

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 113 * June 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, June 10, 2025.

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

- **FCC Testing begins at 5:30 pm in Room B201**
- **HAM 101 begins at 6:00 pm in Room B202**
 - Voice over IP (VoIP) for Ham Radio
- **Meeting Programs begins at 7:00 pm**
 - Field Day and Logging by KQ4IOS
 - Hands-On PowerPoles for Amateur Radio

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

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

Club Announcements!

HAM 101

Voice over IP (VoIP) for Ham Radio

Delta Club Training

A Technician license class is being planned on 6 Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on June 30, July 7, 21, 28, August 4 and 11. There needs to be at least ten students registered to have an effective class. The classes will be held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms Station training room, 6850 Appling Farms Pkwy, Memphis. For registration details, please see the full training article below.

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

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

Huntsville Hamfest Bus Trip – August 16, 2025

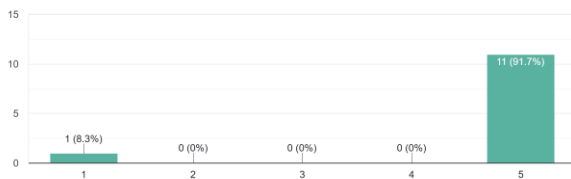
Delta Club is planning a bus trip again this year to Huntsville Hamfest on August 16th. The bus will leave Germantown Baptist Church by 6:30am, get to Von Braun Center about 9:45; leave after the 4pm door prize drawing and return to GBC about 8pm. The fare is \$100. For registration details, please see the full article below.

May Membership Meeting Signal Report

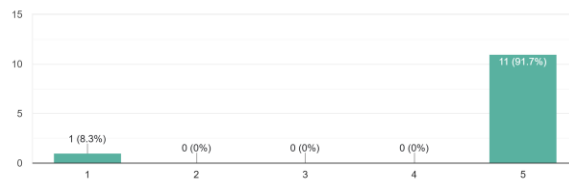
I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had 44 people on the sign in sheet and 12 surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback on how 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.

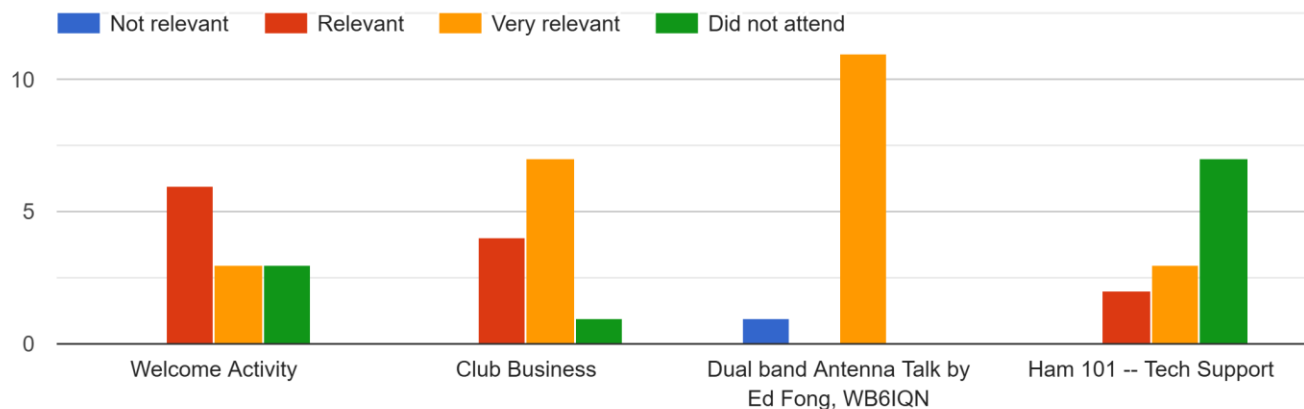
How satisfied were you with the event?
12 responses



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



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



What would you like to see in the Ham 101 timeslot?

3 responses

- Basic help on problems
- Waterproofing advice
- HF setup and antenna installation

News and Articles for our Membership

President's Corner
Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

June is here! This month amateur radio operators and clubs across the nation hold an “Open House” know as “Field Day.” It is 24 hours of fun, fellowship, a late night, and lots and lots and lots of radio related activity. Field Day as we know it has been promoted and sponsored by the ARRL since 1933 on the fourth full weekend of June.

Field Day is our opportunity to show the other parts of the community all of the things that amateur radio is able to do. Even more importantly it is an opportunity for people to meet other people

and talk about a common topic—Amateur Radio! For those that are really interested in the deep dive about field day I welcome you to go to the ARRL web site at the URL <https://www.arrl.org/field-day> and dive into the rich history of Field Day.

If you take a few minutes and read the history and the rules (the rules provide us some structure for all of the various Field Day locations around the country and keep everyone on the same wavelength) associated with Field Day you will see that there are many ways to interact with people locally, across the country, or even across the world! As with any Open House, we want to make sure that people see us showcasing our hobby and have the opportunity to experience everything our hobby is able to do!

The annual ARRL Field Day is on June 28-29, 2025 from 1:00 PM CDT (18:00 UTC) Saturday to 12:59 PM CDT (17:59 UTC) Sunday. This event will be in the Germantown Municipal Park at the Kiwanis Gazebo with multiple stations located in and around the park. Bring your outdoor chair and join us for an evening meal. If you are planning on coming, please let us know by filling out our quick form. If you have all ready completed the form, thank you! If not, please do so. You may find the form at: <https://forms.gle/6t6nDLcHgEPPAMcK9> Field day has something for everyone!

The month of June is all about Field Day, but right behind in August, we have our annual bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on August 16th. The bus trip is a great value at \$100! Please let us know if you would like to ride the bus with us this year. Please ask for more details when you join us at Field Day!

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

Hello everyone, the first half of the year is coming to a close which means many beautiful days ahead are available for our hobby. There are so many events run through not only the ARRL but also other groups that bring our hobby together. I encourage everyone to spend some time playing around with things you like in our hobby but also to try some things that might be new to you. There are so many different facets of the hobby that each of our members take part in and that is what makes this one of the best hobbies to have. We don't have to do the exact same thing over and over again unless we just absolutely want to.

In the coming weeks, we will have the annual Field Day event. Hopefully most of you will be able to make it out to the park and have some good fellowship with us. I understand some of you might have to be traveling (I myself will be off with the Army) or have other things that keep you away from our group event, but ample opportunities are there for every

member that has a radio and can make contacts. So go out, make those contacts, but most importantly have fun.

Program's Corner
Submitted by Adam White, K4SPB

You may have seen an email about the Ed Fong antennas group. If you haven't seen it, feel free to reach out for me to resend but I will be taking orders and funds at the June meeting. You can also follow this link to submit your order: <https://forms.gle/5Xd9SZ2Uc5x8uja27>

We have a lot planned for the June meeting in the programs department. Ham 101 will have a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) demonstration with hands-on equipment available. As the name implies, VoIP is typically used over the traditional internet networks but there are ways that you can interact with other hams including via RF over VoIP. I'll have a couple Cisco phones connected with AREDN nodes that you can try out and as well as a phone that is connected to Hamshack Hotline. That will be upstairs at 6 pm in room B202.

As we get ready for ARRL Field Day we will have a discussion about our concept of operations for the event and what to expect, as well as how we will be logging contacts that day. Don't forget that if you know any non-hams who may be on the fence, inviting them to Field Day is a great way to get them introduced to the many opportunities available in the hobby.

Lastly there will be an interactive, hands-on demonstration of Anderson PowerPoles. PowerPoles are the universal connector used for ham radio, and I guarantee you will see them everywhere on Field Day. Audience participants will be involved, and you may even get to take something home!

Repeater Trustee's Corner
Submitted by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

Jim Martin became Silent Key way too soon. I had just talked to him at the meeting 3 days earlier and suddenly he's just gone. Earlier this year I asked him for a reimbursement for an item purchased for the club. He said he would do it if he got to see the 146.82 repeater site. It was a deal. A couple of weeks later Jim helped us run networking at the Brunswick site so we could later add Allstar in addition to the DMR that we had at the site. Of course, if you have a work session, you have to have food and chat. It was a good time and a chance to get to know a fellow ham. Jim was a good guy, and we will miss him.

We've made some repairs, and the 224.42 repeater is back online. Thanks to Joe NS4E, Adam K4SPB, and Jose KJ4TCJ for the assistance and hard work. Work on the Methodist North site takes at least 3 people to safely get the task done and not wear out the crew. We have to do the work starting at 7am to beat the heat. The roof gets pretty warm as the day moves along and the weather has to cooperate too.

Please join us in our next activities - Field Day on June 28th-29th and the Huntsville Hamfest bus trip on August 16th. It is a time to enjoy the hobby, learn from others, and get to know our fellow hams outside of a once a month meeting. New hams are especially encouraged to attend these events!

ARES Exercise

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

ARES SUPPORTED THE RED CROSS VIGILANT GUARD EXERCISE

On Friday May 16th John KN4BVH, Adam K4SPB, Don KZ4GJ and Joe WA4OVO provided communications from 10:00am to noon during the Red Cross exercise in Millington. John and Adam were located with the Red Cross HQ at Baker Community Center and Don and Joe were at the shelter at Ed Haley Sportsplex.



WA4OVO antenna at Ed Haley shelter



K4SPB antennas at Red Cross HQ



Adam K4SPB and John KN4BVH at RC HQ



Shelter exercise



After drill lunch catered Operation BBQ

HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST BUS TRIP - AUGUST 16, 2025

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

Delta Club is planning a bus trip again this year to Huntsville Hamfest on August 16th. The bus will leave Germantown Baptist Church by 6:30am, get to Von Braun Center about 9:45; leave after the 4pm door prize drawing and return to GBC about 8pm.

The fare is \$100.

The fare includes the transportation, \$15 Hamfest entry ticket, two Danver's breakfast biscuits of ham, sausage or plain, soda, water, cookies, crackers and fruit on the way down, during the day and on the return to Germantown. The bus backs up to the loading dock so you can bring your purchases to the bus rather than having to carry them around all day as well as getting something to drink or something to munch on.

We will take your reservation money (cash or check) at the June or July Delta Club meetings as well as at Field Day, June 28/29th.

Make checks payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club. You can send a check to:

Delta Amateur Radio Club

c/o Joe Lowenthal

6675 Ashbridge Cove

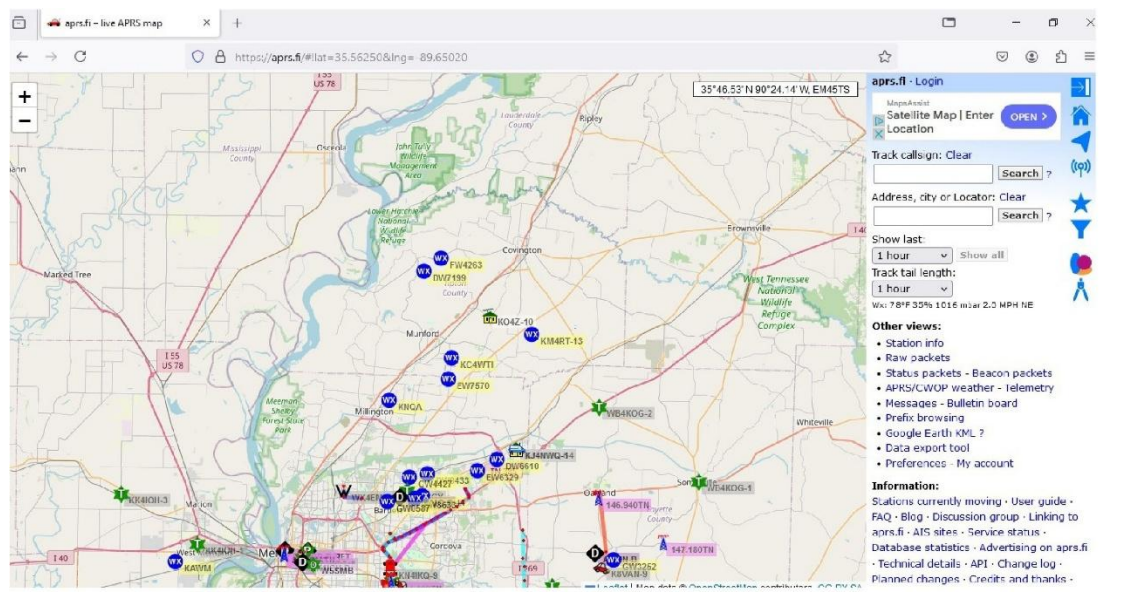
Memphis TN 38120

Packet Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Many of us have used APRS on amateur radio. We have APRS weather stations setup. We also have mobile APRS stations updating their locations constantly. One internet application will allow you to monitor activity anywhere in the world. I can set the map to my area where I can see mobiles and weather stations around me. By clicking on the stations I can see the weather conditions. I can also watch mobile APRS moving around the area. You can also look at station information, raw packet data, and other data. No program is required. You just go to the website to get all the information. I just set up a shortcut on my main computer screen to access the site. The web address is <https://aprs.fi/#!lat=35.56250&lng=-89.65020>

James Butler
KB4LJV



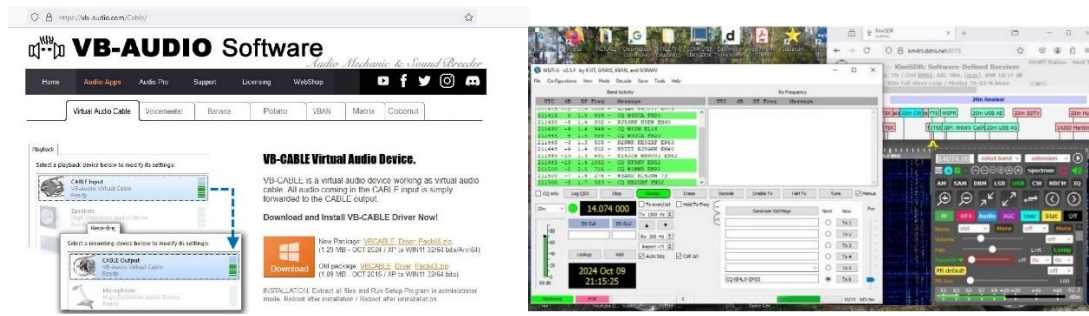
Amateur Hardware Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Using online SDR receivers on the internet is a great way to have a receiver to monitor the amateur bands. I can log into a receiver anywhere in the world. It works great for AM shortwave stations, Ham SSB, and CW. I was able to receive digital signals but had no way to decode them. I could use another computer and send audio to that one and run digital software like WSJT-X for FT8. I found a software package from VB-CABLE. It is a virtual audio cable

that that lets you connect audio from one application on you computer to another. I installed the software and could now run an SDR receiver on the screen along side of WSJTX. I set up WSJTX to receive audio from the SDR and now I can receive and decode digital signals with one computer on the same screen. Using this software I can now monitor digital signals on the band. I can select an SDR at a distant location, listen to and decode my own digital signals. I transmit from my home station for signal strength and quality. They have a free basic package on their website. They also sell advanced packages for a donation. The newest package I got works from windows XP thru Windows 11. They also have a package for Apple computers. Their web address is <https://vb-audio.com/Cable/>

James Butler
KB4LJV



DARC Director's Reports

Treasurer's Report

Due to the untimely passing of Jim Martin the treasurer's report for June will be delayed until the July Sparks when both will be presented.



In Loving Memory of
James "Jim" George Martin
Devoted Husband, Father, Brother, and Son
November 10, 1969 - May 16, 2025

James George Martin, born November 10, 1969, in Portsmouth, Virginia, passed away unexpectedly May 16, 2025, in Memphis, Tennessee, at the age of 55. His sudden death from a heart attack has left his family, friends, and colleagues devastated and in profound sorrow. Jim grew up in Virginia Beach, Virginia, where he attended First Colonial High School, Class of 1987. He went on to earn a master's degree in Architecture from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) in Savannah, Georgia, in 1993. After college graduation, he moved to the Metro Detroit area where he lived for 25 years. In 2018 Jim relocated to Bartlett, Tennessee to start a new life together with his best friend and soulmate, Laura.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife, Laura Ann Steward; his daughter, Lilian Rose Martin; and his stepchildren, Connor Nicholas and Alison Bridget Steward, who affectionately called him "Jim Dear." He is also survived by his parents: Dr. William Martin (wife Sharon) and Helen Vander Vennet (late husband Harry); his sisters, Janice "Jan" Whitlinger (husband John) and Carole Jones; his brother, William "Bill" Martin; and his half-brother, Robert Martin. Jim cherished his nephews, niece, and their young families, who were an important part of his life. Jim also leaves behind his mother-in-law, Susan Jones, and brother-in-law, Timothy Jones (wife Lynn).

Professionally, Jim was proud to work for Methodist LeBonheur HealthCare as a server engineer. He also volunteered his time and served as the Treasurer for the Delta Amateur Radio

Club in Memphis, Tennessee, from 2021 until his untimely passing. His dedication to the club and its members was evident in the genuine care he showed to all. Jim had a unique ability to connect with people, leaving a lasting impression on everyone he met with his charm, wit, and sense of humor. A private memorial service will be held in Virginia Beach, Virginia, in the near future.

Jim's unexpected passing has left a deep void in the lives of those who knew and loved him. His legacy of kindness, generosity, and compassion will continue to impact all who had the privilege of knowing him. His friends and family will remember him as a man of insatiable curiosity, great integrity, and passion for life. We will endure a lifetime of missing you for the privilege of loving you.

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

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2025

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

Absent: Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV.

Vacant: Treasurer, Immediate Past President

Guests: Paul Broom, KY4MX, John Reiners, KN4BVH, Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ.

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on June 3, 2025, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present. President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 6:38pm

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

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, announced that he appointed Paul Broom, KY4MX, to serve as Treasurer, due to the untimely passing of Jim Martin, KD4FUU. Paul has agreed to serve as Treasurer for at least 6 months. Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, moved to

accept the appointment, which was seconded by Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Plunk also announced that he appointed John Reiners, KN4BVH, to serve as Club Historian. Mike Harrison made a motion to accept the appointment, which was seconded by the Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU. The motion passed without opposition.

Director of Publications Mike Harrison said that Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ, has agreed to take over as Director of Publications at the June DARC membership meeting.

Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, made a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes of the May DARC membership meeting, as circulated by email. Mike Harrison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Plunk said that the Treasurer's Report and review of Membership Applications would be tabled until the July BOD meeting. The club will work with Jim Martin's family to get all of his records. Treasurer Paul Broom, KY4MX, will present the June and July Treasurer's Report and Membership Applications at the next BOD meeting.

Mike Harrison made a motion to table the Treasurer's Report and review of Membership Applications until the July BOD meeting, which was seconded by Perry Hayes. The motion passed without opposition.

There was a discussion about bills that were expected during the month of June. Joe Plunk said that Paul Broom would be added to the club's bank accounts.

Director of Programs Adam White discussed the topics for the June DARC meeting.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, said that a team visited the Methodist North repeater site on May 31st to make repairs. The 224.420 repeater is now back on the air. Dan has purchased an audio board for the 146.625 repeater.

There was a discussion about Field Day, to be held on June 28-29 at the Germantown Municipal Park, 1900 South Germantown Road. DARC and Nashoba Amateur Radio Club will be joining forces this year. MARA will not participate.

Stations are planned for GOTA, 20 meters, satellite, solar/FT8 and possibly 6 meters. Volunteers are still needed to set up stations on 40, 80 and possibly 10 meters. A

bucket truck will be available for hanging/mounting of antennas. A signup form will be circulated for operator and meal planning.

Joe Lowenthal added the W4BS station to the ARRL Field Day Station Locator.

There was a discussion about food and drinks at this year's event. Dan Fleek will be cooking and Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, will be working with Scott Adams on the snacks and drinks. Scott will not be able to attend this year. Since MARA will not be participating, DARC may have to spend more than normal on food and drinks. If the cost of refreshments goes over budget, the BOD will ask the membership to adjust the budget.

Mike Harrison complimented Adam White on the recent Ham 101 session where contact was made with members of the Tennessee State Guard.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that 4 people have paid for the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on August 16th. Joe will be accepting payments at club meetings and at Field Day.

Treasurer Paul Broom, KY4MX, said he is looking forward to working with everyone.

Director of Programs Adam White said he has received 10 orders for Ed Fong antennas. Orders and payments will be accepted at the June DARC meeting.

Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams said he will be picking up food for club meetings, Field Day and the Huntsville bus trip.

Director of Publications Mike Harrison said that Johnathan Urschel will be helping him with the June issue of *Sparks*. BOD members should submit their articles to Mike and Johnathan this month.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that a Technician Class license class is scheduled to begin on June 30th. The class will meet on 6 Monday nights, though August 11th. The class will not meet on July 14th. The sessions will be held at the Memphis Police Department's Appling Farms Station training room, 6850 Appling Farms Parkway, from 6:15 to 9:30pm. A minimum of 10 students will be required.

Joe said that one of the students from the last Technician class has passed her Technician and General exams.

Joe said that a memorial service for Jim Martin may be held in Virginia Beach, Virginia on July 1st.

Joe Lowenthal said that Mike Sparks, KW4RI, will be leaving town this summer, and Don Strahl, KZ4GJ, has agreed to take over Mike's VE Team.

Dan Fleek said that emails seem to be the best way to convey news and information to the majority of DARC's members.

Joe Plunk thanked Dan and Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, for their help with Facebook posts and email announcements.

Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH, said he was looking forward to learning about the history of DARC, and sharing that information with the club.

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

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, July 1, 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

May 13, 2025

The May 2025 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 13, 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 7:00pm. There were 44 members and visitors in attendance.

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Treasurer Jim Martin KD4FUU, 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.

Absent: Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW.

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves.

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

Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, made a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes, as published in *Sparks*. Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, reminded everyone to renew their memberships.

Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, discussed the evening's program.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, reported that 8 of the 13 students from Technician Class license class #2-25 have passed their exams. One student plans to take their test soon.

Joe said a Technician Class license class is being planned, to begin on June 30th, or the second week of July. The class will be held on Monday or Thursday nights. The location has not been finalized.

Joe reported that he is now accepting fare money for the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest. The cost is \$100, which covers the entry fee to the Hamfest, 2 Danver's breakfast biscuits (sausage, ham or plain), waters, sodas, cookies, crackers and fruit on the way down and whatever is left over on the way back. The bus will leave at 6:30am and return around 8:00pm. The bus will back up to the loading dock at the Von Braun Center.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, discussed the weekly DMR net, which is held on TG 31471 each Wednesday night at 7:30pm.

Dan said that a trip is scheduled to the Methodist North repeater site on May 31st, to conduct repairs.

Joe Plunk reported that the BOD discussed the position of Immediate Past President at the May BOD meeting. The BOD declared the position vacant, because the individual in that position is not current on their attendance and payment of dues. Joe said the BOD declared the position vacant, since the club bylaws do provide a mechanism for replacing the Immediate Past President.

Joe Plunk said that Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, is still looking for volunteers to serve on the Bylaws Committee. Interested parties should contact Mary Jean. The Committee will begin meeting soon, possibly via ZOOM. Mary Jean hopes to have the proposed changes completed by September.

After a short break, Director of Programs Adam White introduced the speaker for the evening.

Dr. Ed Fong, WB6IQN, joined the meeting via ZOOM. Ed Fong received his PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of San Francisco in 1987. Ed is a professor at the University of California - Santa Cruz, where he teaches RF Wireless Design, Antenna Design and IO Design.

Ed discussed the design and performance of his VHF/UHF Dual Band J-Pole antenna.

Dr. Fong operates a business, Ed's Antennas (edsantennas.weebly.com), which sells antennas and supplies to fund programs for his students. Ed's Antennas has offered DARC members an opportunity to make a group buy of antennas and accessories at a discounted price. The group order will be finalized at the June membership meeting.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said that he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Vice President Tyler Henley KQ4QEV made the motion, which was seconded by Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS. The motion passed without opposition. President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm.

The next regular membership meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 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

8 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.

SCHEDULED CLASSES

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

A Technician license class is being planned on 6 Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on June 30, July 7, 21, 28, August 4 and 11. There needs to be at least ten students registered to have an effective class. Three students are registered at this time. The classes will be held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms Station training room, 6850 Appling Farms Pkwy, Memphis. To register, send an email to wa4ovo@gmail.com with Subject line: Tech Class 3-25 and name, email address and cellphone number in text area.

CURRENT CLASSES

None

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



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 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.

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

Field Day 2025 – June 28 – 29, 2025. Look for more information in the June Edition of Sparks!

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



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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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