

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 129 * October 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, October 13th, 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.deltaclub.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 p.m. in room A109**
- **HAM 101 begins at 6:00 pm in room E234**
 - Help Desk
- **Membership Meeting begins at 7:00 pm**
 - Part One - RATPAC Winlink Webinar

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!

Until further notice, our current monthly meeting location is:

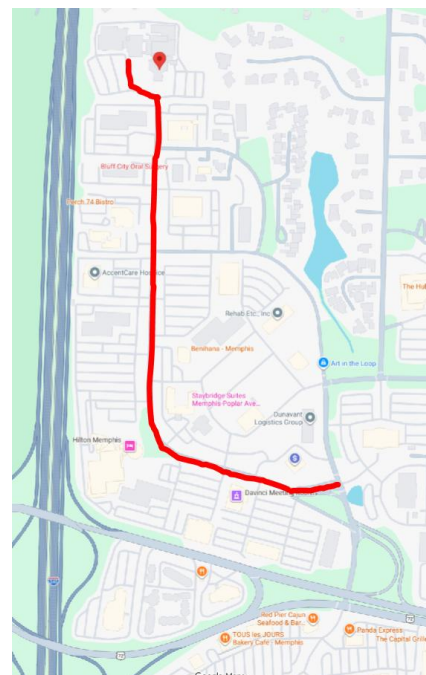
First Evangelical Church
735 Ridge Lake Blvd
Memphis, TN 38120

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.



146.82 REPEATER MAINTENANCE — OCTOBER 19–20

The new antennas have arrived. Weather permitting, the tower climb will begin midmorning on Monday, October 19. The 146.82 MHz repeater will be out of service during the work on October 19 and 20.

GENERAL CLASS 4-26 — OCTOBER 29–DECEMBER 10, 2026

A General license class is proposed for six Thursday nights from 7:00–9:00 p.m. on October 29; November 5, 12, and 19; and December 3 and 10, provided at least six students register. The location will be First Evangelical Church, 735 Ridge Lake Blvd.

Students will watch Ham Radio Prep videos during the week and attend a question-and-answer (Elmer) session. The class fee is \$30. To register, email wa4ovo@gmail.com with “General Class” in the subject line and include your name, callsign, email address, and cellphone number.

BLUFF CITY BLUES RIDE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED — OCTOBER 17

DARC will again support the Memphis Hightailers Bluff City Blues Ride. The ride starts and finishes at Grind City Brewing Company, with 20-, 40-, 62-, and 100-mile routes through northern Shelby County. It begins at 7:30 a.m. and usually has a 4:00 p.m. cutoff.

Communications will use the 146.82 MHz repeater. Most positions can be handled with a handheld; a higher-power mobile unit works better on some parts of the course. Volunteers drive the routes, report riders’ progress, and assist riders between support stations. Beer, barbecue, and live music follow the ride. Route information: <http://www.bcb100.com>.

To volunteer, contact Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, at sfrazier1@bellsouth.net or 901-218-6385. Steve will also be available at the October 13 membership meeting.

BARTLETT FIRE DEPARTMENT PANCAKE BREAKFAST — OCTOBER 17

DARC plans to participate in the Bartlett Fire Department Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, October 17, from 7:00–11:00 a.m., with a tent showcasing amateur radio.

2027 BOARD NOMINATIONS AND NOVEMBER DOOR PRIZES

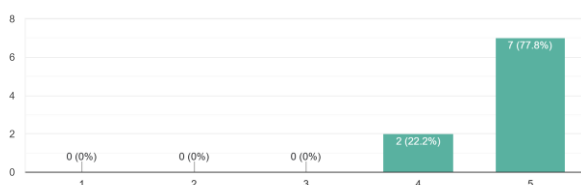
Tom Butas, KM4AEM, chairs the Nominating Committee for the November board elections. Anyone interested in serving on the 2027 board should contact Tom; Director of Programs is an open position. Send November door-prize ideas to Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ, at publications@deltaclub.org.

September Membership Meeting Signal Report

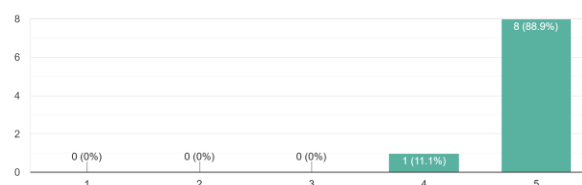
I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had 40 people on the sign in sheet and 9 surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback on how 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.

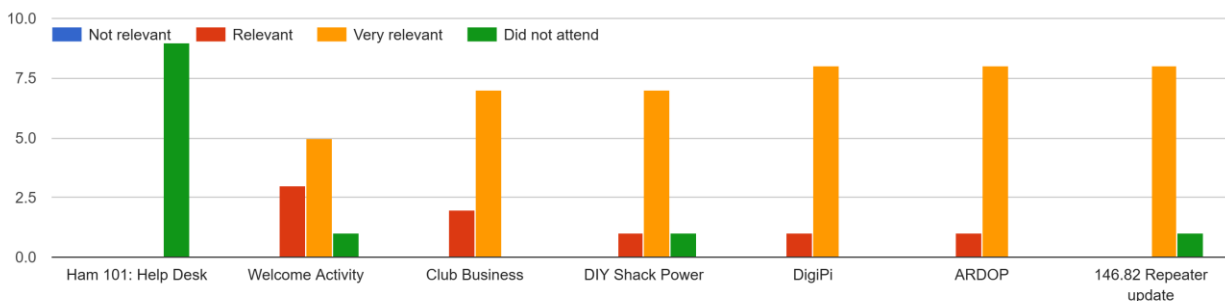
How satisfied were you with the event?
9 responses



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



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



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

2 responses

- I have not attended
- Hams Over IP

What is one thing you would like to see the club do next year?

5 responses

- Point to point contact with another station nationwide/worldwide/ISS
- Community events - Ham Demonstrations
- Pota day or days during year at some local
- Local / regional HF communications.
- Put winlink on tower. Soldering

President's Corner

Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

Now that the summer heat has broken and we head into the coolness of fall, it is time to think about the end of our year at Delta Club. We have our nominations opening up at the October membership meeting and nominations closing at the November membership meeting. I am pleased to announce that the serving board members are planning on returning. We have a couple of positions that are moving around and a new face or two joining us. While I am sad to see a few of our current board members move to the next calling in their life, I am excited to have some new faces join us all on the board.

The board currently has an open position for next year. We are in need of a person to be our Director of Programs. In addition, we need to find a couple of people to assist our current secretary and treasurer. If you would be willing to help lead our club please reach out to myself or any of the board members.

I am sure that you will read about it in additional articles in this issue but I did want to let our members know that we have all 3 of the new antennas for the 146.82 and 443.70 repeaters in our possession. We also have a date on the calendar to have the tower climbing company come out and climb the tower to put up the new antennas as well as inspect, validate, and repair (if needed and possible) all three of the coax runs up the tower. The tower climbing company will also prepare for us any needed jumpers for use at the top of the tower to connect our coax to the new antennas. Look for lots of pictures and maybe some video in the next few weeks. The dates that are on the calendar are October 19th and 20th, provided that the weather does not throw us any unexpected curve balls. If you are interested in seeing what is involved in this process please reach out to our Trustee, Dan Fleek (AA4DF) or myself. We would love to have you join us and watch the process.

I would like to ask that you please renew your membership for 2027. You are also welcome to renew for 2026, if you have not done so. 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 now have electronic payment acceptance via Square (check out this link to pay <https://delta-amateur-radio-club.square.site/>), or if you prefer, bring your cash or check to the 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

Activities coming up for the Delta Club:

- October Membership meeting – October 13th – Board members are nominated at this meeting
- Bluff City Blues Bike Ride – October 17th 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM – Delta Club supports this annual bike ride with logistics and radio coverage where cell coverage is not available.
- Bartlett Fire Department Pancake Breakfast – October 17th 7 AM to 11 AM – Delta Club has been invited to have a tent and showcase Amateur Radio
- 146.82 repeater repair and tower climb is scheduled – October 19th and October 20th.
- November Membership meeting – November 10th – Our annual board member elections and door prize giveaway
- December Membership meeting – December 8th – Our annual Christmas dinner potluck and social gathering

Vice President's Corner

Submitted by Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV

Fall is here. Slightly cooler temperatures have brought our family outside. Hopefully it has done the same for you. This might also bring some great chances to do some new POTA activations, or to make those repairs you have spent the very hot summer dreading to do. Maybe you even now have the time to do some modifications or the introduction of new equipment to your shack. Whatever it is, just know that winter will be here soon and you will not want to go out due to the cold. So utilize this time wisely. I am looking forward to seeing how we as a club move forward. Especially with the work we are putting into the Brunswick tower. This will hopefully be a great tool for those of us who love the VHF/UHF bands. I know I do and am looking forward to seeing how the loss of leaves on trees changes the dynamic of some things. Anyway, I look forward to seeing how this season treats all of you. Stay safe, and 73.

Program's Corner

Submitted by Adam White, K4SPB

October Membership Meeting Program

HAM 101 at 6:00 p.m.: Help Desk.

The membership-meeting presentation will be the RATPAC Winlink Webinar.

WebCHIRP

Many of you are likely familiar with CHIRP, the free radio programming software that supports more than 500 radio models. CHIRP is constantly being updated, so if you haven't used it in a while, you will likely have an update notification waiting for you. While it likely isn't necessary to update unless you're using a new radio, there's now a web-based version of CHIRP that will program your radio without any downloads. It's called WebCHIRP, and it's available at codeplug.org. Check it out next time you need to update your channel list.

[https://codeplug.org/](https://codeplug.org)

MacWinlink Presentation — November 4

If there are any Mac users among us, I have mentioned MacWinlink in SPARKS before. RATPAC will host a presentation by its creator on November 4 at 8:00 p.m. CST. Join using the link below. The passcode is RATPAC.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2128884758?pwd=RG94eEY2L3FiMEg0U3ZiWmhXaEdwdz37>

Repeater Trustee's Corner

Submitted by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

The tower climb for the 146.820 MHz site has been scheduled for October 19th and 20th. We had hoped to do it sooner, but had some ordering issues to sort out. We are now in possession of the antennas. The tower climbing company had some scheduled climbs, so we arrived at the 19th. Cross your fingers that the weather is good for those dates. We are working on doing videos of the effort so that you can see what we did.

As I write this, Hurricane Isaias is in the Gulf headed inland. We had a quiet hurricane season and this might be the only storm for the year. It is easy to put off emergency planning when we don't have emergencies for a while. Even though we just may get some heavy rain in the area, it is a good time to look at our emergency supplies. Do you have a go bag? Is your radio gear charged and ready? Do you have a plan to keep your radios going for a few days? Do you have tools to keep things going? I saw photos of people after the North Carolina floods and many had what looked like an Anytone radio hanging from their backpack/go bag. Cell phones were gone. Are you ready?

Dan AA4DF W4BS Trustee

YouTube Addict

Don't Buy a Mobile Radio Until You See the Kenwood TM-D750

<https://youtu.be/WyPJKMC3wS8>

This Is What Ham Radio Clubs Should Be Doing

<https://youtu.be/Vb3kA2q5ZRY>

Meshtastic & MeshCore Just Got MUCH More Useful

<https://youtu.be/m2m-4iXngG4>

ALERT: Elecrow ThinkNode M9 Worm Virus Warning

<https://youtu.be/srqnXl1iNLQ>

The Only M17 Production Radio Available Today

<https://youtu.be/qH69ip7vpSQ>

modem73 v2.3.0

<https://youtu.be/Q0jjnnAQypc>

DARC Director's Reports

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

ARRL Tennessee Section Legislative Update

By David Thomas, KM4NYI, ARRL Tennessee Section Manager; submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

Our TN State Government Liaison, Andrew Gossett N5EI, has given a report on TN Senate Bill 459 which is currently in summer study. This bill pertains to medical cannabis cultivation facilities. Installations of this nature commonly utilize large installations of grow lights, which are a well known source of RF interference for amateur radio operators. The ARRL Laboratory has tested and documented several common brands of grow lights that grossly exceed FCC Part 15 and Part 18 emissions limits.

With the Tennessee Senate Bill 459 currently being studied, we have an opportunity to encourage an amendment to include safeguards to protect the public against RF interference. The request is narrow: a licensed facility should have a contact for interference reports, investigate credible complaints, and correct interference traced to its equipment. This protects public safety and amateur radio communications while leaving federal emission standards and technical interference findings with the FCC.

If you are interested in encouraging your elected officials to include language to protect us from RFI produced by these facilities, you can write or email your local legislator or a member of the TN Senate Judiciary Committee:

<https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/CommitteeInfo/SenateComm?committeeKey=670000&ga=114>

You can view a sample letter by going to the ARRL Tennessee website WWW.TNARRL.ORG
<<http://www.tnarrl.org/>> and click on "Section Update".

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

The Board of Directors Meeting Minutes will return in the November 2026 issue of SPARKS.

Member Submissions

Submitted by Joe Sanders, KM4JXS

Android Comms Tablet - QSO One App

In last month's newsletter I discussed setting up an Android Comms Tablet and listed a number of available apps to use. This month I would like to take an introductory look at one of those apps, QSO One. If you'd like to have Allstar, DMR, EchoLink, M17, and System Fusion comms capability in one easy-to-use app, QSO One deserves serious consideration.

QSO One can be downloaded free from both their website (@ <https://qso1.net/download>) and the Google Play Store for Android, and also from the website for Windows systems. There is also an indication it may be available soon for iOS and Linux. A current Ham license is required to use this app.

On Android devices download the "qso one" app from the Google Play Store and select "Sign Up" to get started. You'll need a free qso account before logging into the app. (On other platforms use the website above). You will also need your Radioid to get set up. If you don't have one yet you can sign up for your ID @ <https://radioid.net/>. Once you have your QSO credentials "Sign In" to the app.

One of the first screens you'll see is a must for setting your microphone transmit level for the AllStar mode. Speak and adjust as necessary to get a "Good" green bar indication for the correct level on your device. If it says "Too Hot" reduce the level. When you're satisfied click "SAVE".

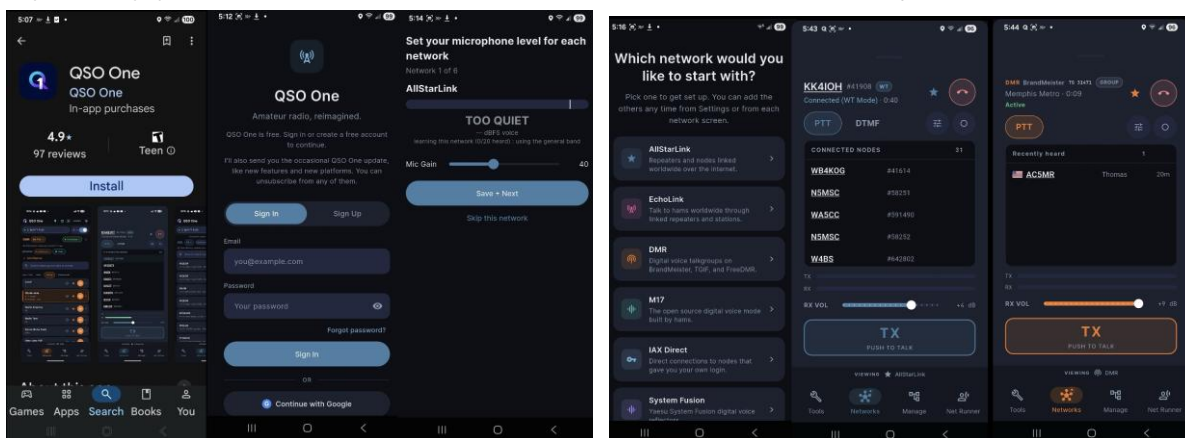
Once you've pressed "SAVE" you'll see what appears to be the same setup screen again! It's NOT the same. The transmit level for EACH mode must be set individually! So, repeat the same process for each mode. If you need to readjust your levels later you can navigate to Settings/Sound/Audio and make your changes there.

Next you'll be given the option to choose which mode to set up first. For this you'll need your login info. Fill in the request blanks then click "Save Identity ". You'll need to repeat this process for each mode you want to use. You can also re-edit your credentials by going to "Settings/Account".

The QSO One app is loaded with features and capabilities, and the developer is very responsive to his user's feedback. Color coding each mode in was a particularly nice touch for navigation. There is so much to explore in this app! I encourage you in each mode to save your favorite Talk Groups or Repeaters so you can find them quickly.

Also, don't forget to place the QSO One App icon on your devices Home Screen so you can quickly and easily launch it.

Try it, I think you'll enjoy the convenient comms it provides. Did I mention it's free? (contributions accepted)



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 38134-2768

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			
September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026			
SUMMARY			
Beginning Balance	\$26,449.59	Minimum Daily Balance	\$17,693
Deposits & Credits	\$8,091.63 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$23,425
Withdrawals	\$9,202.07 -		
Fees	\$105.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$90.02 -		
Ending Balance	\$25,144.13		
DEPOSITS & CREDITS			
09/08	Deposit - Thank You		5.00
09/09	Deposit - Thank You		195.00
09/10	Deposit - Thank You		176.00
09/14	Deposit - Thank You		250.00
09/23	Wire Transfer 1/Santa Fe Dis		1,694.25
09/24	Deposit - Thank You		5,771.38
Total Deposits & Credits			\$8,091.63
WITHDRAWALS			
09/10	Wire Transfer Santa Fe Distr		1,694.25
09/10	Wire Transfer Talley Inc		2,523.85
09/18	Wire Transfer Tessco		4,983.97
Total Withdrawals			\$9,202.07
FEES			
09/10	Wire Transfer Domestic Out F		30.00
09/10	Wire Transfer Domestic Out F		30.00
09/18	Wire Transfer Domestic Out F		30.00
09/23	Wire Transfer Incoming Fee		15.00
Total Fees			\$105.00

Applications Received - September 2026		
(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$0.00
(1) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(1) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$20.00
(1) New Membership(s) - Family		\$25.00
(2) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$40.00
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$0.00
(3) Donations Received		\$360.00
	Total Dues Received	\$445.00
Other Deposits & Credits		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Mem - Family (\$20.00)		\$0.00
(1) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$5.00
Estate Sales		\$176.00
Wire - Santa Fe - refund from cancelled order		\$1,694.25
CD Redemption (includes interest pymt of \$17.43)		\$5,771.38
Wire - Talley Inc - refund from cancelled order (\$2,523.85, received on 10/01)		0.00
	Total Other Deposits	\$7,646.63
	Total Deposits	\$8,091.63
Withdrawals & Debits		
Wire - Santa Fe Distributing - antenna order (subsequently cancelled - refunded above)		\$1,694.25
Wire - Talley Inc - antenna order (subsequently cancelled - refund received on 10/01)		\$2,523.85
Wire - Tessco - antenna order		\$4,983.97
	Total Withdrawals	\$9,202.07
Fees		
Wire Transfer Fees		\$105.00
	Total Fees	\$105.00
Checks		
Ch#1701 - Joe Lowenthal - Huntsville refreshments		\$90.02
Ch#1702 - Josh Cunningham - Meeting refreshments (\$9.59 pending)		\$0.00
	Total Checks	\$90.02

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8503

Available Balance	INTEREST RATE	YTD INTEREST	INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID
\$12,238.56	2.960 %	\$267.96	\$75.66
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER			
*8503			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$89.98	\$448.45	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	7/22/2026	5/22/2027	
▲ Hide More Details			

Minutes of Last Month's Club Meeting

Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Membership Meeting - September 8, 2026.

The September 2026 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 8th 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 7:05pm. There were 40 members and visitors in attendance.

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

Absent: Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV.

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 whether they participated in the Tennessee QSO Party.

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.

Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel announced that he is adding information for all of the DARC members into HamClubOnline, an amateur radio club management software suite. Johnathan said everyone should be getting an email about this soon. The email is not spam.

Johnathan mentioned the passing of James Butler, KB4LJV, who wrote many articles about ham radio hardware and software for the *Sparks* newsletter.

Joe Plunk encouraged everyone to submit articles for publication in *Sparks*.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that a General Class License Class is tentatively scheduled to begin on October 29th. The class would meet on six Thursday nights, excluding Thanksgiving, and would end on December 10th.

At least six students must be registered for the class to proceed. There will be a \$30 fee for the course material (Ham Radio Prep). Students may pay the fee online using the DARC Square site.

Joe Lowenthal said the ARRL is considering moving the Alabama Section from the Southeast Division to the Delta Division. Joe supports this move. There is a one-question online survey, where ARRL members from both Divisions can voice their opinions on the matter. ARRL Members can sign in to arrl.org and click on the survey: www.arrl.org/alabama-survey.

Joe Lowenthal said that ARRL members living in the Delta Division should have received an email from Division Director David Norris, K5UZ, about the survey. Joe said that if anyone is not receiving regular emails from David Norris, they should let him (Joe) know.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek said that he and Don Strahl will be traveling to Kansas City to pick up the antennas for the 146.82 tower climb. Dan hopes to pick up the antennas in September, and have the tower climb in October.

There will be separate antennas for the transmit and receive functions of the repeater. The antenna for the 443.700 DMR repeater will also be replaced during the climb.

Dan said that the repeater at the 146.625 site in Germantown is no longer working, and will need to be replaced.

Joe Plunk said that DARC did not receive a grant from the ARRL Foundation for the 146.82 tower climb. Plans are to cash in the club CD, which matures this month, and to deposit those funds into the checking account. This will maintain the club's cash reserves after the expenditures for the 146.82 tower climb.

Joe Plunk said that Tom Butas, KM4AEM, has agreed to serve as chairman of the Nominating Committee. The committee will certify and nominate the slate of candidates for the November DARC BOD elections. There is currently an opening on next year's BOD for the position of Director of Programs. Anyone interested in running for any position on the 2027 BOD should contact Tom.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to fill out a Signal Report Survey.

Director of Programs Adam White made three separate presentations for the members in attendance.

The first presentation was entitled "DIY Shack Power." Adam discussed how to use inexpensive computer power supplies to power your Amateur radio equipment. Adam talked about modifications that could increase the output of these power supplies to 13.8 volts. He also showed examples of how these power supplies could be integrated into systems that include battery and solar power.

Adam encouraged everyone to join the DARC Discord.

The second presentation of the evening was entitled "The KM6LYW DigiPi Project." The DigiPi, which was created by Craig Lamparter, is a Raspberry Pi-based transceiver for amateur radio digital modes.

Adam displayed the hardware that is required for the project, including a Raspberry Pi computer, a memory card, cables and a IPS display. Adam demonstrated the burning of the DigiPi image to a memory card, and the setup of several of the programs that are available on the device.

The third presentation of the evening was entitled "ARDOP Web Client." Adam discussed a web-based ARDOP client for Winlink email developed by DL2MAN in Germany.

Adam demonstrated the procedure for setting up the client to work with a radio. He showed how the DL2MAN client could be used to send and receive email messages.

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

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:27pm.

The next regular membership meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 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

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

10 Technician
1 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 Sixth Edition with question pool that becomes effective July 1, 2026 for four years. This is a new manual.

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 General, and Extra Class 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 Extra license class will probably start in early January 2027.

The next Technician license class will probably start in late February 2027

General Class 4-26 – October 29 – December 10, 2026

A General license class is proposed for six Thursday nights on October 29, November 5, 12, 19, December 3 and 10 if six students are registered. The location will be at First Evangelical Church, 735 Ridge Lake Blvd. A new format will be used using Ham Radio Prep videos that each student views during the week and followed by a question and answer (Elmer) class session. The class fee is \$30. The students can pay in person or online via the Delta Club Square link at <https://delta-amateur-radio-club.square.site/> To register, send an email to wa4ovo@gmail.com with Subject line: General Class and name, callsign, email address and cellphone number in text.

CURRENT CLASSES

None

PREVIOUS CLASSES

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

A Technician license class was held on six Monday nights. A new format was used using Ham Radio Prep videos that each student views during the week and a question and answer (Elmer) session was held on the following three Monday nights. The class fee was \$30. The students paid in person or online via the Delta Club Square link at <https://delta-amateur-radio-club.square.site/>

The first class covered a local introduction and the first three HRP lessons. The first four classes were on July 13, 20, 27, August 3 from 7:00-9:00 pm. The instructor/Elmers were Jim W4JBG and Joe WA4OVO.



First class for Tech Class 3-26



Satellite demonstration by Rick WA4NVM

The fifth class (August 10 from 6:15-9:30 pm) was a review of the question pool and an opportunity to take the FCC Technician exam. Six students took the FCC exam. Congratulations to Ed Dixon KR4OJZ, Shane Greer KR4OIM, James Jones KR4OIN, Joshua Miser KR4OHV, Makoa Pereira KR4OJB and Laura Steward KR4OIT earning their Technician licenses.

The Laurel VE Team of Jim W4JBG, Perry N4GJ, Jeff AJ4GY, Don KZ4GJ and Joe WA4OVO were the VEs for the FCC exams.

The sixth class (August 17 from 6:15-9:30 pm) was equipment demonstrations on repeater basics by Joe WA4OVO, APRS by Rick KJ4NWQ, satellites by Rick WA4NVM and digital basics (DStar, Fusion, and DMR) by John KN4BVH. Echolink was covered by Joe WA4OVO. The location was at First Evangelical Church.

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

A Technician license class was held on six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on February 23, March 2, 16, 23, 30 and April 20. The first four classes were Zoom while the 5th and 6th classes were in person. The 5th class was a review of the 399 questions of the question pool and to take the FCC exam. There were 13 students in the first class. Four students completed the class. Congratulations to Rebecca KR4KNE, now N4BEX, who earned Tech and General at the Delta Club test session on March 10th. Congratulations to Dylan KR4LCK, Perry KJ4PJE and Laura KJ5PJG on earning their Technician licenses.

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



Rick WA4NVM contacting Patrick WD9EWK on SO-50



Rick KJ4NWQ presenting APRS

The equipment demonstrators during the sixth class were Rick Tillman WA4NVM and Richard Martin K4DXF on satellites; Rick Pellicciotti KJ4NWQ on APRS; and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO on repeater basics and digital basics of D-STAR, Fusion, DMR, and Echolink.

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 KO4WAQ. 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.

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

An in-person General license class was held on five Monday nights November 3, 17, 24, December 1 and 8 from 6:15-9:30pm. The 5th class was an opportunity to take the FCC exam. The classes were held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms training room, 6850 Appling Farms Parkway.

Eight students started the class. The following six students upgraded to General: John KQ4UIC, Dexter KJ5HMT, Michael KJ5MKR, Patrick KJ5MKS, Rajesh KR4CPZ and Danny KR4CVH.



John KN4BVH on Safety



Carolyn KX4QF on Antennas



Paul KY4MX on Rules & Regulations



Randall KY4MY on Equipment

The instructors were Steve KK4VPT, Perry N4GJ, Josh KQ4IOS, Bobby KD4BS, Carolyn KX4QF, John KN4BVH, Paul KY4MX, Randall KY4MY and Joe WA4OVO.

The Delta Club ARRL VE Team provided the December 8, 2025 FCC test 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 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)
<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 membership includes digital access to QST, On the Air, QEX, and National Contest Journal, plus access to the ARRL Technical Information Service and other member resources. Visit www.arrl.org/join/WE1 or call 1-888-277-5289 in the United States (Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. ET); international members may call 860-594-0338.

Coming soon: ARRL is creating a new online membership form that will let new and renewing members select a participating affiliated club to receive commission credit. The club commission will be \$20 for new members and \$10 for renewals.

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

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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

October–December 2026

Date	Time	Event / Location
October 13	7:00 p.m.	DARC Membership Meeting — First Evangelical Church; board nominations
October 17	7:00–11:00 a.m.	Bartlett Fire Department Pancake Breakfast
October 17	7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.	Bluff City Blues Ride communications support
October 19–20		146.82 MHz repeater outage; tower work, weather permitting
October 29	7:00–9:00 p.m.	Proposed General Class 4-26
November 4	8:00 p.m. CST	RATPAC MacWinlink presentation — online; passcode RATPAC
November 5, 12, 19	7:00–9:00 p.m.	Proposed General Class 4-26
November 10	7:00 p.m.	DARC Membership Meeting — board elections and door prizes
December 3, 10	7:00–9:00 p.m.	Proposed General Class 4-26
December 8	7:00 p.m.	DARC Christmas dinner, potluck, and social gathering

For additional events, visit <https://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	6:30a-7:45a and 4:45p-5:45p	Daily
Drive Time Chatter	443.200	+5MHz, +(107.2)	6:30a-7:45a and 4:45p-5:45p	Daily
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		9:00p	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	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

DELTA CLUB ADVERTISEMENTS



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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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