sparks Newsletter and Delta Club Information

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

Delta Amateur Radio Club *P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768

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

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

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

2023 Board of Directors

President

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ky4fb@arrl.net
901-356-1475

Vice President

Perry Hayes, N4GJ
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Immediate Past President

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

Repeater Trustee

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

Upcoming Events

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

April 8, 2023:

MARA's FreeFest, Bartlett, TN

June 17, 2023:

Knoxville Hamfest and Electronics Convention / ARRL Tennessee State Convention (Knoxville, TN)

June 24-25, 2023:

ARRL Field Day

September 30, 2023:

Bluff City Blues Bike Ride, Shelby Forest

Memphis Area VHF/UHF Nets

Name of Net	Frequency (MHz)	Offset/Tone	Local Time	Day of Week
Delta Club Information Net	146.82	- (107.2)	8:00p	Daily
YL Net	146.82	- (107.2)	8:45p	Saturday
Four-Forty Net	443.7	+(107.2)	8:30p	Friday
Mid-South Bullfrog Net	146.535	[simplex]	7:30p	Daily
Elmer Net	444.175	+ (107.2)	9:00p	Sunday
MedMERS Net	146.82	- (107.2)	12:00p	Wednesday
ARES Training Net	146.85	- (107.2)	9:00p	Thursday
Sunday Super Niner Net	927.6125	- (146.2)	8:30p	Sunday
TN Statewide DMR Net	Digital – DMR		8:00p	Friday
Crittenden ARO	147.15	+ (107.2)	7:30p	Sunday
Crittenden ARO	442.4	+ (107.2)	8:00p	Thursday
Olive Branch ARC	147.255	+ (79.9)	8:30p	Thursday
Linked	444.7	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Thursday
Desoto County EMA	146.91	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Monday
Tipton ARS	145.49	+ (100.0)	7:30p	Thursday

TENNESSEE HF NETS

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

(Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)

3980 kHz – Tennessee Phone Net

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

Saturday - 8:00 AM & 5:30 PM

Sunday - 8:00 AM only

Holidays - 8:00 AM only

DELTA CLUB ADVERTISEMENTS

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. Box 342768
Memphis, TN 38134-2768

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



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



Joe Miller
Owner

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