

# SPARKS

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P.O. Box 342768 \* Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 \* Volume 116 \* September 2025

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## Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC)

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## W4BS

### REPEATER SYSTEM

146.820 <sup>-107.2</sup>	147.360 <sup>+107.2</sup>
146.625 <sup>-107.2</sup>	443.200 <sup>+107.2</sup>
224.420 <sup>-107.2</sup>	443.700*
144.390 Digipeater	*DMR

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You are invited to attend our monthly membership meeting at 7 pm on: Tuesday, September 9, 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.deltacub.org> for detailed instructions on how to find the correct entrance. Parking is available at 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**
- **HAM 101 begins at 6:00 pm in Room B202**
  - [DX Commander Venture Portable POTA Antenna Assembly](#)
- **Meeting Programs begins at 7:00 pm**
  - Huntsville Hamfest Recap by NS4E & KQ4QEV
  - Time Keeping for Ham Radio and Ham Radio Applications for iOS

**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 FCC testing, or FCC FRN information, please contact:

Don Strahl KZ4GJ, VE Liaison  
Phone: 901-833-1270  
Email: [KZ4GJ.Don@gmail.com](mailto:KZ4GJ.Don@gmail.com)

## Club Announcements!

### **HAM 101**

DX Commander Venture Portable POTA Antenna Assembly. Johnathan offered up his new Venture POTA antenna as a topic that we could work through building together during the next couple of meetings. Here's the User Guide we will be going through as well as a YouTube video for assembly if you would like to watch before we get into it.

### **Delta Club Training**

Congratulations to Technician class attendee Mark Heckle KR4GOO for earning his **Technician** license on August 28th.

### **General Class 4-25 November 3 – December 8, 2025**

An in-person General license class is proposed to be held on five Monday nights November 3, 17, 24, December 1 and 8 from 6:15-9:30pm. The 5<sup>th</sup> 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. There needs to be 10 students to make the class a go.

To register, send an email to Joe at wa4ovo@gmail.com with the Subject line: General Class with name, callsign, email address and cellphone number in text.

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

The next **Technician** license class will probably start mid to late February 2026.

5<sup>th</sup> annual

# HAM FEST 2025

**Saturday, October 18**  
**8 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

**Trumann Sports Complex**  
16179 Pecan Grove Road  
Trumann, AR 72472

09:00

TESTING

10:00

FOX HUNT

11:00

PRESENTATION

**\$5 Entry**

Includes door prize ticket!

**\$10 Table Rental**

Includes table rental, entry fee and door prize ticket!



**Raffle**

11" iPad  
128 GB

**Tickets**

\$3 Each  
or 2 for \$5



Drop your name in the entry box for a shot at winning one of our fantastic door prizes!

- ONE MMDVM HOTSPOT
- TWO TYT MD UV-380 ANALOG/DMR HT'S
- ONE CONNECT SYSTEMS CS800D ANALOG /DMR MOBILE

**GRAND PRIZE!**

CS800D PLUS DUAL BAND DMR AND ANALOG MOBILE RADIO



\$429 VALUE!

**CROWLEY'S  
RIDGE**

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
WWW.CRARC.NET

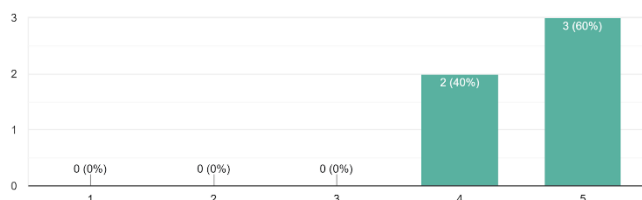
Email [info@crarc.net](mailto:info@crarc.net) or  
visit [www.crarc.net](http://www.crarc.net)  
for more information!

## August Membership Meeting Signal Report

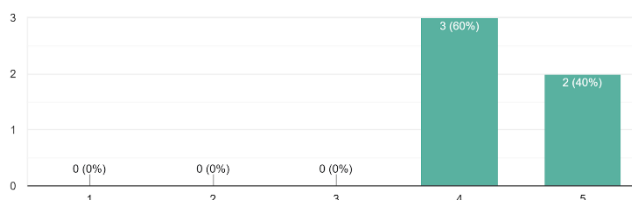
I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had 61 people on the sign-in sheet and 5 surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback on how 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.

Thank you.

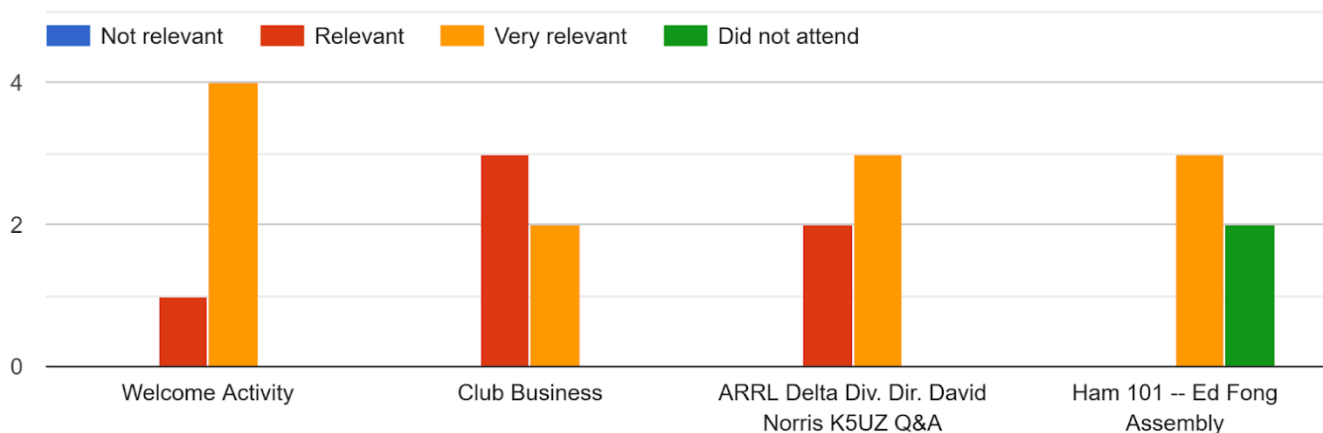
How satisfied were you with the event?  
5 responses



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



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



What would you like to see in the Ham 101 time slot?

1 responses

Liked Ham 101 tonight. I would like hands on training to continued. Also see some Ham 101' for hams that are technically challenged and/or technically ignorant and technically inexperienced.

# News and Articles for our Membership

## **President's Corner** Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

Last month I wrote about “Connections.” This month I would like to take a minute and ask all of us to think about our connection to our past and future. I had a great time on the bus trip to Huntsville. One thing that I enjoyed was getting to meet some of the ARRL leadership team.

In Huntsville the ARRL had several members of the leadership team present for the event. They also attended a forum event. I had the pleasure of getting to have a long conversation with David Minster, NA2AA, CEO of the ARRL. The conversation wandered over many topics. I got to ask him the origin of his vanity call. That was a fun story.

So what does all of this have to do with “Connections?” Well I am glad you asked. The forum that I attended turned into a large round table discussion. The discussion even included David Norris, K5UZ, our own Delta Division Director. The most interesting topic that came up was around a slowing down of adults being willing to volunteer to do things. So, for me this was an interesting point—I personally have not seen this as I think Hams are a very “Willing to get things done” bunch of people.

I do, however, think we do have some potential gaps as Hams with what we are currently doing. One of the comments that David made that struck home to me was the following statement: “If you were stranded on the side of the road or in a town and you saw a big tri band beam up on a tower and walked up to the door and asked for help it is highly likely that the person that opened the door would help you up to and even giving you shelter for the night” That statement struck me—are we still that strong of a community? The gap that I think we have that I would love to hear from you our membership on it this: “How can we take care of our mentors in this hobby?” As they get older and become dependent on having to ask others to assist them to do things. How can we make it easier for them to ask for that help?

Please let me know your thoughts on this. I would love to hear from you via an email or text or phone call. I am eager to figure this out so that we as a club can assist our members in the best way possible.

Take a quick look at the connections you can make in Truman at the Ham Fest 2025 event that is being put on by the Crowley’s Ridge Amateur Radio Club. It is a nice easy 1 ½ hour or so drive to get over to Truman. The event is coming up on October 18 from 8 am to Noon. Please find the flyer in this issue of Sparks for more details.

Lastly, please ask one person to join our club and have fun with us! We look forward to meeting them soon!

73

Joe Plunk, NS4E

## Vice President's Corner

Submitted by Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV

Fall is coming in hot (even though it is getting cooler). If you could not make it out to the Huntsville Hamfest, you missed a great trip. Maybe consider going next year. So much was there to learn. Some of us challenged tests due to peer pressure; plenty of new and used vendors had all types of gizmo's and gadgets; our own WA4OVO held down our table with help from others; and plenty of classes were held and viewed by hundreds.

Now that we are winding down the year, hopefully you have honed in on something you want to do once the weather turns cold. If not, now is your time to plan. Both the TN QSO Party and ARRL VHF contest happen this month. We will also be helping with the Memphis Blues bike ride in October. There is plenty to explore just in and around the Mid-South. Lots of work has been done on our repeaters, MESHTASTIC nodes are popping up everywhere, and DMR is taking off. If you are struggling to get a full "shack" up and going, you can be like me and do lots on a HT. I do a lot of ragchewing in the car on the ride to and from work. I always try to hit a different repeater on the ride home, so scan around and see what you hear. Whatever you do, just go out and try. You'll be surprised what you get.

## Program's Corner

Submitted by Adam White, K4SPB

I was recently building a geographic information system (GIS) application for a soon-to-be announced club project and noticed that several members of the club, including myself, were plotted in the wrong location. Joe, NS4E, pulled location data by querying QRZ.com's application programming interface (API). This was confusing to me because the address on QRZ is a reflection of the FCC's database. I went digging in my profile and found that QRZ has a separate page that does not automatically update when your address changes. If you want to check that yours is set correctly, the process is convoluted but fast.

Go to the QRZ.com homepage and log in. Hover over your callsign in the top right corner and click "Account". Now go back to that menu and this time click Edit (callsign). Now you'll see a load of setting options. The fourth one down is "Map, Grid Square, and **coordinate** settings". Here you can either enter your coordinates or your 6 digit grid square and the other will autofill. Using the 6 digit grid square will place a pin in the center of that grid. Unfortunately, the site does not support an 8 digit grid. If you want to share your location more accurately, you can find coordinates by right clicking your location on Google Maps.

If you've moved since you created your QRZ account, please take a moment to check this and update it. It would help the club as we work on this mapping project.



## Repeater Trustee's Corner

Submitted by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

Last month, Ryan K0RET, Adam K4SPB, and I went to Methodist North to work on the roof. Adam and I replaced the APRS antenna and got the digipeater back on the air. Ryan did some work on the Ham Wan link and put up a solar-powered Meshtastic node. I finally decided to by a cheap Meshtastic node this week to play with. More to come.

A big thanks to those who monitor our repeater and talk to the new hams. The trend seems to be hams ID on a repeater or DMR talk group and if nobody comes back to them in 30 seconds, they change the frequency or drop the talk group. Consider turning on your radio and listening for a while.

The special nets have been growing! The 7:30pm Wednesday night DMR net on 31471 is up to 15 to 20 actual check-ins without the relays. We haven't had rough weather in a couple of months, but we are still close to 40 check-ins on the monthly Memphis NWS Skywarn Net. Mississippi hams are adding more DMR repeaters to get coverage in north MS.

See you on the air!



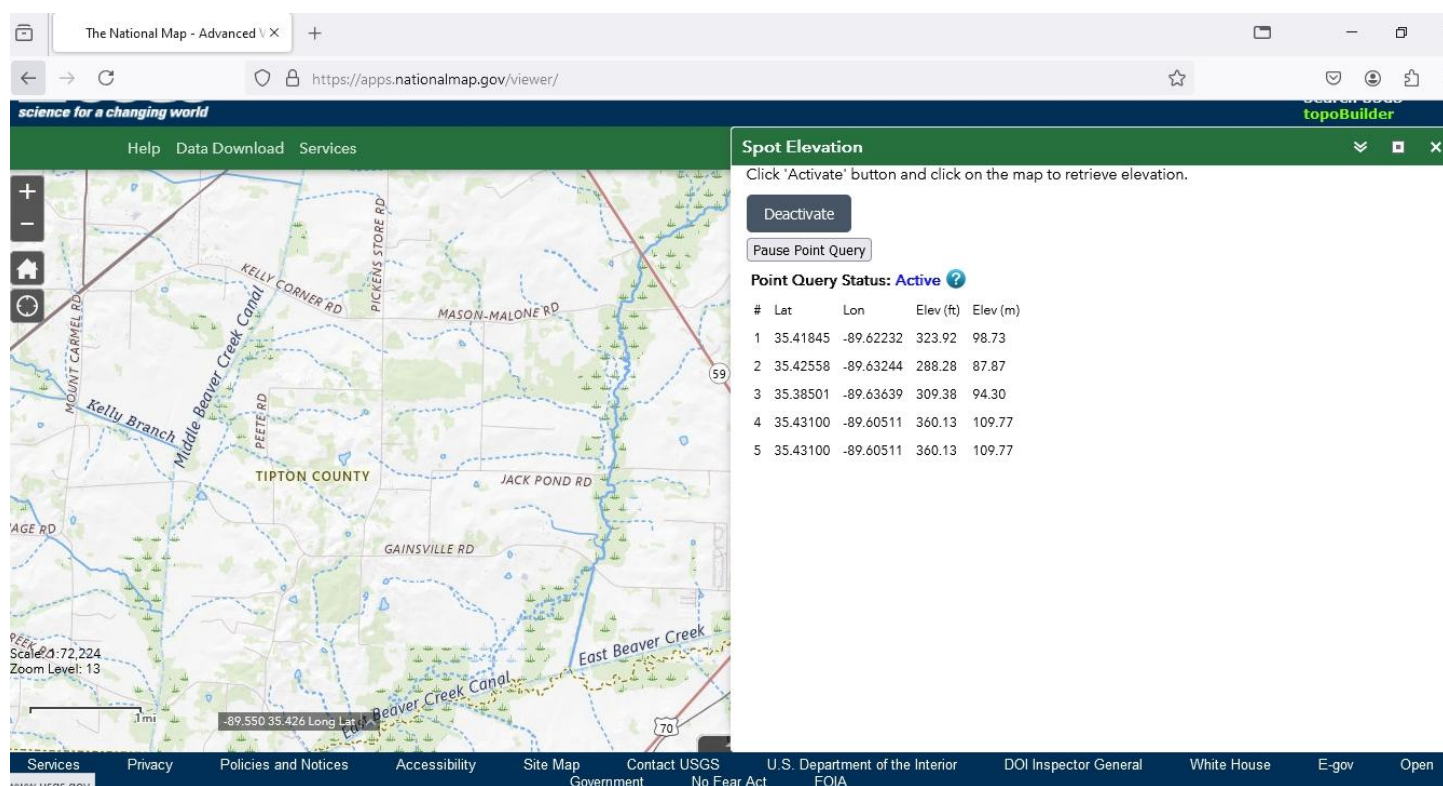
Dan  
AA4DF

## Packet Update

### Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Many times we need topographical data for locations. You may want to know the height of a spot you plan on operating from. When I was looking for land to build on, I had to buy USGS maps for the areas I was looking at. I did not want to build on a low spot that flooded and wanted enough height above surrounding terrain for my antennas to work well. Today with the internet we can go to the USGS website and look at maps for free. They have a function where you just put in your address and it comes up. You can adjust the map like you want it and take a screen shot or print it.

The web address for the map function is <https://apps.nationalmap.gov/viewer/>



James Butler  
KB4LJV



## Amateur Hardware Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Amateurs may want to monitor their radio station while working around the house. Older radios do not have this option. A cheap simple way I found is to use a wireless baby monitor. The monitor has a transmitter with a plug in power supply. The receiver has batteries to make it portable. The battery supplied with mine is rechargeable with the included charger. The receiver is small and includes a belt clip. The battery last about 8 hours before recharging is needed. I can use it monitor nets and calling frequencies on the band for activity and propagation. No wires to run. You just hook it up and it works. The system I bought was a VTECH. The price was under \$20. If you need to monitor your station remotely check out his easy to use option.



James Butler  
KB4LJV

## Historian's Corner

Submitted by John Reiners, KN4BVH

### **A Brief History of the Huntsville Hamfest Bus Trip**

If you have ever listened to the nightly nets on the .82 repeater during the months of June, July, or August; I am certain you have heard the announcement regarding the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest. While we can almost recite the announcement regarding the fare, the Denver's biscuits, and being able to rest your weary feet, how many of you know much about the history of this trip over the years?

As it turns out, this trip originated in 2007 or 2008 and was organized by the fine folks over at MARA. Back then the trip was done with a local bus company in Bartlett before they were bought out by Cline. About those Denver's biscuits we all crave, well in the early years of this trip Lane Morris N4GMT used to cook all the breakfast biscuits for those going on the trip. Another interesting tidbit is that back then the fare was only \$47.00 and the trip averaged just under 50 people.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO began organizing the trip in 2009. In an effort to make things more convenient, he tried having 2 pickup points, 1 at Ellendale Church of Christ and the other at Germantown Baptist. This was eventually abandoned as the time it took for the bus to get from Ellendale to Germantown was much longer than anticipated.

When asked if any of these trips were "Eventful?" Joe mentioned one of the years, the bus ran out of fuel on its way back just outside of Walnut, MS. The area had some really high grass on the shoulder, so everyone had to stay on the bus or face getting eaten up with chiggers. Thankfully the driver was able to contact someone, and they brought enough diesel to get the bus to a filling station in Walnut.

So, there you have it, a brief history of this trip. Please feel free to send me any comments or memories you have of this annual trek to Huntsville. You can email me at [Historian@Deltaclub.org](mailto:Historian@Deltaclub.org)

**Huntsville Hamfest Pictures**  
Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO





















## **DARC Director's Reports**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Submitted by Paul Broom, KY4MX

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 Paul Broom, KY4MX at **[treasurer@deltaclub.org](mailto:treasurer@deltaclub.org)** with any questions or concerns regarding application submission and/or payment of annual dues.



**LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS**

August 1, 2025 through August 29, 2025

**SUMMARY**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$20,273.41</b>	Minimum Daily Balance	\$16,541
Deposits & Credits	\$1,631.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$17,827
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$4,691.97 -		
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$17,212.44</b>		

**DEPOSITS & CREDITS**

08/07	Deposit - Thank You	5.00
08/13	Deposit - Thank You	460.00
08/13	Deposit - Thank You	375.00
08/19	Deposit - Thank You	120.00
08/21	Deposit - Thank You	190.00
08/25	Deposit - Thank You	146.00
08/25	Deposit - Thank You	315.00
08/28	Deposit - Thank You	20.00
Total Deposits & Credits		<b>\$1,631.00</b>

**CHECKS**

Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
08/18	1656	1,348.00	08/14	1660 *	14.41
08/05	1657	2,575.00	08/19	1662 *	188.82
08/14	1658	241.74	08/18	1663	324.00
Total Checks					<b>\$4,691.97</b>

\* Break In Check Number Sequence.

**DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY**

Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
08/05	17,698.41	08/07	17,703.41	08/13	18,538.41

**Applications Received - August 2025**

(2) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$20.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$0.00
(1) New Membership(s) - Family		\$15.00
(2) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$40.00
(2) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$50.00
(2) Donations Received		\$15.00
<b>Total Dues Received</b>		<b>\$140.00</b>
<b>Other Deposits &amp; Credits</b>		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)		\$0.00
(0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$5.00

Sale of Delta Club Patches (0 @ \$5)		\$0.00
Estate Sales		\$146.00
2025 Huntsville Hamfest - Bus Fares Received		\$1,340.00
	<b>Total Other Deposits</b>	<b>\$1,491.00</b>
	<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$1,631.00</b>
<b>Withdrawals &amp; Debits</b>		
None		\$0.00
	<b>Total Withdrawals</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Checks</b>		
Check #1656 - Ed Fong - Antenna Order		\$1,348.00
Check #1657 - Cline Tours - Huntsville Bus		\$2,575.00
Check #1658 - Josh Cunningham - Field Day Refreshments		\$241.74
Check #1660 - Josh Cunningham - Refreshments		\$14.41
Check #1662 - Danvers - Huntsville Refreshments		\$188.82
Check #1663 - Huntsville Hamfest - Admission Fees		\$324.00
Check #1659 - Joe Plunk - Zoom renewal (\$174.69 outstanding)		\$0.00
Check #1661 - Midsouth Uniform Soln - Past President's Jacket (\$74.00 outstanding)		\$0.00
Check #1664 - Joe Lowenthal - Huntsville Trip Expenses (\$201.49 outstanding)		\$0.00
Check #1665 - Josh Cunningham - Huntsville Refreshments (\$163.47 outstanding)		\$0.00
	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>\$4,691.97</b>



## SMALL BUSINESS CD \*8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,546.07	3.680 %	\$175.33	\$6.15
<a href="#">SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</a> *8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$132.39	\$263.01	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	8/22/2025	9/21/2026	
<a href="#">▲ Hide More Details</a>			

## SMALL BUSINESS CD \*8503

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$11,646.29	4.160 %	\$124.14	\$256.29
<a href="#">SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</a> *8503			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$124.14	\$274.10	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	2/23/2025	10/22/2025	
<a href="#">▲ Hide More Details</a>			

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

### **Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ**

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes September 2, 2025

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting - September 2, 2025

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Secretary Perry Hayes N4GJ, Treasurer Paul Broom, KY4MX, Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, Director of Meetings and Special Events, Scott Adams KM4PMU, Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

Absent: None.

Guests: Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS.

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on September 2, 2025, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present. President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 6:42pm

Secretary Perry Hayes called the roll and declared a quorum.

President Joe Plunk said that he really enjoyed the Huntsville Hamfest. He especially enjoyed speaking with the ARRL officials who were in attendance.

Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams resigned from the BOD. Joe Plunk and the BOD thanked Scott for his many years of dedicated service. Joe Plunk asked if there was any opposition to him appointing Josh Cunningham to fill the vacancy. There were no objections.

Joe Plunk appointed Josh Cunningham as the new Director of Meetings and Special Events. Josh was welcomed by the President and the BOD.

Secretary Perry Hayes said he did not receive any corrections to his minutes of the August DARC Membership Meeting, which were circulated by email. Joe Plunk asked if there were any objections to presenting the minutes to the membership at the September meeting. There were no objections.

Perry Hayes presented the membership applications that had been received since the July BOD meeting. The list was prepared by Treasurer Paul Broom. Perry Hayes made a motion to accept all of the applications, which was seconded by Vice President Tyler Henley. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Paul Broom presented the Treasurer's Report.

Paul said that he renewed the club's Certificate of Deposit, with an account number ending in 8481.

Perry Hayes made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel. The motion passed without opposition.

Joe Plunk asked if any additional bills were expected during the month of September. No BOD members were aware of any additional bills.

Director of Programs Adam White discussed the topics for the September "Ham 101" session and Membership Meeting.

President Joe Plunk said that the repeater team made a visit to the Methodist North site recently. The antenna donated by Johnathan Urschel was installed and is working well. APRS and the 220 repeater are now operational. Ryan Turner, K0RET, also installed a Meshtastic node at the site.

President Joe Plunk said that the Bylaws Committee had no report.

There was a discussion about forming a Nominating Committee, in preparation for the November BOD elections.

Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel asked everyone to submit their articles for *Sparks* as soon as possible.

Joe Lowenthal said that the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest broke even, financially, thanks to a contribution made by an anonymous donor. 29 people paid for the trip and 28 of them rode on the bus. Other members also made donations to support the trip. The club made \$146 through sales at the Hamfest.

There was a discussion about how the donations to the bus trip should be reflected in the DARC's budget accounts. There was a consensus that the donations should be applied to the account for the Huntsville Bus Trip, and not treated as general donations to the club.

Johnathan Urschel discussed the prizes that he purchased for the drawings at the November membership meeting.

Paul Broom moved to approve the list of prizes, which was seconded by Perry Hayes. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion about buying supplies to make power cables, which would also be given away as prizes in November. Joe Plunk recommended that the BOD approve the purchase of the supplies, to pay for the supplies from the BOD's discretionary fund, and to limit the amount spent to \$100.

Perry Hayes made a motion, which was seconded by Tyler Henley. The motion passed without opposition.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek suggested that the DARC consider setting up a tent and operating radios at the Bartlett Firefighters 43rd Annual Pancake Breakfast, to be held from 7-11am on October 25th at The Venue at Bartlett Station, 5868 Stage Road.

There was enthusiastic support for Dan's idea. The BOD agreed to recommend DARC's participation in the event to the membership.

Joe Plunk said that the Bluff City Blues Ride is also scheduled in October (October 11). DARC has traditionally supported this event.

Joe Plunk asked if any BOD members had additional reports.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that a General Class License Class is tentatively scheduled to begin on November 3rd. The class would meet on 6 Monday nights, ending on December 8th. The location of the class has not been finalized at this time.

Joe Lowenthal also said that the DARC listing on the AARL website needed to be updated, because the list of club officers is not current. Joe Plunk said he would make the necessary updates.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek said that the APRS digipeater is now operational at the Methodist North repeater site. Dan said that a Meshtastic node had also been installed.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Perry Hayes made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Johnathan Urschel. The motion passed unanimously.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 7:38pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, 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 - August 12, 2025

The August 2025 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. The President served as the chair and the Secretary was present. Club President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. There were 61 members and visitors in attendance.

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Treasurer Paul Broom, KY4MX, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ.

Absent: Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

President Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Secretary Perry Hayes called the roll of the Board of Directors (BOD) and declared a quorum.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to introduce themselves and to talk about the person who gave them their start in amateur radio.

Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, made a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes and the Treasurer's Report, as published in Sparks. Don Strahl, KZ4GJ, seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said the most recent Technician Class License class has finished up. Five of the students passed their exams last Monday night.



Joe also said that the bus for the Huntsville Hamfest will leave Germantown Baptist Church at 6:30 am sharp. Riders must arrive no later than 6:20 am.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek said there have been no new issues or problems with the club repeaters.

Director of Programs Adam White introduced the speaker for the evening, ARRL Delta Division Director David Norris, K5UZ. David talked about the organization and personnel of ARRL and the Delta Division.

David encouraged everyone to recruit new amateurs, be good elmers, build relationships and to be positive not negative. He said that the ARRL and the hobby can grow by everyone recruiting one new ARRL member, by approaching a public library with an ARRL book set, by reaching out to area scout troops, by approaching schools about the STEM aspect of amateur radio, by reaching out to the FRS and GMRS communities and by hams introducing the hobby to their friends.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said that he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, made the motion, which was seconded by Perry Hayes. The motion passed unanimously. President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

The next regular membership meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at the Mid-America 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**

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

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

### *Licenses Earned in 2025 from Delta Classes*

14 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 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](mailto: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.

The next **Technician** license class will probably start in mid to late February 2026.

### **General Class 4-25 – November 3 – December 8, 2025**

An in-person General license class is proposed to be held on five Monday nights November 3, 17, 24, December 1 and 8 from 6:15-9:30pm. The 5<sup>th</sup> 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. There needs to be 10 students to make the class a go. To register, send an email to Joe at [wa4ovo@gmail.com](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com) with the Subject line: General Class with name, callsign, email address and cellphone number in text.

## SCHEDULED CLASSES

None

## CURRENT CLASSES

### **Tech Class 3-25 – June 30 – August 11, 2025**

A Technician license class is being held on six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on June 30, July 7, 21, 28, August 4 and 11. Nine students attended the first class. The classes are being held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms Station training room, 6850 Appling Farms Pkwy, Memphis. Seven students took their exam on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to Mike Haney KJ5MKR, Patrick Haney KJ5MKS, Jessica Powell KR4FVA, Julie Stovall KR4FVB and Greg Wagner KR4FVC who earned their Technician license. Congratulations to Mark Heckle KR4GOO for earning his Technician license on August 28<sup>th</sup>. The others plan to test soon.



Tech Class 3-25 first class with Bobby KD5BS providing instruction  
Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors are Bobby Stroud KD5BS, Paul Broom KY4MX, John Reiners KN4BVH, Perry Hayes N4GJ, Carolyn Horne KX4QF, Steve Frazier KK4VPT, and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO.

The equipment demonstrators during the sixth class are Rick Tillman WA4NVM and Richard Martin K4DXF on satellites; Rick Pellicciotti KJ4NWQ on APRS; John Reiners KN4BVH on ARES, D-STAR, Fusion and DMR; and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO on repeater basics.

## PREVIOUS CLASSES

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

A Technician license class is being held on Zoom on 6 Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on February 24, March 3, 17, 24, 31 and April 7. There is no class on March 10<sup>th</sup>. There were 16 students during the first class. Thirteen students finished the class.

Aaron KR4BZN tested online on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Five students, Owen KR4CVK, Cassie KJ5KTT, Tom KR4CUX, Bill KR4CVJ and Danny KR4CVH passed their Technician license at the in person testing on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The Laurel VE team of Perry N4GJ, Don KZ4GJ, Jeff AJ4GY, Rick WA4NVM and Joe WA4OVO provided the test session.

Mike Benakovich passed his Technician license online on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Erica KJ5LDJ earned her Technician license in Houston on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The other students are out of town so they will take their exam locally or online.

The instructors were Park AI5CY, Paul KY4MX, John KN4BVH, Perry N4GJ, Carolyn KX4QF, Steve KK4VPT and Joe WA4OVO. The demonstration team was Joe WA4OVO on analog radio basics and Echolink, Rick WA4NVM on satellites, Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS, and John on digital radio basics.

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

An Extra Class license class was held via Zoom on 5 Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm on January 4, 12, 18, February 1 and 8. There was not a class on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The class had the opportunity to take the FCC exam at the Delta Club test session on Tuesday February 11<sup>th</sup>. Seven students started the class with two from out of state. Five finished: Mark WB0ROG, Josh KQ4IOS, Greg KQ4OVD, Vernon KQ4WCL and Tommy KQ4SQC.

Congratulations to Josh KQ4IOS who passed at the Delta Club January test session and Mark WB0ROG who passed on February 1<sup>st</sup> at his local Arizona test session. Congratulations to Vernon KQ4WCL who passed at the February 11<sup>th</sup> Delta Club test session.

The instructors were Paul KY4MX, David KY4FH, Dave AD4Q, Park AI5CY, Carolyn KX4QF, Paul KA4X, Bobby KD5BS and Joe WA4OVO.

Thanks to the Delta Club VE team - Mike KW4RI, Dana WI4B, Tom AC5MR, Ham W4GMM and Roger WR4R.

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Congratulations to Michael KQ4QLJ and Tony KN4FBK for upgrading to General on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

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.

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 12<sup>th</sup>.



Randall KY4MY presenting to General Class 4-24

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

# 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](http://www.arrl.org/join/WE1) to renew or call us toll-free at: 1-888-277-5289 (US Only) , Monday Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET. International members call (860) 594-0338. **If you join or renew through Delta Club, the club receives a commission. For new ARRL members or expired membership over 2 years there is a \$15 commission: for renewals a \$5 commission** ARRL Application.pdf

## 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. 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!

We are looking for more YL Net Control Operators (NCOs)! You do not need to have experience calling a Net to be a YL NCO; you just need to be able to get into the repeater and read from a script. It's a great Net to try out as being a NCO, and you would only call the YL Net about once a month. If interested, please email Mary Jean KY4FB at [ky4fb.tn@gmail.com](mailto:ky4fb.tn@gmail.com) or call/text at 901.356.1475. 73!

## 2025 Board of Directors

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[President@deltacub.org](mailto:President@deltacub.org)  
[NS4E@access-tech.com](mailto:NS4E@access-tech.com)  
901-491-2755

### **Treasurer**

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[treasurer@deltacub.com](mailto:treasurer@deltacub.com)  
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Adam White, K4SPB  
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VACANT

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[wa4ovo@gmail.com](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com)  
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### **Director of Meetings & Special Events**

Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS  
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901-409-3682

### **Public Information Officer** OPEN

### **Club Historian**

John Reiners, KN4BVH  
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901-541-0310

## 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

<b>Name of Net</b>	<b>Frequency (MHz)</b>	<b>Offset/Tone</b>	<b>Local Time</b>	<b>Day of Week</b>
Mid-South Bullfrog Net	146.535	[simplex]	7:30p	Daily
Delta Club Info Net (Primary)	146.82	- (107.2)	8:00p	Daily
Delta Club Info Net (Secondary)	443.200	+(107.2)	8:00p	Daily
YL Info Net (Primary)	146.820	- (107.2)	8:45p	Saturday
YL Info Net (Secondary)	443.200	+(107.2)	8:45p	Saturday
Sunday Super Niner Net	927.6125	- (146.2)	8:30p	Sunday
Elmer Net	147.030	+ (107.2)	9:00p	Sunday
Desoto County EMA	146.910	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Monday
MedMERS Net	146.820	- (107.2)	12:00p	Wednesday
Midsouth DMR Net	DMR – TG31471		7:30p	Wednesday
Crowley's Ridge ARC	147.150	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Wednesday
Crowley's Ridge ARC	145.450	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Wednesday
Tipton ARS	145.490	+ (100.0)	7:30p	Thursday
Olive Branch ARC	147.255	+ (79.9)	8:30p	Thursday
OBARC Linked	444.700	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Thursday
ARES Training Net	146.850	- (107.2)	9:00p	Thursday
TN Statewide DMR Net	DMR – TG3147		8:00p	Friday
Four-Forty Net	443.200	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Friday
Neshoba Club Info Net	146.625	- (107.2)	8:30p	4 <sup>th</sup> 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

**John Kalotai, N1OLO**  
Owner

456 Long Hill Avenue  
Shelton, CT 06484

203-556-8700

john@hamsource.com  
<http://www.hamsource.com>

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

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



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



**Joe Miller**  
Owner

Chick-fil-A Paragon Place  
6282 Poplar Avenue  
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