

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 126 * July 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, July 14th, 2026.

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 beings at 5:30 pm in room A109**
- **HAM 101 begins at 6:00 pm in room E234**
 - **KrakenSDR demonstration and radio direction finding**
- **Membership Meeting begins at 7:00 pm**
 - **Part One - 146.82 repeater project vote**
 - **Part Two - Field Day 2026 recap**
 - **Part Three - Open-source HF data: Mercury and HERMES**

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!

MEETING LOCATION UPDATE

Until further notice, our current monthly meeting location is:

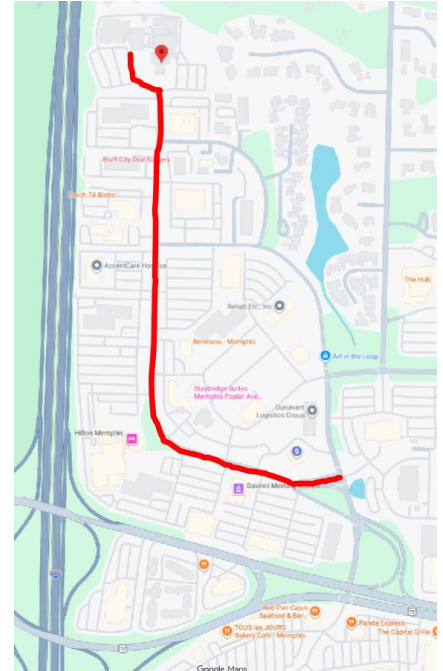
**First Evangelical Church
735 Ridge Lake Blvd
Memphis, TN 38120**

Monthly membership meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Ham 101 begins at 6:00 p.m., and FCC testing registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

The church is near Poplar Avenue and I-240, down the street from the Hilton Hotel.

We are not currently able to move back to the Arlington location because our request for meeting space was rejected.

The board welcomes suggestions for other possible meeting locations.



HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST BUS TRIP - AUGUST 22, 2026

DARC is sponsoring a 50-passenger bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on Saturday, August 22, 2026. The fare is \$120 when paid by cash or check; the online Square price is \$125. 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. Breakfast, water, sodas, chips, and fruit are included. There are no refunds, but a seat may be transferred to someone else. As of the July 7 board meeting, 27 riders had registered.

Cash, checks, or Square processing will be accepted for payment. Make checks payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club. You can pay at a meeting or send your check to Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, 6675 Ashbridge Cove, Memphis, TN 38120. Include your name, callsign, cell phone number, email address, and biscuit preference.

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, by 6:30 a.m. It will leave Huntsville immediately after the 4:00 p.m. door-prize drawing and return at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Park in the back on the northeast side of Germantown Baptist Church so vehicles are covered by security cameras.

The Huntsville Hamfest website is www.hamfest.org



Pay for the trip online!



Pay for your Training online!

Delta Club Training

Tech Class 3-26 – July 13 – August 17, 2026

A Technician license class is being planned on six Monday nights. Need at least five students registered to make it an effective class. A new format is proposed using Ham Radio Prep videos that each student will view during the week and a question and answer (Elmer) session will be on the following three Monday nights. The first class will cover a local introduction and the first three HRP lessons. The first four classes are to be on July 13, 20, 27, August 3 from 7:00-9:00 pm. The fifth class (August 10 from 6:15-9:30 pm) will be a review of the question pool and an opportunity to take the FCC Technician exam. The sixth class (August 17 from 6:15-9:30 pm) will be equipment demonstrations on repeater basics, APRS, satellites and digital basics (DStar, Fusion, DMR, and Echolink). The location will be at First Evangelical Church, 735 Ridge Lake Blvd, West Entrance, Room A124

The class fee is \$30 and includes discounted access to the Ham Radio Prep program through Delta Club. Payment may be made in person or through the club's Square store.

Caution: the **Technician question pool changed July 1, 2026.**

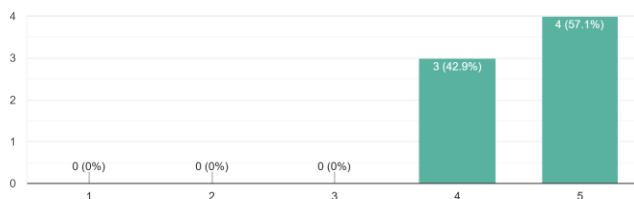
To register for the class, send an email to wa4ovo@gmail.com with Subject: Tech Class, and name, email address and cellphone number in text.

June Membership Meeting Signal Report

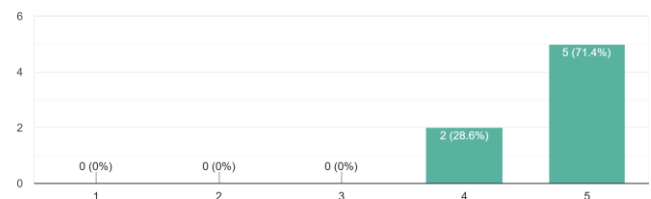
I wanted to share the "Signal Report" from last month's meeting. We had 34 people on the sign-in sheet and seven surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data, the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback on how 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.

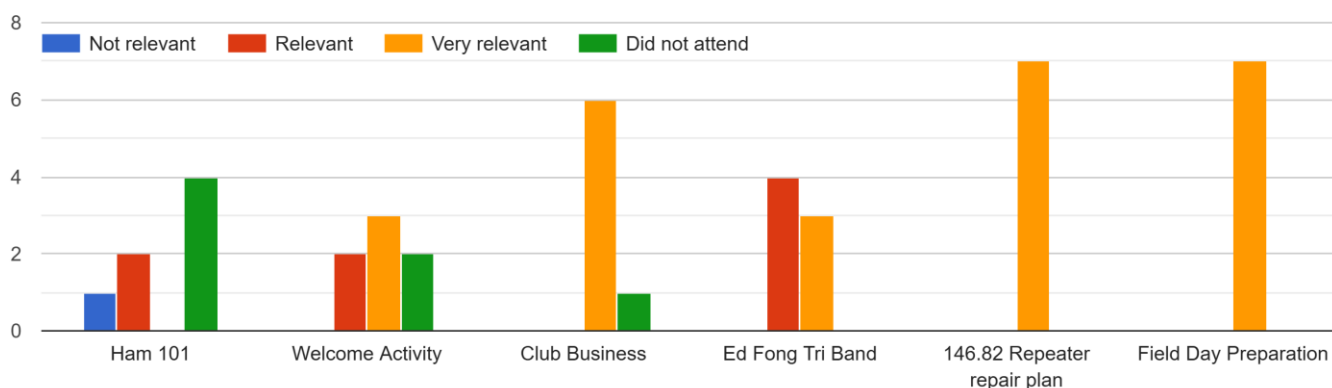
How satisfied were you with the event?
7 responses



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



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



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

1 response

Hams Over IP

[News and Articles for our Membership](#)

President's Corner

Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

What a fantastic time I have had since I wrote my last article. We have put the 2026 Field Day in the books. I think it was a wonderful success. We had a good group of people from both clubs (Neshoba and Delta) come to the event. We had some good publicity, and we even had an elected official drop into the event on Sunday. Please look for a separate article that covers the fun we had at Field Day.

Since our last meeting, we have received news that our meeting-space request for an Arlington location has been rejected. Until further notice, we are meeting at our current location, First Evangelical Church, 735 Ridge Lake Blvd.

I would like to ask that you plan on attending our membership meeting on Tuesday, July 14, and let us know your thoughts on the repeater project. The board has discussed many options, and we have heard the membership asking us to get the .82 repeater healthy. We plan to present the plan this Tuesday, and we will need the membership to approve it. A brief recap of the plan can be found in the minutes published in this issue of Sparks, and we will go into all of the details at the membership meeting.

I would like to ask that you please renew your membership for 2026. If you have already renewed, thank you. If you have not, please join us at the membership meeting this week and let us help you renew. At twenty dollars, it is a fantastic value. We now accept electronic payments through the club's Square store ([pay online](#)), or you may bring cash or a check to the meeting. If you are unable to attend the membership meeting and would like to renew, please send us an email and we will work with you to complete the process electronically.

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

Field day 2026 has come and gone. What a successful event we had as a club and for those who couldn't participate hopefully you enjoyed your day as well. If anything, this year showed that our hobby is continuing to see growth across a vast variety of age groups. Whether new to the hobby or trying new modes, hopefully some valuable lessons were learned by all. It also means that half the year has now gone by. WOW! That might be shocking to all. Hopefully, it's also exciting for what the back half of the year has in store for all your lives. There are still plenty of things that can be done. The Tennessee QSO event is now just a few short months away along with myriad other contest tournaments and Hamfests that can be attended. We also have a lot going on with the club as we are preparing to do some much-needed repairs to our Brunswick site to get better usage out of the repeaters. So, continue to stay tuned and show up to the meetings to see how you can be a lasting part of the legacy of our club

Program's Corner

Submitted by Adam White, K4SPB

Mercury: An Open-Source HF Data Modem

Rhizomatica's High-frequency Emergency and Rural Multimedia Exchange System (HERMES) project is developing Mercury, an open-source alternative to the VARA modem. Mercury is written in C and can run as a web server or through a Python graphical interface. It includes OFDM modulation and ARQ and is compatible with clients that use VARA, including Pat, Winlink Express, and VaraC. Amateur Radio Digital Communications supported the work through a grant.

[Mercury and HERMES press release](#)

KrakenSDR Grant

The club has received an ARDC grant to purchase a KrakenSDR, a five-channel coherent software-defined radio with GPS. With a properly arranged antenna array, it can compare time of arrival across channels to estimate the direction of a transmission. The educational package also includes a Raspberry Pi and a case. The KrakenSDR will be on display during Ham 101 before the July membership meeting.

[KrakenSDR product information](#)

Repeater Trustee's Corner

Submitted by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

I had a really good time at Field Day. We operated as a 6A for the first time as a club. We had 17 different operators. If you wanted to operate a radio, there were plenty of opportunities. I enjoyed working at the 20-meter station Sunday morning. Since getting into HF a little more with my own setup, 20 meters has been my starting point to learn the ropes. I hope to get some POTA in soon. I am hoping the weather cooperates this winter and we can operate on Winter Field Day.

We are proceeding along in working on the finances for the repeater work at the Brunswick site. Please attend this month's meeting to see what is going on. If you are not able to attend, watch the YouTube video of the meeting.

More people are popping up on DMR in the area. Memphis Metro has people from all over the area. The local Delta talkgroup is also there when you are rag-chewing locally. Get on the radio and talk!

Dan AA4DF
W4BS Trustee

Field Day 2026 Recap

Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

ARRL 2026 Field Day

We had a fantastic Field Day this year. We operated as a 6A location. Going back to 2000 in the ARRL records, the club had never operated as anything larger than a 5A. 6A means that we had six active transmitters going at the same time. What a major accomplishment for the club to plan and activate six active stations in less than four hours of setup time.

Some statistics from our N3FJP logging software:



The GOTA station was another powerhouse this year, with five youth operators and 63 contacts. A huge shout-out of thanks to Jim McLean, K4XO, for the tri-band Yagi and Fred Miller, KS2X, for the rotor that we were able to put on top of the EMA tower and use to make some amazing contacts.



An excellent recap video is available on the Delta Club YouTube channel: [Watch the Field Day recap](#)

Total Contacts by Band and Mode

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
80	16	11	66	93	11
40	139	55	83	277	31
20	0	244	37	281	32
15	24	89	83	196	22
10	0	9	26	35	4
Total	179	408	295	882	100

Total Contacts by Country

Country	Total	%
USA	812	92
Canada	31	4
Puerto Rico	9	1
Hawaii	5	1
Alaska	3	0
Japan	3	0
Australia	2	0
Federal Republic of Germany	2	0
Mexico	2	0
US Virgin Is.	2	0
Bahrain	1	0

Country	Total	%
Colombia	1	0
Costa Rica	1	0
Cote d'Ivoire	1	0
Curacao	1	0
France	1	0
Italy	1	0
Monaco	1	0
Portugal	1	0
Spain	1	0
The Gambia	1	0

Total countries: 21 | Total DX miles (QSOs in the USA not counted): 177,984 | Average miles per DX QSO: 2,543

YouTube Addict

- [Kraken Radio Direction Finding Unit Setup Tutorial and Demo](#)
- [This Tiny Device Decodes and Sends Morse Code](#)
- [Build & Test - 3-Element DX Yagi... Without a Gamma Match!](#)
- [5 Things New Hams Only Learn After Getting Licensed](#)
- [POTA with the Kiddos at Lake Livingston State Park!!](#)

Packet Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

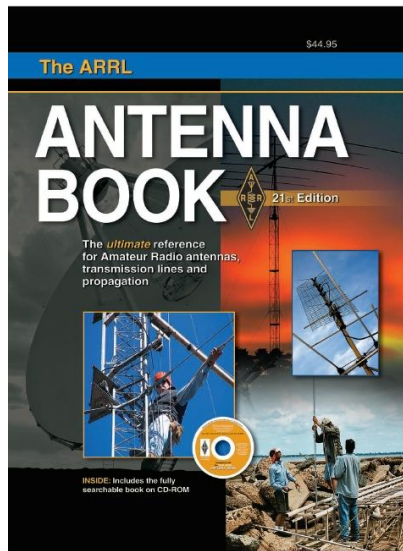
Many amateurs attend hamfests, where tables are filled with new and used radio equipment and companies demonstrate new products. Prices change constantly, so a hamfest is a good way to learn what is available. Major events such as Hamvention in Dayton draw manufacturers from around the world. Amateurs also post videos from hamfests large and small. These walk-through videos let viewers pause on equipment, read price tags, compare how often a model appears, and get a sense of national used-equipment prices. Search YouTube for “hamfest” to explore this useful source of radio and electronics information.

James Butler
KB4LJV

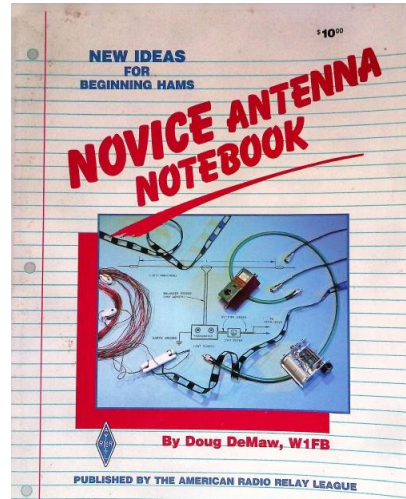
Amateur Hardware Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Many amateurs want to learn antenna theory and build their own antennas. The ARRL has published antenna books for many years in softcover and hardcover editions, covering HF, VHF, UHF, microwave, and satellite work. Other publishers also offer books with theory and construction diagrams. Older references can often be found online or through used-book sellers. Searching for “antenna book” on the web or eBay can uncover both downloadable material and affordable printed editions.



ARRL Antenna Book



A classic novice antenna reference

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

May 30, 2026 through June 30, 2026

SUMMARY

Beginning Balance	\$22,479.12	Minimum Daily Balance	\$22,479
Deposits & Credits	\$2,172.09 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$23,364
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$0.00 -		
Ending Balance	\$24,651.21		

DEPOSITS & CREDITS

06/08	Deposit - Thank You	100.00
06/10	Square Inc Sq260610 Delta Amateur	386.69
06/15	Deposit - Thank You	640.00
06/15	Deposit - Thank You	100.00
06/17	Square Inc Sq260617 Delta Amateur	170.30
06/22	Square Inc Sq260622 Delta Amateur	96.40
06/22	Square Inc Sq260622 Delta Amateur	96.40
06/23	Square Inc Sq260623 Delta Amateur	96.40
06/25	Deposit - Thank You	100.00
06/29	Square Inc Sq260629 Delta Amateur	192.80
06/30	Square Inc Sq260630 Delta Amateur	193.10
Total Deposits & Credits		\$2,172.09

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY

Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
06/08	22,579.12	06/17	23,876.11	06/25	24,265.31
06/10	22,965.81	06/22	24,068.91	06/29	24,458.11
06/15	23,705.81	06/23	24,165.31	06/30	24,651.21

Applications Received -June 2026

(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$0.00
(1) New Membership(s) - Family		\$25.00
(2) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$40.00
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$0.00
(0) Donations Received		\$75.00
	Total Dues Received	\$140.00

Applications Received -June 2026		
Other Deposits & Credits		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members - Family (\$20.00)		\$0.00
(0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$0.00
Estate Sales		\$0.00
Huntsville - Bus Fares		\$2,075.00
Square Fees		(\$42.91)
	Total Other Deposits	\$2,032.09
	Total Deposits	\$2,172.09
Withdrawals & Debits		
None		\$0.00
	Total Withdrawals	\$0.00
Checks		
Ch#1689 - Joe Plunk - Zoom renewal (\$97.87 outstanding)		\$0.00

Applications Received -June 2026		
	Total Payments	\$0.00

Certificate of Deposit Summary

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,700.83	3.680 %	\$103.08	\$25.92
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER *8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$50.92	\$227.01	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	5/22/2026	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>
\$12,148.58	2.960 %	\$177.98	\$74.11
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER *8503			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$88.34	\$448.45	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	4/22/2026	5/22/2027	
▲ Hide More Details			

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

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, Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Director of Programs, Adam White K4SPB, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF.

Absent: Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

Guests: Steve Frazier, KK4VPT.

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on July 7, 2026, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present.

President Joe Plunk called the meeting to order at 6:32pm

Secretary Perry Hayes called the roll and declared a quorum.

President Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked the BOD members for their contributions to Field Day.

Joe said that he looked at some historical records, and found that DARC had never had a Field Day station designated higher than 5A. This year's station was a 6A, with 6 transmitters operating simultaneously. Joe said it was a great accomplishment.

Joe Plunk asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Secretary's Minutes, which were circulated by email. There were none. Johnathan Urschel made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Dan Fleek. The motion passed without opposition.

Paul Broom presented the membership applications that had been received since the June BOD meeting. Perry Hayes made a motion to accept all of the applications, which was seconded by Johnathan Urschel. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Paul Broom presented the July Treasurer's Report, covering transactions for the month of June.

Perry Hayes made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Dan Fleek. The motion passed without opposition.

There was a discussion about bills that are expected to be presented in July.

Joe Plunk and Adam White discussed the program topics for Ham 101 and the July Membership Meeting.

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

Joe Plunk asked everyone to send their Sparks articles to Johnathan Urschel as soon as possible.

Joe Plunk led a discussion about Field Day. Joe said the event was a huge success and a fantastic experience. There were six transmitters operating, which did require some coordination. Joe said that Tyler Henley's family rocked the airwaves. The combined effort with Nashoba Amateur Radio Club consisted of 17 operators who made 882 contacts over a 24-hour period. The GOTA station had 63 contacts.

Joe Plunk and Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek then led a discussion about the proposed tower climb project at the 146.82 repeater site in Brunswick. The BOD will recommend a course of action to the DARC membership at the July meeting. The membership will vote on whether to fund the project, which is not part of the 2026 budget.

Joe Plunk thanked Paul Broom for gathering the necessary financial information and for presenting the BOD with several funding scenarios for the tower climb project.

There were discussions about the cost of the climb project, the cost of the antennas and other materials, the connectors that will be used, DARC's bank and CD account balances, the budget for DARC yearly operations and the Expo hamfest, charitable donations and the grant application that was submitted to the ARRL Foundation for a sum of up to \$5,000.

There was a consensus that the tower climb project could be fully funded from DARC bank accounts, without impacting 2027 club operations, the Huntsville hamfest bus trip, or the Expo hamfest. The estimated cost will be in the \$12,000-\$13,000 range. Antennas, jumpers and connectors could be purchased from regular club funds and the tower climb itself could be funded by the ARRL Foundation grant, or by cashing out a club CD when it matures in September. That would leave DARC cash reserves in the same position as before the climb project.

One generous donor has already made a substantial contribution toward the tower climb. Joe Plunk said that other members might also make donations, which would help to defray the cost of the project.

Joe Lowenthal made a motion that the BOD ask the membership to approve an expenditure of up to \$14,000 for the 146.82 tower climb project. There was a second by Johnathan Urschel. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Lowenthal also made a motion that DARC increase the membership fees to \$21 and the Huntsville bus trip fees to \$125, for those paying online through the Square store. This would cover the fees charged by Square.

There was a discussion about fees charged by Square, a charitable donation that DARC has received to cover fees charged by Square, and the ability to change the fees on the Square store website.

Jonathan Urschel seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

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

Tyler Henley said that he and his family had a great time at Field Day.

Joe Lowenthal said that 27 people have registered for the bus trip to the Huntsville hamfest. 2 BOD members will register shortly, bringing the number to 29. With 6 more registrations, the trip will break even financially. Joe has reserved 2 tables in the flea market area.

Expo Hamfest Chairman Steve Frazier said that he recently attended the Knoxville hamfest, and plans to attend hamfests in Nashville and Shreveport soon. Steve is taking the opportunity to speak with vendors and to gather ideas for future Expo hamfests and the Delta Division Convention.

Steve said that that space is not available at Agricenter International during the second weekend in April, 2027, so the dates of future Expo hamfests will have to be changed. Joe Lowenthal said that future dates should not be set during Easter weekend. Steve Frazier said that DARC should be ready to lock-in the future dates by the end of July.

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

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 7:37pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at 6:30pm, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Hayes, N4GJ

Secretary

Minutes of Last Month's Club Meeting

Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

The June 2026 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 9th 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 34 members and visitors in attendance.

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Treasurer Paul Broom, KY4MX, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Director of Meetings and Special Events Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ, Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

Absent: None

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

Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves and to say how many Field Day events they have attended.

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 is looking forward to participating in Field Day with Delta Club this year.

Treasurer Paul Broom thanked Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel for his help with the graphics on the DARC Square Store. Online payments will now be accepted for dues, training classes, contributions and the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest. The link will be published in Sparks.

There was a round of applause from the membership.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that two people have signed up for the Technician Class License Class, scheduled to begin on July 13th. Three people have expressed an interest in the class. Joe said a minimum of 10 students are necessary for the class to go forward.

Joe said that Ham Radio Prep (HRP) will be used as the study material for the class. DARC was able to get a discount, so students will only pay \$30 for HRP when they register through DARC.

Joe Lowenthal also said that 10 people have registered for the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on August 22nd. An additional 5 people have told Joe that they plan on going. Joe said that he discussed the bus trip at the Tipton Amateur Radio Society meeting, and some of their members were also interested. 25-30 riders will be needed for the trip to be economically viable.

Joe Plunk led a discussion about Field Day, to be held June 27-28 at Germantown Municipal Park.

Setup will begin at 9am on Saturday and the event should close down by noon on Sunday. Bathrooms will be available during the entire event and the Germantown Police Department will check the site periodically.

Joe said that he and Nashoba Amateur Radio Club (Nashoba) President Fred Miller, KS2X, have mapped out the locations for the stations and antennas at the site. They are waiting to hear about the availability of the EMA tower trailer. We will operate as a 5A station.

Nashoba will be responsible for providing the food this year. DARC and Nashoba will split the cost.

Joe said that a signup sheet will be circulated by email, so DARC and Nashoba can plan for the meals and the staffing of the various stations.

Joe commented that Field Day will be a great opportunity for new hams to learn about setting up stations, setting up antennas and getting on the air.

The primary source of power for Field Day will be portable generators. There will be plenty of fans, as well as a wifi network for logging.

Joe said he was very excited about the GOTA station, as well as working HF and VHF/UHF simplex.

After a short break, Director of Programs Adam White introduced the evening's speaker, Dr. Edison Fong, WB6IQN. Ed is a professor at the University of California - Santa Cruz. He joined the meeting via Zoom, and made a presentation entitled "A Tri Band Antenna for 2 meters, 220 MHz and 70cm Without Radials." Ed discussed the patented design of his TBJ-1 Tri-Band Base Antenna.

Following the evening's program, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek led a discussion about the proposed tower climb at the 146.82 repeater site in Brunswick.

Testing has determined that the noise problems on the repeater are originating at the top of DARC's space on the tower. The repeater team is recommending that a tower climb be made, and that three antennas, all of the connectors and all of the coax jumpers be replaced. The team would also like to put the 146.82 transmit and receive functions on different antennas.

Dan said that he and his team are preparing a final estimate for the cost of the climb, as well as all of the materials. The membership will vote on funding the climb at the July meeting. A rough estimate is approximately \$12,367.46.

A grant application for the tower climb has been submitted to the ARRL Foundation.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to complete a Signal Report survey before leaving the meeting.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Dave Church, AD4Q, made the motion, which was seconded by Don Strahl. The motion passed unanimously.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:42pm.

The next regular membership meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at First Evangelical Church, beginning at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Hayes, N4GJ

Secretary

Delta Ham License Training, 2026

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Director of Training

There is no charge for instruction. Students are responsible for the license manual, the \$15 ARRL FCC examination fee, and any course-specific study materials. The FCC also charges a \$35 administration fee for new licenses.

Licenses Earned in 2026 from Delta Classes

4 Technician • 1 General • 4 Extra

The Technician ARRL Ham Radio License Manual is the Sixth Edition, with the question pool effective July 1, 2026 for four years. The current General Class manual is the Tenth Edition, and the current Extra Class manual is the Thirteenth Edition.

Proposed Classes

Classes are generally six or seven sessions, one evening per week from 6:15-9:30 p.m., or on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The next General class will probably begin in early November 2026, and the next Extra class in early January 2027.

To express interest, email wa4ovo@gmail.com with "Tech," "General," or "Extra Class" in the subject line, plus your name, email address, callsign, and cell number.

Tech Class 3-26 - July 13-August 17, 2026

The Technician class is planned for six Monday nights and needs at least five registered students. Students will view Ham Radio Prep lessons during the week, followed by in-person question-and-answer sessions. The first four meetings are July 13, July 20, July 27, and August 3 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The

August 10 session, from 6:15-9:30 p.m., will review the question pool and provide an opportunity to take the FCC Technician exam. The August 17 session will feature equipment demonstrations covering repeaters, APRS, satellites, D-STAR, Fusion, DMR, and EchoLink.

Location: First Evangelical Church, 735 Ridge Lake Blvd., West Entrance, Room A124. The class fee is \$30 and may be paid in person or through the Delta Club Square store.

Date	Class / Topic
July 13	Local introduction and first two Ham Radio Prep lessons
July 20	Elmer question-and-answer session
July 27	Elmer question-and-answer session
August 3	Elmer question-and-answer session
August 10	Question-pool review and FCC Technician exam opportunity
August 17	Equipment demonstrations: repeaters, APRS, satellites and digital modes

Previous Classes

Tech Class 2-26 - February 23-April 20, 2026

The Technician class met on six Monday nights. Thirteen students attended the first class, and four completed the course. Congratulations to Rebecca KR4KNE (now N4BEX), who earned Technician and General, and to Dylan KR4LCK, Perry KJ4PJE, and Laura KJ5PJG, who earned Technician licenses.



Outdoor satellite demonstration



APRS and digital-mode demonstration

Equipment demonstrators included Rick Tillman WA4NVM and Richard Martin K4DXF on satellites, Rick Pellicciotti KJ4NWQ on APRS, and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO on repeater and digital-mode basics.

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

The Extra Class met by Zoom on five Saturdays. Ten students began and six completed the class. Congratulations to Larry KQ4DFU, Johnathan KO4WAQ, Rajesh KR4CPZ (now NA4AH), and Jim KC1VAS on passing or upgrading.

General Class 4-25 - November 3-December 8, 2025

The in-person General class met on five Monday nights at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms training room. Eight students started and six upgraded to General: John KQ4UIC, Dexter KJ5HMT, Michael KJ5MKR, Patrick KJ5MKS, Rajesh KR4CPZ, and Danny KR4CVH.



General-class students



Classroom discussion



Rules and regulations presentation



General-class session

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 the center of the 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

2026 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

July-September 2026

Date	Time	Event / Location
July 13	7:00-9:00 p.m.	Technician Class 3-26 - First Evangelical Church, Room A124
July 14	6:00 p.m.	Ham 101 and KrakenSDR display - First Evangelical Church
July 14	7:00 p.m.	DARC Membership Meeting and 146.82 repeater project vote
July 20	7:00-9:00 p.m.	Technician Class 3-26
July 27	7:00-9:00 p.m.	Technician Class 3-26
August 3	7:00-9:00 p.m.	Technician Class 3-26
August 4	6:30 p.m.	DARC Board of Directors Meeting - Zoom
August 10	6:15-9:30 p.m.	Technician review and FCC exam opportunity

Date	Time	Event / Location
August 17	6:15-9:30 p.m.	Technician equipment demonstrations
August 22	6:30 a.m.	Huntsville Hamfest Bus Trip - depart Germantown Baptist Church
September 7	-	No training meeting - Labor Day

SPARKS is published monthly by the Delta Amateur Radio Club and emailed to club members. All information is provided as a service. While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure accuracy, neither the club nor its officers assumes liability for errors or omissions.

Delta Amateur Radio Club • P.O. Box 342768 • Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768

For additional events, visit 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
Elmer Net	147.030	+ (107.2)	7:00p	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		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 (Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)	7.180		As needed

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

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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 First Evangelical Church, West
Entrance, 735 Ridge Lake Blvd



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



Joe Miller
Owner

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