

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 106 * November 2024



Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC)

Sparks Newsletter

Website: <http://deltaclub.org>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/darcmem>

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 ^{+107.2*} |
| 144.390 Digipeater | *Fusion |

This month's meeting will be **IN PERSON ONLY** at 7 pm on Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

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 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**
 - Joe Lowenthal will serve as VE Liaison this month
- **Ham 101 begins at 5:30 pm in Room B202**
 - Ham Hilliard, W4GMM
- **Meeting Programs begin at 7:00 pm**
 - DARC BOD Election Perry Hayes, N4GJ
 - Introduction to Linux by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

VE 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

Announcements

November Election Prize Drawing!

Remember those prize tickets that you carefully scribbled your name and callsign upon, while attending each in-person club meeting? Now is the time to find out how lucky you are! And... it isn't too late to add one last ticket to the prize barrel.

Please join us at the November club meeting, where you will have the chance to win one of more than a dozen ham radio-related gifts. Best of luck to all!

Prizes include:

Baofeng DM-1701 DMR HT's – Powerwerx Powerpole Kit – Antennas
20Ah LiFePO4 Battery – TID Radio TD-H3 Dual Band HT's – Mystery Items
TinySA Spectrum Analyzer – Sidecutters – Coax Adapters – NanoVNA

**** Please note that you must be present to win,
and no more than one prize may be awarded per attendee. ****

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 **General** license class will start in November 2024.

An in-person General license class will be held on five Thursday nights November 7, 14, 21, December 5 and 12 from 6:15-9:30pm. The 5th class will be an opportunity to take the FCC exam. We need at least six students to have the class. The classes will be held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms training room, 6850 Appling Farms Parkway.

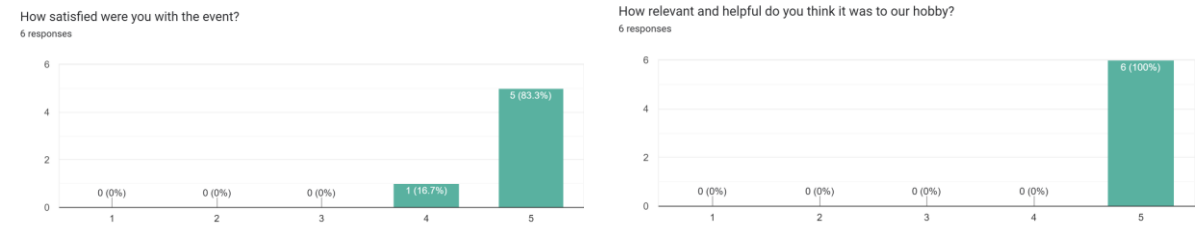
The next **Extra** license class will probably start in early January 2025.

The next **Technician** license class will probably start in mid to late February 2025.

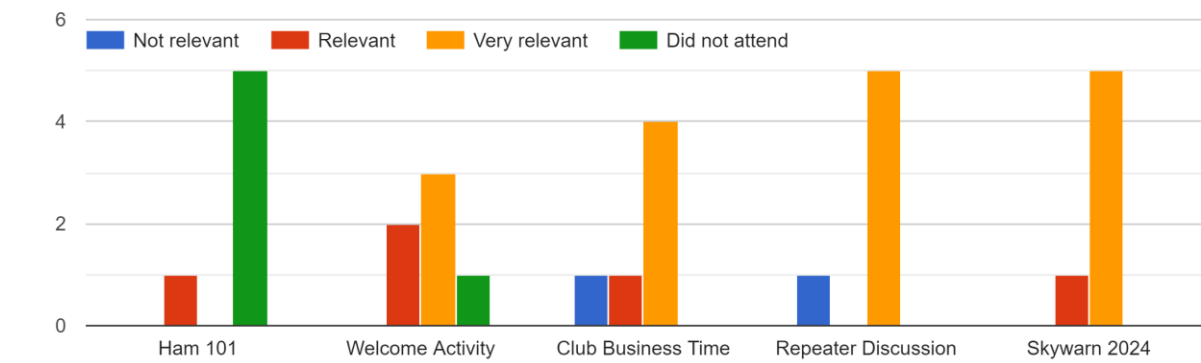
October Membership Meeting Signal Report

I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had 58 people on the sign in sheet and 6 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.



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



Fresh News and Articles for our Membership

President's Corner

Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

As we turn the corner into November and enter the holiday season let's remember to be thankful for all we are blessed with and able to do. Please take a minute and remember to say hello you your neighbors and friends—check in on everyone and just remind them that they are not alone.

We as a club are not alone! We have a wonderful community of hobbyist that love what we do and the continuing opportunity to expand into new and wonderful things. I mention this as our repeater team is getting ready to expand into a direction that our membership has asked the team to go. The directions from October are in full swing--look for more details on that from the repeater team. I am looking forward to this next upcoming year and working on creating new and different events for our membership to explore and meet with one another.

November and December are traditionally our clubs non technical meeting times—we get together for our yearly prize drawings in November, and our December potluck—and focus on each other and not so much the technical challenges of our hobby.

We do have a little bit of club business to finish up with our elections in November and reviewing our draft budget in December, but with that said I am looking forward to the fun activities that await us in the new year. I know that January has Winter field day and a few of our members have expressed interest in participating in that activity. I would love to hear from each of you, about one thing you'd like to see the club do in the next year. Please take the opportunity to add that one thing to the November and December Signal Reports! Lastly, please ask one person to join our club and have fun with us!

73

Joe Plunk, NS4E

Program Corner

Let's All Be Nice!

My grandkids were over visiting a few days ago and we were all watching Disney's Bambi. In one scene, Thumper said "If you can't say something nice, don't say nothing at all." Now you may be asking where in the world I am going with this, and how does the movie Bambi tie to Amateur Radio. My response: FCC Part 97.1(e).

FCC Part 97.1(e) states that the purpose of the amateur radio service is to continue and extend the ability of amateurs to enhance international goodwill. While this section does mention "International" goodwill, I would argue that that applies to Non-DX stations as well. When we are on the air, we never know who may be listening. The last thing we would want to do is to turn a potential new ham away from our hobby by the way we are speaking. Also please remember that when using our club's or any other organizations repeater you are in a way representing them/us.

In ham radio, the phrase "if you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything" essentially means to maintain a positive and respectful communication style on the airwaves, avoiding unnecessary criticism or negativity towards other operators; it's a reminder to only contribute constructive comments and maintain a friendly atmosphere within the ham radio community.

This does not mean that you must agree with everyone, or like everyone. It just means that when you're on the air, please keep things positive and civil. Even though we are Amateur Radio Operators, there's nothing wrong with acting professional.

So that pretty much sums it up, now let's go out there and make someone smile today!

P.S. I am proud to be able to say everyone I hear on the air embodies this philosophy, just thought I'd throw it out there as a friendly reminder.

John Reiners, KN4BVH

Repeater Trustee's Corner

The APRS digipeater at Methodist North is back on the air. I had thought the power supply had failed, but it appeared to have crowbarred on a power surge. Everything tested good. Thanks to Tyler KQ4QEV for helping me at the site and Rick W4JIT for picking up the radio when I called him. Rick was able to verify for me that the digipeater was sending out packets.

I almost always have my HT either with me or close by in the car. The DMR hotspot goes with me when I travel. Recently, more and more HT's have the ability to charge via USB-C. This eliminates the space of a HT base charger. It gives the ability to charge with the same batteries that recharge a cell phone or recharge from the car power. I can always have a charger in the go bag. Some of radios with USB-C are:

Icom ID-50a and ID-52a Plus - Built in USB-C port to charge the attached battery.

Kenwood TH-75A - Built in USB-C port for data and charging the attached battery.

BTECH 6x2, 6x2 pro, Anytone 868 and all 878 models - These radio's use the same batteries. I recently purchased the BTECH 6x2 and it came with a USB-C rechargeable battery. I was able to order another one from baofengtech.com

TYT MD-380/UV380 - This model is still being sold and now we have a 2800ma USB-C rechargeable battery for it. I was able to purchase one from buytwowayradios.com

Dan Fleek AA4DF
Repeater/Callsign Trustee

Bluff City Blues (BCB) Ride

The Bluff City Blues Ride was held October 12th. The ride had multiple length routes of 20, 38, 67, 76 and 102 miles. Mary Jean KY4FB coordinated the ham communications.

Thanks to Mary Jean KY4FB, Ken KI4AOH, Bill KK4VPS, Rick N0KYN, Tom AC5MR, Eric AK4YD, Shawn KN4WKF, Marlin KM4DPP. Josh KQ4IOS with brother Matt for staffing at the six rest stops, and Mark KQ4KQA and Don KZ4GJ with wife Lou providing SAG communications for this ride.



The start at Grind City Brewing Company
Photo by Mary Jean Hall KY4FB



Net Control Station
Photo by Mary Jean Hall KY4FB

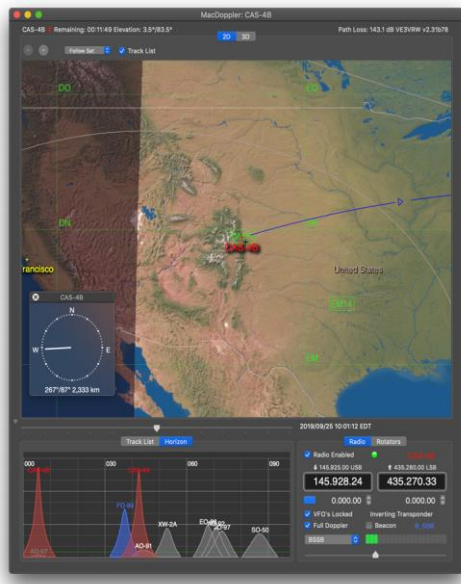


Rest stop at Shelby Forest General Store
Photo by Shawn Thomas KN4WKF

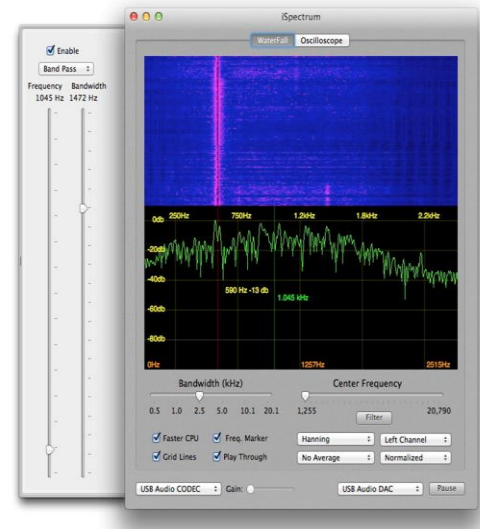


Radio setup at Shelby Forest General Store
Photo by Shawn Thomas KN4WKF

PACKET UPDATE



We are always looking for new ham radio-related software for our computers. One company that offers ham radio software is Dog Park Software. Their software is for Apple computers that run the OS X operating systems. They have software for logging applications. The company also markets SDR software. They offer a ham radio callbook program to lookup callsigns and show on a world map where they are



located. If you like to do satellite operations, they even have a satellite program for you. If you work with Apple computers check out Dog Park Software. Their web address is <https://dogparksoftware.com/>
James Butler

KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE



Many times, we look for circuits we can use for our amateur radio activities. One chip that has been around a while is the MT8870 DTMF DECODER CHIP. This chip can decode DTMF tones from received audio. These are the same tones used for phone dialing and generated when we hit the keys on the keypad of our HTs. The chip itself has a 4-bit output to indicate which DTMF tone it receives. The assembled circuit board with just the chip is available for about \$1. You can also pay more to get the

version with an LCD display. This one will display each character it receives on the screen. They even have a version with relay outputs which allows you to remotely turn relays off and on remotely for control. You can look up the chip on Google to see the specification sheet. Go to Ebay and do a search for “DTMF decoder” to see all the versions they have for sale.



James Butler

KB4LJV

DARC Director's Reports

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Jim Martin, KD4FUU

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

<https://deltaclub.org/membership>

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

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

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

LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS

October 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024

SUMMARY

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Beginning Balance | \$20,684.70 | Minimum Daily Balance | \$20,684 |
| Deposits & Credits | \$25.00 + | Average Monthly Statement Balance | \$20,685 |
| Withdrawals | \$0.00 - | | |
| Fees | \$0.00 - | | |
| Automatic Transfers | \$0.00 + | | |
| Checks | \$0.00 - | | |
| Ending Balance | \$20,709.70 | | |

DEPOSITS & CREDITS

| | | |
|-------|---------------------|-------|
| 10/31 | Deposit - Thank You | 25.00 |
|-------|---------------------|-------|

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY

| Date | Balance |
|-------|-----------|
| 10/31 | 20,709.70 |

| Applications Received - Oct 2024 | | |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------|
| (0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues | | \$0.00 |
| (0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived | | \$0.00 |
| (0) New Membership(s) - Individual | | \$0.00 |
| (0) New Membership(s) - Family | | \$0.00 |
| (0) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual | | \$0.00 |
| (1) Membership Renewal(s) - Family | | \$25.00 |
| (0) Donations Received | | \$0.00 |
| | Total Dues Received | \$25.00 |
| | | |
| Other Deposits & Credits | | |
| (0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00) | | \$0.00 |
| (0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00) | | \$0.00 |
| ARRL Affiliated Club - Individual Membership Fees | | \$0.00 |
| | Total Other Deposits | \$0.00 |
| | | |
| | Total Deposits | \$25.00 |
| | | |
| Withdrawals | | |
| None | | \$0.00 |
| | Total Withdrawals | \$0.00 |
| | | |
| Checks | | |
| None | | \$0.00 |
| | Total Payments | \$0.00 |

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Available Balance | INTEREST RATE | YTD INTEREST | INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID |
| \$5,303.40 | 5.020 % | \$195.67 | \$51.90 |
| SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER | | | |
| *8481 | | | |
| ISSUE DATE | LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID | PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST | |
| 10/28/2022 | \$66.49 | \$107.73 | |
| ISSUE VALUE | DATE LAST INTEREST PAID | MATURITY DATE | |
| \$5,000.00 | 8/25/2024 | 1/22/2025 | |
| ▲ Hide More Details | | | |

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8503

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Available Balance | <u>INTEREST RATE</u> | <u>YTD INTEREST</u> | <u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u> |
| \$11,501.81 | 2.230 % | \$253.76 | \$4.91 |
| SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER | | | |
| *8503 | | | |
| ISSUE DATE | LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID | PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST | |
| 10/28/2022 | \$64.29 | \$248.05 | |
| ISSUE VALUE | DATE LAST INTEREST PAID | MATURITY DATE | |
| \$11,000.00 | 10/28/2024 | 11/26/2024 | |
| ▲ Hide More Details | | | |

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes - November 5, 2024

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting - November 5, 2024

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 John Reiners, KN4BVH, Director of Meetings and Special Events, Scott Adams KM4PMU, Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Public Information Officer Adam White, K4SPB.

Absent: Immediate Past President Ty McMahan KX4MQ.

Guests: None

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on November 5, 2024, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present. President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

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

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked everyone for helping Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, at the October membership meeting. Joe and his daughter had a wonderful time on their college visits.

Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, made a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes of the October membership meeting, as circulated by email, and to present them to the membership in the November issue of *Sparks*. Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, presented the renewal membership applications that were received since the last BOD meeting. John Reiners moved to accept all the applications, with a second by Jim Martin. The motion passed without opposition.

Treasurer Jim Martin presented the Treasurer's Report.

There was a discussion about the Club's two certificates of deposit. One matures in November and one matures in January. There was a general agreement to monitor the available terms and

rates and to roll the CDs over when they mature. The BOD will revisit the CDs at their December and January meetings.

Jim Martin reported that he is still having difficulty contacting the IRS about the Club's Letter of Determination. Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, said that he is in contact with a Club member who is an accountant. That member may be able to provide a phone number for the IRS department involved. Joe Plunk said he would follow up with that member.

Joe Plunk asked if there were any bills coming due in the near future. Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, said he had some additional receipts to submit for reimbursement. Jim Martin said he would be seeking reimbursement for the door prizes he purchased for the November meeting. Jim also said that the Club's post office box would be up for renewal soon. Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, said he will be paying GoDaddy for the Club's internet plan soon, and will seek reimbursement.

Joe Plunk commented that all these items were included in the budget. If the expenditures exceed the budgeted amounts, the BOD could make up the difference from its Discretionary Fund.

Joe Plunk said that this year's budget will be circulated to the BOD members by email, for their review. Joe said he would like for the BOD members to begin thinking about next year's budget. A proposed budget will need to be presented to the Membership at their January meeting.

Director of Programs John Reiners discussed the program for the November membership meeting.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, gave the report of the Repeater Committee. The APRS system at Methodist North is now working well. The 220 repeater will probably be the next one to be inspected by the team. The board for Allstar/Echolink on the 146.625 repeater is going to be replaced, after poor performance during a recent Skywarn net. Funds are still available in the budget for the purchase of the board.

Dan reported that he was able to contact Comserv Wireless, and got a better price for the Club's new DMR repeater than was quoted by North Georgia Communications. They have the repeater in stock, but the amplifier will take about 4 weeks to arrive. Dan will purchase the equipment from Comserv. The modem and internet service for the repeater will depend on the Club's tax-exempt status.

After the likely storm damage to the APRS system at Methodist North, Dan said the Committee planned on installing new lightning suppressors at the Club's flagship repeaters. Used suppressors will probably be installed at the other sites.

Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, asked everyone to submit their content for the November issue of *Sparks* by Friday.

Joe Plunk said he would contact Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, for a report on the Bluff City Blues Ride.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to be thinking about possible candidates for the New Ham of the Year and the Ham of the Year Awards, to be announced at the December membership meeting.

There was a discussion about a charitable donation the Club may make before the end of the year. There was a general consensus about the donation, the amount and the recipient.

There was a discussion about the agenda for the November membership meeting, the items that will be awarded as door prizes and the rules for the drawing.

Joe Plunk asked if any BOD members had additional reports.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that the General Class License Class would begin on Thursday, November 7th. Seven students have enrolled. Hopefully an Extra Class License Class will begin the first week of January.

Tyler Henley, Perry Hayes, Jim Martin, Mike Harrison and Public Information Officer Adam White, K4SPB, had no additional reports.

Joe Plunk thanked Director of Programs John Reiners for his faithful service as a member of the BOD.

Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, asked everyone to be thinking about the holiday meal to be served at the December meeting. The Club provides ham(s), drinks, cups and utensils. The membership provides sides and desserts.

Joe Plunk said that Mike Harrison would like to train someone to replace him as Director of Publications.

Joe Lowenthal said he would lead the VE team at the November membership meeting. VE Team Leader Mike Sparks, KW4RI, will need to be absent.

There was a discussion about the Club's Facebook page, and login credentials.

Joe Plunk thanked everyone for their service. He said that Club members needed to be recruited and trained in the coming year to take over some of the positions on the BOD. He asked everyone to recruit at least one new member. Joe said we wanted the Club to grow and to bring in new hams, with new ideas, new thoughts and new interests. Joe also said that he would like the BOD members to have a social gathering.

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

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 7:44pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3 , 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
October 8, 2024

The October 2024 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. The Vice-President served as the chair and the Secretary was present. Club Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. There were 58 members and visitors in attendance.

Present: Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, 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.

Absent: Immediate Past-President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ, President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Public Information Officer Adam White, K4SPB.

Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, welcomed everyone to the meeting. President Joe Plunk, NS4E, was out of town with his daughter for college visits.

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

Vice-President Tyler Henley recognized the hams at each table who had been licensed for the longest and shortest amount of time.

Tyler Henley said he would entertain a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes and the Treasurer's Report.

Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, made a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes and Treasurer's Report, as published in the August issue of *Sparks*. The motion was seconded by Randy Redd, KQ4HJH. The motion passed unanimously.

Tyler Henley asked if any BOD members had additional reports for the Club.

Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU and Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, had no additional matters to report.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, said 3 students had signed up for the General Class License Class. 6 students are needed. The class will meet the first three Thursdays in November, skip the week of Thanksgiving, and meet the first two Thursdays in December. Anyone interested in taking the class should contact Joe Lowenthal at wa4ovo@gmail.com. Joe said that an Extra Class License Class will probably start the first week of January, 2025. Joe also circulated a get well card for Pat Lane, W4OQG.

Tyler Henley then asked if there were any Committee Reports.

Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, Don Strahl, KZ4GJ, and Perry Hayes gave the report of the Nominations Committee. The committee members were appointed by President Joe Plunk, and tasked with preparing a slate of candidates to put into nomination for the Delta Amateur Radio Club BOD Elections, to be held at the November meeting. All of the candidates selected hold a current amateur radio license, are members in good standing of Delta Club, have no disciplinary matters before the club, and have attended at least 6 of the last 12 Delta Club membership meetings (Tyler Henley missed two meetings this year because he was on active duty with the military. The Board of Directors voted unanimously at their October meeting to give Tyler credit for attending those meetings).

The committee put the following members in nomination:

President - Joe Plunk, NS4E

Vice-President - Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV

Treasurer - Jim Martin, KD4FUU

Director of Training - Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

Director of Meetings and Special Events - Scott Adams, KM4PMU

Director of Programs - Adam White, K4SPB

Secretary - Perry Hayes, N4GJ

Director of Publications - Mike Harrison, KM4MRW

Mike Harrison has agreed to serve as Director of Publications next year, but he is interested in training a replacement and stepping down from that position. Anyone interested should contact Mike.

Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, remarked that many of the members on the BOD had been serving for a long time - and may be ready to rotate off. He said that serving on the BOD was a great way to get involved in the Club, and that interested persons should contact the current BOD

members to find out more about their duties. New people will probably be needed to fill some of the BOD positions next fall.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, presented the report of the Repeater Committee. Dan thanked everyone for their good conduct on the Club's repeaters.

At the September meeting, the membership asked the Repeater Committee to come back with firm numbers for purchasing the equipment for the Club's DMR repeater. Dan Fleek gave a presentation about the equipment he proposed to purchase. Dan discussed the costs for new and used repeaters and amplifiers, as well as a hotspot and internet access. Dan discussed the warranties associated with the new and used equipment, as well as services the Club would receive. Dan said the vendor he selected would not charge sales tax.

John Reiners moved that the membership approve a non-budgeted expenditure of up to \$3,650 for the purchase of a new Motorola SLR 5700 repeater with a 5-year warranty from North Georgia Communications. There were discussions about getting an additional internet hotspot for club use, about the club purchasing new or used equipment, the warranties offered on the equipment, and the amplifier, which was approved for purchase by the membership at the April membership meeting. Ham Hillard seconded the motion. Joe Lowenthal called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

Phil Baker, KZ4JK, of the National Weather Service in Memphis, gave a presentation on Skywarn in 2024. Phil talked about the 750,000 watt WSR-88D Weather Surveillance Doppler radar and its capabilities. He discussed the Skywarn Liaison Committee and the NWS Storm Spotter Program. He also discussed how spotter information flows among the NWS, spotters, the media, the public and emergency management.

Skywarn in the Mid-South is utilizing DMR for emergency communications. The Brandmeister talkgroup for NWS Memphis is 31471. Phil gave an overview of how DMR works, and programming a DMR radio. He said there is a Skywarn net on TG31471 on the first day of each month at 7pm.

Phil said that there is no longer a need for spotters to chase storms and put their lives at risk. Detailed reports on the conditions at a spotter's home or workplace can be very helpful. The website for NWS Memphis is weather.gov/memphis.

Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, made an announcement about the Bluff City Blues Ride, to be held on October 12th. The ride will begin around 7:30am and end around 4:30pm. Mary Jean said it would be good to have two hams at each station, and encouraged everyone to participate. The team will be using the 146.82 repeater.

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

Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm.

The next regular Delta Amateur Radio Club Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, beginning at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Hayes, N4GJ
Secretary

Delta Ham License Training, 2024

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

There is no charge for classes, but the student is responsible for the purchase of the license manual and the \$15 ARRL FCC examination fee. The FCC implemented a \$35 Administration Fee on April 19, 2022.

If you want to take a class, send an email to Joe at wa4ovo@gmail.com with the class name; ie, Tech Class, General Class, or Extra Class, on the Subject line and name, callsign if you have one, email address, and cellphone number in the email.

Licenses Earned in 2024 from Delta Classes

17 Technician

2 General

3 Extra

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 a question pool that became effective July 1, 2022 for four years.

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

The current ARRL Extra Class License Manual is the Thirteenth Edition with a 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.

The next **General** license class is proposed to start in early November 2024 (see below).

The next **Extra** license class will probably start in early January 2025.

The next **Technician** license class will probably start in mid to late February 2025.

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

An in-person General license class will be held on five Thursday nights November 7, 14, 21, December 5 and 12 from 6:15-9:30pm. The 5th class will be an opportunity to take the FCC exam. **We need at least six students to have the class.** The classes will be held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms training room, 6850 Appling Farms Parkway.

CURRENT CLASSES

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

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

PREVIOUS CLASSES

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

An in-person Technician license class was held on six Monday nights on July 8, 15, 22, 29 August 5 and 12 from 6:15-9:30pm. The 5th class was a review of the question pool and opportunity to take the FCC exam. There were 12 students registered with eight completing the instructional period. Congratulations to Technicians Chris Pechak KQ4TQT and Daniel Lees KQ4TQ9U who tested at the Delta Club July 9th ARRL test session. Bill Matthews KQ4UEO also tested early on-line for Technician. Congratulation to John Burwell KQ4UIC, and Dexter Haney KJ5HMT for earning their Technician license. Congratulations to Cody Hubley KQ4UJD for earning Technician and General.



Steve KK4VPT presenting



Perry N4GJ presenting



Satellite Demo by Rick WA4NVM



FM Digital Opns by John KN4BVH

Photos by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

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

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

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

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

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

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



Tech Class 2-24 testing

Rick WA4NVM and Richard K4DXF
on JO-97 Satellite demo

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

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



Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS demo



John KN4BVH on Digital Basics

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

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

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

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

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

General Class 4-23 – November 6 – December 11, 2023

An in-person General Class license class was held on five Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm from November 6th to December 11th at Semmes-Murphey Clinic training room, 6305 Humphreys Blvd, Memphis 38120. The dates were November 6, 13, 27, December 4 and 11. The first four classes were instructional with the fifth class the opportunity to take the FCC exam.

There were eight students in the class-Jeff KQ4KKS, Sean KQ4KNI, James KQ4GGX, Jack KN4FDK, Bill KQ4DTS, Loy KQ4LPM, Jay KJ5CFY, and Julian KO4ZPS.



General Class 4-23

Photos by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors were Park AI5CY, Steve KK4VPT, Perry N4GJ, Carolyn KX4QF, Ken KI4AOH, Barry W5CJ, Joe NS4E, John KN4VBH, Paul KA4X and Joe WA4OVO.

The Delta ARRL VE Team headed by Bob KW4RJ provided the FCC test session on Monday, December 11th at 7pm at Semmes-Murphrey Clinic.

General Class 4-23 FCC Test Session
Photo by Joe Plunk NS4E



Previous Months' and Nice to Know Information

How to Print Your FCC License

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

INDIVIDUAL EMAIL ADDRESS IN QRZ
Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

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

ARRL Benefits

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

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

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

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

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

YL News Submitted by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB

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

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

2024 Board of Directors

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Sparks Newsletter and Delta Club Information

SPARKS is published monthly by the Delta Amateur Radio Club and emailed to club members. All information published in this newsletter is provided as a service. While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure accuracy, neither the Delta Amateur Radio Club nor its officers assume any liability resulting from errors or omissions. All correspondence may be mailed to:

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

Please note that you must provide your name and call sign if you're requesting specific actions or personal follow-ups, and also be aware that any profane or mean-spirited comments will be unceremoniously discarded without consideration.

Delta Club Members Can Like Us/Follow Posts on Facebook!

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/darcmem>.

Upcoming Events

For more information go to <http://hamcalendar.com/>

Memphis Area VHF/UHF Nets

| Name of Net | Frequency (MHz) | Offset/Tone | Local Time | Day of Week |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|------------------------|
| Mid-South Bullfrog Net | 146.535 | [simplex] | 7:30p | Daily |
| Delta Club Info Net (Primary) | 146.82 | - (107.2) | 8:00p | Daily |
| Delta Club Info Net (Secondary) | 443.7 | +(107.2) | 8:00p | Daily |
| YL Info Net (Primary) | 146.82 | - (107.2) | 8:45p | Saturday |
| YL Info Net (Secondary) | 443.7 | +(107.2) | 8:45p | Saturday |
| Crittenden ARO | 147.15 | + (107.2) | 7:30p | Sunday |
| Sunday Super Niner Net | 927.6125 | - (146.2) | 8:30p | Sunday |
| Elmer Net | 444.175 | + (107.2) | 9:00p | Sunday |
| Desoto County EMA | 146.91 | + (107.2) | 8:30p | Monday |
| MedMERS Net | 146.82 | - (107.2) | 12:00p | Wednesday |
| Tipton ARS | 145.49 | + (100.0) | 7:30p | Thursday |
| Crittenden ARO | 442.4 | + (107.2) | 8:00p | Thursday |
| Olive Branch ARC | 147.255 | + (79.9) | 8:30p | Thursday |
| OBARC Linked | 444.7 | + (107.2) | 8:30p | Thursday |
| ARES Training Net | 146.85 | - (107.2) | 9:00p | Thursday |
| TN Statewide DMR Net | Digital – DMR | | 8:00p | Friday |
| Four-Forty Net | 443.7 | + (107.2) | 8:30p | Friday |
| Neshoba Club Info Net | 146.625 | - (107.2) | 8:30p | 4 th Monday |

TENNESSEE HF NETS

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

(Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)

3980 kHz – Tennessee Phone Net

Mon-Fri - 5:40 AM, 6:45 AM & **5:30 PM** (5:30 pm beginning Nov. 9 evening)

Saturday - 8:00 AM & 5:30 PM

Sunday - 8:00 AM only

Holidays - 8:00 AM only

DELTA CLUB ADVERTISEMENTS



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Quality Accessories for the Shack and Field

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

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



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



Joe Miller
Owner

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