

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 122 * March 2026



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, March 10th, 2026.

NEW LOCATION INFO!

The meeting location will be at **First Evangelical Church, West Entrance, 735 Ridge Lake Blvd** down the street from the Hilton Hotel near Poplar and I-240. See the Delta Club webpage at: <http://www.deltacub.org> for detailed instructions with pictures on how to find the correct entrance. Parking is available at the left side parking lot with the West entrance being at the far end of the parking lot. The meeting will be in room E234.

- **FCC Testing begins at 5:30 pm in room A109**
- **HAM 101 begins at 6:00 pm in room E234**
 - Round table discussion and troubleshooting
- **Meeting Programs begins at 7:00 pm**
 - Part One – Keyboard to Keyboard demonstration
 - Part Two – 3D Printing for Ham 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 FCC testing, or FCC FRN information, please contact:

Don Strahl KZ4GJ, VE Liaison
Phone: 901-833-1270
Email: KZ4GJ.Don@gmail.com

Club Announcements!

FCC Requires That FRN Contact Information Be Updated Within Ten Days of a Change

ARRL reports that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted changes to its rules to require that every holder of an FCC Registration Number (FRN) update their contact information in the CORES system (email and postal addresses) within ten business days of a change.

For more information: [FCC Requires That FRN Contact Information Be Updated Within Ten Days of a Change](#)

The next **Technician** license class will start in early July 2026. If interested in a class, send an email to wa4ovo@gmail.com with Subject line: Tech Class and name, email address and cellphone number in text.

2026 Radio Active Expo

We received great news last week that our grant from the ARRL was approved! This will help immensely with the costs of the event. Also, our advertising plan is coming online! Some of you may have already seen the ads on the digital signs around the Agricenter. I think it looks great.



Our postal advertising is on schedule as well. By the time you read this it's likely that the team has finalized the design/layout of the postcards that we will have sent out. It looks very professional and I'm sure we'll show it off at the meeting.

We have had a couple things drop off the list for seminars but big news here is that we have the NWS participating and wanting to offer up seminars/tours of their own. So we are reserving a 3rd seminar room to accommodate that!

- Backup Power: Generators, Inverters, Batteries, etc.
- How is a Disaster Managed: A Practical Guide Volunteers.
- Disaster Response: Lessons Learned
- Understanding Disaster Communications: Lessons Learned
- Building Your Communications Equipment Go-Kit
- Building Your Personal Equipment Go-Kit
- Meshtastic: Getting Started
- DMR (Digital Mobile Radio): Getting Started
- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV)

We are steadfastly marching toward April 11th quickly. If you are willing and able, please think about how you can contribute to the event's success and sign up at the link below any time.

<https://forms.gle/62DC8xpcMoC94DRd6>

Roster of Committee Members

1. Chairman - Steve Frazier KK4VPT
2. Publicity - Fred Miller KS2X
3. Seminars coordinator - Billy Freeman WL4BMX
4. FCC Testing – Bob White AI4GI
5. Treasurer - Paul Broom KY4MX

Delta Club Training

Tech Class 2-26 – February 23 – April 6, 2026

A Technician license class is being held on six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on February 23, March 2, 16, 23, 30 and April 6. The classes will be via Zoom except for the 5th class which is an opportunity to take the FCC exam. There is no class on March 9th. There were 13 students in the first class. Eleven students are continuing their studies.

The instructors are Bobby KD5BS, Paul KY4MX, John KN4BVH, Perry N4GJ, Paul KA4X, Don KZ4GJ and Joe WA4OVO.

The next **General** license class will probably start in early November 2026.

Extra Class 1-26 – January 3 – February 21, 2026

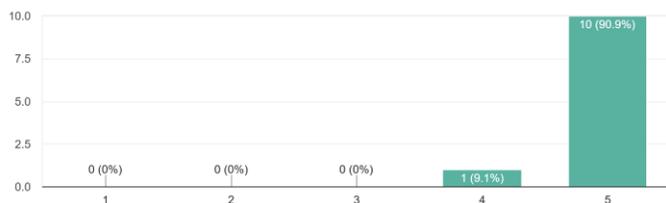
Congratulations to Larry KQ4DFU who passed his Extra exam at the Delta Club FCC test session on January 13th. Congratulations to Johnathan KO4WAQ and Rajesh KR4CPZ (now NA4AH) on upgrading to Extra at the in-person FCC exam on Saturday, February 21st at Germantown Fire Station #4. The Delta Club ARRL VEC team provided the FCC test session. Congratulations to Jim KC1VAS who upgraded on March 7th at his Port City ARC test session.

February Membership Meeting Signal Report

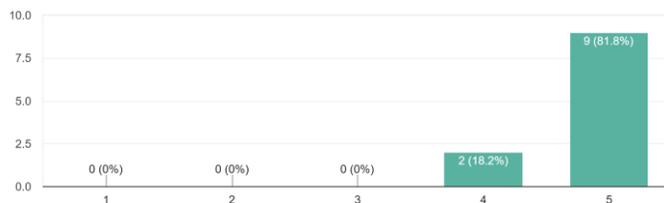
I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had 38 people on the sign-in sheet and 11 surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback on how 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.

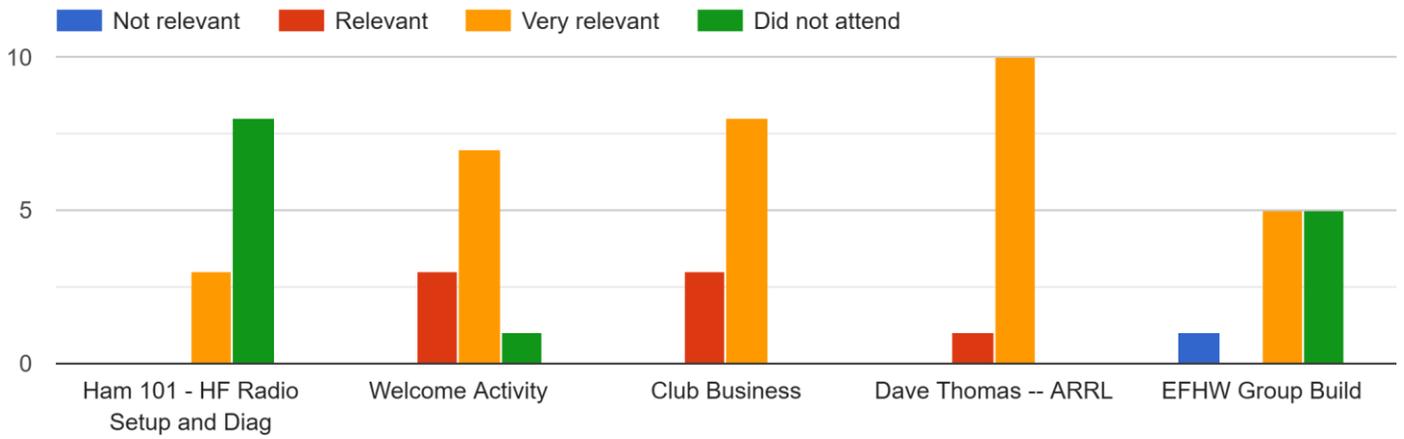
How satisfied were you with the event?
11 responses



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



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



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

- Antenna setups
- Satellite coms
- Soldering

News and Articles for our Membership

President's Corner Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

It is amazing to believe that it is March 2026. It is time to SPRING forward and jump into the changing of the seasons. March means that our big spring event is just around the proverbial corner! The Mid-South Radio Active Expo is here! It is April 11th from 9 am to 5 pm. But wait, there is even more fun planned around the next corner as we look ahead to Field Day in June (June 27th and 28th for those making calendar entries)! Don't forget we close the summer out with our annual bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on August 22nd. Lots of fun activities are planned for our club members.

We have received some good news regarding the Expo. The ARRL is finalizing the approval of the grant request that we sent them regarding the Expo event. While the indications are that grant was not 100% funded (80% is what we are being told), it is substantially funded! We are excited to be bringing a new approach to introducing Amateur Radio and its adjacent hobbies to the community here in Memphis and the surrounding areas. We still have many opportunities and needs for volunteers at the Expo. Please take a minute, if you have not already, and fill out the form at the QR code above. The link is <https://forms.gle/Mu185Ssrut8nHVcA6>



I would like to ask that you please renew your membership. If you have already renewed, thank you. If you have not please come join us at the membership meeting this week and let us work with you to get your membership renewed. At twenty dollars it is a fantastic value. We are working hard to move towards a means to accept electronic payments and I would give a huge shout out to our treasurer Paul Broom for doing the hard work of getting the details worked out so that we are able to do so. Please bring your cash, check or electronic method to the next meeting and let us get your membership renewed.

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

A quarter of the way into the year already. Hopefully everyone is having fun and catching some good contacts over whichever mode you prefer the most. And hopefully some of you are trying new things. I look forward to continuing my own adventures and new things as the club continues to grow, and we continue to get new faces in. It's important to show that our hobby has a wide range of things which can be enjoyed by so many different people.

As you are aware, we are also preparing to host the very first Memphis ham fest through our club at a new location. We've been very busy working behind the scenes to make sure it's what we think everyone will enjoy. Please make sure to attend and spread the news to your friends that might not be a part of the club so that we can have a fine turnout. We will continue to build on it and grow it in the future, and you can know that you were part of changing something for the better.

Thank you all for what you do and for being loyal members to the club and to the hobby and I look forward to continuing to serve you in the future.

73

Tyle Henley, KQ4QEV

Program's Corner
Submitted by Adam White, K4SPB

Discord QR Code – Scan this with your Discord App on your mobile device to gain access to this new resource!



Youtube Addict

- **How time is measured at NIST**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wY0kn2wvld4>

- **Generators/Inverters-Bonded vs Floating Neutral**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gchq6G5Wc8M>

- **Antenna Modeling for Beginners – Dipoles – Part 1**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWaLDe5smYs>

- **Compare Ham Radio Antennas to Other Stations in Your Grid square**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7uMX9H_O2M

Repeater Trustee's Corner Submitted by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

I hope to see everyone at the April Expo. There are a lot of forums planned. Latest plans show that we need 3 rooms to get all the forums in. Please plan on supporting this effort to keep a valuable resource in the community. Got a lot to sell? Think about a table. For less than what it would cost to ship an item, you can have a table indoors. It is an excellent opportunity to network with other hams with some eyeball QSOs. See the person on the other end of the RF.

I've had a few people show interest in working with repeaters. I welcome all help. Sometimes the work is technical, sometimes it is just getting heavy stuff to where you need it. One of the best and most helpful ways to help is money. Your dues are a big part. A year's dues is less than a meal for one at a local restaurant. Consider giving extra when paying your dues.

I am an Extra Class ham, but I didn't upgrade until 3 years ago. For me, it was a renewed interest in the hobby that got me going. I have a BS Electrical Technology degree, so I just needed to focus for a little bit to review the material and take the test. I remember my advanced high school math class where my classmates would always ask "why do we need to know

this?". The teacher had material on a board of what different parts of math are needed for. The point is really to learn it all because you never know what you will need in the future. The same can be said for the General and Extra tests. The material is very relevant to a lot of things, especially repeater and RF work for the club. Consider upgrading your license as motivation to go further in the hobby.

See you at the club events!

Dan
AA4DF

Packet Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

A new software package allows you to operate ham radio over the internet. The software is called PEANUT. You can run the software on the following systems.

- Android 9.x or higher.
- Windows 10 and higher
- iOS 18 and MacOS 15

You must register on PEANUT to show you have a valid amateur radio license. Once you get on the system you have a virtual radio on the screen you can use.

- There are local rooms like SPANISH, DUTCH, ENGLISH, JAPANESE, KOREAN etc. These rooms are in HD quality.
- The ROOMS starting with REF, XRF and XLX are connected via remote AMBEServers to D-Star reflectors.
- The ROOMS starting with DMR, TGF, FRE and HBL are connected via remote AMBEServers to DMR masters
- The ROOMS starting with YSF are connected via remote AMBEServers to YSF Fusion reflectors

Here is the web address for the website

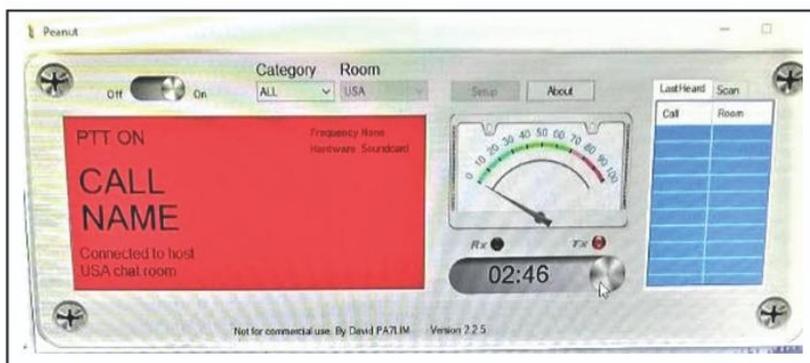
<https://www.pa7lim.nl/peanut/>

The web address for the software is

<https://software.pa7lim.nl/peanut/STABLE/>

The website for the QSL review is

<https://www.qsl.net/kb9mwr/projects/dv/multi/Ham%20Radio%20Peanut.pdf>





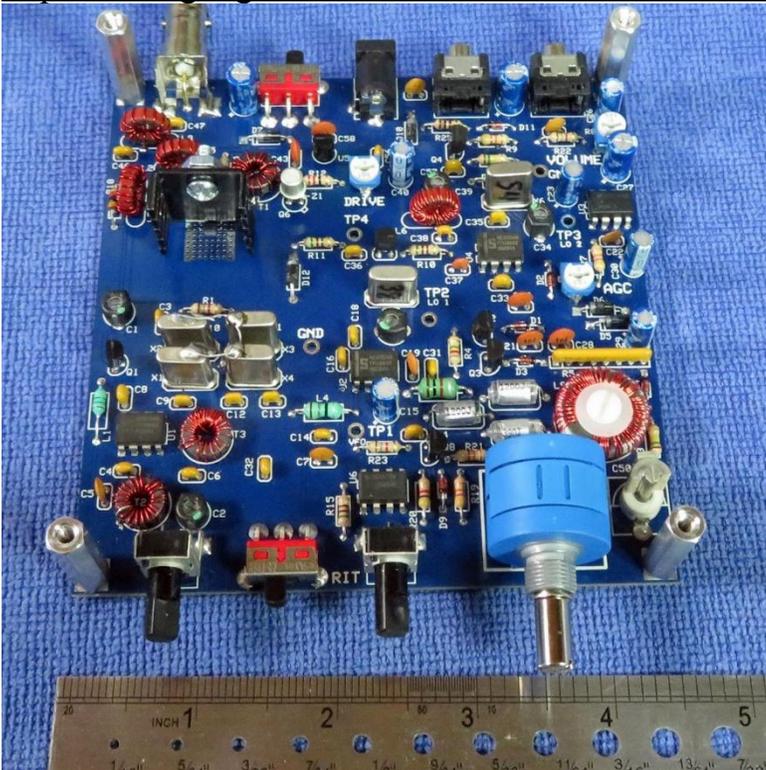
James Butler
KB4LJV

Amateur Hardware Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

In the 1990s The NorCal QRP club released a kit QRP transceiver. The radio was small, light, low power consumption, and 2.5 watts output. NorCal could not keep this kit in stock and sold them for years. With a quiet receiver and full QSK switching this CW rig was the one everybody wanted. The little 40 meter CW rig was designed by Wayne Burdick. They quit making the kits years ago but now NMOS Electronics has come out with an improved version of the original kit. The radio is called the NorCal 40B radio. The unit is a kit you put together. You can download the manual from the site to look at what it takes to assemble the kit. The new kit comes with the single PC board, all the parts to assemble, and a case for the unit. If you are looking for a small 40 meter QRP rig check this one out. The web address is

<https://sites.google.com/nmos.com/home/norcal-40b>





James Butler
KB4LJV

DARC Director's Reports

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Paul Broom, KY4MX

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

<https://deltaclub.org/membership>

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

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

Blank applications are also available at club meetings. If you prefer, you can print and bring the completed form, along with applicable membership fees, to any in-person meeting. Please contact Paul Broom, KY4MX at **treasurer@deltaclub.org** with any questions or concerns regarding application submission and/or payment of annual dues.

LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS					
January 31, 2026 through February 27, 2026					
SUMMARY					
Beginning Balance	\$12,873.72	Minimum Daily Balance	\$12,873		
Deposits & Credits	\$289.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$13,023		
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -				
Fees	\$0.00 -				
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +				
Checks	\$66.52 -				
Ending Balance	\$13,096.20				
DEPOSITS & CREDITS					
02/03	Deposit - Thank You		125.00		
02/13	Deposit - Thank You		104.00		
02/17	Deposit - Thank You		40.00		
02/24	Deposit - Thank You		20.00		
Total Deposits & Credits			\$289.00		
CHECKS					
<u>Date</u>	<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>			
02/13	1677	66.52			
DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY					
<u>Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>
02/03	12,998.72	02/17	13,076.20	02/24	13,096.20
02/13	13,036.20				

Applications Received - January 2026		
(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(1) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$20.00
(1) New Membership(s) - Family		\$25.00
(11) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$220.00
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$0.00
(2) Donations Received		\$4.00
	Total Dues Received	\$269.00
Other Deposits & Credits		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)		\$0.00
(0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$0.00
Sale of Delta Club Patches (0 @ \$5)		\$0.00
Estate Sales		\$0.00
Expo - Table sales		\$20.00
	Total Other Deposits	\$20.00
	Total Deposits	\$289.00
Withdrawals & Debits		
None		\$0.00
	Total Withdrawals	\$0.00
Checks		
Check #1677 - Josh Cunningham - Refreshments		66.52
	Total Payments	\$66.52

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,649.91	3.680 %	\$52.16	\$4.56
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER *8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$52.16	\$227.01	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	2/22/2026	9/21/2026	
▲ Hide More Details			

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8503

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$12,060.24	2.960 %	\$89.64	\$38.20
HIDE ACCOUNT NUMBER 0160868503			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$89.64	\$448.45	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	1/22/2026	5/22/2027	
▲ Hide More Details			

2026 Budget Proposal

2026 Budget Proposal	2023 Proposed	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	2024 Actual	2025 Proposed	2025 Actual	2026 Proposed
Donations (cash)	50.00	400.00	50.00	739.00	50.00	1,346.46	500.00
Donations for Internet Hotspot (Necessary for DMR repeater)					456.00	456.00	-
Membership (Jan. thru Dec.)	2,000.00	1,640.00	2,000.00	2,570.00	2,000.00	1,815.00	2,000.00
ARRL Affiliated Club Commissions	-	155.00	-	5.00	5.00	35.00	-
Club Patches	-	-	-	-	80.00	110.00	-
Estate Sale	1,500.00	5,882.65	1,500.00	783.00	750.00	754.36	750.00
Advertisement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Huntsville Trip	2,500.00	1,857.00	2,500.00	2,224.00	2,500.00	2,925.00	2,500.00
Donations - Huntsville Hamfest Bus Scholarship 2023	-	746.00	-	-	-	-	-
Donations - Huntsville Hamfest Bus Scholarship 2024	-	-	200.00	1,400.00	-	385.00	-
Interest Income						675.46	500.00
Other - Antenna Order	-	-	-	-	-	1,339.00	-
Other - Misc	-	-	-	-	-	123.00	-
Radio Expo - ARRL Grant	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,650.00
Radio Expo - Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,800.00
Total Estimated Income:	6,050.00		6,250.00		5,841.00		22,700.00
Total Actual Income:		10,680.65		7,721.00		9,964.28	
Tn. Annual Report	(120.00)	(20.95)	(120.00)	(20.95)	(50.00)	(20.46)	(25.00)
Meeting Space Donation	(300.00)	(500.00)	(300.00)	(300.00)	(400.00)	(400.00)	(400.00)
Training	(50.00)	(50.00)	(50.00)	-	(50.00)	-	(50.00)
Zoom Meeting Annual Subscription					(174.69)	(174.68)	(350.00)
Website Hosting Annual Fee					(171.08)	(171.09)	(175.00)
Domain Name Registration					(51.49)	-	-
Meeting Refreshments	(500.00)	(754.43)	(800.00)	(579.19)	(800.00)	(483.14)	(650.00)
Food (December Meeting)	(100.00)	(64.98)	(100.00)	(53.50)	(100.00)	-	(100.00)
Door Prizes	(500.00)	(461.80)	(500.00)	(498.85)	(500.00)	(500.00)	(650.00)
PO Box (Annual Rental)	(312.00)	(332.00)	(332.00)	(342.00)	(352.00)	(360.00)	(375.00)
Equipment Insurance	(236.00)	(235.48)	(236.00)	(235.48)	(300.00)	(302.11)	(350.00)
Club Liability Insurance	(200.00)	(200.00)	(200.00)	(200.00)	(200.00)	(200.00)	(200.00)
Repeater System Maintenance	(1,000.00)	(4,010.45)	(1,000.00)	(5,289.11)	(1,000.00)	(737.27)	(1,000.00)
Repeater Site Internet Access (One-Time Equipment & Activation Fee)					(299.83)	(299.83)	-
Repeater Site Internet Access (Service \$120/Year)					(120.00)	(120.00)	(150.00)
SouthEastern Repeater Assn.	(35.00)	(70.00)	(35.00)	-	(35.00)	-	(70.00)
Field Day	(250.00)	(227.65)	(250.00)	(187.17)	(250.00)	(174.96)	(350.00)
DARC Board Discretionary Fund	(1,000.00)	(1,305.95)	(1,000.00)	(694.69)	(1,000.00)	(247.17)	(1,000.00)
Huntsville Trip	(3,000.00)	(2,758.78)	(3,000.00)	(3,241.38)	(3,300.00)	(3,564.78)	(3,875.00)
Free Fest Donations	(200.00)	-	(200.00)	(170.00)	(250.00)	(200.00)	-
Other - Antenna Order costs						(1,348.00)	-
Other - KrakenSDR receiver							-
Radio Expo - Expenses						(2,640.00)	(10,650.00)
Projected Total Expenses	(7,803.00)		(8,123.00)		(9,404.09)		(20,420.00)
Actual Total Expenses		(10,992.47)		(11,812.32)		(11,943.49)	
Checking Acct:	20,112.52		21,696.94		15,248.39		12,967.94
CD #8481	5,025.01		5,107.73		5,370.74		5,597.75
CD #8503	11,062.00		11,248.05		11,522.15		11,970.60
Total	36,199.53		38,052.72		32,141.28		30,536.29

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

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes March 3, 2026

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting - March 3, 2026

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Secretary Perry Hayes N4GJ, Treasurer Paul Broom, KY4MX, Director of Meetings and Special Events Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB.

Absent: Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

Guests: Hamfest Expo Chairman Steve Frazier, KK4VPT.

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on March 3, 2026, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present.

President Joe Plunk called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

Secretary Perry Hayes called the roll and declared a quorum.

President Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said it was "Crunch Time" - less than 5 weeks until our Expo.

Joe Plunk asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Secretary's Minutes, which were circulated by email. There were none. Joe asked for a vote to recommend the minutes to the membership. The vote was unanimous.

Paul Broom presented the new and renewal membership applications that had been received since the February BOD meeting. Perry Hayes made a motion to accept all of the applications, which was seconded by Joe Lowenthal. The motion passed without opposition.

Treasurer Paul Broom presented the March Treasurer's Report, covering transactions for the month of February. Paul also reported that the Club's Certificate of Deposit ending in *8481 received an interest payment during the month.

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

There was a discussion about bills that are expected to be presented in March. No BOD members were aware of any bills coming due.

Joe Plunk discussed the program topics for Ham 101 and the March Membership Meeting, which had been submitted by Director of Programs Adam White. Adam needed to be a few minutes late to the meeting.

Joe Plunk said that the Bylaws Committee did not have a report.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek said that the 146.82 repeater has been sounding better this month. It seems to have a mind of its own. Dan said that a tower climb will be needed, with a revamp of parts and antennas. Dan said it might cost around \$7,000 to fund the climb and the necessary equipment. Dan will be working on a detailed proposal to submit to the membership.

There was a discussion about filing a claim with DARC's equipment insurance carrier, as well as applying for a grant from ARRL to fund the project.

Joe Plunk asked all of the BOD members to submit articles for *Sparks*.

Director of Publications Jonathan Urschel said he was going to work on adding the new members to the publications email list after their applications are approved. Perry Hayes said that he had just sent the master membership list out to the BOD members by email.

Joe Plunk noted that Field Day is 90-100 days away. DARC will focus on Field Day after the Expo hamfest. Joe reported that he talked with Nashoba Amateur Radio Club President Fred Miller, KS2X, and learned that the site at the Germantown Municipal Park has been secured for this year. Discussions are underway about the possibility of offering classes and about having the tower truck at Field Day.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said he had already been contacted by the Huntsville Hamfest about renting tables in the flea market area. The Hamfest will be held on August 22nd-23rd. There was a discussion about whether DARC should purchase two tables, as usual. There was a consensus that the club should purchase two tables again this year.

Joe Lowenthal said he is also reaching out to an additional bus company for an estimate.

Joe Lowenthal said that three students from the recent Extra Class License class have now passed their exams. He also said that 11 students are participating in the current Technician Class License class. The Tech class runs through April 6th.

Joe Plunk thanked Joe Lowenthal for his dedicated service as an instructor for Delta Club. He said there was an effort underway to nominate Joe for the ARRL's Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award. Joe Lowenthal said he was not eligible, since he has won the award in the past.

Joe Plunk recognized Steve Frazier, the chairman of the Expo Hamfest Committee.

Steve said that he had just received word from ARRL Foundation President (and Delta Division Director) David Norris, K5UZ, that the ARRL Foundation has approved an \$8,000 grant to support this year's Expo Hamfest. Steve and Joe Plunk said that the ARRL Foundation was very impressed by DARC's grant application.

Steve said that he listed the Expo on the ARRL event calendar. ARRL is sending gift certificates, which can be used as door prizes.

Steve said Fred Miller has been working hard on the mailing for the Expo. Plans are to send postcards to licensed hams inside a 15-mile radius of Memphis.

Steve said he would be working on the floorplan and contacting the company that handles the tables and chairs. He said he will also be reaching out to vendors. Steve said he planned to install barriers near the entrance to the Expo, so visitors would pass by the admissions/ticketing area and ARRL area on their way in.

There was a discussion about door prizes, and whether someone would need to be present to win. A vote was held and it was determined that winners would need to be present to win the lesser prizes, but not the Grand Prize.

Joe Lowenthal reported that Rick Tillman and Rick Kanschat offered to give DARC the barrel for the prize drawings – as long as DARC agrees to keep it. Steve is going to reach out to Art Barnett to see if they would let him have the artwork for the tickets.

Steve said that Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, will be working on a STEM corner. The National Weather Service may offer enough seminar content that a third seminar room may be needed.

There was a discussion about having a page with information about the Expo on the DARC website, as well as a link to a flyer. There will be similar information available on Facebook. Jonathan Urschel said he will be working on that, and the publications distribution list.

There was a discussion about using a payment service, such as Square, to accept payments at the Expo. There was also a discussion about the need for change, if participants want to pay with cash.

Joe Plunk asked if any BOD members had any further comments. He said he was grateful to everyone on the BOD.

Perry Hayes reported that he will need to miss the March Membership Meeting.

Paul Broom reported that he had sent the required postcard to the IRS and had filed an Annual Report with the State of Tennessee.

Joe Plunk said that Zoom offers special terms to non-profits, and he is looking into converting the DARC Zoom account.

Director of Meetings and Special Events Josh Cunningham said he would be purchasing food and drinks this week for the DARC Membership Meeting. He said he had tested a keyer, and he also congratulated Jonathan Urschel on passing his Extra exam.

Joe Lowenthal said that a couple of students from the recent Extra Class License class were still studying for their exam. He said the class is already at its normal 50% pass rate. Joe also said he is happy with the number of students (11) currently participating in the Technician Class License class.

Joe will purchase the tables for the Huntsville Hamfest and examine options for the bus trip.

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

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

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 6:30pm, via Zoom.

Minutes of Last Month's Club Meeting Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Membership Meeting

February 10, 2025

The February 2026 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 10th at First Evangelical Church (First Evan). 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 38 members and visitors in attendance.

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Treasurer Paul Broom, KY4MX, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Director of Meetings and Special Events Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ.

Absent: Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

President Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Joe Plunk asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves and talk about their favorite amateur radio mode.

Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, moved to accept the Secretary's Minutes and Treasurer's Report, as published in *Sparks*. There was a second by Don Strahl, KZ4GJ. The motion passed without opposition.

Joe Plunk asked if any BOD Members had announcements.

Vice President Tyler Henley said he was looking forward to the Radio Active Mid-South Expo (Expo) and Field Day.

Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel commented on Adam White's "YouTube Addict" article in the February issue of *Sparks*. Johnathan said Adam had a good idea, and encouraged everyone to submit their ham radio video recommendations for future installments of "YouTube Addict."

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal reported that 6 students attended the last Extra Class License Class session. There is one last class this Saturday and testing the following Saturday.

Joe said 18 students have confirmed for the next Technician Class License Class, which will begin on February 23rd. One application is pending and a maximum of 20 students will be allowed to participate.

Joe also said that Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, Chairman of the Expo Hamfest Committee, had cards printed to promote the hamfest. Joe distributed cards at the Tipton Amateur Radio Society (TARS) meeting, and TARS purchased the first table.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek reported that no additional progress has been made on any technical issues since the last meeting.

Dan said a visit to the Methodist North site may be conducted soon. Dan also said that he and Tom Diciara, AC5MR, may use Tom's drone to examine some of DARC's repeater sites.

Joe Plunk gave a recap and update on the Expo Hamfest. Joe said that the venue was secured, advertising on the electronic billboards at the Agricenter has been arranged, the application for the ARRL Foundation grant has been submitted, vendors are trickling in, progress has been made on the table layout, security has been lined up and 10 forums are scheduled.

Joe said volunteers are needed to work the concession stand, to coordinate the door prizes and to solicit vendors.

Anyone interested in buying a table at the Expo should send an email to hamfestchair@deltacub.org. The fee is \$20 dollars.

The website for the Expo is deltacub.org/expo.

Joe Plunk announced that the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary will not be able to host any DARC meetings until the fall. The club will continue to meet at First Evan, until further notice.

Director of Programs Adam White introduced the evening's speaker, ARRL Tennessee Section Manager Dave Thomas, KM4NYI. Dave joined the meeting via Zoom.

Dave talked about the organization and the leadership of the Tennessee Section. He also talked about the many benefits of ARRL membership for individuals and affiliated clubs.

Dave said that ARRL is the national voice for amateur radio - especially with Congress. He spoke about the important work that the League does on spectrum defense.

Dave also mentioned some exciting operating events that are happening later this year. ARRL will be sponsoring the America250 Worked All States event, and the Tennessee Section will offer an opportunity for hams to operate as W1AW.

Joe Lowenthal reminded everyone of ARRL's "Pass the Bill Campaign" in support of the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act. He encouraged everyone to visit www.arrrl.org/current-legislation, where you can easily send a letter to your congressman and senators.

Adam White announced that the club now has a Discord server, called "DARC Ham Radio."

Dan Fleek asked everyone to include a call sign in their Discord nickname. Joe Plunk said it is possible to have a different nickname for each server.

Adam White also talked about plans for a future group build of End-Fed Half-Wave (EFHW) antennas. The cost for materials should be around \$25 dollars. The build may be scheduled for a Saturday, or may take place over multiple "Ham 101" sessions. More details to follow.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Don Strahl made the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Randy Redd, KQ4HJH. The motion passed unanimously.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:07pm.

Delta Ham License Training, 2026

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 2026 from Delta Classes

0 Technician

0 General

4 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. This manual will change on July 1st of this year.

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 **Technician** license class will start in early July 2026.

The next **General** license class will probably start in early November 2026.

The next **Extra** license class will probably start in early January 2027.

CURRENT CLASSES

Tech Class 2-26 – February 23 – April 6, 2026

A Technician license class is being held on six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on February 23, March 2, 16, 23, 30 and April 6. The classes will be via Zoom except for the 5th class which is an opportunity to take the FCC exam. There is no class on March 9th. There were 13 students in the first class. Eleven students are continuing their studies.

The instructors are Bobby KD5BS, Paul KY4MX, John KN4BVH, Perry N4GJ, Paul KA4X, Don KZ4GJ and Joe WA4OVO.

PREVIOUS CLASSES

Extra Class 1-26 – January 3 – February 21, 2026

An Extra Class license class was held via Zoom on 5 Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm on January 3, 10, 31, February 7 and 14. There was not a class on January 17 and 24th to allow the students and presenters to participate in Swamp Stompers and Winter Field Day. Ten students started the class: Gary KC1OXM, Michael KQ4QLJ, Tim KQ4FBF, Larry KQ4DFU, Barry KC4SVR, Rajesh KR4CPZ, Raul, Jim KC1VAS, William KQ4UEO, Barbara WA5CFB and Johnathan KQ4WAQ. Six students completed the class. The instructors were Don KZ4GJ, David KY4FH, Josh KQ4IOS, Dave AD4Q, Paul KA4X, Carolyn KX4QF, Bobby KD5BS, John KN4BVH and Joe WA4OVO.

Congratulations to Larry KQ4DFU who passed his Extra exam at the Delta Club FCC test session on January 13th. Congratulations to Johnathan KO4WAQ and Rajesh

KR4CPZ (now NA4AH) on upgrading to Extra at the in-person FCC exam on Saturday, February 21st at Germantown Fire Station #4. The Delta Club ARRL VEC team provided the FCC test session. Congratulations to Jim KC1VAS who upgraded on March 7th at his Port City ARC test session.

Previous Months' and Nice to Know Information

How to Print Your FCC License

How to Print Your FCC License

1. Go to <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp>
2. Enter your FCC Registration Number (FRN) and Password and click on Submit.
 - A. If you do not know your FRN, go to [License Search](#)
<https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp>
 - B. Under License Search in center of page, to the right of By Call Sign, enter your callsign and click on Search. (Your FRN is in the center of the page.)
 - C. If you do not know your Password, click on Contact Tech Support after Forgot your Password?
3. When My License screen comes up, go to the green shaded box with Download your official authorization [here](#). Click on here.
4. Under Download Authorizations screen, highlight your callsign in the My Authorization area at the bottom.
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 the screen. (If pop-ups are blocked, click on Allow One.)
7. Click on the printer icon to print your License.
8. Sign 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!

2026 Board of Directors

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VACANT

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Public Information Officer

OPEN

Club Historian

John Reiners, KN4BVH
KN4BVH@comcast.net
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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
Drive Time Chatter	146.850	-600hz no PL tone	6:30am-7:45am and 4:45pm-5:45pm	Daily
Drive Time Chatter	443.200	+5MHz, +(107.2)	6:30am-7:45am and 4:45pm-5:45pm	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)	8:30p	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		9:00pm	Wednesday
Crowley's Ridge ARC	147.150	+(107.2)	8:30p	Wednesday
Crowley's Ridge ARC	145.450	+(107.2)	8:30p	Wednesday
Tipton ARS	145.490	+(100.0)	7:30p	Thursday
Olive Branch ARC	147.255	+(79.9)	8:30p	Thursday
OBARC Linked	444.700	+(107.2)	8:30p	Thursday
ARES Training Net	146.850	-(107.2)	9:00p	Thursday
TN Statewide DMR Net	DMR – TG3147		8:00p	Friday
Four-Forty Net	443.200	+(107.2)	8:30p	Friday
Neshoba Club Info Net	146.625	-(107.2)	8:30p	4 th Monday

TENNESSEE HF NETS

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

(Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)

3980 kHz – Tennessee Phone Net
 Mon-Fri - 5:40 AM, 6:45 AM & **5:30 PM** (5:30 pm beginning Nov. 9 evening)
 Saturday - 8:00 AM & 5:30 PM
 Sunday - 8:00 AM only
 Holidays - 8:00 AM only

DELTA CLUB ADVERTISEMENTS



Hamsource
Quality Accessories for the Shack and Field
John Kalotai, N1OLO
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 Shelton, CT 06484

203-556-8700

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

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

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



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



Joe Miller
 Owner

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