

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 111 * April 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, April 8, 2025.

The meeting will be held at Mid-America Theological Seminary located at 2095 Appling Rd, Memphis, TN 38016. See the Delta Club webpage at: <http://www.deltacub.org> for detailed instructions on how to find the correct entrance. Parking is available 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**
 - Tech Support including Winlink, DMR code plugs, and Meshtastic
- **Meeting Programs begins at 7:00 pm**
 - Deep Space Exploration Society (DSES) by Roger Oakey, W3MIX

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!

FreeFest – April 12th

FreeFest will be held April 12th at The Venue at Bartlett Station (previously Bartlett Station Municipal Center), 5868 Stage Rd, Bartlett, TN from 9:00a to 3:00p. FCC Testing will be held from 9 to 11am. Admission to FreeFest is free. Door prize tickets will be for sale at the meeting by Rick Tillman, WA4NVM and Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO. All door prize ticket sales go to LeBonheur Children's Hospital. Price for 1 sheet (6 tickets) is \$5 or 5 sheets for \$20. See the Flyer below for more information.

HAM 101

Ham 101 this week will be Tech Support for Winlink, DMR code plugs, and Meshtastic.

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.

There is a **Technician** license class in process - Tech Class 2-25 – February 24 – April 7, 2025

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

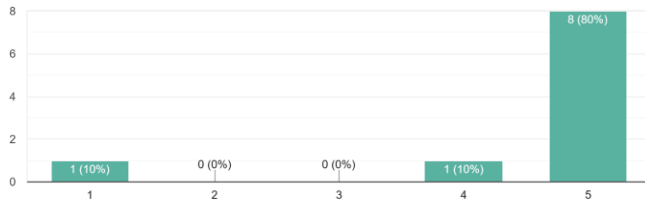
The next **Extra** license class will start January 2026.

March Membership Meeting Signal Report

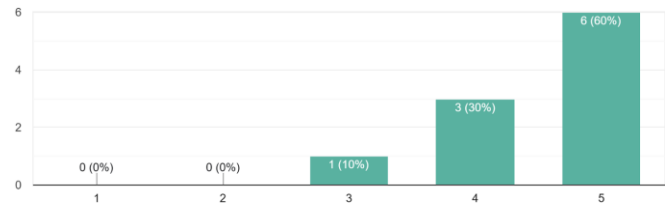
I wanted to share the "Signal Report" from the meeting last month. We had **42** people on the sign in sheet and **10** surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback 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.

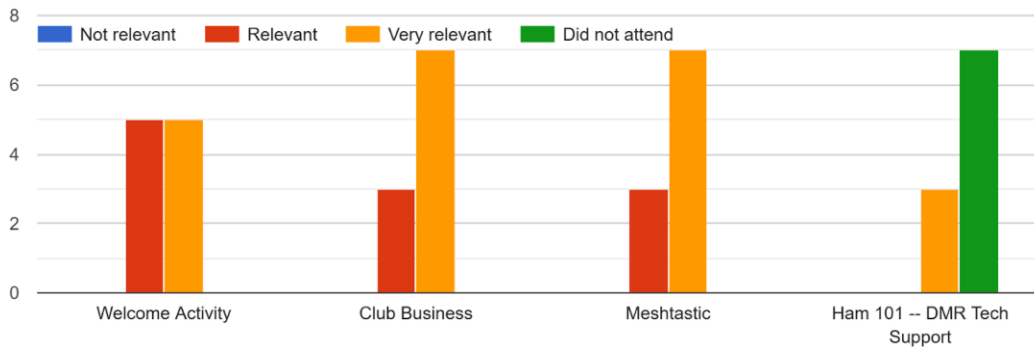
How satisfied were you with the event?
10 responses



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



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



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

4 responses

Tech Support for DMR, Winlink, Allstar, and other modes helpful. Maybe alternate with building antennas.

Coax termination (pl259/type - n connector install)

More DMR. I'm a super novice with dmr

Build up to it but near the end of the year we could build the EFHW from the ARRL website



Memphis FreeFest®

What a Hamfest Should Be

Sponsored by the Mid-South Amateur Radio Association (MARA)

ARRL Approved



Admittance FREE - No charge for outside spaces, inside tables \$5.00 each. Attendance 500+

All the money from ticket sales goes to LeBonheur Children's Hospital

Seminars, VE Testing, Concessions and more!

**One Day Only
Saturday April 12, 2025
9 am to 3 pm**

**Bartlett Station Municipal Center (behind the library)
5868 Stage Road Bartlett, TN
North side of Stage Road just west of Bartlett Blvd.**

There will be hourly prizes and main prizes.

You do not have to be present to win these main prizes:

Main Prizes	Generously Donated By
Apple iPad 64GB	Friends of MARA
Yaesu FT-2980R	Bull Frogs
HT Explorer QRZ-1	Rick Kanschats
Apple iPad 64GB	Friends of LeBonheur
\$100 Gift Certificate	DX Engineering
Arduino Kit & Book	Chickasaw ARC
Power strip with 6 power poles	Hamsource
20Ah BLF-1220A LiFeP04 Battery w/charger	Delta Club
20Ah BLF-1220A LiFeP04 Battery w/charger	Delta Club
43" Roku Smart TV 4K HDR	Dennis & Cindy Foster

Load in Friday 4-6 pm, Saturday 8-9 am - Load out 3-4 pm
Help is available with load in and load out.

Talk-In 145.21 / 144.61 Repeater – 107.2 Tone
Back-up 147.03 / 147.63 - 107.2 Tone

VE testing 9:00am to 11:00am, Seminars 11:10am to 2:30pm

- - Free and open wi-fi available - -

For more information email freefest@maraonline.org
Or visit our website <http://maraonline.org/freefest>
Or contact Art Barnett: Memphis.freefest@gmail.com or (901) 619-5573

News and Articles for our Membership

President's Corner Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

Questions—we ask and get them answered in our lives everyday. Have you considered that our hobby is based on asking and answering questions? At the very base of our hobby we collectively asked the question how do I communicate over great distances? Over the years we have found many creative and fun ways to answer that basic question.

Our journey in our hobby almost always starts with a question. We want to do something that we do not know how to do, so we start asking the famous questions that we asked as children—how and why? How do I do that and why did it work or not work? These have many variations and variable in them but at the root of the problem we are trying to solve is those base questions.

Now you are probably asking what does this have to do with our club or even me? Here is the point that I want to make as well as ask all of us to remember as we journey in our hobby. We are going to ask and be asked many questions in our journey—it is not the questions and the answers that shape us the most—it is the people and the how the questions are answered that really shape us the most.

A kind word of explanation, a here let me explain and show you, or let's get together and figure it out together. The how — the kindness, the caring, the mentoring elder— that is the most powerful thing in our hobby. So as you contemplate where you are in our hobby I would ask you to think not about the questions themselves, but the HOW you answer questions.

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

Program's Corner

Submitted by Adam White, K4SPB

First of all I'd like to thank Ryan, K0RET, once again for coming out last month and presenting on Meshtastic. This month, Tech Support will be available for any topic that has presented on this year including Winlink, DMR code plugs, and Meshtastic. Bring your laptop, radio, programming cable, and/or node and we will try to help you get set up. If you bring a Meshtastic device don't forget to bring your antenna and its connector cable to avoid damage to the RF components.

Looking ahead, April's presenter is Roger Oakey, W3MIX, from the Deep Space Exploration Society (DSES). The DSES is on the cover of ARRL's QST magazine this month so if you like spoilers, feel free to read the feature article on them.

Tentatively, in May, we will have Ed Fong, Ph.D., D.E., WB6IQN, presenting. Ed Fong is a professor at UC Santa Cruz and the inventor of the DBJ antenna. Ed's students build and sell antennas to finance materials for his classes. I intend to organize a group buy of his antennas at a discounted rate after the presentation. If you are interested in ordering, please let me know.

HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST BUS TRIP - AUGUST 16, 2025

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

DARC is sponsoring a 50-passenger bus trip to go to the Huntsville Hamfest on Saturday, August 16, 2025. The fare is \$100 if paid by July 15th and \$120 after July 15th. A spouse or child living at the same address can accompany a full fare rider for \$75. The fare includes the \$15 hamfest entry ticket. There will be two biscuit sandwiches, water, sodas, chips, and fruit on the bus going to Huntsville, during the day and whatever is left for the trip back. There are no refunds, but you can sell your seat to someone else if you can not go. Let me know.

Cash or checks will be accepted for payment. Make checks payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club. You can pay at a meeting or at Field Day. You can also send your check to Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, 6675 Ashbridge Cove, Memphis, TN 38120. Please include your name, callsign, cell phone number, email address and whether you want ham, sausage or plain biscuits.

Reservations will be on a first come first paid basis.

The bus will leave Germantown Baptist Church, 9450 Poplar Avenue at Johnson Road, Germantown, TN at 6:30am. The bus will leave Huntsville immediately after the 4pm door prize drawing and return to Germantown Baptist Church approximately 7:45pm.

Germantown Baptist Church has asked us to park in the back on the northeast side of the church so there will be security cameras on the cars.

The Huntsville Hamfest website is www.hamfest.org.

Packet Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

New radios now come with lots of memories available. Programming these by hand can take a lot of time and effort using the manual and keypad. A company called RT Systems has come out with software to program many radio types. They can program many brands of HTs, Mobile rigs and base stations. They sell the software and the computer cable to connect to your radio. Their site has information on the radios they cover and how to videos. Programs like these allow programming and changing memories on you radio a lot easier. You can see all the radios they cover and get additional information at their website. The web address is <https://www.rtsystemsinc.com>

James Butler
KB4LJV

Select your radio type above.



It's sooooo easy!

Amateur Hardware Update

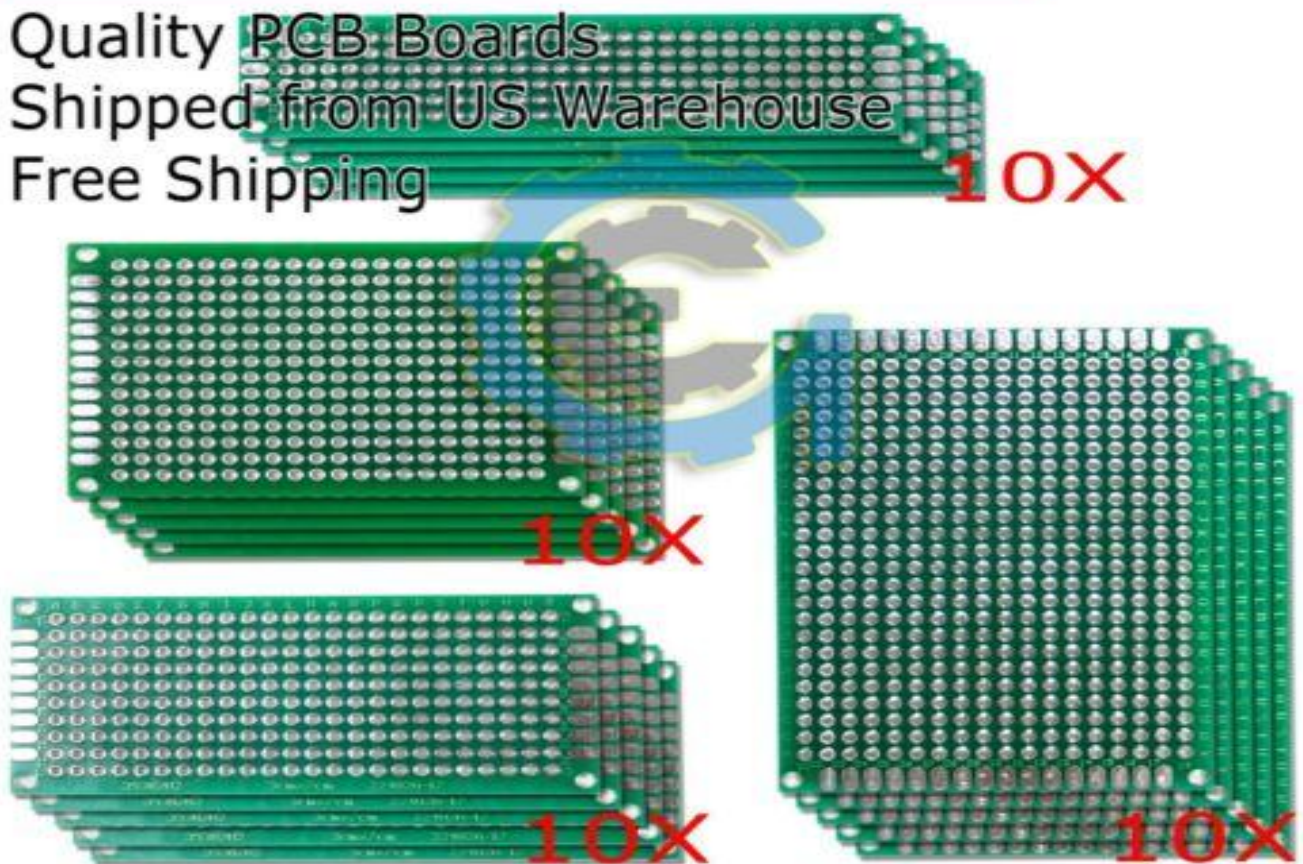
Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Many times we want to build small circuits for projects. You can assemble parts on a printed circuit board and solder them together to build up your project. You can buy prototype printed circuit boards for this purpose. They do not have traces for a particular project but only have lots of holes for mounting components. You have to solder all of the interconnections for your project. You can buy these prototype boards in many different sizes depending on the board area you need. You can also buy boards in quantity which include many different sizes. You can buy 12 to 20 prototype boards for less than \$15. Do an Ebay search for “prototype pc boards “.

James Butler
KB4LJV

40 PCS PCB Special

Quality PCB Boards
Shipped from US Warehouse
Free Shipping



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

March 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025

SUMMARY

Beginning Balance	\$15,970.15	Minimum Daily Balance	\$15,970
Deposits & Credits	\$135.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$16,013
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$0.00 -		
Ending Balance	\$16,105.15		

DEPOSITS & CREDITS

03/12	Deposit - Thank You	50.00
03/28	Deposit - Thank You	85.00
Total Deposits & Credits		<u>\$135.00</u>

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>
03/12	16,020.15	03/28	16,105.15

Applications Received - March 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
(3) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$60.00
(1) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$25.00
(0) Donations Received		\$0.00
	Total Dues Received	\$85.00
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
Deposit from sale of Mirage B-310-G amplifier		\$50.00
Sale of Delta Club Patches (0 @ \$5)		\$0.00
	Total Other Deposits	\$50.00
	Total Deposits	\$135.00
Withdrawals & Debits		
None		\$0.00
	Total Withdrawals	\$0.00
Checks		
None		\$0.00
	Total Payments	\$0.00

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,413.68	4.160 %	\$42.94	\$42.74
<u>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</u>			
*8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$42.94	\$263.01	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	1/22/2025	8/22/2025	
▲ Hide More Details			

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8503

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$11,646.29	4.160 %	\$124.14	\$49.21
<u>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</u>			
*8503			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$124.14	\$274.10	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	2/23/2025	10/22/2025	
▲ Hide More Details			

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes - April 1, 2025

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting - April 1, 2025

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

Absent: Immediate Past President Ty McMahan KX4MQ.

Guests: John Reiners, KN4BVH.

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on April 1, 2025, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present. President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

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

Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, made a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes of the March DARC Membership Meeting, as circulated by email. The motion was seconded by Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB. The motion passed unanimously.

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, presented the renewal membership applications that had been received since the March BOD meeting. Perry Hayes made a motion to accept all of the applications, which was seconded by Mike Harrison. The motion passed without opposition.

Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, presented the Treasurer's Report. Jim also reported that he made this year's filing with the IRS.

Mike Harrison made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion about any pending bills. There was also a discussion about obtaining a debit card for tax-exempt purchases. There was an agreement to revisit the discussion about a debit card at a future meeting.

Director of Programs Adam White discussed the topics to be presented at the April and May Membership Meetings.

The Bylaws Committee did not have anything to report.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, said the power supply for the amplifier at the Brunswick site was having problems. Another power supply will be used while the Astron is being examined.

Dan said the 443.700 DMR repeater dropped off of the Brandmeister network recently. The problem was traced to the behavior of the T-Mobile hotspot on 5G. Dan changed the settings to 4G and all is working well. Allen Wood, N5ALN, and Michael Knight, KK4IOH set up the audio for Allstar on the 146.82 repeater.

Dan recently visited the University of Memphis repeater site. He took photos of the equipment and recorded the serial numbers.

Dan said the 443.200 repeater is working very well. He hopes to get 220 repeater working soon.

Joe Plunk said that a DARC member has agreed to serve as Director of Publications next year, replacing Mike Harrison.

Special Guest John Reiners, KN4BVH, Shelby County ARES EC, discussed the ARRL's Memorandum of Understanding with the National Weather Service. The ARRL agreed to encourage its volunteer Field Organization appointees, especially the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, to contact and cooperate with National Weather Service Warning Coordination Meteorologists for the purpose of establishing organized SKYWARN networks with radio amateurs serving as communicators and spotters, consistent with rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission. ARRL further agreed to encourage its Section management teams to provide specialized communications and observation support on an as-needed basis for NWS offices in other weather emergencies such as hurricanes, snow and heavy rain storms, and other severe weather situations. The National Weather Service agreed to work with ARRL Section Amateur Radio Emergency Service volunteers to establish SKYWARN networks, and/or other weather emergency alert and relief systems. The principal point of contact between the ARRL Section and local NWS offices are the Warning Coordination Meteorologists.

John said he is proud of how DARC has stepped up and has been extremely supportive of the NWS weather nets.

Since the 146.82 repeater is now linked to the weather nets via Allstar, there was a discussion about how the Delta Club's Information Net should be handled, in the event of a conflict.

There was an agreement among the BOD members that the Information Net should be held on the secondary frequency (443.200) when there is a conflict with a weather net. If the net control operator cannot hit the 443.200 repeater, the Net will be cancelled for the evening.

Announcements will be made on the weather net to inform stations that the information net will meet on 443.200.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, reported on plans for the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on August 16th. Joe said expenses would be a little higher than last year. With the fare set at \$100 per person, the club will break even if there are 35 paid riders.

There was a discussion about how much loss the club should absorb, should there be less than 35 paid riders. An application deadline was set for July 8, the night of the DARC membership meeting. The BOD will decide that evening whether or not the bus trip will occur.

There is a line item in the budget for the bus trip.

Joe Plunk thanked Joe Lowenthal for all of his hard work on the estate sales.

Tyler Henley talked about Field Day, to be held on June 28-29. DARC and Nashoba Amateur Radio Club will join forces for this year's event. MARA has not confirmed that they will participate.

Joe Plunk encouraged the BOD members to promote the Memphis Freefest, which will be held on April 12th.

Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, said he has wrapped up the programming survey. Adam received good suggestions from the membership for future programs.

Adam said the "support desk" activity hosted by himself and Dan Fleek during the 6:00 Ham 101 session was very popular. This activity will be offered again at the April meeting.

Tyler Henley recommended that the club purchase a 10m band pass filter for use at Field Day and Winter Field Day. The filter would cost \$75, plus shipping.

Mike Harrison made a motion to purchase the filter, which was seconded by Adam White. The motion passed with one abstention.

Perry Hayes, Jim Martin, Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams and Mike Harrison had no further reports.

Joe Lowenthal reported that the Technician Class License Class had tested the night before. A total of six students have now passed the exam. The remainder are located out of town.

Joe said that one of the students in the class is a teacher at Desoto Central. Another is a principal in the Houston, Texas area. Both students hope to start ham radio clubs at their respective schools.

Joe Plunk thanked Joe Lowenthal for all of his hard work as Director of Training.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Mike Harrison made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Adam White. 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, May 6, 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
March 11, 2025

The March 2025 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. The President served as the chair and the Secretary was absent. Club President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. There were 42 members and visitors in attendance.

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, 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: Immediate Past President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Treasurer Jim Martin KD4FUU, Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW.

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

Eric Mills, KX4B, made an announcement about listening to Sputnik when he was 14 years old on October 4, 1957.

Rick Tillman, WA4NVM, made an announcement about Memphis FreeFest, to be held on April 12, 2025.

Joe Plunk called the roll of the Board of Directors (BOD).

Joe Plunk asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the February Membership Meeting, the March BOD meeting and the March Treasurer's report, as published in *Sparks*. Dave Church, AD4Q, made the motion, which was seconded by Randy Redd, KQ4HJH. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Plunk asked the members of the BOD if they had any reports.

Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, said he enjoyed hearing the activity on DARC's repeaters. He said that anyone is welcome to contact a BOD member, if they can be of assistance.

Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, reported on the tech support session held during the evening's Ham 101 period. He said that assistance with DMR, WinLink and radio programming would be offered next month.

Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, had no additional report.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, said that a Technician Class License Class is currently meeting. 16 students attended the first class and 11 attended the second. The class took a break on March 10th and will resume on March 17th. The class will end on April 7th. 10 or 12 students are expected to take the exam.

Joe Lowenthal said DARC is starting to plan for the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on Saturday, August 16th. The fee is expected to be \$100, which will cover the entry fee to the hamfest, the bus trip down and back, two breakfast biscuits from Danver's, water, sodas, cookies, crackers and fruit on the way down, during the day, and whatever is left over on the way back. The bus backs up to the loading dock at the Von Braun Center, so riders can come back to the bus to rest or get a drink. The bus will leave Germantown Baptist Church at 6:30 am, arrive at the hamfest around 9:45 am, leave after the Grand Prize Drawing at 4:00 pm and arrive back in Germantown at 8:00pm.

Joe Plunk said that riders can also take their purchases out to the bus, so they don't have to carry them around.

Joe Lowenthal said three students from the Extra Class License Class have passed their exams, and two more are currently studying.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, said the 440 DMR repeater is working well. Dan got a cable and has connected the amplifier. The T-Mobile internet hotspot is working great and has no throttling. Dan said a team visited the Brunswick site and ran ethernet cable, which allows both repeaters to share the internet hotspot. The 146.82 repeater will use the internet to bridge to AllStar during weather nets.

New audio cards will be installed on the pi-stars at the 146.82 repeater and the 146.625 repeater in Germantown, which will improve the audio quality on Allstar.

Joe Plunk said that he talked with John Reiners, KN4BVH, and plans are underway for holding a weekly DMR net on Wednesday or Thursday nights.

Joe Plunk said that Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, is still looking for volunteers to serve on the Bylaws Committee. Anyone interested should contact Mary Jean.

Tyler Henley reported on the plans for Field Day, to be held on the 4th weekend in June. He said the location will be the same as last year - Germantown Municipal Park. Tyler said that operators will sign up for 2-3 hour time slots, so they don't feel like they need to stay all day. Plans are for the stations to be closer together and for the evening meal to be cooked on site.

At the conclusion of business, there was a short break.

Ryan Turner, K0RET, gave a presentation on Meshtastic. Ryan is President of HamWan Memphis Metro and the Tennessee State AMPRNet Coordinator.

Meshtastic is a project that uses inexpensive LoRA radios as a long range, off-grid communications platform. These radios, typically battery powered and operating at less than one watt, link together to form a mesh which allows for sending text messages and some encoded data.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said that he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Tayloe Nickey, KQ4KLJ, made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Jose Ibarra, KJ4TCJ. The motion passed without opposition. President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm.

The next regular membership meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 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

7 Technician

0 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.

CURRENT 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 on line 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. The other students are out of town so they will take their exam locally or online.

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

PREVIOUS CLASSES

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.

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 an opportunity to take the FCC exam. The two in-person classes were at the MPD Appling Farms Precinct. Eleven students and one audit finished the class.

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



Tech Class 2-24 testing

Rick WA4NVM and Richard K4DXF
on JO-97 Satellite demo

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

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



Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS demo



John KN4BVH on Digital Basics

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

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

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

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

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

Previous Months' and Nice to Know Information

How to Print Your FCC License

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

INDIVIDUAL EMAIL ADDRESS IN QRZ
Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

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

ARRL Benefits

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

- Digital access to all four ARRL publications -- QST, On the Air, and QEX. QST is the official membership journal of ARRL or On the Air aimed at helping new and emerging radio communicators get active and, on the air, QEX covering topics related to radio communications experimentation, and National Contest Journal (NCJ), covering radio contesting.
- Access to ARRL's Technical Information Service to assist with technical problems and help with your projects.

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

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

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

YL News Submitted by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB

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

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

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	444.175	+ (107.2)	9:00p	Sunday
Desoto County EMA	146.910	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Monday
MedMERS Net	146.820	- (107.2)	12:00p	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	Digital – DMR		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

John Kalotai, N1OLO
Owner

456 Long Hill Avenue
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203-556-8700

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

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 342768
Memphis, TN 38134-2768

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



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



Joe Miller
Owner

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