

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 105 * October 2024



Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC)

Sparks Newsletter

Website: <http://deltaclub.org>

Facebook:

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

W4BS

REPEATER SYSTEM

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

This month's meeting will be **IN PERSON ONLY** at 7 pm on Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

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 in the back of the south end of the building. The meeting will be in the Betty Howard Special Events Room.

- **FCC Testing begins at 5:30 pm in Room B201**
- **Ham 101 begins at 5:30 pm in Room B202**
 - Ham Hilliard, W4GMM
- **Meeting Programs begin at 7:00 pm**
 - Nominations Committee by Perry Hayes, N4GJ
 - NWS: SkyWarn 2024 by Phil Baker

VE TESTING: Don't forget the monthly ARRL Volunteer Examiner testing session prior to in-person meetings. Registration begins at 5:30 PM and testing begins by 6:00 PM. Please remember to bring two (2) forms of identification, at least one a photo ID, and copies of any existing licenses or CSCE's you might have. Please be on time for registration, as you will not be allowed to enter the testing session after 6:00 PM. This is to allow our volunteer VE team to finish in time to attend the club meeting. Candidates **MUST** have an FCC Federal Registration Number (FRN) **BEFORE** coming to the testing session. For more VE testing, or FCC FRN information, please contact:

Mike Sparks, KW4RI, VE Liaison

Phone: 901-493-8338

Email: KW4RI@outlook.com

Announcements

Delta Club Training

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

The next **General** license class will start in November 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. We need at least six students to have the class. The classes will be held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms training room, 6850 Appling Farms Parkway.

The next **Extra** license class will probably start in early January 2025.

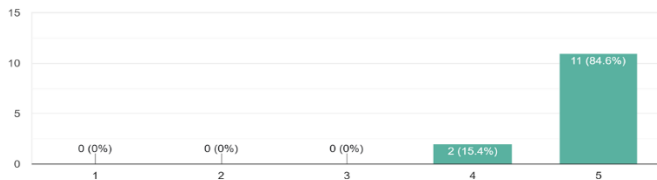
The next **Technician** license class will probably start in mid to late February 2025.

September Membership Meeting Signal Report

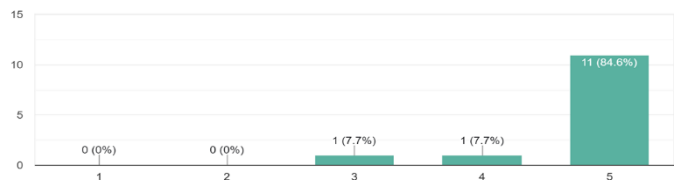
We wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had 46 people on the sign in sheet and 13 surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback on how 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?
13 responses



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



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



Fresh News and Articles for our Membership

President's Corner

Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

October is here and so is fall! At this month's meeting we will have nominations for next year's Board of Directors. I look forward to the elections for next year. It is an opportunity to look forward as well as look at some of the new and old aspects of our hobby that we, as a club, can uncover. Our hobby is so vast and has so many adjacent activities. What would you our membership like to see the club do as an activity next year?

Should we get together and do a Fox Hunt, do a POTA activation, build a Kit, build an antenna, help another member improve their setup, or have a weekend social event? I would like to take a minute and just remind us that we have some fun activities coming up for the remainder of the year--Elections of Board of Directors (November), Prizes being given away (November), and a Potluck Dinner (December) to name but a few things. One other fun thing we will be doing in October is assisting with the Bluff City Blues Bike Ride, October 12th. Please let us know if you might be interested in assisting with that. Mary Jean Hall (KY4FB@gmail.com), one of our past presidents is coordinating the activities for it.

I hope that many of you will be able to attend this month's membership meeting. The repeater team is prepared to follow up on the membership request from last month. I would also like to ask you, our membership, to think about having a short conversation with the Repeater team about adopting a repeater site—it really is easy—just drive by it and let them know if you see or hear of anything out of place. It is a great way for you to assist by giving the club more eyes and ears that are involved.

Please find a board member and let us know what you would like to see the club do. If you are not able to find a board member or just would like to have one person to reach out to then please consider this a personal invitation to find me and tell me what you would like to see. I welcome the opportunity to meet you and listen to you.

Continuing from last month's positive new membership, let's continue growing! Our hobby is a wonderful vast hobby that has many, many, aspects to it. Just like our membership is growing let's keep growing in our hobby.

73

Joe Plunk, NS4E

Program Corner

ARE YOU PREPARED?

The ongoing devastation in the Carolinas and Eastern Tennessee as a result from Hurricane Helene should serve as a reminder of the importance of our hobby. Most of the area around Asheville had no power, no cellular service, and no Internet. Amateur radio came to the rescue. Skilled net control stations were able to help effect rescues, direct resources like food, water and medical supplies, and relay some health and welfare traffic. Many of you who listened to some of these nets have commented about how well these operators did their jobs for hours on end.

All of this begs some questions. You may be asking yourself. If a catastrophic event happens here, what will you do? Do you have enough water and food on hand to last at least 3 days? Do you have backup power? Do you know what frequency to tune to if the repeaters are down? These are just a few of the many questions you may be asking yourself.

Saturday, October 5th was the annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET). This test was a simplex net where we gathered data about what stations could hear each other without the use of a repeater. We had more participants this year than last and had more relays than last year. We even had one station that was relayed who was able to relay another. While this exercise went well, we are analyzing the data and looking for ways to improve for our next one.

I hope everyone has a good and safe month and look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

John Reiners, KN4BVH

Repeater Trustee's Corner

Many of us hams have been watching the rescue efforts of Helene. Hopefully many are assessing their abilities in a disaster, including the ability to survive on your own for 72 hours. One thing that many focus on is gear accumulation - buying things for Emcomm. We often forget about the communications with others aspect. Are we building relationships with other hams during the calm times? Are we communicating with others on a daily basis via amateur radio? Are we building a community that we can rely on in case of a disaster small or large? Are we participating in our local radio club as a means to make the amateur radio community better?

Another consideration is keeping our gear in working condition. The nightly 8pm net on the 146.820 repeater is a good way to test your ability to communicate. If a fellow ham has a gear issue, help them out. Consider being a net control operator. It is good practice in managing communications during an event. It is difficult to fix your communications shortfall during an emergency. Practice, test, and help others.

Dan Fleek AA4DF
Repeater/Callsign Trustee

PACKET UPDATE

Learning electronics design is now easier using a program called “FRITZING”. This program combines circuit diagrams, printed circuit board layout, and visual parts placement on a virtual experimenter card. It even has Arduino single board microprocessor support. The newest version is \$8 but all previous versions can be downloaded for free. This software has different versions that will run on Windows, Mac, and Unix systems. I have the program on my Windows computer and my Chrome books that run Linux. The program is easy to use and has a lot of support. The website also has projects you can download and modify. The company even has a YouTube tutorial channel with examples on how to use it. If you are looking for an all in one electronics design package, check out the software. The web address is <https://fritzing.org/>



James Butler
KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Many amateurs like to run low power QRP rigs. Rigs like the PIXIE, FROG, and the ROCKMITE are all low power CW rigs at a price point less than \$25. At this price you do not get a frequency display or a VFO. All these rigs run under crystal control with one frequency. On 40 meters you get one frequency which is 7.023 MHZ. Being able to change frequencies would be a nice addition and allow for more contacts. Now vendors are supplying crystals to allow you to operate on different frequencies. You can add a socket on the board to just plug in a different frequency crystal or you can hookup a rotary switch to allow you to dial in the frequency you want to run. Search Ebay for “QRP CRYSTALS”.

40 METER KIT FREQUENCIES SET

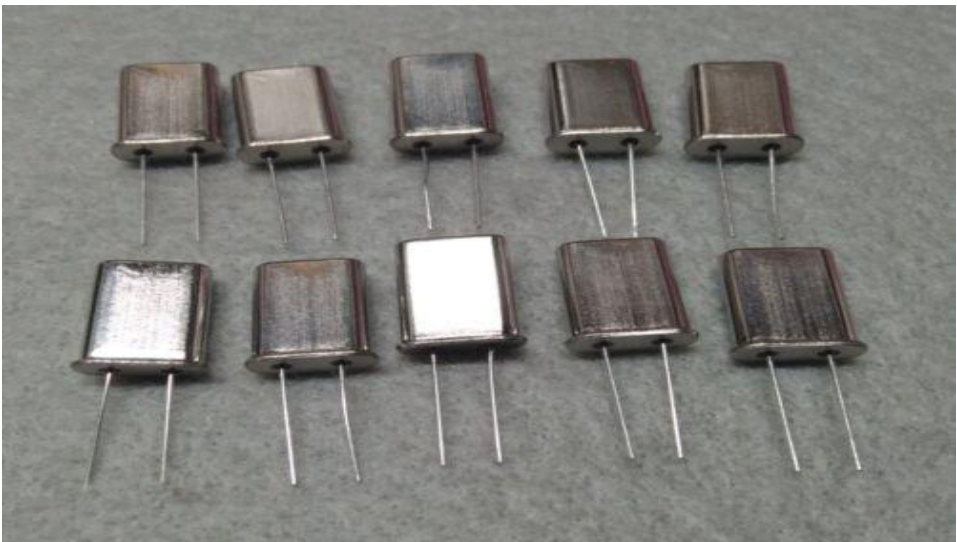
7023 Chinese QRP Kit	7030 QRP	7035	7040
7045	7048 W1AW	7050 Rockbound	7055 SKCC
7060	7070 PSK	7110 QRP Novice	7114 SKCC Elmer
7122 QRPARCI			

MULTI BAND CRYSTAL FREQUENCY SET

3530 3535 3550 3560 3985 7030 7040 7055 7110 7118 7285 14040

PICK ANY 5 CRYSTAL FREQUENCIES FROM THE LIST SET

3535 3550 3560 3579.545
4000 5373 5405
7023 7030 7035 7040 7045 7048 7050
7055 7060 7070 7110 7114 7122
9000 10106 10116 10118 10120 10140
14048 14050 14060 14070
18096 21060 24906 28060
41090 41400 50090 50400 (41090-50400 are 3rd overtone)



James Butler
KB4LJV

DARC Director's Reports

Treasurer's Report Submitted by Jim Martin, KD4FUU

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

<https://deltaclub.org/membership>

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

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

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

LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS
August 31, 2024 through September 30, 2024

SUMMARY

Beginning Balance	\$20,957.08	Minimum Daily Balance	\$20,644
Deposits & Credits	\$40.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$20,756
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$312.38 -		
Ending Balance	\$20,684.70		

DEPOSITS & CREDITS

09/30	Deposit - Thank You	40.00
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CHECKS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
09/11	1630	312.38

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>
09/11	20,644.70	09/30	20,684.70

Applications Received - Sept 2024		
(2) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues – (1) Carried over from Aug '24		\$20.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Family		\$0.00
(1) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$20.00
(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
(0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$0.00
ARRL Affiliated Club - Individual Membership Fees		\$0.00
	Total Other Deposits	\$0.00
	Total Deposits	\$40.00
Withdrawals		
None		\$0.00
	Total Withdrawals	\$0.00
Checks		
Check #1630 - Joseph Lowenthal - Reimbursement for Huntsville Hamfest Bus Trip expenses		\$312.38
	Total Payments	\$312.38

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,303.40	5.020 %	\$195.67	\$26.98
<hr/>			
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER *8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$66.49	\$107.73	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	8/25/2024	1/22/2025	
▲ Hide More Details			

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8503

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$11,437.52	2.230 %	\$189.47	\$45.39
<hr/>			
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER *8503			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$63.24	\$248.05	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	7/28/2024	11/26/2024	
▲ Hide More Details			

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

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes - October 1, 2024

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting - October 1, 2024

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Secretary Perry Hayes N4GJ, Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, Director of Meetings and Special Events, Scott Adams KM4PMU, Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Public Information Officer Adam White, K4SPB.

Absent: Immediate Past President Ty McMahan KQ4MQ.

Guests: None

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on October 1, 2024, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present. President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 6:36pm

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

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, said he is looking forward to the October meeting and the nominations for the November elections. He is considering doing a roundtable discussion at the November meeting to see what the membership would like the club to do.

Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the September BOD meeting and the September membership meeting. Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Plunk and Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, presented the new and renewal membership applications received since the September BOD meeting. Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, made a motion to approve the applications, which was seconded by Perry Hayes. The motion passed without opposition.

Treasurer Jim Martin presented the Treasurer's Report. There was a discussion about the balance remaining in the repeater budget and the bills that will come due in November.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to be thinking about the proposed budget for 2025. The BOD will discuss the budget in detail at the November and December BOD meetings. The 2025 budget will be presented to the membership at the December meeting.

Jim Martin discussed his efforts to secure tax-exempt status for DARC. The State of Tennessee is asking us to obtain documentation from the IRS. Jim has been unable to get in touch with the IRS department that provides this documentation. Jim will continue his efforts to contact the IRS. He may also reach out to treasurers from other clubs, who may have dealt with the same issue in the past.

Joe Plunk said that he knows several accountants who work with non-profit groups. He will ask them if they can suggest a way for Jim to get in contact with that IRS department.

Jim Martin said no bills were currently outstanding. Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, said he made some purchases and would submit his receipts to DARC For reimbursement.

Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, discussed the program topic for the October meeting.

Joe Plunk asked the BOD members to send their articles for October issue of Sparks to Mike Harrison as soon as possible. Mike has State Guard drill this weekend and he may be deployed to East Tennessee.

PIO Adam White had to leave the meeting for a scheduled personal obligation.

Perry Hayes made a presentation on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The slate of candidates for the November election are all dues-paying members in good standing. All have attended six meetings in the last twelve months, except Tyler Henley, who is a candidate for Vice-President.

Tyler has been an active member of DARC since getting his license in March. He had to miss two meetings this summer because he was actively serving in the military.

Mike Harrison moved that Tyler Henley be counted present at the two meetings he missed because of his military service. There was a second by Perry Hayes. The motion passed unanimously.

The Nominating Committee will present the slate of candidates at the October membership meeting, and elections will be held at the November membership meeting

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, announced that the Bluff City Blues Ride will be held on October 12th. Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, is coordinating the amateur radio portion of the event. There are currently enough hams to man the event, but Joe said anyone who is interested is welcome to participate. Mary Jean may be reached by email at ky4fb.tn@gmail.com.

There was a discussion about the items that were offered as door prizes at last November's meeting, and what items might be offered this year.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to be thinking about possible recipients of this year's DARC Ham of the Year and New Ham of the Year awards. These awards are typically announced at the December membership meeting.

There was a discussion about the club making a charitable donation at the December meeting.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, reported that he went to the Methodist North repeater site to check on the APRS system. A power supply was off, so Dan disconnected it and tested it successfully at his home. Dan will take the power supply back and test it at Methodist North.

At the September meeting, the DARC membership was enthusiastic about putting a DMR repeater on the 443.700 site at Brunswick. The BOD was asked to get estimates for the purchase of the system.

Dan was able to get estimates for the purchase of a new and a used Motorola DMR repeater, as well as a new and used 100 watt amplifier. The purchase of an amplifier for the 443.700 repeater was approved by the membership at the April meeting. A hotspot would also be needed for internet access.

Dan said he has obtained a DMR ID for the club. There was a discussion about the setup of the physical repeater and the Brandmeister account.

Director of Publications Mike Harrison and Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams had no additional comments on DMR.

Joe Plunk asked if the BOD was in unanimous agreement, and wanted to issue a statement to the membership about offering DMR on the 443.700 repeater. There was a discussion about the wording of the statement.

Joe Lowenthal said he wanted to know about the warranty offered on the used repeater, and the sales tax. He said unanimity was not required, and a majority of the BOD could agree to issue the statement.

Joe Plunk agreed, and said he wanted a majority of the BOD to make a recommendation to the membership that a DMR repeater was a good path to take.

Dan said a new repeater would have a five-year warranty and a used repeater would have a 90-day warranty, with some of the factory warranty remaining. Either repeater would allow us to sign up for a Motorola account for support and upgrades.

Both amplifiers would be tested and calibrated.

Dan will present these estimates to the membership at the October meeting. If sales tax can be avoided, the preference of the majority of the BOD was to purchase a new repeater and a used amplifier.

A hotspot will also be required to provide internet to the repeater. There was a discussion about the club purchasing the hotspot device and donations being solicited for the monthly service fee.

After a lengthy discussion, the BOD formulated a statement. John Reiners moved for the BOD to deliver the following statement to the membership at the October meeting:

The Board feels that a DMR repeater is a good way to leverage new technologies on our 443.700 repeater. We make a motion to pursue the acquisition and implementation of a DMR repeater, either a new model with a five year warranty or a used model with a 90-day warranty and the remainder of the factory warranty, and a new 100-watt amplifier or a used model. If sales tax can be avoided, we recommend the purchase of a new repeater and a used amplifier.

We further recommend the purchase of a wireless hotspot and a monthly service plan, as the membership deems appropriate. The club could purchase the hotspot and solicit donations to cover the monthly service fees, or vice versa.

Perry Hayes seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.

Perry Hayes made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Joe Lowenthal. The motion passed unanimously.

President Joe Plunk asked if any BOD members had further comments or reports.

Scott Adams, Jim Martin, Dan Fleek, John Reiners, Tyler Henley and Perry Hayes had no further comments or reports.

Director of Publications Mike Harrison reported that he will be deployed to East Tennessee with his State Guard unit. They will assist with disaster relief efforts. Joe Plunk said he would prepare the Sparks newsletter for October.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that he is working on a General Class License Class, to begin the first week of November. The class will meet on 5 Mondays or 5 Thursdays at the Memphis Police Department's Appling Farms Station. If the class meets on Mondays, there will be one class in December. If the class meets on Thursdays, it will skip Thanksgiving Day and have two classes in December.

An Extra Class License Class will likely begin in the first part of January, and meet on Saturdays.

Joe Plunk asked the BOD members to invite someone to visit and join the club.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Perry Hayes made the motion, which was seconded by Dan Fleek. The motion passed without opposition.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 7:56pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, November 5, 2024 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 10, 2024

The September 2024 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 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 7:00pm. There were 46 members and visitors in attendance.

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Director of Publications Mike Harrison KM4MRW, Public Information Officer Adam White, K4SPB.

Absent: Immediate Past-President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ, Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU.

Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, filled-in for Scott Adams at the September meeting. Josh provided the refreshments for the meeting, and was in charge of setup and cleanup.

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He encouraged everyone to submit a *Signal Report* survey. Joe recognized the hams who recently passed their licensing exams. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Joe Plunk announced that three people passed their exams at the evening's FCC License Testing session (2 Technician and 1 General).

Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, called the roll of the Board of Directors (BOD). Perry declared a quorum.

President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes and the Treasurer's Report.

Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, made a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes and Treasurer's Report, as published in the August issue of *Sparks*. The motion was seconded by Randy Redd, KQ4HJH. The motion passed unanimously.

President Joe Plunk asked if any BOD members or Committee Chairpersons had additional reports for the Club.

Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, had no additional report. Immediate Past-President Ty McMahan was not present and did not make a report. Secretary Perry Hayes had no additional matters to report. Treasurer Jim Martin had no additional matters to report. There was no additional report by the Director of Meetings and Special Events, Scott Adams, KM4PMU. Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, had no additional matters to report.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, said there was not an active Amateur Radio License Class at the present time. A General Class License Class is planned to start the first part of November and an Extra Class License Class is planned for January, 2025.

Joe Lowenthal said that the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest turned a profit of \$284, due to a generous donation by an anonymous donor. The trip costs about \$145 per person.

Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, said that volunteers are always needed to give presentations or suggest topics.

Joe Plunk announced that elections for the BOD will be held in November. A Nominations Committee has been formed, consisting of Perry Hayes, Josh Cunningham and Don Strahl, KZ4GJ. The Committee will certify the qualifications of the applicants and present them for election. The general qualifications are that the person must be a DARC member in good standing, and must have attended at least 6 of the last 12 monthly membership meetings.

A qualified member may run for the BOD, but at least one person has agreed to run for every position. Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, has agreed to run again, but would like for someone to take over for him during the coming year. Joe Plunk encouraged everyone to consider applying for the position of Public Information Officer (PIO).

Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, announced that the Bluff City Blues Ride will be held on October 12th from 7am to 3 or 4pm. Ham radio operators are needed, as well as people with trucks or SUVs. Time slots are flexible. Those interested can contact Mary Jean (ky4fb.tn@gmail.com) for additional information.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, said that the APRS system at Methodist North worked well for about 3 months, but is experiencing problems again. The 82 repeater is working well, but the sensitivity on the edges can sometimes go in and out. Dan said a desense test will probably be needed in the future.

Dan said that he turned the squelch down on the 443.700 repeater and bumped up the power. Dan suggested that the club explore the possibility of putting a DMR repeater on 443.700. DMR is a very popular digital mode, and is used by the National Weather Service during significant weather events.

Dan said the elevation and location of the antenna make it the best DARC repeater site for DMR. Dan said that internet was not currently available at the site, but it could easily be set up via a fiber connection or hotspot. A Motorola DMR repeater would cost around \$3,500.

Billy Freeman, WL4B, thanked the BOD for considering adding a DMR repeater. He stressed DMR's importance during emergencies.

Dan Fleek also said that Channel 24 is planning a tower climb at the Brunswick repeater site. It may be possible to have the climbers perform maintenance on our equipment during that climb, and save some of the associated costs. Dan would like to test the 1½" hardline at the site, and consider using it for the 82 repeater. It could add another 1.5 db of gain. Dan will maintain contact with Channel 24 and the climbing team.

Joe Plunk asked for feedback from the members about installing a DMR repeater on 443.700, and amending the budget to cover the costs. A show of hands was overwhelmingly positive. Rick Kanschat, N0KYN, made a motion for the BOD to get a complete estimate of the costs and report back to the membership, which was seconded by Dan Wehner, KN4FBJ. The motion passed unanimously.

After a short break, Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, gave a presentation on how to use DMR without a repeater. John highlighted the software programs Droidstar and BlueDV. John covered the pi-star and OpenSpot hotspots, as well as the RFinder DMRVOIP device.

Public Information Officer Adam White, K4SPB, gave a presentation about Parks on the Air (POTA). Adam encouraged everyone to visit pota.app on the internet, and register. Adam discussed how POTA works and demonstrated helpful logging and mapping software. Adam offered some tips on making successful contacts.

Adam also talked about his experiences on the bus trip, and the Huntsville Hamfest.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Joe asked everyone to complete a *Signal Report* survey before they left. Ham Hilliard made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Josh Cunningham. The motion passed without opposition.

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, adjourned the meeting at 8:48pm.

The next regular Delta Amateur Radio Club Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, beginning at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Hayes, N4GJ
Secretary

Delta Ham License Training, 2024

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 email.

Licenses Earned in 2024 from Delta Classes

17 Technician

2 General

3 Extra

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 a question pool that became effective July 1, 2022 for four years.

The current ARRL General Class License Manual is the Tenth Edition with a question pool that became effective July 1, 2023 for four years.

The current ARRL Extra Class License Manual is the Thirteenth Edition with a 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.

The next **General** license class is proposed to start in early November 2024 (see below).

The next **Extra** license class will probably start in early January 2025.

The next **Technician** license class will probably start in mid to late February 2025.

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. **We need at least six students to have the class.** The classes will be held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms training room, 6850 Appling Farms Parkway.

CURRENT CLASSES

None

PREVIOUS CLASSES

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

An in-person Technician license class was held on six Monday nights on July 8, 15, 22, 29 August 5 and 12 from 6:15-9:30pm. The 5th class was a review of the question pool and opportunity to take the FCC exam. There were 12 students registered with eight completing the instructional period. Congratulations to Technicians Chris Pechak KQ4TQT and Daniel Lees KQ4TQ9U who tested at the Delta Club July 9th ARRL test session. Bill Matthews KQ4UEO also tested early on-line for Technician. Congratulation to John Burwell KQ4UIC, and Dexter Haney KJ5HMT for earning their Technician license. Congratulations to Cody Hubley KQ4UJD for earning Technician and General.



Steve KK4VPT presenting



Perry N4GJ presenting



Satellite Demo by Rick WA4NVM



FM Digital Opns by John KN4BVH

Photos by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

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

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

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

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

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

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



Tech Class 2-24 testing

Rick WA4NVM and Richard K4DXF
on JO-97 Satellite demo

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

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



Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS demo



John KN4BVH on Digital Basics

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

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

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

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

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

General Class 4-23 – November 6 – December 11, 2023

An in-person General Class license class was held on five Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm from November 6th to December 11th at Semmes-Murphey Clinic training room, 6305 Humphreys Blvd, Memphis 38120. The dates were November 6, 13, 27, December 4 and 11. The first four classes were instructional with the fifth class the opportunity to take the FCC exam.

There were eight students in the class-Jeff KQ4KKS, Sean KQ4KNI, James KQ4GGX, Jack KN4FDK, Bill KQ4DTS, Loy KQ4LPM, Jay KJ5CFY, and Julian KO4ZPS.



General Class 4-23



Photos by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors were Park AI5CY, Steve KK4VPT, Perry N4GJ, Carolyn KX4QF, Ken KI4AOH, Barry W5CJ, Joe NS4E, John KN4VBH, Paul KA4X and Joe WA4OVO.

The Delta ARRL VE Team headed by Bob KW4RJ provided the FCC test session on Monday, December 11th at 7pm at Semmes-Murphrey Clinic.

General Class 4-23 FCC Test Session
Photo by Joe Plunk NS4E



Previous Months' and Nice to Know Information

How to Print Your FCC License

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

INDIVIDUAL EMAIL ADDRESS IN QRZ
Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

Consider going to <https://www.qrz.com> and log in. Then enter your email address on QRZ page so other hams can contact you via email rather snail mail. Anyone looking for email addresses has to log in to QRZ to be able to see the ham's email address. If you go by your middle name or a nickname, you can add a Nickname. After signing in to QRZ, hover over your callsign. Click on Edit (CALLSIGN). Click on Update the basic name. Go to Nickname. Enter your nickname. Go to bottom of page.

ARRL Benefits

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

- Digital access to all four ARRL publications -- QST, On the Air, and QEX. QST is the official membership journal of ARRL or On the Air aimed at helping new and emerging radio communicators get active and, on the air, QEX covering topics related to radio communications experimentation, and National Contest Journal (NCJ), covering radio contesting.
- Access to ARRL's Technical Information Service to assist with technical problems and help with your projects. To secure these amazing members-only benefits and many more in the coming year, visit www.arrl.org/join/WE1 to renew or call us toll-free at: 1-888-277-5289 (US Only) , Monday Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET. International members call (860) 594-0338. **If you join or renew through Delta Club, the club receives a commission. For new ARRL members or expired membership over 2 years there is a \$15 commission: for renewals a \$5 commission**

ARRL Application.pdf

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

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

YL News Submitted by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB

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

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

2024 Board of Directors

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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

Bluff City Blues Ride – October 12th
 Trumann Hamfest – October 26th

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

Memphis Area VHF/UHF Nets

Name of Net	Frequency (MHz)	Offset/Tone	Local Time	Day of Week
Mid-South Bullfrog Net	146.535	[simplex]	7:30p	Daily
Delta Club Info Net (Primary)	146.82	- (107.2)	8:00p	Daily
Delta Club Info Net (Secondary)	443.7	+(107.2)	8:00p	Daily
YL Info Net (Primary)	146.82	- (107.2)	8:45p	Saturday
YL Info Net (Secondary)	443.7	+(107.2)	8:45p	Saturday
Crittenden ARO	147.15	+ (107.2)	7:30p	Sunday
Sunday Super Niner Net	927.6125	- (146.2)	8:30p	Sunday
Elmer Net	444.175	+ (107.2)	9:00p	Sunday
Desoto County EMA	146.91	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Monday
MedMERS Net	146.82	- (107.2)	12:00p	Wednesday
Tipton ARS	145.49	+ (100.0)	7:30p	Thursday
Crittenden ARO	442.4	+ (107.2)	8:00p	Thursday
Olive Branch ARC	147.255	+ (79.9)	8:30p	Thursday
OBARC Linked	444.7	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Thursday
ARES Training Net	146.85	- (107.2)	9:00p	Thursday
TN Statewide DMR Net	Digital – DMR		8:00p	Friday
Four-Forty Net	443.7	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Friday
Neshoba Club Info Net	146.625	- (107.2)	8:30p	4 th Monday

TENNESSEE HF NETS

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

(Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)

3980 kHz – Tennessee Phone Net

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

Saturday - 8:00 AM & 5:30 PM

Sunday - 8:00 AM only

Holidays - 8:00 AM only

DELTA CLUB ADVERTISEMENTS



Hamsource
Quality Accessories for the Shack and Field

John Kalotai, N1OLO
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456 Long Hill Avenue
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203-556-8700

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http://www.hamsource.com

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



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

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



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