

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 108 * January 2025



Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC)

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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

You are invited to attend our monthly membership meeting at 7 pm on: Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

The meeting will be held at Mid-America Theological Seminary located at 2095 Appling Rd, Memphis, TN 38016. See the Delta Club webpage at: <http://www.deltaclub.org> for detailed instructions on how to find the correct entrance. Parking is available in the back of the south end of the building. The meeting will be in the Betty Howard Special Events Room.

- **FCC Testing begins at 5:30 pm in Room B201**
- **Meeting Programs begins at 7:00 pm**
 - Winlink by Adam White, K4SPB
 - Winter Field Day by Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV

FCC 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:

Mike Sparks, KW4RI, VE Liaison
Phone: 901-493-8338
Email: KW4RI@outlook.com

Club Announcements!

Silent Key – Barry McDonald, W5CJ

See the Repeater Trustee's Corner below for Barry's obituary or you can view Barry's obituary online by clicking [here](#). Memorial services will be held at 11:00 on Friday January 17 2025 @ Collierville First Baptist Church, 830 New Byhalia Rd, Collierville, TN 38017. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service.

Remembering fellow ham, friend and contester.

I met Barry McDonald W5CJ at the Delta ARC years ago. A group of us worked with him at the Delta repeater sites for many years. Lots of trips with him to the 146.82 site. He was trustee for the repeaters from Jan. 2018 until Feb. 2024. Barry was volunteer fireman with Collierville city FD. He always attended the local ham radio Field Day each June. His main interest with ham radio was working FT8 mode on the HF bands.

You could always count on Barry to show up to our local Friday morning ham breakfast at Denver's. We all would share our latest ham radio experience or other topics. Note: Everyone is invited to attend the breakfast on the 2nd and 4th Friday each month about 8 AM. We also have some Saturday and Holiday dates for you worker bees.

In 2021 the Mt. Nebo contest group invited Barry to go with us to the Sept. VHF contest. It's a 5-day 4-night trip to the big house we rent on the mountain. I think Barry was somewhat reluctant about the trip, but once he got there and meet the other hams, he was ready to attend in 2022. He also went with us in 2023.

I knew Barry had some medical issues for the last couple years and went to West Clinic for treatment. It was a real shock when his wife Deborah told me the doctors said he would never leave the hospital on Dec. 20. Then we all received the sad news on Christmas Eve that he was an SK.

Peace my friend,
Rick WA4NVM

Delta Club Training

All classes will be 3-1/4 to 4 hours long for six or seven sessions; one per week on a week night 6:15pm-9:30pm or Saturday day 9am-1pm. If interested in a class, send an email to wa4ovo@gmail.com with Subject line: Tech, General or Extra Class and name, email address and cellphone number in the email.

The next **Technician** license class will be Tech Class 2-25 – February 24 – April 7, 2025

The next **General** license class will start in November 2025

The next **Extra** license class will start January 2026.

2025 Swamp Stomper 50k/25k - January 18, 2025

Delta Club will be doing the communications for the Swamp Stompers event at Shelby Forest on Saturday January 18 between 7am and 5pm. We will be using the 146.82 repeater. A handheld radio should work or this would be a good time to get good use from a mobile radio if you have one.

Contact Steve Frazier KK4VPT if you are interested in joining us or if you need more information.

Steve will be at the club meeting Tuesday if you want to talk about it then.

Programs for 2025

Please scan the QR Code below to access a survey for programs you would like to see in 2025. We will discuss this more in depth at the meeting.



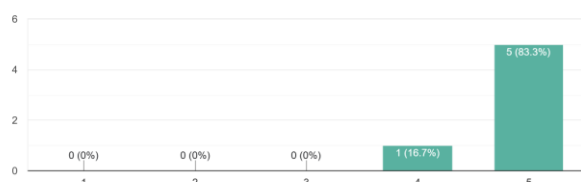
December Membership Meeting Signal Report

I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had 46 people on the sign in sheet and 6 surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback on how things are going. We want to hear from the membership, both good and bad. It gives us the opportunity to hear from you and respond. Our surveys allow us to quickly respond to things that are liked and things that are not liked. If we are doing something that is not getting good feedback we are committed to changing it and making it better. Please enjoy the results from last month below.

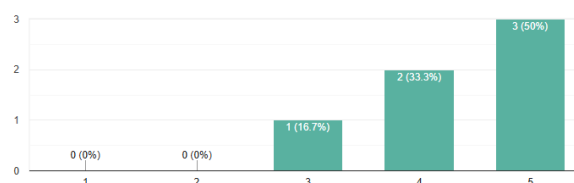
The member suggested activities from both November and December are listed.

Thank you.

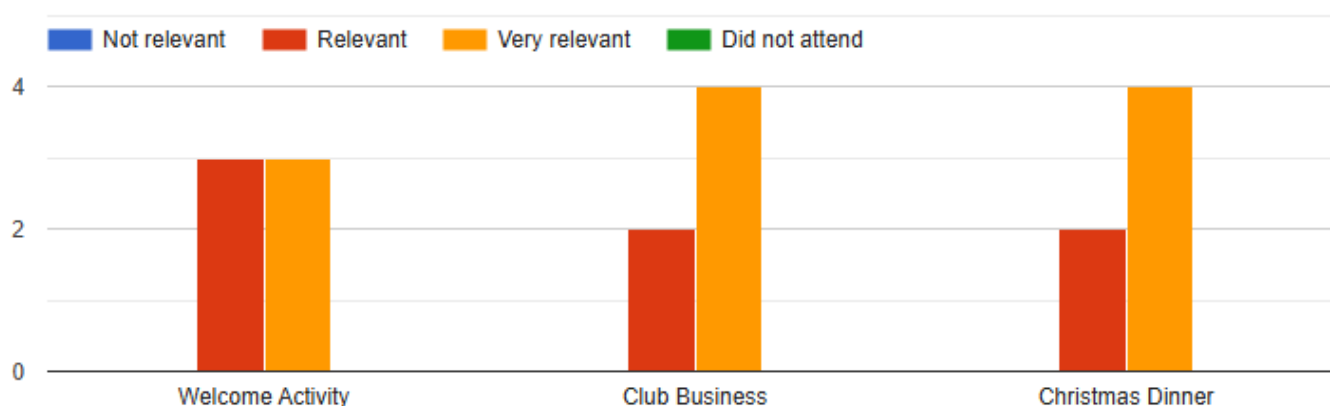
How satisfied were you with the event?
6 responses



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



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



Please let us know one thing you would like to see as a club activity next year.

(14 Responses in November and 4 in December)

"Make and Take" type activity, where we can build a helpful project. Maybe something like a powerpole distribution block.

Soldering class

Get more active in ARRL events.

Would like to see a working group of elmers to really help out the new guys get into the hobby.

This would make it a lot easier to have a dedicated group to help everyone out. It's a great hobby but starting out you never know what you don't know.

Connector soldering/attachment guide

Can't think of anything now. Will have something for next month.

A project build. Pick some hardware to build from a lot. Build it at the meeting.

Go Box contest

Fox hunt

Unsure

Beginners/start up "club: :)

Winter field day

I enjoy all the lessons I've seen at the meetings. Maybe more info on antennas since that seems to be a complicated area.

I would like to see an event that provides more hands on experience on making contact on ham radio and an intro into satellites, if possible. Respectfully.

Maybe list names to be recognized and have them scrolling, to cut down on time to review. But it is important to recognize.

Nothing that I can think of.

Tactical/Field operations examples/training.

ARRL events

News and Articles for our Membership

President's Corner Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

I am excited! We are entering a new year. I often reflect on what is unique and special about our club. I always come back to these facts: friendships that are active; educating new amateur radio operators; serving our community. These reflections remind me of our club logo and the foundational words that are in it. We are growing into new and exciting things and have some fun changes coming for our members and our community regarding the repeater services that we provide. Many of you have gone above and beyond in sharing your expertise, whether through workshops, mentoring new operators, or volunteering your time during events. Your commitment is what makes this club such a special place, and I am deeply grateful for each of you!



Looking at the responses from our membership on the various surveys it looks like we are going to have an exciting year ahead of us. Winlink and Winter Field day are on the agenda for January. Our club's success depends on the continued involvement and enthusiasm of every member, and I encourage each of you to stay active, share your ideas, and help us make 2025 even better. I encourage you to invite non members to our events. We are open and welcoming to all. I would hope that through our activities and actions people would be attracted to our organization!

I know that January has Winter Field Day and a few of our members have expressed interest in participating in that activity. Please ask about the Winter Field Day activity at our membership meeting. I know that several members are working on a plan to get together for Winter Field

Day. Please seek them out! They are excited to have people ask them about it and join in with them.

Even as we look to the new year we want to recognize our Silent Key members that have gotten us here with a special mention of Barry McDonald W5CJ, our former repeater trustee. Barry's seven year investment of time, effort, energy, and love into our club has made us who we are. He was a proponent of making sure that the repeaters were always working and advancing them so that we could all enjoy his favorite hobby. He welcomed all to enjoy his fun hobby with a warm smile and a welcoming word of encouragement. He will truly be missed.

Lastly, please ask one person to join our club and have fun with us!

73

Joe Plunk, NS4E

Program's Corner
Submitted by Adam White, K4SPB

Thank you to those of the club who completed the programs survey. For those who haven't, responses are still open and your feedback is much appreciated in preparing for future topics.

Scan the QR code or click this link: <https://forms.gle/QDpkr2B4u1ow71jw5>

BTECH has released new firmware for the UV-PRO and the clones of it; Radioddity GA-5WB and VR-N76. This firmware allows for full KISS TNC support over Bluetooth. This makes it the most straightforward solution on the market for packet connections, requiring only a phone with apps like RadioMail and the radio; with no cables or adapters. It also connects to Windows PCs via bluetooth with no extra software and creates a virtual serial port. Perfect for connecting to Winlink stations like K4SPB-10. The radio also supports programming and control over bluetooth allowing simple configuration. The UV-PRO is \$165 on Amazon at the time of publication.

In anticipation of DARC's first DMR repeater going live, I have been keeping my eye on eBay for quality, inexpensive DMR radios. A Canadian seller going by CTM-Mobile has dozens of Motorola XPR-4550 radios for sale, both individually and as lots ranging in quantity from 3-8. These radios are rated for 25w and at current prices work out to about \$120 each. The XPR-4550 supports digital APRS, DMR Tier 2 (dual time slot), is very durable, and simple to install with the integrated speaker. Programming software is easily obtainable, and it is easier to program than Anytone radios. If there is enough interest, we may be able to arrange a group buy of one of the lots.

Thanks for allowing me to be your Programs Director and feel free to let me know how Programs can better serve you.

Repeater Trustee's Corner

Submitted by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

My heart sank when I heard about the passing of our previous club trustee Barry McDonald on December 24th. I hadn't got to know Barry very long. Barry had figured he had the longest tenure of 7 years as the club trustee. Barry and his crew did a lot of work fixing difficult issues to get the 146.82 repeater back to operation.

I remember calling Barry for the first time to ask him repeater questions. I found out that Barry had been a reserve firefighter with Collierville and he found out that I was a reserve firefighter with Bartlett. That was enough for both of us to instantly know that the other was an honorable person. He stressed to me the importance of having good relationships with the people who allow us to be at our radio sites.

We are continuing on with repeater work for the year. DMR at the Brunswick site should be up soon. Watch Facebook and the nightly net for updates. We are doing some upgrades on the 146.625 repeater to make the Allstar audio sound much better for the weather net linking. More stuff to follow.

Dan Fleek
AA4DF

Barry McDonald's Obituary

Barry Wesley McDonald Sr., age 72, went to be with his Lord on Tuesday, December 24, 2024. Barry was born April 9, 1952 in Montgomery, AL and at the age of 12 moved to Wetumpka, AL. He was preceded in death by his parents, Eugene (Gene) Fisher and Nanny (Nan) Hall McDonald as well as his nephew Jason Daniel McDonald. He is survived by his wife, Deborah Jones McDonald, his 2 children, Jennifer McDonald Elliott (Kenneth), Barry McDonald Jr. (Kristy) as well as 2 grandsons, Wesley Hatchett and Carter Hatchett. He is also survived by 2 brothers, Darrell (Sharyn) McDonald and Danny (Cindy) McDonald, his sister in love, Shelia Jones Griffith (Drew) and brother in love, Randell Jones (Teresa) as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Barry loved his pets and is survived by his 3 dogs, Greta, Emme and Teddy. His 2 beloved cats (even though he claimed to hate cats) Tori and Smokey.

Barry grew up in Wetumpka, AL and graduated from Wetumpka High School in 1970. He was a drummer in the Elmore County High School band and was thought of by the girls as a cutie. He was engaged to his wife, Deborah, after dating only 2 weeks and they married 6 months later on June 21, 1975 at the church they both grew up in, Eastmont Baptist Church.

After moving to Collierville TN, Barry became a volunteer firefighter for the city of Collierville. This was a passion for over 16 years. He had a passion for many things, one of

them cooking. He was a wonderful cook and taught his children to be wonderful cooks as well. The only time he would raise his voice was when Alabama football was on. He was a huge Bama fan.

After retiring from Konica Minolta Imaging in 2014 he became an Amateur Radio Operator (W5CJ). He was a member of Delta Amateur Radio Club and served as the club's repeater trustee for 7 years.

In April 2023 Barry and Deborah started fostering Schnauzers and any other furbabies that needed their love.

Barry will be dearly missed by his family and friends. He was a truly exceptional man.

Memorial services will be held at 11:00 on Friday January 17 2025 @ Collierville First Baptist Church, 830 New Byhalia Rd, Collierville, TN 38017. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers please donate to Schnauzer Love Rescue or your local animal shelter in his memory.

Publication's Corner

Submitted by Mike Harrison, KM4MRW

I purchased a Daiwa CN-901HP SWR / Power meter in December. It was delivered to my house, and I was anxious to see how much power my HF radio was putting out. I connected it between the radio and antenna, I do not have a dummy load. I selected the output range, keyed the microphone expecting to get the full 100W the radio is capable of transmitting. I was disappointed to see that I was only outputting around 50W. My thought was that I had a bad output meter. I called my Elmer, Dave Church, and asked if he could test it out to see if it was defective. He said yes, to stop by one afternoon after work. I went to Dave's, and he hooked the power meter up to a transceiver in this workshop outputting into a dummy load. He selected CW mode and locked the keyer open and the meter output 100W! It was not the meter that was the problem, it was my antenna. Lightbulbs started lighting up in my head. In every class I attended with Joe Lowenthal he stated the importance of Antenna, Antenna, Antenna. This really brought that statement to life for me. I was using a dipole antenna with a higher SWR. I was getting as much power reflected as I was outputting. Lesson learned! I will work from now on to get my SWR as low as possible to ensure I am outputting the highest amount of power. Another lesson I can pass on is to get an Elmer. Dave has been so helpful in giving me advice on everything ham radio. It is also good to have fellow club members and instructors that we can talk to and get advice from. Thank you, Dave and Joe!

On a separate note, this will be my last year to serve as Director of Publications. I am looking for someone to take over my duties in January 2026. My duties include but are not limited to:

- attending and contribute to the monthly Board of Director's meeting on the first Tuesday night of the month,
- preparing and publishing the Sparks newsletter prior to the membership meeting which is on the second Tuesday night of the month,
- uploading the monthly Sparks newsletter to the DARC Website,
- emailing the monthly membership meeting invitation and link to Sparks,
- maintaining the DARC Website,
- and attending a minimum of six membership meetings per year.

If you are interested in serving the DARC the Director of Publications, please email me at: publications@deltacub.org.

Packet Update
Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Many amateurs have been working with computers for many years. Everybody remembers their first home computer. Computer emulator programs have been out for a while. These are free programs or websites that let you run a simulation of your old computer on your current computer. A more powerful current computer can easily simulate an older one that has a lot less computing power. User groups still play with early computers. Emulators are available for many of the early model computers. Here are a few websites I have found.

Commodore 64 computer

https://c64emulator.111mb.de/index.php?site=pp_javascript&lang=en&group=c64

TRS 80 Color Computer

<https://www.haplessgenius.com/mocha/>

TI994A website

<https://www.99er.net/emul.shtml>

TRS80 MODEL 1/3/4

<https://www.trs-80.com/wordpress/emulators/#l1simulator>

Macintosh

<https://jamesfriend.com.au/pce-js/>

There are many more sites available for old computer emulators. Do a search on Google for “computer emulator” to find your favorite old computer.



James Butler
KB4LJV

Amateur Hardware Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Most amateurs use the internet for ham radio activities. Wireless WiFi in the home makes it easy to connect all our devices without having to run wire. The range of the WiFi is limited inside the house due to walls and other obstructions. Newer styles of WiFi extenders are now available to solve your problems with low WiFi signal strength. In the repeater mode you can just plug them into an outlet to increase the coverage area of your home. The cheaper ones like I bought are for the 2.4 GHz band and are available for less than \$10. They also have versions that will do 5 GHz in addition to 2.4 GHz. Top of the line units have multiple antennas for increased coverage and can be pole mounted outside. The one I bought gives me excellent signal strength on the radio room where my signal was marginal before. You can also install multiple units around the home to get full home coverage of your WiFi system. You can see

instructional videos on these WiFf extenders on YouTube. If you need to extend your home WiFi network, check these out. Do a search on Ebay for “WiFi extender”.

WiFi Range Extender(Repeater)
Extend WiFi coverage of an existing wireless network



wavlink



James Butler
KB4LJV

NWS Monthly Skywarn Net
Submitted by John Reiners, KN4BVH

I just want to take a moment and let everyone know about some changes coming in 2025 with respect to National Weather Service amateur radio operations.

It has recently been discovered that Brandmeister has a rule that prohibits linking analog systems to 5-digit talkgroups. This policy was NOT in effect when the DMR to Analog bridge was implemented back in 2017. The National Weather Service has stated that they do not want amateur radio operators to have to rely solely on DMR during severe weather events and want the ability to use analog resources as well as echolink.

To fulfill the needs of the National Weather Service while remaining in the good graces of Brandmeister, **Talkgroup 31471 will no longer be used to support Skywarn operations effective 3/1/25. Talkgroup 314431 (WX4MEM) will be what is used on and after 3/1/25.**

In the interim, the practice nets will be called on the 1st of each month at 7:00pm on TG 31471 with no linking, then immediately following, a second net will be called on the 314431 talkgroup with the linking enabled. This should provide ample time to re-program any radios, repeaters, or other devices and offer an opportunity to test them. As always, we thank the many repeater owners who support Skywarn operations. The spring convective season is just around the corner. I hope we don't have any actual severe weather, but if there is the need to stand up a net, we will do our best to monitor both talkgroups during this period of transition. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any clarification. I hope everyone's New Year is off to a Safe and Emergency free start!

Thanks, and 73,
John A. Reiners, KN4BVH

DARC Director's Reports

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 dues are \$20 per individual or \$25 per family. Completed applications and payment may be mailed to:

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

Blank applications are also available at club meetings. If you prefer, you can print and bring the completed form, along with applicable membership fees, to any in-person meeting. Please contact Jim Martin, KD4FUU at **treasurer@deltaclub.org** with any questions or concerns regarding application submission and/or payment of annual dues.

LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS

November 30, 2024 through December 31, 2024

SUMMARY

Beginning Balance	\$20,306.97	Minimum Daily Balance	\$15,248
Deposits & Credits	\$225.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$18,163
Withdrawals	\$200.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$5,083.58 -		
Ending Balance	\$15,248.39		

DEPOSITS & CREDITS

12/13	Deposit - Thank You	200.00
12/27	Deposit - Thank You	5.00
12/27	Deposit - Thank You	20.00
Total Deposits & Credits		\$225.00

WITHDRAWALS

12/31	Rsc Insurance Br Risk-Strat Delta Amateur M120812291757	200.00
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CHECKS

Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
12/12	1635	100.00	12/17	1637	171.08
12/11	1636	53.50	12/18	1639 *	4,759.00
				Total Checks	\$5,083.58

* Break In Check Number Sequence.

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY

Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
12/11	20,253.47	12/17	20,182.39	12/27	15,448.39
12/12	20,153.47	12/18	15,423.39	12/31	15,248.39
12/13	20,353.47				

Applications Received - Dec 2024		
(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Family		\$0.00
(10) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$200.00
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$0.00
(1) Donations Received		\$20.00
	Total Dues Received	\$220.00
Other Deposits & Credits		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)		\$0.00
(1) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$5.00
ARRL Affiliated Club - Individual Membership Fees		\$0.00
	Total Other Deposits	\$5.00
	Total Deposits	\$225.00
Withdrawals & Debits		
Hanover Insurance - Club Liability Insurance - Annual premium		\$200.00
	Total Withdrawals	\$200.00
Checks		
Check #1635 - Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary - Donation for use of meeting space.		\$100.00
Check #1636 - Scott Adams - Reimbursement for holiday party food purchase.		\$53.50
Check #1637 - Michael Harrison - Reimbursement for GoDaddy website annual renewal.		\$171.08
Check #1639 - Comserv Wireless - Purchase of Motorola DMR repeater and amplifier.		\$4,759.00
	Total Payments	\$5,083.58

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,370.74	5.020 %	\$0.00	\$31.78
<div>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</div> <div>*8481</div>			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$67.34	\$263.01	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	11/25/2024	1/22/2025	
<div>▲ Hide More Details</div>			

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8503

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$11,522.15	4.400 %	\$0.00	\$58.34
<div>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</div> <div>*8503</div>			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$20.34	\$274.10	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	11/26/2024	2/23/2025	
<div>▲ Hide More Details</div>			

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes - January 7, 2025

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting – January 7, 2025

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Secretary Perry Hayes N4GJ, Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams KM4PMU, Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF.

Absent: Immediate Past President Ty McMahan KX4MQ.

Guests: None

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on January 7, 2025, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present. President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, called the roll and declared a quorum.

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for serving on the BOD.

Secretary Perry Hayes presented his minutes of the December 2024 Membership Meeting.

Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, made a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes, which was seconded by Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, presented the membership applications that had been received since the December BOD meeting.

Joe Lowenthal made a motion to accept all of the membership applications, which was seconded by Perry Hayes. The motion passed without opposition.

Jim Martin then presented the Treasurer's Report.

Jim reported that the Club's Certificate of Deposit (with an account number ending in *8481) matures on 1/22/25. The best deal from Regions for rolling over the CD is a 6-month term with an APY of 4.25%. Jim recommended that the CD be rolled over on those terms.

Jim said the Club's other CD will mature in February. He will make a report on that CD at the February BOD meeting.

Joe Lowenthal made a motion to roll over the CD on the terms recommended by Jim Martin, which was seconded by Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV. The motion passed unanimously.

Mike Harrison made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Joe Lowenthal. The motion passed without opposition.

There was a discussion about any other bills or reimbursement requests that were expected in January.

Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, discussed the programs that will be presented at the January DARC Membership Meeting.

There was a discussion about future plans for a class to replace Ham 101.

There was a discussion about Winter Field Day, which will be held on January 25th. There are DARC members that plan to have a Winter Field Day activity this year, which will be open to other DARC members. There are plans for the Club to sponsor and hold a formal Winter Field Day event in future years.

The plans for this year's Winter Field Day activity will be discussed at the January Membership Meeting.

Director of Publications Mike Harrison discussed his changes to the format of the *Sparks* newsletter. Response to those changes was positive, and Mike announced that the new format will begin with the January issue.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, reported that the digipeater at Methodist North is working well, and the 220 repeater has been temporarily turned off. Dan plans on visiting the site again soon.

Dan has purchased an audio board for the Allstar node at the Germantown 146.625 site. Dan will also get the repeater adjusted, so the audio levels will be better on Allstar.

Dan said the DMR Repeater for the Brunswick site has arrived, and he plans to begin working on the software this week.

Dan plans to purchase the equipment to make Allstar available on the 146.82 repeater during weather events.

Joe Lowenthal said that the 440 Net would be moved to the 443.200 repeater when the 443.700 repeater switches modes to DMR.

Joe Plunk discussed plans for obtaining mobile internet service for the Brunswick repeater site. Joe presented an estimate he received for purchase of a hotspot device, an activation fee and a monthly service fee. The club will need to enter into a contract with the provider, so Joe will present the details to the Club at the January Membership Meeting.

Mike Harrison made a motion that the BOD recommend to the membership that DARC enter into a contract for internet service, under the terms outlined by Joe Plunk, which was seconded by Adam White. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion about how the internet service might be funded in 2025. A line item will be included in this year's proposed budget.

Joe Lowenthal asked that the serial numbers of club equipment be logged when there is a visit to any repeater site. There was overwhelming approval of this suggestion.

Joe Plunk reminded everyone to encourage our members to renew their memberships for 2025.

Adam White and Joe Plunk reported on the results of the surveys they submitted to the membership. These surveys asked what programs and activities the Club should offer in 2025. The surveys will remain open for a couple of months. Adam and Joe will report on the results of these surveys at future meetings.

Treasurer Jim Martin presented the proposed budget for 2025. There was a lengthy discussion on the various line items, and an appropriate amount for each.

There was a discussion about making a memorial gift in memory of SK Barry McDonald, W5CJ. Barry was an honored and respected member of Delta Club for many years, and tirelessly served the club in many capacities, including Repeater Trustee.

There was an agreement to make a memorial gift of \$100 to ARRL. Mike Harrison made a motion, which was seconded by Joe Lowenthal. The motion passed unanimously.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that an Extra Class License Class is currently meeting on Saturdays via Zoom, running until February 15th. A Technician Class License Class is scheduled to begin on February 24th, and will meet via Zoom on 6 Mondays through April 7 (excluding March 10th).

Vice President Tyler Henley said he would miss the January Membership Meeting, due to military commitments.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Mike Harrison made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Jim Martin. The motion passed without opposition.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:13pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 6:30pm, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Hayes, N4GJ
Secretary

Minutes of Last Month's Club Meeting
Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Membership Meeting
December 10, 2024

The December 2024 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. The President served as the chair and the Secretary was absent. Club President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. There were 46 members and visitors in attendance.

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, Public Information Officer Adam White, K4SPB.

Absent: Immediate Past-President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH.

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to introduce themselves, and to name the top ham-related item they would like to see under their Christmas tree this year.

Joe said that several members of the Board of Directors (BOD) have been serving for a long time, and were interested in stepping down. They would like to begin training their replacements, so there will be a smooth transition when they leave the board. He encouraged anyone with a passion for ham radio to contact the BOD, or an individual board member, for more information about joining the board.

Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, made a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes, as published in the December issue of *Sparks*. The motion was seconded by Don Strahl, KZ4GJ. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe asked if any BOD members had reports for the membership.

Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, thanked the members for their participation during 2024. He said he was excited about the events that are being planned for 2025, and the upgrades to the club repeaters.

Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, was out sick with food poisoning, and had no report.

Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, encouraged everyone to submit a new or renewal membership application for 2025.

Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, was out of town on a cruise. Joe Plunk asked incoming Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, to say a few words. Adam said that he was interested to hear from the membership about program topics they would like to see next year. Adam provided a QR code that members could use to suggest topics.

Joe Plunk encouraged everyone to complete Adam's survey, as well as a *Signal Report* survey. Joe said that he would like for everyone to answer the survey question about what activities the club should offer next year.

Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, had no report, but said the evening's meal was ready.

Director of Publications Mike Harrision, KM4MRW, said he would like to train someone to take over his position. Any interested members should contact Mike.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, was out sick and had no report. Joe Plunk asked everyone to check the *Sparks* newsletter for information on the DARC's upcoming Amateur Radio License classes.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, reported that the new DMR repeater was in, and the new amplifier should arrive soon. Dan is in the process of getting a Brandmeister talkgroup for the club, and a new audio board for the Allstar link at the 146.625 repeater site.

President Joe Plunk recognized the members of DARC's VE team, and thanked them for their service. Joe also recognized the non-DARC VEs that have assisted our club.

President Joe Plunk also recognized the net control operators (NCOs) for the DARC nets, and thanked them for their service. Joe thanked the former NCOs who stepped down this year.

President Joe Plunk recognized the volunteers who assist Joe Lowenthal as instructors for the DARC's FCC Amateur Radio License classes.

President Joe Plunk announced the winners of the DARC Awards for 2024:

Ham of the Year: Steve Frazier, KK4VPT

Elmer of the Year: Ham Hilliard, W4GMM

New Ham of the Year: Don Strahl, KZ4GJ

Steve Frazier said that Swamp Stompers will be held on January 18th. Anyone interested in helping should contact Steve.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said that he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Ham Hilliard made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Don Strahl. The motion passed without opposition. President Joe Plunk adjourned the business meeting at 7:38pm. The DARC Holiday Dinner was held after the business meeting was adjourned.

During the dinner, President Joe Plunk presented a \$100 donation to Dr. Randy Redd, KQ4HJH, a Vice President and Professor at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. Joe thanked the Seminary for the generous use of their facilities. Randy thanked Joe for the donation, and said that the Seminary would put the funds to good use.

The next regular membership meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at the Mid-South Baptist Theological Seminary, beginning at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Hayes, N4GJ
Secretary

Delta Ham License Training, 2025

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

Thanks to all of the instructors and VEs who gave their time supporting the four classes in 2024

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 2024 from Delta Classes

17 Technician

4 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 Tenth Edition with question pool that became effective July 1, 2023 for four years.

The current ARRL Extra Class License Manual is the Thirteenth Edition with question pool that became effective July 1, 2024 for four years.

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 in text.

The next **General** license class will probably start in early November 2025.

The next **Extra** license class will probably start in early January 2026.

Tech Class 2-25 – February 24 – April 7, 2025

A Technician license class is being planned on Zoom on 6 Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on February 24, March 3, 17, 24, 31 and April 7 if we have ten students registered by February 17th. There is no class on March 10th. If interested, send an email with Subject: Tech Class and name, email address and cellphone number in text to wa4ovo@gmail.com

CURRENT CLASSES

Extra Class 1-25 – January 4 – February 15, 2025

An Extra Class license class is being held via Zoom on 6 Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm on January 4, 12, 18, February 1, 8 and 15. There is not a class on January 25th. The 6th class will be in person at a location to be determined in the Memphis area for an opportunity to take the FCC exam. There are eight students in the class: Mark WB0ROG, John KQ4IOS, Greg KQ4OVD, Vernon KQ4WCL, David N1SRD, Tommy KQ4SQC and Allen N5ALN.

The instructors are Paul KY4MX, David KY4FH, Dave AD4Q, Park AI5CY, Carolyn KX4QF, Paul KA4X, Bobby KD5BS and Joe WA4OVO. The Delta Club VE Team will provide an opportunity for the students to take their Extra exam.

PREVIOUS CLASSES

General Class 4-24 – November 7 – December 12, 2024

An in-person General license class will be held on five Thursday nights November 7, 14, 21, December 5 and 12 from 6:15-9:30pm. The 5th class will be an opportunity to take the FCC exam. The classes will be held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms training room, 6850 Appling Farms Parkway. The seven students are Michael KQ4QLJ, John KQ4UIC, Eric KN4QNU, Tony KN4FBK, William KQ4UEO, Randy KQ4HJH, and Rich KN4OEI.

Congratulations to William KQ4UEO who upgraded on December 3rd.

Congratulations to Michael KQ4QLJ and Tony KN4FBK for upgrading to General on December 12th.

Thanks to the Delta Club VE Team of Mike KW4RI, Jeff KX4LO, Perry N4GJ, Randall KY4MY, Doug WA4CB, Don KZ4GJ, Dan KN4FBJ and Joe WA4OVO who provided the test session.



Randall KY4MY presenting to General Class 4-24

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors are Paul KY4MX, Park AI5CY, Steve KK4VPT, Billy WL4B, Perry N4GJ, Randall KY4MY, Carolyn KX4QF, Bobby KD5BS, John KN4BVH and Joe WA4OVO. The Delta Club ARRL VE Team will provide an opportunity for FCC testing on December 12th.

Tech Class 3-24 – July 8 – August 12, 2024

An in-person Technician license class was held on six Monday nights on July 8, 15, 22, 29 August 5 and 12 from 6:15-9:30pm. The 5th class was a review of the question pool and opportunity to take the FCC exam. There were 12 students registered with eight completing the instructional period.

Congratulations to Technicians Chris Pechak KQ4TQT and Daniel Lees KQ4TQ9U who tested at the Delta Club July 9th ARRL test session. Bill Matthews KQ4UEO also tested early on-line for Technician. Congratulation to John Burwell KQ4UIC, and Dexter Haney KJ5HMT for earning their Technician license. Congratulations to Cody Hubley KQ4UJD for earning Technician and General.



Steve KK4VPT presenting



Perry N4GJ presenting



Satellite Demo by Rick WA4NVM



FM Digital Opns by John KN4BVH

Photos by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors were Park AI5CY, Paul KY4MX, John KN4BVH, Perry N4GJ, Carolyn KX4QF, Steve KK4VPT and Joe WA4OVO.

The last class was demonstrations on FM Repeater Basics, satellite operations, APRS, and FM digital operations.

The equipment demonstrators are Rick WA4NVM on satellites, Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS, John KN4BVH on FM digital radios and Joe WA4OVO on repeater basics. The classes were held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms Precinct, 6850 Appling Farms Parkway.

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

A hybrid Technician license class was held on five Thursday nights on February 22, 29, March 7, 14, 21 from 6:15-9:30pm and one Saturday March 23rd from 9:00am-1:00PM. The first four classes were via Zoom. The 5th in-person class was a review of the question pool and opportunity to take the FCC exam. The two in-person classes were at the MPD Appling Farms Precinct. Eleven students and one audit finished the class.

Congratulations to Dan Strahl KQ4PTW for testing early at TARS/Atoka meeting and earning his Technician and General licenses, Congratulations to Kunal Ashok KQ4QFI, Chuck Baker KQ4QFJ, Jason Beaver KQ4QFK, Tyler Henley KQ4TFL, Avery Knowlton KQ4QEZ, Cindy Knowlton KQ4QFM, Steffanie Roland KQ4QFR, Srinivas Sompalli KQ4QGM, and Neil Taylor KQ4QGL. At FreeFest testing Avery upgraded to General and Extra and changed call to KZ4FW. Srinivas also upgraded to General.



Tech Class 2-24 testing



Rick WA4NVM and Richard K4DXF
on JO-97 Satellite demo

The instructors were Paul Roberts KA4X, Park Dodge AI5CY, Paul Broom KY4MX, John Reiners KN4BVH, Perry Hayes N4GJ, Steve Frazier KK4VPT, Carolyn Horne KX4QF and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO.

The sixth in-person class was equipment demonstrations on analog repeater basics, Amateur Packet Reporting System (APRS), satellite operations and possible contact, and basic FM digital concepts of D-STAR, Fusion, DMR and Echolink operations.



Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS demo



John KN4BVH on Digital Basics

The equipment demonstration team was Rick Tillman WA4NVM and Richard Martin K4DXF on satellites, Rick Pellicciotti KJ4NWQ on APRS, John Reiners KN4BVH on FM digital radio basics, and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO on analog repeater basics and Echolink.

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

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

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

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

Previous Months' and Nice to Know Information

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 <https://www.qrz.com> and log in. Then enter your email address on QRZ page so other hams can contact you via 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. If you go by your middle name or a nickname, you can add a Nickname. After signing in to QRZ, hover over your callsign. Click on Edit (CALLSIGN). Click on Update the basic name. Go to Nickname. Enter your nickname. Go to bottom of page.

ARRL Benefits

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

- Digital access to all four ARRL publications -- QST, On the Air, and QEX. QST is the official membership journal of ARRL or On the Air aimed at helping new and emerging radio communicators get active and, on the air, QEX covering topics related to radio communications experimentation, and National Contest Journal (NCJ), covering radio contesting.
- Access to ARRL's 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. **If you join or renew through Delta Club, the club receives a commission. For new ARRL members or expired membership over 2 years there is a \$15 commission: for renewals a \$5 commission** ARRL Application.pdf

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

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

YL News Submitted by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB

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

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

2024 Board of Directors

President

Joe Plunk, NS4E
President@deltacub.org
NS4E@access-tech.com
901-491-2755

Vice President

Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV
ghenley@southaven.org
901-827-5859

Secretary

Perry Hayes, N4GJ
secretary@deltacub.org
901-626-2279

Treasurer

Jim Martin, KD4FUU
KD4FUU@gmail.com
248-830-8179

Director of Training

Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO
wa4ovo@gmail.com
901-628-4318

Director of Publications

Mike Harrison, KM4MRW
publications@deltacub.org
731-609-1948

Director of Programs

Adam White, K4SPB
programs@deltacub.org
817-201-3857

Director of Meetings & Special Events

Scott Adams, KM4PMU
scottedadamsjr@hotmail.com
901-573-6280

Public Information Officer OPEN

Immediate Past President

Ty McMahan, KX4MQ
KX4MQ@icloud.com
901-833-7119

Repeater Trustee

Dan Fleek, AA4DF
AA4DF@arrl.net
901-491-3192

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>.

Upcoming Events

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

Memphis Area VHF/UHF Nets

Name of Net	Frequency (MHz)	Offset/Tone	Local Time	Day of Week
Mid-South Bullfrog Net	146.535	[simplex]	7:30p	Daily
Delta Club Info Net (Primary)	146.82	- (107.2)	8:00p	Daily
Delta Club Info Net (Secondary)	443.7	+(107.2)	8:00p	Daily
YL Info Net (Primary)	146.82	- (107.2)	8:45p	Saturday
YL Info Net (Secondary)	443.7	+(107.2)	8:45p	Saturday
Sunday Super Niner Net	927.6125	- (146.2)	8:30p	Sunday
Elmer Net	444.175	+ (107.2)	9:00p	Sunday
Desoto County EMA	146.91	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Monday
MedMERS Net	146.82	- (107.2)	12:00p	Wednesday
Crowley's Ridge ARC	147.15	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Wednesday
Crowley's Ridge ARC	145.45	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Wednesday
Tipton ARS	145.49	+ (100.0)	7:30p	Thursday
Olive Branch ARC	147.255	+ (79.9)	8:30p	Thursday
OBARC Linked	444.7	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Thursday
ARES Training Net	146.85	- (107.2)	9:00p	Thursday
TN Statewide DMR Net	Digital – DMR		8:00p	Friday
Four-Forty Net	443.7	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Friday
Neshoba Club Info Net	146.625	- (107.2)	8:30p	4 th Monday

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



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Quality Accessories for the Shack and Field

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456 Long Hill Avenue
Shelton, CT 06484

203-556-8700

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http://www.hamsource.com

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 342768

Memphis, TN 38134-2768

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



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



Joe Miller
Owner

Chick-fil-A Paragon Place
6282 Poplar Avenue
At Poplar and Massey
Memphis, TN 38119
W - 901.766.1875
C - 901.230.3043
Joe.Miller@cfafranchisee.com
chick-fil-a.com