

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 117 * October 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*
144.390 Digipeater	*DMR

You are invited to attend our monthly membership meeting at 7 pm on: Tuesday, October 14th, 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 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**
 - Ham Essentials – Soldering, WAGO-PowerPole Connectors etc.
- **Meeting Programs begins at 7:00 pm**
 - Jungle Antennas with The Laser Ham, George Kostopoulos KO4HVI

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

Club Announcements!

HAM 101

We will be putting together some WAGO-to-Anderson powerpole connectors as well as possibly doing some soldering during ham 101. Johnathan will have the WAGO connectors, Anderson powerpole connectors, wire and heat shrink tubing and various parts that we can use if you have crimpers/wire strippers/tools for that kind of work feel free to bring them along so you can participate.

Delta Club Training

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 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. There needs to be 10 students to make the class a go. We have six students registered as of 10/10/25.

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

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

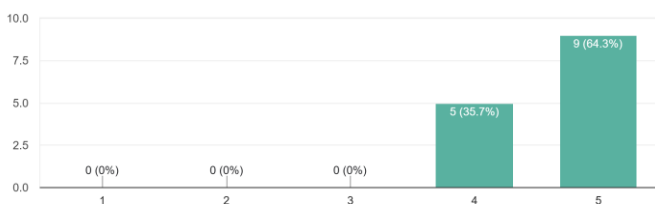
The next **Technician** license class will probably start in mid to late February 2026.

September Membership Meeting Signal Report

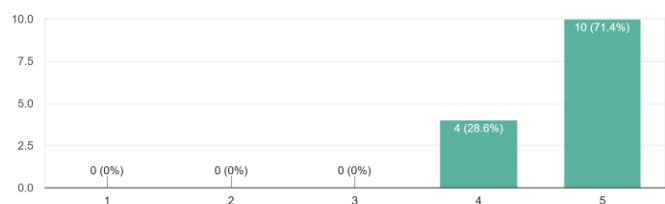
I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had 47 people on the sign in sheet and **14** surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback on 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.

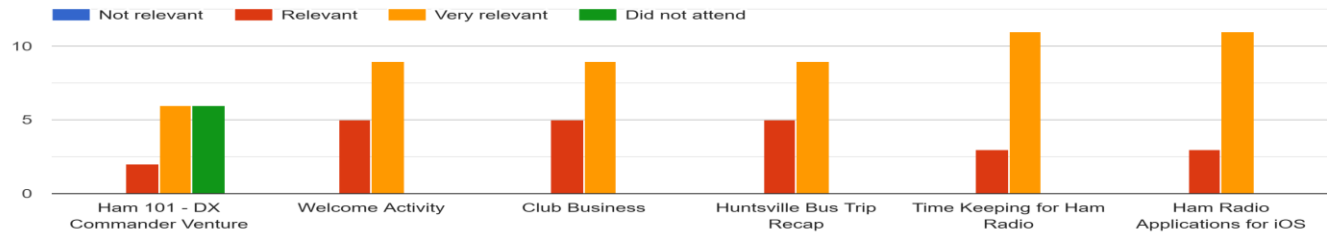
How satisfied were you with the event?
14 responses



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



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



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

5 responses

DMR usage and local talk groups

Basic electronics for those without a background

HF mobile installation

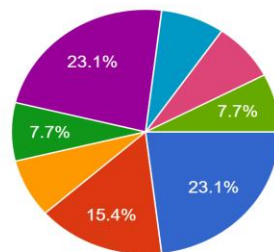
I likely cannot make them but hands-on stuff is always good!

Adam's doing a great job of picking topics.

Bonus Survey Question:

If the club could meet anywhere in Shelby County where would you like to see us meet?

13 responses



- Arlington
- Bartlett
- Collierville
- Cordova
- Germantown
- Lakeland
- Memphis
- I love Bartlett since it is closer to me. However, the current location in Cordova is nice because it is central. I...

News and Articles for our Membership

President's Corner Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

Continuing with my current theme of “Connections.” I would like to ask us all to think about our connection to our community. What community you might ask? Well thank you for asking that question!

I have written about the amateur community in previous articles, I have also written about the community of our club members. For this article I was wanting to focus on the community in the traditional sense, the places and people that we live with in and around our homes and cities.

This past weekend I was able to assist with our club supporting the Bluff City Blues bike ride that the Memphis Hightailers put on each October. As the event was going on I had some conversations with some of our club members and they prompted me to discuss and think about all of the other community support that we provide as a club. I do have to admit that I was surprised at how much we do but also by how much more we could potentially do!

The other things that surprised me as I was thinking about all of the community events that we do is how our hobby has so much to offer with its depth and breadth. But I also had to ask myself the question do we have everything figured out and able to use it every time that we need it. I will pick on an easy example for the bike ride—APRS. I would dare say that every amateur operator has heard of it. Most may have even used it! However, I would dare say that anyone would be able to walk up into a community event with no planning and say here is how we are going to use APRS to make this event or function better.

So, I guess the point that I am headed towards making is how can we as amateur radio operators work to make sure that we are prepared to be able to use our hobby and its wide breadth of tools to assist in ANY situation immediately, or even with a couple of hours of notice? 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 as I think it could create some great programs for in the future.

Don't forget about 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. Also, don't forget about the November membership meeting! It is our annual door prize and elections meeting. Nominations will open with the October membership meeting and close with the elections in November. I am excited to announce that all of the current board is onboard for next year.

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

Program's Corner

Submitted by Adam White, K4SPB

Some of you may remember my Parks on the Air (POTA) presentation from last year. In that talk, I pointed out the 5 qualifying parks in Memphis. I just discovered an additional reference that presents a distinct opportunity. The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail spiderwebs across Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, and Arkansas as it makes its way to Oklahoma. Being a National Park Service designated area, the entire thing qualifies as an activation site for Parks on the Air and it is designated as reference number US-3791. The trail route comes through Memphis along US-64 before turning south on Jackson Ave. then joining I-40 and continuing west across the river. The Mississippi River is also considered part of the trail. In order to activate, you must be within 100 feet of the trail AND on public land. I'm sure there are several opportunities for activating this reference. I may go to Mud Island Dog Park someday since that meets both criteria. This also means that President's Island Wildlife Management Area qualifies as a twofer if you're close enough to the river.

You can see the POTA reference page here: <https://pota.app/#/park/US-3791>
And the NPS interactive map here: <https://www.nps.gov/trte/planyourvisit/maps.htm>

The ARRL encourages everyone to submit letters to their congress representatives regarding HOA prohibitions on antennas. Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO has made announcements about this on the nightly net. They have set up a very simple website that pulls up your demographics based on your callsign and sends it to your unique representatives. Please take 30 seconds and visit <https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/> today. We will have a computer set up at Tuesday's meeting where you can submit your letter.

Repeater Trustee's Corner

Submitted by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

Everything is up and running repeater-wise. There are some networking challenges with T-Mobile and Motorola IP Site Connect's use of UDP on the DMR repeater, but we are still up and running.

We will be swapping out the audio interface for the 146.625 repeater soon. This will improve audio quality and there are plans to improve range somewhat. We have left the repeater connected via Allstar to the K5TW hub full time the last few months. Through this repeater you can talk to folks in eastern Arkansas, Hickman KY, and Union City TN. The 146.625 repeater, 146.820 repeater, and the 443.7 DMR repeater are all used during Skywarn activations.

We have also had a couple of folks connect to the 146.820 repeater via Allstar recently. I heard

a club member talking to stations in Australia. Good to hear our club machines reaching out to other communities.

Talk to you on the radio!

Dan AA4DF

W4BS Repeater Trustee

Bluff City Blues Bike Ride

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

The Bluff City Blues bike ride was held last Saturday. It started at 7:30am at Grind City Brewing at 76 Waterworks Avenue off north Second Street. There were four routes: a 20 mile, 39 mile, a metric (67 mile), and 100 mile meandering north along Shelby Forest into Tipton County. Eleven Delta Club volunteers provided communications using the 82 repeater. Thanks to Tom AC5MR, Shawn KN4WKF, James KJ4TCE, Jim W4JBG, Steve KK4VPT, Larry KR4FDU, Bill KK4VPS and Joe NS4E for being on the routes. Clement KQ4TQV, and Joe WA4OVO were net control. At the finish line the riders and organizers enjoyed Central BBQ pork, chicken, and spaghetti and some Grind City beer.

Bluff City Blues Bike Ride October 11 2025



First wave of fastest BCB riders at 7:30



Last wave of slowest BCB riders at 7:55



Clement KQ4TQV and Joe NS4E at comm tent



Food tent at Grind City Catered by Central BBQ



Steve KK4VPT followed the last riders in on the 100 miler at 4:00pm. It was a long, but beautiful day.
All photos by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO



YOU CAN HELP US CHANGE THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF AMERICAN HAMS

The ARRL is focused on reducing legal restraints on the ability of American Amateur Radio Operators to engage in the active practice and enjoyment of Amateur Radio.

One of the most insidious and increasing threats to the survival of Amateur Radio and our ability to serve our communities and Nation, as we are required to do by Federal regulation, is the proliferation of private land use restrictions that prohibit the installation of outdoor antennas and that sometimes actually deny Federally licensed Amateurs from operating any amateur radios, regardless of where their antennas are located — in their attics, hidden in trees, or mounted on their vehicles.

Federal law — since 1996 — has guaranteed to every American — except Amateur Radio Operators — the right to erect antennas outside or on their residences for the purpose of TV reception, satellite TV and internet access, wireless internet access, and even wireless internet redistribution. But Amateur Radio operators are denied the equal right to erect comparable antennas.

Since 2005, Federal law has also guaranteed to every American the right to proudly display the American Flag by installing flagpoles in their yards. But, despite that right to install vertical poles in their yards — American Radio Amateurs are denied the right to use those vertical flagpoles as vertical antennas.

We believe the denial — to licensed Amateur Radio Operators — of the rights guaranteed to all non-Amateur Radio licensed American homeowners — the right to install antennas on the land they own — is without justification and should not be permitted to continue.

To eliminate these private land use restrictions, the ARRL has worked over the past several years with our elected officials to draft Congressional legislation — H.R. 1094 in the U.S. House of Representatives and S. 459 in the U.S. Senate — that, when passed will extend to all Hams the right to operate from their homes and the right to install antennas on the land they own. We have bipartisan support for this legislation.

BUT, WE NEED YOUR HELP TO PASS THIS LEGISLATION!!!

How can you help? By sending a letter to your Representative and Senators asking that they co-sponsor and support H.R. 1094 and S. 459.

How can you send these letters? It is easy.

Go to — <https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/> — enter your call sign and click on “Send My Letters” and your letters will be delivered to our Washington legislative team for hand delivery to your Representative and Senators.

Does your individual letter matter? YES.

Your Representative and Senators need to know that the passage of this legislation is important to you.

Your letter could be the difference in whether we are able to pass H.R. 1094 and S. 459.

Go to — <https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/> — and help us by sending your letters to your Representative and Senators.

5th annual

HAM FEST 2025

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

Trumann Sports Complex
16179 Pecan Grove Road
Trumann, AR 72472

\$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!

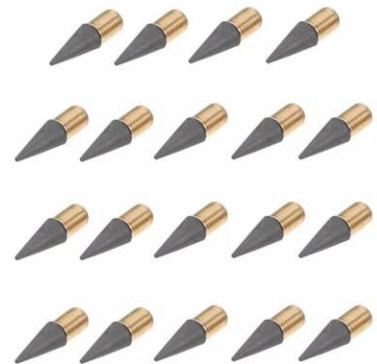
**CROWLEY'S
RIDGE**
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
WWW.CRARC.NET

Email info@crarc.net or
visit www.crarc.net
for more information!

Packet Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

When operating at home you probably use a logging program. When operating in the field we normally use a pen and paper to log contacts and copy code. I saw an ad for a “forever pen” that was too good to be true. It is a pen that uses no ink and lasts forever. It will also write on paper in the rain with no smudging. The price for this pen was \$200. The good news is the Chinese are now making this pen and the price is under \$2. I bought two of these to try them out. I did a little research to find out how they worked. The tip of the pen rubs on the paper and causes the metal alloy molecules of the tip to decompose and stay on the surface of the paper and oxidize. The metal tip is hard and last a long time but not forever. You do not have to sharpen it like a pencil. The forever pen has no ink to dry out. I also included a picture of replacement tips which cost about 30 cents each. Doing further research I found the technology is over 200 years old. This may be the perfect pen for writing logs in the field. You can see these pens in action on YouTube. Do a search for “forever pen”. To buy your own, do a search on eBay for “eternal writing pencil”.



James Butler
KB4LJV

Amateur Hardware Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Many manufacturers are now making low cost amateur radio kits. One manufacturer out of India is INKITS. They supply low cost SSB kits in single and dual band units. They also have a line of frequency counters and empty cases you can build your own radio in. Some of these kits are similar to the “Micro Bitx” designs from India. The way they keep the cost down is to use a low cost 1602 LCD display and the Arduino microprocessor for control. The frequency generator is the low cost Si5351. RF output on their QRP single sideband radios is between 4 and 7 watt depending on the band. They have a modification to run the final amplifier circuit on 24 VDC to get the output power up to 20 watts. The website has a section where you can download all of the manuals for building their kits. To see all they have to offer you can visit their website. The web address is <https://amateurradiokits.in/products/>



James Butler
KB4LJV

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** with any questions or concerns regarding application submission and/or payment of annual dues.

LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS

August 30, 2025 through September 30, 2025

SUMMARY

Beginning Balance	\$17,212.44	Minimum Daily Balance	\$15,952
Deposits & Credits	\$257.90 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$16,478
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$1,310.27 -		
Ending Balance	\$16,160.07		

DEPOSITS & CREDITS

09/11	Deposit - Thank You	50.00
09/15	Deposit - Thank You	157.25
09/16	Deposit - Thank You	50.65
Total Deposits & Credits		\$257.90

CHECKS

Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
09/09	1659	174.68	09/12	1665	163.47
09/04	1661 *	74.00	09/12	1666	23.46
09/10	1664 *	201.49	09/10	1667	673.17
				Total Checks	\$1,310.27

* Break In Check Number Sequence.

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY

Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
09/04	17,138.44	09/11	16,139.10	09/15	16,109.42
09/09	16,963.76	09/12	15,952.17	09/16	16,160.07
09/10	16,089.10				

Applications Received - August 2025

(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
(2) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$40.00
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$0.00
(0) Donations Received		\$0.00
	Total Dues Received	\$40.00
Other Deposits & Credits		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)		\$0.00
(2) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$10.00
Sale of Delta Club Patches (0 @ \$5)		\$0.00
Estate Sales		\$50.65

Field Day - Nashoba Amateur Radio Club reimbursement		\$157.25
	Total Other Deposits	\$217.90
	Total Deposits	\$257.90
Withdrawals & Debits		
None		\$0.00
	Total Withdrawals	\$0.00
Checks		
Check #1659 - Joe Plunk - Zoom renewal		\$174.68
Check #1661 - Midsouth Uniform Soln - Past President's Jacket		\$74.00
Check #1664 - Joe Lowenthal - Huntsville Trip Expenses		\$201.49
Check #1665 - Josh Cunningham - Huntsville Refreshments		\$163.47
Check #1666 - Josh Cunningham - Refreshments		\$23.46
Check #1667 - Jonathan Urschel - Nov Drawing Prizes		\$673.17
	Total Payments	\$1,310.27

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	\$25.22
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER			
*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	
▲ Hide More Details			

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	\$302.50
<u>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</u>			
*8503			
<u>ISSUE DATE</u>	<u>LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID</u>	<u>PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST</u>	
10/28/2022	\$124.14	\$274.10	
<u>ISSUE VALUE</u>	<u>DATE LAST INTEREST PAID</u>	<u>MATURITY DATE</u>	
\$11,000.00	2/23/2025	10/22/2025	
Hide More Details			

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes October 7, 2025

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting - October 7, 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, Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

Absent: Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF.

Guests: None

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on October 7, 2025, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present.

The BOD discussed a confidential matter before the recording was started.

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

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

President Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their service.

Paul Broom, KY4MX, made a motion to accept the Secretary's minutes of the September membership meeting, which had been circulated via email. Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul Broom presented the membership renewal applications, which had been received since the last BOD meeting. The BOD approved the applications with no objections.

Treasurer Paul Broom then presented the Treasurer's Report.

Perry Hayes moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, with a second by Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion about the renewal of the club's Certificate of Deposit (with an account number ending with *8503), which matures later this month. Rates are expected to fall, so the consensus was to give Paul Broom the authority to renew the CD for a 13-month term at 3.25%.

Perry Hayes made the motion, which was seconded by Joe Lowenthal. The motion passed without opposition.

There was a discussion about bills that were expected to be presented in October.

Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, discussed the programs that will be offered at the October Ham 101 session and membership meeting.

Joe Plunk said that the Repeater Trustee and the Repeater Committee had no report.

Joe Lowenthal recommended that the BOD participate in the ARRL's Nationwide Grassroots Campaign to Pass the Radio Emergency Preparedness Bill - by writing letters to the U.S. Representatives who represent Shelby County in Congress

There was broad support for the idea, but there was a discussion about how many letters should be sent, to whom the letter(s) should be sent, and how many BOD members should sign each letter.

There was a consensus that the entire BOD should send a letter to Rep. Kustoff and a letter to Rep. Cohen. Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, made the motion, which was seconded by Adam White. The motion passed without opposition.

Joe Lowenthal said he would prepare the letters and bring them to the October membership meeting.

Joe Plunk discussed the Bluff City Blues Ride, which is scheduled for October 11th. A couple of DARC members who have led the ham radio team in the past are not able to do so this year. Information about the ride will be circulated to the DARC membership.

Joe Plunk reminded everyone about the Bartlett Firefighters 42nd Annual Pancake Breakfast, which will be held at 5868 Stage Road on October 25th from 7-11am. DARC will have a tent and operate radios at the event.

There was discussion about who was planning to attend, and the station(s) the club might operate.

Joe Plunk also said that the Boy Scouts will have their Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) on October 18th. Joe encouraged everyone to reach out to the scouts during this event.

Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH, discussed some articles that he is working on for Sparks.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that a General Class License Class is scheduled to begin on November 3rd. The class will meet on 5 Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm at the Memphis Police Department's Applling Farms Station training room. Joe said at least 10 students must sign up for the class to go forward.

There was a discussion about a spam email that several BOD members received.

No BOD members had any additional reports or comments.

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 Adam White. The motion passed unanimously.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 7:50pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, November 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 - September 9, 2025

The September 2025 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 9, 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 7:09 pm. There were 47 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 Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ, Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

Absent: None

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 said that Scott Adams, KM4PMU, resigned as the Director of Meetings and Special Events. Joe thanked Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, for agreeing to take over the position. Joe also thanked Scott for his 10-plus years of dedicated service. There was an enthusiastic round of applause for Scott.

Joe Plunk asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves.

Past President Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, recognized Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, for her service as a Past President of Delta Club. Steve presented Mary Jean with her Past President jacket.

Dave Church, AD4Q, made a short presentation about the Barefoot Bullfrog Net, held every night at 7:30pm on 146.535 MHz (simplex). Dave said that it is important to have a good simplex station, in case there is an emergency and the repeaters go down.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, said that a General Class License Class will begin on November 3rd. The class will meet on 5 Monday nights, from 6:15-9:30pm, at the Memphis Police Department's Appling Farms Station training room. At least 10 students will be needed.

New Business

Joe Plunk reminded everyone that BOD elections will be held in November. All of the current BOD members have agreed to stand for re-election. The only vacancy is for the office of Public Information Officer (PIO). Treasurer Paul Broom, KY4MX, and Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, are looking for members that would be willing to train and take over their positions next year.

Joe Plunk said that he has appointed Steve Frazier to serve as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

Dan Fleek, AA4DF, made a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes and the Treasurer's Report, as published in *Sparks*. The motion was seconded by Don Strahl, KZ4GJ. The motion passed unanimously.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek reported that the APRS antenna donated by Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ, has been installed at the Methodist North repeater site. A Meshtastic router was also installed. There are plans to install a Meshtastic router on top of the Germantown water tower in the future.

Dan also discussed the Bartlett Fire Department Pancake Breakfast, to be held on October 25th from 7-11am at the Venue at Bartlett Station, 5868 Stage Road. Dan said it would be a great opportunity for the club to operate a station and demonstrate amateur radio to the public.

President Joe Plunk and Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, spoke about the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest.

Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, delivered a presentation entitled "Time Keeping for Ham Radio." Adam discussed the history of timekeeping and how it has evolved, the importance of accurate timekeeping in ham radio, modern timekeeping and the methods for distributing it, global navigation satellite systems, and methods to check and improve timekeeping on personal devices.

Adam also gave a presentation on IOS (Apple devices) Apps for Ham Radio. Adam suggested many applications that would be of interest to the amateur radio community.

Joe Plunk said that the club has not ordered shirts in a while. Anyone who would like a shirt should contact Joe, so that he can gauge interest in placing an order.

Joe also asked everyone to complete a *Signal Report* survey.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said that he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Joe Lowenthal made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Dan Wehner, KN4FBJ. The motion passed without opposition. 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, October 14, 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 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 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.

Scheduled Classes

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 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. There needs to be 10 students to make the class a go. We have six students registered as of 10/10/25.

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

Previous Classes

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

A Technician license class was 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 were held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms Station training room, 6850 Appling Farms Pkwy, Memphis. Seven students took their exam on August 4th. 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 28th. The others plan to test soon.



Tech Class 3-25 first session with

John KN4BVH on Safety

Bobby KD5BS instructing

Photos by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors were 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 were 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.

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 10th. There were 16 students during the first class. Thirteen students finished the class.

Aaron KR4BZN tested online on March 7th. Five students, Owen KR4CVK, ssie KJ5KTT, Tom KR4CUX, Bill KR4CVJ and Danny KR4CVH passed their Technician license at the in person testing on March 31st. 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 5th. Erica KJ5LDJ earned her Technician license in Houston on April 26th and her General on May 25th. 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 25th. The class had the opportunity to take the FCC exam at the Delta Club test session on Tuesday February 11th. 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 1st at his local Arizona test session. Congratulations to Vernon KQ4WCL who passed at the February 11th 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 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.

The instructors were 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.



Randall KY4MY presenting to General Class 4-24
Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

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. 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 or call/text at 901.356.1475. 73!

2025 Board of Directors

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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)	443.200	+(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 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

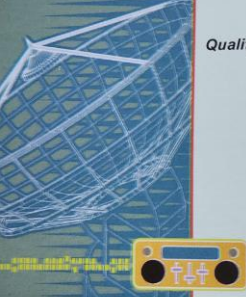
Mon-Fri - 5:40 AM, 6:45 AM & **5:30 PM** (5:30 pm beginning Nov. 9 evening)

Saturday - 8:00 AM & 5:30 PM

Sunday - 8:00 AM only

Holidays - 8:00 AM only

DELTA CLUB ADVERTISEMENTS



Hamsource
Quality Accessories for the Shack and Field

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

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



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



Joe Miller
Owner

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