

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 88 * May 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, May 9, 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.

Program: "Parks on the Air" by Bobby Stroud, KD5BS

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

HamTestOnline is closing June 30, 2023 unless someone buys it.

Going out of Business

It's been a great 20 years!

This is John, W1AI, the creator, owner, software developer, and coursemaster of [HamTestOnline™](#).

I launched the [HamTestOnline™](#) website in August 2002, and I've spent the last 20 years helping tens of thousands of students pass the ham radio exams. While it's been a tremendous amount of work, it's also been the most fun and personally rewarding portion of my career. However, I'm turning 68 this year, and I'm ready to retire.

Therefore (unless I find a serious buyer), we will be shutting down the website effective June 30, 2023.

I truly appreciate all the support and encouragement we've received from our loyal customers through the years!

Making a Big Decision—Together ARRL Dues Increase Survey

ARRL sent out an email about an upcoming survey to all ARRL members to be completed in May. ARRL wants your opinions. Please go to www.arrl.org/take-dues-survey, read ARRL CEO David Minster NA2AA's editorial in the April QST and then take the survey. A link to our CEO's article is within the survey link.

Thanks,

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

Assistant Delta Division Director

2023 A Day In The Park

The Mississippi Section sponsors A Day in the Park once a year with clubs around the state. This year it will be held October 14, 2023 at Olive Branch Park coordinated by both the Chickasaw Amateur Radio Association and the Olive Branch Amateur Radio Club.

The following is a link to their flyer:

[https://groups.io/g/CARA-](https://groups.io/g/CARA-MS/files/2023%20A%20Day%20in%20the%20Park%202.0/A%20Day%20in%20the%20Park%202023%20flyer.pdf)

[MS/files/2023%20A%20Day%20in%20the%20Park%202.0/A%20Day%20in%20the%20Park%202023%20flyer.pdf](https://groups.io/g/CARA-MS/files/2023%20A%20Day%20in%20the%20Park%202.0/A%20Day%20in%20the%20Park%202023%20flyer.pdf)

HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST BUS TRIP - AUGUST 19, 2023

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Director of Training

DARC is sponsoring a 50-passenger bus trip to go to the Huntsville Hamfest on Saturday, August 19, 2023. The fare is \$99 if paid by July 12th and \$119 after July 12th. A spouse or child living at the same address can accompany a full fare rider for \$75. The fare includes the \$15 hamfest entry ticket. There will be biscuit sandwiches, water, sodas, chips, and fruit on the bus going to Huntsville and whatever is left for the trip back. There are no refunds, but you can sell your seat to someone else if you can not go. Let me know.

Cash or checks will be accepted for payment. Make checks payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club. You can pay at a meeting or at Field Day. You can also send your check to Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, 6675 Ashbridge Cove, Memphis, TN 38120. Please include your name, callsign, cell phone number, email address and whether you want ham, sausage or plain biscuits.

Reservations will be on a first come first paid basis.

The bus will leave Germantown Baptist Church, 9450 Poplar Avenue at Johnson Road, Germantown, TN at 6:30am. The bus will leave Huntsville immediately after the 4pm door prize drawing and return to Germantown Baptist Church approximately 7:45pm.

Germantown Baptist Church has asked us to park in the back on the northeast side of the church so there will be security cameras on the cars.

The Huntsville Hamfest website is www.hamfest.org.

President's Corner

Submitted by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB

Warmer temperatures have arrived! We are getting into the time of year where we may find ourselves outside more often. One Amateur Radio activity that you can participate in while outside is "Parks on the Air," or POTA. This month's program will be "Parks on the Air" by Bobby Stroud KD5BS. Bobby will teach us about POTA and how to get started with it. We have several state parks in our region. I know many of our members like to travel to state and national parks, too. If this is something that interests you, be sure to attend Tuesday night.

As summer approaches, it also means that ARRL's Field Day is around the corner. Field Day is June 24-25, and Delta Club will be co-coordinating a local event with NASHOBA, MARA and Shelby County ARES again. We will have a Field Day setup at the Germantown Municipal

Park. Be sure to keep an eye on SPARKS and tune into the Nightly Information Net for more information.

Speaking of the Delta Club Nightly Information Net, we are currently holding the Net on the 443.700 W4BS repeater. This repeater has a +5 MHz offset and a PL Tone of 107.2 Hz, and it is located on the same tower that the 82 repeater is located on in Brunswick. Right now the 82 repeater has high SWR. So, we need to limit using it until we can determine where the trouble is coming from before we can fix the problem. We may be on this 440 repeater for a while, so I encourage you to dust off those dual-band handheld radios and tune into the Net while we are meeting on the 443.700! We have a few members who cannot reach this repeater, but it seems to have a much better coverage area than the 625 repeater. Many have been able to check in with their handheld and mobile radios from Tipton and Fayette Counties, as well as from Collierville, Millington, and other locations. So, don't assume you can't reach it – just try it out!

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

April 1, 2023 through April 28, 2023

SUMMARY			
Beginning Balance	\$20,655.17	Minimum Daily Balance	\$20,655
Deposits & Credits	\$2,610.10 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$22,160
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$281.35 -		
Ending Balance	\$22,983.92		

DEPOSITS & CREDITS			
04/04	Deposit - Thank You		20.00
04/04	Deposit - Thank You		50.00
04/10	Deposit - Thank You		167.10
04/10	Deposit - Thank You		2,157.00
04/28	Deposit - Thank You		216.00
Total Deposits & Credits			\$2,610.10

CHECKS					
Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
04/12	1585	117.59	04/17	1586	163.76
Total Checks					\$281.35

* Break In Check Number Sequence.

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY					
Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
04/04	20,725.17	04/12	22,931.68	04/28	22,983.92
04/10	23,049.27	04/17	22,767.92		

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,049.61	1.980 %	\$49.61	\$1.09
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER			
*8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$24.60	\$0.00	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	4/28/2023	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>
\$11,122.99	2.230 %	\$122.99	\$2.72
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER *8503			
<u>ISSUE DATE</u>	<u>LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID</u>	<u>PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST</u>	
10/28/2022	\$60.99	\$0.00	
<u>ISSUE VALUE</u>	<u>DATE LAST INTEREST PAID</u>	<u>MATURITY DATE</u>	
\$11,000.00	4/28/2023	11/26/2024	
▲ Hide More Details			

Applications Received - April 2023

(1) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues	\$15.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived	\$0.00
(2) New Membership(s)	\$40.00
(7) Membership Renewal(s)	\$140.00
(1) Donations Received	\$30.00
Total Dues Received	\$225.00

Other Deposits & Credits

(1) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)	\$15.00
(1) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)	\$5.00
2023 Freefest Equipment Sales	\$2,157.00
Other Equipment Sales	\$167.10
(1) Club Polo Shirt Order(s)	\$41.00
Total Other Deposits	\$2,385.10

Total Deposits \$2,610.10

Checks & Debits

Check # 1585 - Scott Adams - Reimbursement for Club Meeting Snacks	\$117.59
Check # 1586 - Mary Jean Hall - Reimbursement for Annual Zoom Sub.	\$163.76
Total Payments	\$281.35

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

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for May 2, 2023

Attendees: Mary Jean Hall KY4FB, Perry Hayes N4GJ, Paul Broom KY4MX, Jim Martin KD4FUU, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, John Reiners KN4BVH, Scott Adams KM4PMU, Barry McDonald W5CJ, and Len Grice W4MKS.

Absent: Mike Harrison KM4MRW

Guests: None.

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, May 2, 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.

Unfinished Business

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB informed the Board that there are no new updates on the PayPal/website integration.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO is currently negotiating the bus contract for the Huntsville Hamfest which is August 19th. Expected rates for the trip will be \$99, which includes the cost of the bus, breakfast biscuits, drinks and snacks, and the \$15 entry fee for the Hamfest. The fare for an additional household member will be \$75. The rate will increase to \$119 after July 12. Rebates may be given if the bookings exceed 35 to 40 people.

New Business

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO proposed making a donation to W9UUU.org in support of its training materials that the Delta Club has used for quite some time in all of its licensing classes. He moved that the club make a donation of \$100. The motion was seconded by Barry McDonald W5CJ. After discussion, the motion passed.

Barry McDonald W5CJ informed the Board that the 443.700 repeater began having problems and is currently being supported by loaner equipment. While he is currently still attempting to repair the original equipment, he proposed buying a new repeater so that the loaned equipment could be replaced. The cost of the new repeater would be \$1,800. Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO moved that the club purchase the new repeater. The motion was seconded by Paul Broom KY4MX. After discussion, the motion passed.

Board/Officer Reports

John Reiners KN4BVH reported that Bobby Stroud KD5BS will give a presentation on Parks on the Air (POTA) at the May meeting. He also stated that Steve Frazier KK4VPT will give the June presentation on this year's Field Day and the logging software that will be used.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO informed the Board about the ARRL survey regarding dues. In addition to including information in SPARKS, he suggested that a separate email be sent to members with information regarding the survey. He had also been in contact with ARRL and learned that approximately 2,000 had already taken the survey.

Scott Adams KM4PMU reported that he had received the microphone and related accessories to be used at meetings. He also indicated that he will not be able to attend the June meeting and will need for someone to cover the meeting set up and drinks and snacks.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO gave an update on training, updates to the DARC nightly net preamble, and estate sales. A Technician class will be starting of July 10th, running for 6 Monday nights. He is currently working to secure usage at the Appling Farms Police Precinct so that the classes can be held in person. The DARC net control preamble is being modified to get some additional spacing between request for suffix corrections and additions. The intent is to smooth out the flow of the check in process. Lastly, he did indicate that he issued a refund for an equipment sale that was missing a component as previously discussed and approved in the April Board meeting.

Barry McDonald W5CJ gave an updated on the status of the 146.82 repeater. The SWR is still high and he is continuing to assess possible causes and solutions.

Len Grice W4MKS indicated that he would be meeting with the Neshoba club public information officer to plan a press release for the upcoming Field Day events. There will also be a planning meeting for the event on May 11th at the Kiwanis Pavilion at the Germantown Municipal Park. Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO mentioned that there has been a rule change to no longer limit the number of contacts that can be made at the Get on the Air (GOTA) station. He also indicated that there is a need for a CW operator for the night shift during the event.

Paul Broom KY4MX presented 3 new member and 6 renewal applications for approval. Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO made a motion to accept these new member and renewal applications, with Jim Martin KD4FUU seconding the motion. The motion passed. Paul Broom KY4MX also suggested that the Club consider utilizing the Google drive associated with Club's email account for online storage of documentation.

Jim Martin KD4FUU reviewed the treasurer's report with the group.

Perry Hayes N4GJ discussed options for recognition of new members at Club meetings.

Mary Jean Hall adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm. The next regular Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6, 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 April 11, 2023

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club was held on Tuesday, April 11, 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 45 members and guests were present for the meeting.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB took a roll call of those present. She reminded everyone to sign in on the membership roster and also to sign one ticket for the November drawing.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Ham Hilliard W4GMM moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Minutes as published in Sparks. Dan Wehner KN4FBJ seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by the club without objection.

Announcements

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB indicated that the MS150 may not happen this year. This is still to be confirmed, but she wanted to let everyone know for planning purposes. Further updates will be provided as information becomes available.

The VE and training updates were given by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO. Two individuals upgraded from Technician to General in the testing before the meeting. The testing at FreeFest included 10 testing with 9 of those passing their respective tests. Two of the individuals testing were members of a local Boy Scout Troop. When testing through the ARRL, the testing fees for those 18 and under are \$5 versus \$15 and that fee will be refunded if the individual joins the ARRL. The training update included three individuals who passed the Technician exam. The next Technician training will start around the first of July, finishing before the Huntsville Hamfest.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO updated the group on the current pricing for the bus for the Huntsville Hamfest. Pricing has increased \$337 over last year. The current estimate for the trip fare is \$99,

which includes the bus, drink, snacks and breakfast biscuits on the bus, and the \$15 Hamfest admission.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO also gave an update on estate equipment sales at FreeFest which totaled approximately \$2,500, and other sales through the NAQCC Swap and Shop newsletter of \$150.

Rick Tillman WA4NVM gave an update on FreeFest fundraising results which totaled approximately \$6,000. Rick Kanschat N0KYN also indicated that Methodist Hospitals will match the donation, making the total donation approximately \$12,000 to Le Bonheur Childrens Hospital.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB updated the group on the Skywarn training event that was held at the end of March. Approximately 60 attended the event and approximately 75% of those were amateur radio operators. The training was very timely given the weather events that happened later that week on March 31 and April 1. The National Weather Service DMR talk group was activated and provided valuable updates on specific weather events and related warnings. Phil Baker KC5UNU of the National Weather Service office in Memphis gave an update on the recent weather events in the region. The prior two-week period has seen 20 tornadoes in the 55 counties covered by the NWS in Memphis which is an unusually high concentration in the area. The area was under a high-risk watch which is also really unusual for this area. The March 31/April 1 event saw 14 tornadoes in the area with 3 of those being rated as high EF3 events. These were in Wynne AR, Covington TN, and Selmer TN. He expressed his appreciation for all the support provided by members in the amateur radio community who ran the Skywarn talk group and also to the individual that set up the AllStar network so that those not on DMR could participate in the talk group. He indicated that he will regularly monitor the talk group when there is weather activity even when the formal net is not activated. He said that not all forecaster will do this, but he encourages people to listen in and ask questions and also make reports. Ty McMahan KX4MQ offered to assist anyone needing help with programming DMR radios and also encourage others to ask for help when in need.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO spoke about the Amateur Radio Day in the Park 2.0 that is sponsored by the Mississippi Section of the ARRL. It will be held October 14, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Olive Branch City Park. The April edition of Sparks contains a link that has more information.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB announced that Field Day is coming up the fourth weekend in June (ed. June 24-25). More information will be coming out on this event.

Discussion / Program

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB introduced Ham Hilliard W4GMM who gave a presentation on Introduction to MARS and the related upcoming Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test on May 13, 2023.

An interesting Q&A followed.

Closing Remarks

Delta Club President Mary Jean Hall KY4FB adjourned the meeting at 8:41 PM.

The next Delta Amateur Radio Club meeting will be Tuesday, May 9, 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

3 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

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

A Technician license class to be held in person to be on six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on July 10,14,21,28, August 7 & 14. The first four classes will be instructional and the sixth class will be informational on FM radio basics, APRS, satellite, and digital modes the students can operate on. Classes 1,2,3,4 and 6 will be at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms Station precinct, 6850 Appling Farms Pkwy, Memphis. The fifth class on August 7th will be a review of the 399 questions and answers in the FCC question pool with an opportunity to take the FCC exam(s) at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Hwy 70 (Summer Ave) in Bartlett. To register, send an email with the Subject: Tech Class with name, email address and cellphone number.

CURRENT CLASS

None

COMPLETED CLASSES

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

A Technician license class began 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 was down to ten. The first four classes were via Zoom. The fifth and sixth classes were in-person at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Hwy 70 (Summer Ave). The fifth class was an opportunity to take the FCC exam.

Congratulations to Scott Holmes KQ4HJF, Caleb Wise KQ4HGG and Randy Redd KQ4HJH for earning their Technician licenses.



Tech Class 2-23 Testing

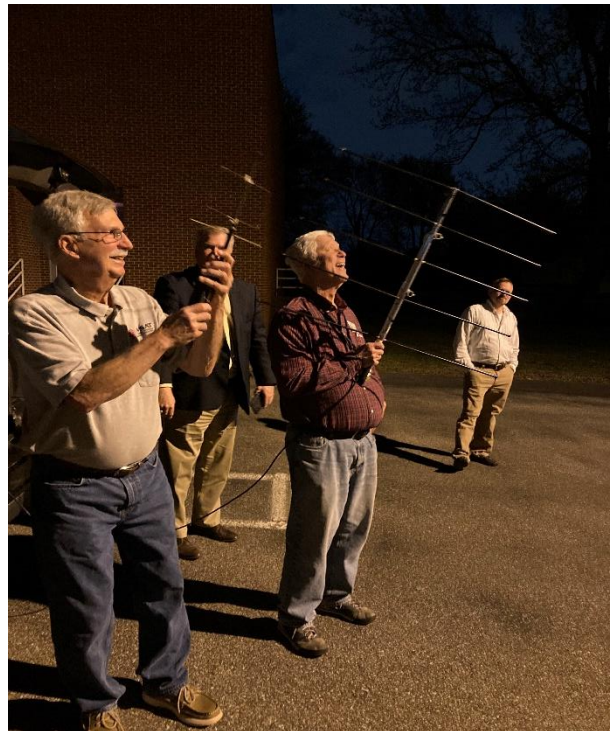
Photo by Mary Jean Hall KY4FB

The instructors were Joe WA4OVO, Paul KA4X, Park AI5CY, Bobby KD5BS, John KN4BVH, Perry N4GJ, David KY4FH and Carolyn KX4QF.



John KN4BVH on Digital Modes

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO



The sixth class was for equipment demonstrations. The demonstrators were Joe WA4OVO on FM Radio Basics and Echolink, Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS operations: John KN4BVH on DMR, DSTAR, and Yaesu digital modes; and Rick WA4NVM and Richard K4DXF working satellites and the ISS.

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.

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.



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.

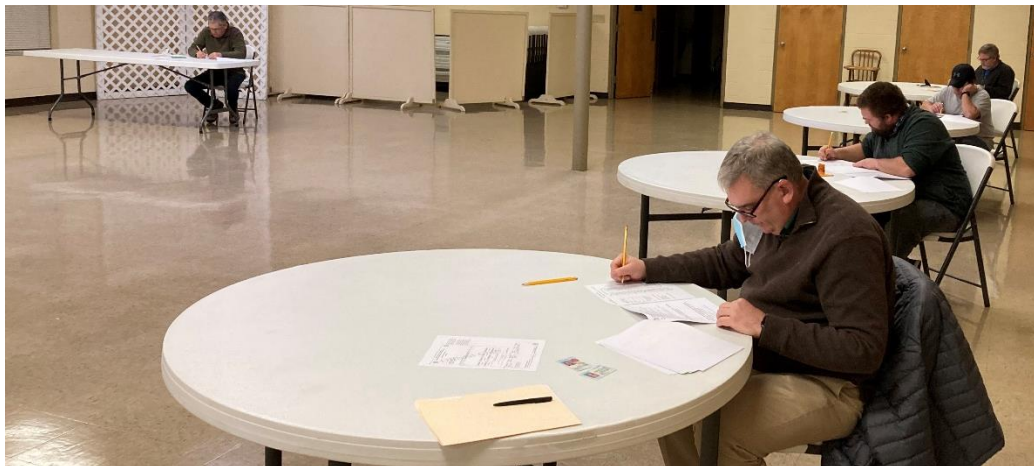
Thanks to the Laurel VEC Team of Barry W5CJ, Jelly N4HLT, David KY4FH, David AJ4KF, Eric WD5FTA and Joe WA4OVO for providing the Laurel FCC test session.

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.

FCC MANDATES RF REVIEW OF YOUR STATION as of May 3, 2023

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Director of Training

From K7QI in Hattiesburg.

The FCC rules governing RF exposure became mandatory for ALL transmitters in the U.S. to include Amateur radio and Amateur radio emergency services. The FCC had a 2-year transition period, which was implemented to allow all transmitters in the U.S. to make needed adjustments.

On May 3rd, 2023, the transition period ended and all transmitters in the U.S. must now comply. You must ensure your station is safe when transmitting. This becomes more evident to amateur operators who live near neighbors such as cities or towns. Every amateur radio operator licensed by the FCC must ensure that you understand and comply with this new ruling.

How do I make sure I am transmitting legally? The simplest way to further understand this is at

the American Radio Relay League. They have written an excellent article in the May QST to include links to help calculate the needed formulas automatically. Just answer the questions asked to determine the “Maximum Permissible Exposure”. [ed. RF Exposure Calculator at [RF Exposure Calculator \(arrl.org\)](#)] Other material to read and understand (for all insomniacs) would be to visit the FCC.gov. Look for OET Bulletins 65, 65a, through 65c. As your ARRL Technical Specialist, I am also available to assist you if needed.

One final thought; I know this may have come as a shock to most. The FCC has entrusted us with following all rules and regulations and has given us a hands-off approach because for decades we have always policed our own bands so please, let’s get the job done and don’t give the FCC any reason to think otherwise.

--73—

Jim

K7QI and Z81A

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.

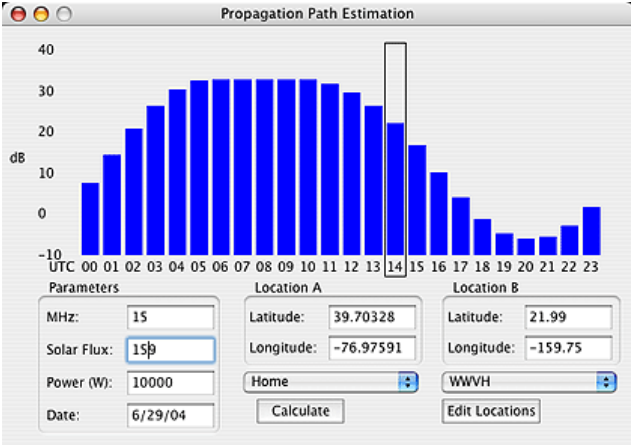
Also, here is a link to the Delta Club Membership Application:

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

Packet Update

By: James Butler KB4LJV

Many times we look for new Ham radio software. One company that is selling ham radio programs is Black Cat Software. They have a variety of ham software for Mac and Windows computers. Black Cat has programs for digital modes. They sell decoder software for SSTV, WEATHER FAX, CW, RTTY, FAX, NAVTEX, Packet, and ACARS. They sell their DX software for propagation forecasting. Black Cat also sells antenna analysis software. They also have many other programs for ham radio. To see all they have to offer go to their web site. The web address is <http://www.blackcatsystems.com/index.html>



Morse Mania

Volume: [Slider] Pitch: [Slider] 867 Hz Stop Exercise 13 WPM

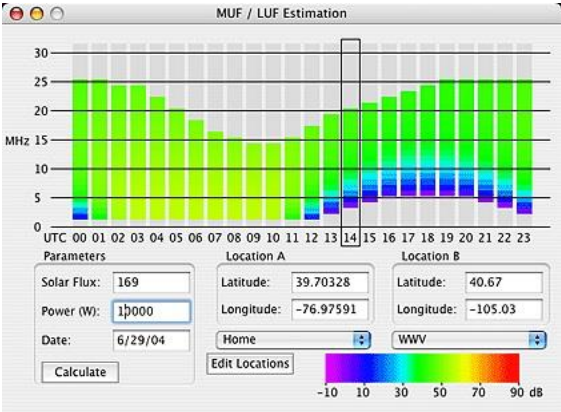
Send File Learn Characters 3 seconds spacing

Send QSO Guess Characters 4 seconds spacing

Key Copy Words 5 words

Koch Settings... Koch Farnsworth Type Copy Groups 2 groups

VVV VVV VVV WOKO DE WWOMDV WWOMDV TNX FER CALL UR RST 599. NAME HR IS JANE JANE. QTH IS DETROIT, MI DETROIT, MI. I'VE BEEN A HAM FOR 25 YEARS. WEATHER HR IS VERY HUMID. RIG HR IS A YAESU. ANTENNA HR IS A FOLDED DIPOLE. HW? /AR/ WOKO DE WWOMDV /KN/



Amateur Hardware Update

By: James Butler KB4LJV

One new QRP rig has been built by “PreppComm “. They have the new DMX-40 40 meter transceiver for Morse code. The rig output is about 3 watts with a 12 volt power supply. It has a 3.5 inch color display. The display has a CW to text decoder built in. The 27 adjustable functions are set on the touch screen. The extended receive range is 4.9 to 10.2 MHZ. Transmit frequency range is 7.0 to 7.3 MHZ. It can be restricted to cover different license classes. The radio has automatic send/receive protocols to make contacts simple. You just put in your callsign and you are ready to go. They also have Go bag for portable use in the field. You can download all the information from their web site as well as a quick start guide. The web site address is <https://www.preppcomm.com/>



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

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

**YL News
Submitted by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB**

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

We encourage all YLs and OMs 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

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Vice President

Perry Hayes, N4GJ
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Paul Broom, KY4MX
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Director of Programs

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Director of Meetings & Special Events

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901-573-6280

Public Information Officer

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

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/>

June 17, 2023:	Knoxville Hamfest and Electronics Convention / ARRL Tennessee State Convention (Knoxville, TN)
June 24-25, 2023:	ARRL Field Day
August 19, 2023	Huntsville Hamfest
September 30, 2023:	Bluff City Blues Bike Ride, Shelby Forest
October 14, 2023	A Day in the Park

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

Chick-fil-A Paragon Place
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At Poplar and Massey
Memphis, TN 38119
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