

# SPARKS

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P.O. Box 342768 \* Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 \* Volume 109 \* February 2025

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Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC)

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## W4BS

### REPEATER SYSTEM

146.820 <sup>-107.2</sup>	147.360 <sup>+107.2</sup>
146.625 <sup>-107.2</sup>	443.200 <sup>+107.2</sup>
224.420 <sup>-107.2</sup>	443.700*
144.390 Digipeater	*DMR

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You are invited to attend our monthly membership meeting at 7 pm on: Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

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

- **FCC Testing begins at 5:30 pm in Room B201**
- **HAM 101 begins at 6:00 pm in Room B202**
  - Winlink Tech Support – Adam White, K4SPB
- **Meeting Programs begins at 7:00 pm**
  - How to create a DMR Code Plug by Adam White, K4SPB
  - Winter Field Day Recap by Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV

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

Mike Sparks, KW4RI, VE Liaison

Phone: 901-493-8338

Email: [KW4RI@outlook.com](mailto:KW4RI@outlook.com)

## Club Announcements!

### **HAM 101 Returns!**

Ham 101 this week will be Winlink Tech Support. Bring your laptop and soundcard/TNC (optional) and we will help you get it installed, set up, and configure a modem.

### **Delta Club Training**

All classes will be 3-1/4 to 4 hours long for six or seven sessions; one per week on a week night 6:15pm-9:30pm or Saturday day 9am-1pm. If interested in a class, send an email to wa4ovo@gmail.com with Subject line: Tech, General or Extra Class and name, email address and cellphone number in the email.

The next **Technician** license class will be Tech Class 2-25 – February 24 – April 7, 2025

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

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

### **Programs for 2025**

Please scan the QR Code below to access a survey for programs you would like to see in 2025. We will discuss this more in depth at the meeting.

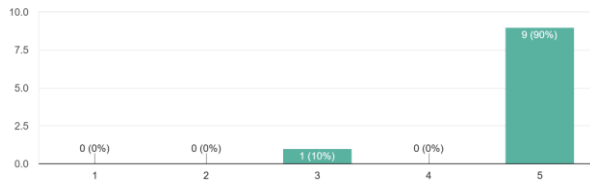


### **January Membership Meeting Signal Report**

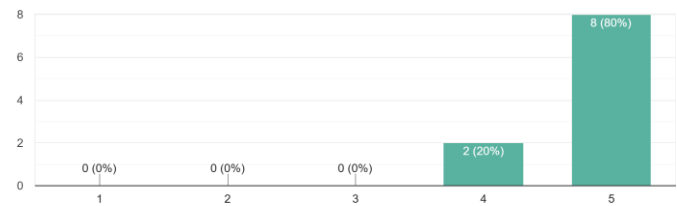
I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had 55 people on the sign in sheet and 10 surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback on how things are going. We want to hear from the membership, both good and bad. It gives us the opportunity to hear from you and respond. Our surveys allow us to quickly respond to things that are liked and things that are not liked. If we are doing something that is not getting good feedback we are committed to changing it and making it better. Please enjoy the results from last month below.

Thank you.

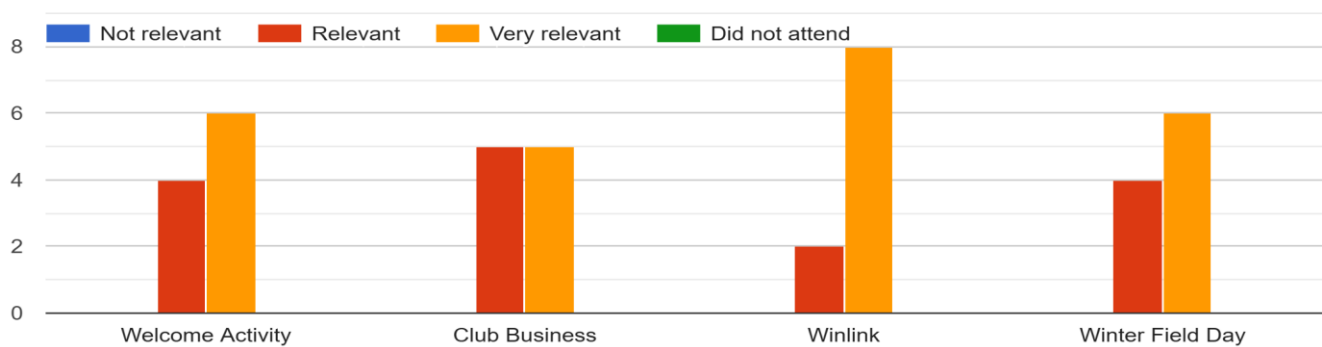
How satisfied were you with the event?  
10 responses



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



### Which sessions did you find most relevant?



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

(9 responses)

Coax stuff (connectors, types, ect)	Very good meeting. Great attendance. Enjoyed!	Make and Take type activity
More DMR since we are getting a new one.	Soldering, beginner electronic projects, mobile ham radio setup 101, qrp 101, antenna building and putting up 101, ham radio for the hearing challenged, contesting 101, Logging 101, how to create circuit boards 101, dxing 101, propagation 101, vhf & uhf dxing propagation & contesting.	Go thru yagi antenna build instructions with calculator and materials list and suppliers.
Antennas/SWR/all bands Very good meeting.	Equipment and modes, how to's are my favorites. The presentation tonight was one of those types.	5:30p

# News and Articles for our Membership

## **President's Corner** Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

This month I am thrilled to see a different type of excitement in our club and it has everything to do with new things. We as a club have done a couple of things in the past month that are new for a lot of us. We have turned up a new repeater and we participated in Winter Field Day. Now many may say well we have done those things in the past and those are not new things. I would counter back to you that indeed they are. The new repeater is a DMR repeater. Participating in Winter Field day was new this year in that it was initiated and lead by relatively new hams.



Why do I find a new repeater to be exciting? This is a new mode for the club and the membership asked for and approved this. It was exciting to get to see Dan Fleek (AA4DF) our Trustee turn on the power for the first time. It was even more exciting to see the Amateur Radio Community realize that the repeater was online and immediately start to use the new option that the club opened up to the community. I was shocked to see more than one operator jump on the new repeater before Dan and I were even able to get back home from the installation.

Winter Field day was exciting. The bands were open and HOT! The Winter Field day team logged 200 contacts as a 3H station in a relatively short time. It was thrilling to hear Japan with an S7 Signal on the 10m band! Many thanks again to Greg Henley, KQ4OVD, for opening up his QTH for us to use. His station setup is impressive. Please seek out any of the Winter Field Day team, you will be glad you did. Ask them about the excitement of making contacts and the fun of running a multi operator station in the Winter Field day exercise.

The joy that I have experienced during the last month reminds me of why we do this hobby. It is like the anticipation of gift sitting unopened. A big thanks to each of you for the time that you pour into our hobby and club. I look forward to working beside each of you to continue to make our club better and even more welcoming to all.

Lastly, please ask one person to join our club and have fun with us! We look forward to meeting them soon!

73

Joe Plunk, NS4E

**Vice President's Corner**  
Submitted by Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV

Hello all: we are in a whole new year with some wonderful things on the horizon. A small group recently took part in the Winter Field Day event and had a blast doing it. We understand that it was not exactly "close to Memphis", but it did allow us to see how this event works and most importantly, how to have a blast while doing it. We made 200 phone contacts plus a few Winlink contacts. We as a board look forward to bringing a great set up for next year. Additionally, we are in the beginning stages of the ARRL Summer Field Day Competition. We look forward to bringing forth a great idea of what to do this year to make it not only fun but also allow us to be competitive while bringing in contacts from around the world. If there are any ideas on things you would like to do, don't be afraid to reach out.

**Program's Corner**  
Submitted by Adam White, K4SPB

The BTECH UV-PRO continues to impress with its continual firmware updates. The latest firmware, 0.8.0, improves KISS TNC stability with automatic resend and improved ACK handling among other feature improvements. The UV-PRO is the simplest way on the market to establish packet radio communications at this time.

**Repeater Trustee's Corner**  
Submitted by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

What a month. We were able to get the DMR repeater on the air. Thanks to Joe NS4E and my son Antonio for helping with the install. In one week we have had 21 people use the repeater and the club talk group. Thanks to Ken Hunt W4KWH of Commserv for helping the ham community with your advice and sales and thanks to the club for your support. In the next month we will have opportunities to help others get on the air with DMR. Stayed tuned (haha). More repeater news to come.

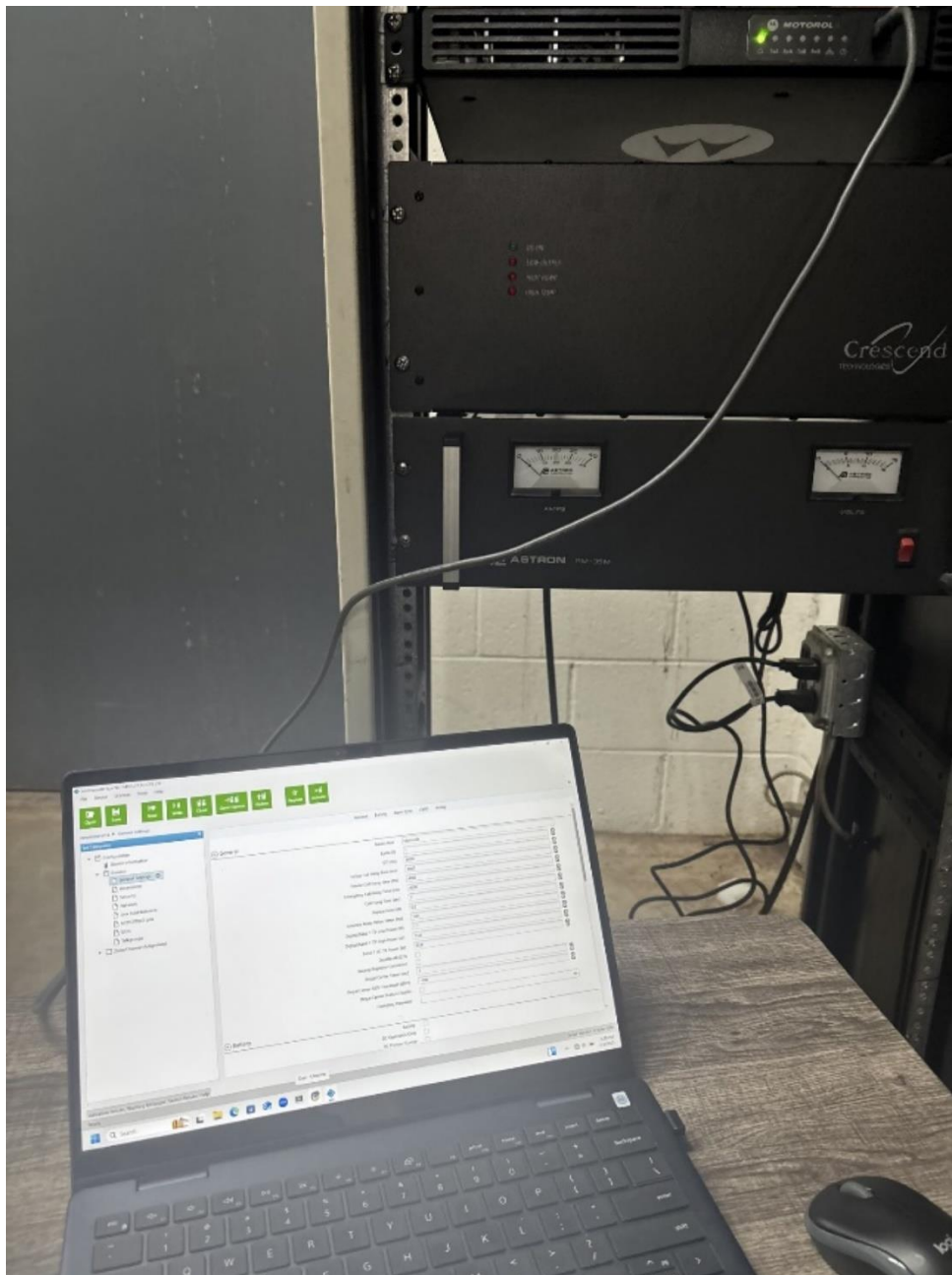
I also had a great time with Winter Field Day. We have not done this event as a club before. Some of us went out to Greg Henley's (KQ4OVD and Tyler's Dad) property on Saturday. Winter Field Day sounds cold, but we had 2 stations in the basement of the house and 1 station in the heated tractor shed. We spent 3 hours on setup and 9 hours of operating using the club call W4BS. We were able to work 200 contacts on 6 bands. Operators were Greg

KQ4OVD, Tyler KQ4QEV, Joe NS4E, Adam K4SPB, and me AA4DF. We cooked steaks on the grill and just had a great time. Next year we will work out a location in Shelby County.

See you on the air!

Dan Fleek  
AA4DF

DMR Repeater Status and Info page: <https://brandmeister.network/?page=device&id=314447>





**Publication's Corner**  
Submitted by Mike Harrison, KM4MRW

I just completed a portable battery backup system built for use in emergency situations. Last spring I purchased a battery powered weed trimmer. I selected one with a 40V 4 Ah battery with the idea that I would create this battery backup system. I purchased a battery cradle that was compatible with the battery, an 8V - 40V to 13.8V 25A regulator, a battery level indicator, a USB outlet plug with voltmeter, a cigarette lighter plug, and an Anderson Power Pole dual output plug. I purchased a second 40V 6Ah battery. I put all these items plus the battery charger in a Fat 50 Cal Ammo Can. This system should deliver 25Ah at 13.8V. I will perform endurance testing in May to see how well this performs.

I am looking for someone to take over my Director of Publications duties in January 2026 or before. My duties include but are not limited to:

- attending and contribute to the monthly Board of Director's meeting on the first Tuesday night of the month,
- preparing and publishing the Sparks newsletter prior to the membership meeting which is on the second Tuesday night of the month,
- uploading the monthly Sparks newsletter to the DARC Website,
- emailing the monthly membership meeting invitation and link to Sparks,
- maintaining the DARC Website,
- and attending a minimum of six membership meetings per year.

If you are interested in serving the DARC the Director of Publications, please email me at: [publications@deltacub.org](mailto:publications@deltacub.org).

**Packet Update**  
Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Many times, we want to try out different operating systems, but we do not want to buy another computer or do a temporary install. The good news is there is a website that allows you to run a remote desktop with different operating systems. This is a free site that allows you to have a Windows 10 desktop online. The company also allows you to run lots of different Linux operating systems. The Linux systems you can run include Zoran, Unbuntu, and others. You

can also run the Kodi Media operating system. You can run the MAC OS Emulator if you want to. The “On works” company allows you to get the look and feel of these systems and run software on the desktop. If you want to try out these systems get to this web address:  
[https://www.onworks.net/os-distributions/special-os/windows-10-online-theme#google\\_vignette](https://www.onworks.net/os-distributions/special-os/windows-10-online-theme#google_vignette)

James Butler  
KB4LJV





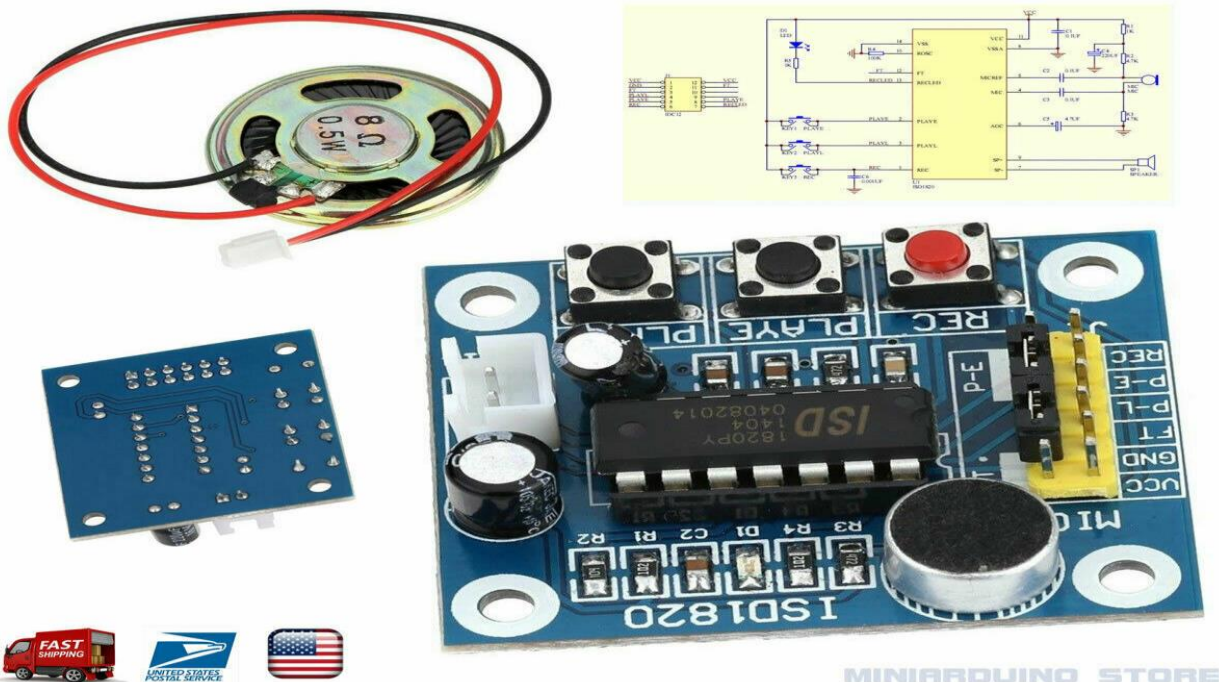
## Amateur Hardware Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Many times during contests, continuous calling on the air will wear out your voice. I built up a digital voice recorder years ago that works but took a lot of parts. A new completely built up printed circuit board has now come out to do this function. The ISD1820 is a small circuit board that has the recorder/ playback chip, a microphone for recording, speaker-out terminals with a small speaker for playback, and all the buttons to record and playback the message. The board allows you to play the message back one time at the push of a button. Another button allows you to go in the loop mode to constantly repeat the message until it is stopped. You can change the message at any time by pressing the record button. The voice message can be up to 10 seconds long which is perfect for a custom CQ call. The best thing is the price for under \$5 for the unit. If you want to play with a voice recorder for contests try this board out. Do a search on Ebay for "ISD1820".

James Butler  
KB4LJV

### ISD1820 SOUND RECORDING MODULE MINI PLAYBACK MODULE + SPEAKER



# DARC Director's Reports

## **Treasurer's Report Submitted by Jim Martin, KD4FUU**

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

**<https://deltaclub.org/membership>**

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

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

Blank applications are also available at club meetings. If you prefer, you can print and bring the completed form, along with applicable membership fees, to any in-person meeting. Please contact Jim Martin, KD4FUU at **[treasurer@deltaclub.org](mailto:treasurer@deltaclub.org)** with any questions or concerns regarding application submission and/or payment of annual dues.

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### **LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS**

January 1, 2025 through January 31, 2025

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#### **SUMMARY**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$15,248.39</b>	Minimum Daily Balance	\$15,217
Deposits & Credits	\$1,046.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$15,332
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$30.91 -		
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$16,263.48</b>		

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#### **DEPOSITS & CREDITS**

01/29	Deposit - Thank You	510.00
01/29	Deposit - Thank You	456.00
01/29	Deposit - Thank You	80.00
Total Deposits & Credits		\$1,046.00

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#### **CHECKS**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
01/15	1640	30.91

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#### **DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY**


<u>Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>
01/15	15,217.48	01/29	16,263.48

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<b>Applications Received - Jan 2025</b>		
(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(4) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$115.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Family		\$0.00
(15) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$320.00
(3) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$75.00
(0) Donations Received		\$0.00
	<b>Total Dues Received</b>	<b>\$510.00</b>
<b>Other Deposits &amp; Credits</b>		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)		\$0.00
(0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$0.00
ARRL Affiliated Club - Individual Membership Fees		\$0.00
Sale of Delta Club Patches (16 @ \$5)		\$80.00
Donations toward Internet access for repeaters (Hotspot)		\$456.00
	<b>Total Other Deposits</b>	<b>\$536.00</b>
	<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$1,046.00</b>
<b>Withdrawals &amp; Debits</b>		
None		\$0.00
	<b>Total Withdrawals</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Checks</b>		
Check #1640 - Scott Adams - Reimbursement for club meeting refreshments.		\$30.91
	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>\$30.91</b>

## SMALL BUSINESS CD \*8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,413.68	4.160 %	\$42.94	\$8.02
<u>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</u>			
*8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$42.94	\$263.01	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	1/22/2025	8/22/2025	
 Hide More Details			

## SMALL BUSINESS CD \*8503

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$11,522.15	4.400 %	\$0.00	\$97.50
<u>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</u>			
*8503			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$20.34	\$274.10	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	11/26/2024	2/23/2025	
 Hide More Details			

<b>2025 Budget Proposal</b>	<b>2023 Proposed</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Proposed</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Proposed</b>
Donations (cash)	50.00	400.00	50.00	739.00	50.00
Donations for Internet Hotspot (Necessary for DMR repeater)					456.00
Membership (Jan. thru Dec.)	2,000.00	1,640.00	2,000.00	2570.00	2000.00
ARRL Affiliated Club Commissions	0.00	155.00	0.00	5.00	5.00
Club Patches	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.00
Estate Sale	1,500.00	5,882.65	1,500.00	783.00	750.00
Advertisement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Huntsville Trip	2,500.00	1,857.00	2,500.00	2224.00	2500.00
Donations - Huntsville Hamfest Bus Scholarship 2023	0.00	746.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations - Huntsville Hamfest Bus Scholarship 2024	0.00	0.00	200.00	1400.00	0.00
<b>Total Estimated Income:</b>	<b>6,050.00</b>		<b>6,250.00</b>		<b>5,841.00</b>
<b>Total Actual Income:</b>		<b>10,680.65</b>		<b>7,721.00</b>	
Tn. Annual Report	-120.00	-20.95	-120.00	-20.95	-50.00
Meeting Space Donation	-300.00	-500.00	-300.00	-300.00	-400.00
Training	-50.00	-50.00	-50.00	0.00	-50.00
Zoom Meeting Annual Subscription					-174.69
Website Hosting Annual Fee					-171.08
Domain Name Registration					-51.49
Meeting Refreshments	-500.00	-754.43	-800.00	-579.19	-800.00
Food (December Meeting)	-100.00	-64.98	-100.00	-53.50	-100.00
Door Prizes	-500.00	-461.80	-500.00	-498.85	-500.00
PO Box (Annual Rental)	-312.00	-332.00	-332.00	-342.00	-352.00
Equipment Insurance	-236.00	-235.48	-236.00	-235.48	-300.00
Club Liability Insurance	-200.00	-200.00	-200.00	-200.00	-200.00
Repeater System Maintenance	-1,000.00	-4,010.45	-1,000.00	-5289.11	-1000.00
Repeater Site Internet Access (One-Time Equipment & Activation Fee)					-299.83
Repeater Site Internet Access (Service \$120/Year)					-120.00
SouthEastern Repeater Assn.	-35.00	-70.00	-35.00	0.00	-35.00
Field Day	-250.00	-227.65	-250.00	-187.17	-250.00
DARC Board Discretionary Fund	-1,000.00	-1,305.95	-1,000.00	-694.69	-1000.00
Huntsville Trip	-3,000.00	-2,758.78	-3,000.00	-3241.38	-3300.00
Free Fest Donations	-200.00	0.00	-200.00	-170.00	-250.00
<b>Projected Total Expenses</b>	<b>-7,803.00</b>		<b>-8,123.00</b>		<b>-9,404.09</b>
<b>Actual Total Expenses</b>		<b>-10,992.47</b>		<b>-11,812.32</b>	
Checking Acct:	20,112.52		21,696.94		15,248.39
CD #8481	5,025.01		5,107.73		5,370.74
CD #8503	11,062.00		11,248.05		11,522.15
	<b>36,199.53</b>		<b>38,052.72</b>		<b>32,141.28</b>

## **DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

### **Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ**

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes - February 4, 2025

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting - February 4, 2025

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

Absent: Immediate Past President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ

Guests: None

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on February 4, 2025, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present. President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 6:40pm

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

#### New Business

Secretary Perry Hayes presented his minutes of the January 2025 Membership Meeting.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, made a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes, which was seconded by Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Plunk presented the membership renewal applications that have been received since the January BOD meeting.

Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, made a motion to accept all of the membership applications, which was seconded by Dan Fleek. The motion passed without opposition.

Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, presented the Treasurer's Report.

Jim reported that the Club's Small Business Certificate of Deposit (with an account number ending in \*8503) matures on 2/23/25. The consensus of the BOD was for Jim Martin to have the authority to roll over the CD at the best interest rate possible.



Perry Hayes made a motion, which was seconded by Joe Lowenthal. The motion passed unanimously.

Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV. The motion passed without opposition.

There was a discussion about any bills and reimbursement requests expected in February.

### Board Reports

Director of Publications Mike Harrison asked everyone to submit their articles for *Sparks* as soon as possible. There was a discussion about Mike's update of the club website and the *Sparks* newsletter.

President Joe Plunk and Secretary Perry Hayes talked about the membership renewals that the club has received.

Director of Programming Adam White, K4SPB, discussed the program topics for the February membership meeting.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, reported that the 443.700 DMR repeater was up and running. The repeater has been performing well and many hams have used it. There was a discussion about holding a DMR net.

Dan will visit the Germantown repeater site soon to make upgrades. Visits to the Methodist North and University of Memphis repeater sites are also planned.

Joe Plunk recognized Dan Fleek for his outstanding work on the DMR repeater project.

There was a discussion about the feedback to the *Signal Report* and *Programming* surveys that are offered to the membership. Possible topics for Ham 101 and monthly programs were discussed.

Treasurer Jim Martin said that he updated the proposed budget after the BOD meeting in January. He discussed a change to the amount budgeted for the Memphis FreeFest donation.

Jim will submit the budget for publication in *Sparks* and will be ready to present the budget at the February membership meeting.

Perry Hayes made a motion to accept the proposed budget, which was seconded by Tyler Henley. The motion passed without opposition.

There was a discussion about future events on the 2025 calendar, Memphis FreeFest, other area hamfests, plans for the Ham 101 class and Field Day.

#### Additional Reports

President Joe Plunk, Secretary Perry Hayes, Treasurer Jim Martin, Directory of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, Director of Publications Mike Harrison and Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek had no additional reports.

Immediate Past President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ, was absent, and made no report.

Director of Programs Adam White said that many members showed interest in Winlink after his presentation in January. He may offer a Ham 101 class on installing Winlink software at the February meeting.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that a Technician Class license class will start on February 24th and meet via Zoom on six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm. There will not be a class on March 10th. FCC testing will be offered on March 31st, with the location to be determined.

Joe said 5 students were finishing the Extra Class license class, and two have already passed their exams. FCC testing for the class will be offered at the February DARC meeting.

There was a discussion about Volunteer Examiner Coordinators and DARC possibly offering electronic FCC testing in the future.

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

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 7:56pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, 2024 at 6:30pm, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Hayes, N4GJ  
Secretary

## **Minutes of Last Month's Club Meeting**

### **Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ**

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Membership Meeting  
January 14, 2025

The January 2025 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. The President served as the chair and the Secretary was present. Club President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. There were 55 members and visitors in attendance.

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

Absent: Immediate Past-President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ, Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV (on military service)

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

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

Joe Plunk asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the December Membership Meeting and January BOD meeting, as published in *Sparks*. Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, made the motion, which was seconded by Don Strahl, KZ4GJ. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Plunk asked the members of the BOD if they had any reports. Joe said he had discovered a great code oscillator kit. The kit costs \$15 and has 6 components that need to be soldered to the board. Joe demonstrated the oscillator for the audience.

Secretary Perry Hayes had no additional report.

Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, said he has been receiving a lot of membership renewals. He invited everyone to visit him at his table and renew their memberships. Jim also said he was selling Delta Club patches for five dollars apiece.

Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, asked everyone to participate in his Programs Survey. Adam is very interested to know what program topics the membership would like to see this year.

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

Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, talked about some of the changes he made to the format of the *Sparks* newsletter. Mike said he would be stepping down at the end of the year, and asked anyone who might be interested in becoming the Director of Publications to see him.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, said there was currently an Extra Class license class meeting via ZOOM. The class has met twice and has three more sessions to go - plus an FCC testing session. One of the members, Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, has already tested and passed his Extra exam.

Joe said he is also planning a Technician Class license class, which will meet via ZOOM on six Monday nights from February 24 through April 7th. Four students have signed up and Joe is listing the class on the ARRL website.

Joe reminded everyone that the club makes a commission when people join ARRL or renew their ARRL memberships through the club. The club makes \$5 for each renewal and \$15 for each new membership application. Anyone interested may fill out an application and make their check payable to Joe. Joe will pay the ARRL by credit card.

Joe asked to take a moment in memory of SK Barry McDonald, W5CJ. Barry's visitation will be held at Collierville First Baptist Church on Friday, January 17th at 10:00am. The memorial service will be held at 11:00am. Joe said that Barry will be sorely missed.

Joe Punk agreed that Barry McDonald would be sorely missed. He asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, reported that the new DMR repeater has arrived. Dan needs to get the internet and some cabling installed at the site. Dan has registered with RadioID.net and has obtained a talkgroup from Brandmeister.

The DMR repeater will be on 443.700 MHz with a +5 MHz offset. The repeater will use Color Code 1. Timeslot 1 will offer dynamic linking, and will also have The National Weather Service Memphis talkgroup (314431) statically linked. The New Memphis Metro (TG 314447) and Tennessee Statewide (TG 3147) talkgroups will be statically linked on timeslot 2.

Hams in the area can start using TG 314447 on their hotspots. Dan will make an announcement on Facebook and the Delta Club's Information Net when the repeater goes active. Tests of the repeater could start in a couple of weeks.

Dan said some improvements will be taking place at the 146.625 repeater site in Germantown. Dan is swapping the repeater for an ICOM FR3000 and upgrading the audio controller. The repeater will have more power and probably more range. The repeater will sound much better when linked to the weather nets.

Dan plans on making those same improvements to the 146.82 repeater. Dan will also install Allstar/Echolink, which can be used to connect 146.82 to the weather nets.

Joe Plunk said that the BOD has approved contracting with Mobile Citizen to provide internet service for the Brunswick repeater site. There is a \$35 activation fee and a one-time fee of 264.83 for the hardware. The service costs \$120/year for non-profit entities. Joe passed a hat so that members could make a donation toward the costs of getting internet service at the repeater site. \$456.00 was generously donated.

Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, said that a few members had expressed interest in serving on the Bylaws Committee. The committee hopes to start meeting in the next few months. Anyone interested in serving on the committee should contact Mary Jean.

Joe Lowenthal said the Club had a power supply, amplifiers and keyers for sale.

Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, said the Swamp Stomper race will be held at Shelby Forest on Saturday, January 18th. The radio team will meet at 6:00am at the General Store. Everything is covered, but Steve would welcome more volunteers. Interested people should contact Steve. The team will be using the 146.82 repeater.

There was a short break after the conclusion of business.

Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, gave a presentation on Winlink Global Radio Email, and How to Connect. Winlink is a network of amateur radio and government stations that provide worldwide radio email using radio pathways where the internet is not present. It supports email with attachments, position reporting, weather and information bulletins, and is well-known for its role in interoperable emergency and disaster relief communications.

Adam has a Radio Message Server (RMS) on VHF now (144.990 MHz), and plans to have an HF server up soon.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to complete a Signal Report survey and a Programs Survey.

Joe Plunk said Winter Field Day will run from 4:00pm on Saturday, January 25 to 10:00pm on Sunday, January 26. Joe said that Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, may be getting an informal group together for Winter Field Day. Interested parties should listen for announcements on the Delta Club Information Net.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to renew their memberships, and to invite a new person to join the club.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said that he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Bob O'Grady, KO4ZCJ, made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Bill Flanigan, KK4VPS. The motion passed without opposition. President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:27pm.

The next regular membership meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, beginning at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Hayes, N4GJ  
Secretary

### **Delta Ham License Training, 2025**

**Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING**

**Thanks to all of the instructors and VEs who gave their time supporting the four classes in 2024**

*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](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com) with the class name; ie, Tech Class, General Class, or Extra Class, on the Subject line and name, callsign if you have one, email address, and cellphone number in the text.*



# *Licenses Earned in 2025 from Delta Classes*

0 Technician

0 General

2 Extra

## **Note:**

As of April 19, 2022 there is a \$35 FCC application fee for new hams, renewals, Vanity callsigns, etc except for license upgrade, systematic callsign issue, name, address or email changes. This is in addition to the \$15 ARRL VEC FCC exam fee.

The new Technician ARRL Ham Radio License Manual is the Fifth Edition with question pool that becomes effective July 1, 2022 for four years.

The current ARRL General Class License Manual is the Tenth Edition with question pool that became effective July 1, 2023 for four years.

The current ARRL Extra Class License Manual is the Thirteenth Edition with question pool that became effective July 1, 2024 for four years.

As of late 2019, expired Amateur Radio license holders can get their license back by taking the current Technician exam and show proof of their previous license class. A previous Advanced Class licensee will only be able to get a General Class license.

## **PROPOSED CLASSES**

All classes will be 3-1/4 to 4 hours long for six or seven sessions; one per week on a week night 6:15pm-9:30pm or Saturday day 9am-1pm.

If interested in a class, send an email to [wa4ovo@gmail.com](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com) with Subject line: Tech, General or Extra Class and name, email address and cellphone number is text.

The next **General** license class will probably start in early November 2025.

The next **Extra** license class will probably start in early January 2026.

**Tech Class 2-25 – February 24 – April 7, 2025**

A Technician license class will be held on Zoom on 6 Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on February 24, March 3, 17, 24, 31 and April 7. There is no class on March 10<sup>th</sup>. As of reporting, there are 11 students signed up for the class. If someone is interested, send an email with Subject: Tech Class and name, email address and cellphone number in text to wa4ovo@gmail.com

## CURRENT CLASSES

### **Extra Class 1-25 – January 4 – February 15, 2025**

An Extra Class license class is being held via Zoom on 6 Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm on January 4,12,18, February 1,8 and 15. There is not a class on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The 6<sup>th</sup> class will be in person at a location to be determined in the Memphis area for an opportunity to take the FCC exam. There are eight students in the class: Mark WB0ROG, John KQ4IOS, Greg KQ4OVD, Vernon KQ4WCL, David N1SRD, Tommy KQ4SQC and Allen N5ALN. The instructors are Paul KY4MX, David KY4FH, Dave AD4Q, Park AI5CY, Carolyn KX4QF, Paul KA4X, Bobby KD5BS and Joe WA4OVO. The Delta Club VE Team will provide an opportunity for the students to take their Extra exam.

## PREVIOUS CLASSES

### **General Class 4-24 – November 7 – December 12, 2024**

An in-person General license class will be held on five Thursday nights November 7, 14, 21, December 5 and 12 from 6:15-9:30pm. The 5<sup>th</sup> class will be an opportunity to take the FCC exam. The classes will be held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms training room, 6850 Appling Farms Parkway. The seven students are Michael KQ4QLJ, John KQ4UIC, Eric KN4QNU, Tony KN4FBK, William KQ4UEO, Randy KQ4HJH, and Rich KN4OEI.

Congratulations to William KQ4UEO who upgraded on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Congratulations to Michael KQ4QLJ and Tony KN4FBK for upgrading to General on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks to the Delta Club VE Team of Mike KW4RI, Jeff KX4LO, Perry N4GJ, Randall KY4MY, Doug WA4CB, Don KZ4GJ, Dan KN4FBJ and Joe WA4OVO who provided the test session.



Randall KY4MY presenting to General Class 4-24  
Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

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

### **Tech Class 3-24 – July 8 – August 12, 2024**

An in-person Technician license class was held on six Monday nights on July 8, 15, 22, 29 August 5 and 12 from 6:15-9:30pm. The 5<sup>th</sup> class was a review of the question pool and opportunity to take the FCC exam. There were 12 students registered with eight completing the instructional period.

Congratulations to Technicians Chris Pechak KQ4TQT and Daniel Lees KQ4TQ9U who tested at the Delta Club July 9<sup>th</sup> ARRL test session. Bill Matthews KQ4UEO also tested early on-line for Technician. Congratulation to John Burwell KQ4UIC, and Dexter Haney KJ5HMT for earning their Technician license. Congratulations to Cody Hubley KQ4UJD for earning Technician and General.



Steve KK4VPT presenting



Perry N4GJ presenting



Satellite Demo by Rick WA4NVM

FM Digital Opns by John KN4BVH

Photos by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors were Park AI5CY, Paul KY4MX, John KN4BVH, Perry N4GJ, Carolyn KX4QF, Steve KK4VPT and Joe WA4OVO.

The last class was demonstrations on FM Repeater Basics, satellite operations, APRS, and FM digital operations.

The equipment demonstrators are Rick WA4NVM on satellites, Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS, John KN4BVH on FM digital radios and Joe WA4OVO on repeater basics. The classes were held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms Precinct, 6850 Appling Farms Parkway.

### **Tech Class 2-24 – February 22 – March 23, 2024**

A hybrid Technician license class was held on five Thursday nights on February 22, 29, March 7, 14, 21 from 6:15-9:30pm and one Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00am-1:00PM. The first four classes were via Zoom. The 5<sup>th</sup> in-person class was a review of the question pool and an opportunity to take the FCC exam. The two in-person classes were at the MPD Appling Farms Precinct. Eleven students and one audit finished the class.



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



Tech Class 2-24 testing



Rick WA4NVM and Richard K4DXF  
on JO-97 Satellite demo

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

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



Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS demo



John KN4BVH on Digital Basics

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

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

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

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

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



# Previous Months' and Nice to Know Information

## How to Print Your FCC License

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

INDIVIDUAL EMAIL ADDRESS IN QRZ  
Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

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

## ARRL Benefits

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

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

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

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

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

### YL News Submitted by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB

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

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

## 2025 Board of Directors

### **President**

Joe Plunk, NS4E  
[President@deltacub.org](mailto:President@deltacub.org)  
[NS4E@access-tech.com](mailto:NS4E@access-tech.com)  
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Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV  
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### **Director of Meetings & Special Events**

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### **Public Information Officer** OPEN

### **Immediate Past President**

Ty McMahan, KX4MQ  
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### **Repeater Trustee**

Dan Fleek, AA4DF  
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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

<b>Name of Net</b>	<b>Frequency (MHz)</b>	<b>Offset/Tone</b>	<b>Local Time</b>	<b>Day of Week</b>
Mid-South Bullfrog Net	146.535	[simplex]	7:30p	Daily
Delta Club Info Net (Primary)	146.82	- (107.2)	8:00p	Daily
Delta Club Info Net (Secondary)	443.200	+(107.2)	8:00p	Daily
YL Info Net (Primary)	146.820	- (107.2)	8:45p	Saturday
YL Info Net (Secondary)	443.200	+(107.2)	8:45p	Saturday
Sunday Super Niner Net	927.6125	- (146.2)	8:30p	Sunday
Elmer Net	444.175	+ (107.2)	9:00p	Sunday
Desoto County EMA	146.910	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Monday
MedMERS Net	146.820	- (107.2)	12:00p	Wednesday
Crowley's Ridge ARC	147.150	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Wednesday
Crowley's Ridge ARC	145.450	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Wednesday
Tipton ARS	145.490	+ (100.0)	7:30p	Thursday
Olive Branch ARC	147.255	+ (79.9)	8:30p	Thursday
OBARC Linked	444.700	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Thursday
ARES Training Net	146.850	- (107.2)	9:00p	Thursday
TN Statewide DMR Net	Digital – DMR		8:00p	Friday
Four-Forty Net	443.200	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Friday
Neshoba Club Info Net	146.625	- (107.2)	8:30p	4 <sup>th</sup> 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**  
Owner

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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

Chick-fil-A Paragon Place  
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