

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 107 * December 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.

- **No FCC Testing at the December Meeting**
- **No Ham 101 at the December Meeting**
- **Meeting Program begins at 7:00 pm**
 - Christmas Potluck - Everyone bring a side dish or dessert.

Announcements

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.

A **General** license class started in November 2024 and will wrap up on December 12th.

The next **Extra** license class will start January 4, 2025.

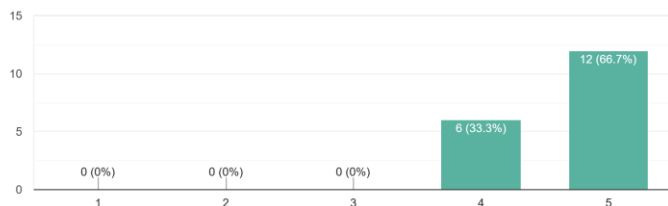
The next **Technician** license class will probably start in mid to late February 2025.

November Membership Meeting Signal Report

I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had 53 people on the sign in sheet and 18 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.

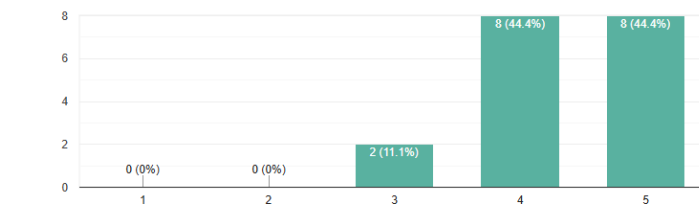
Thank you.

How satisfied were you with the event?
18 responses



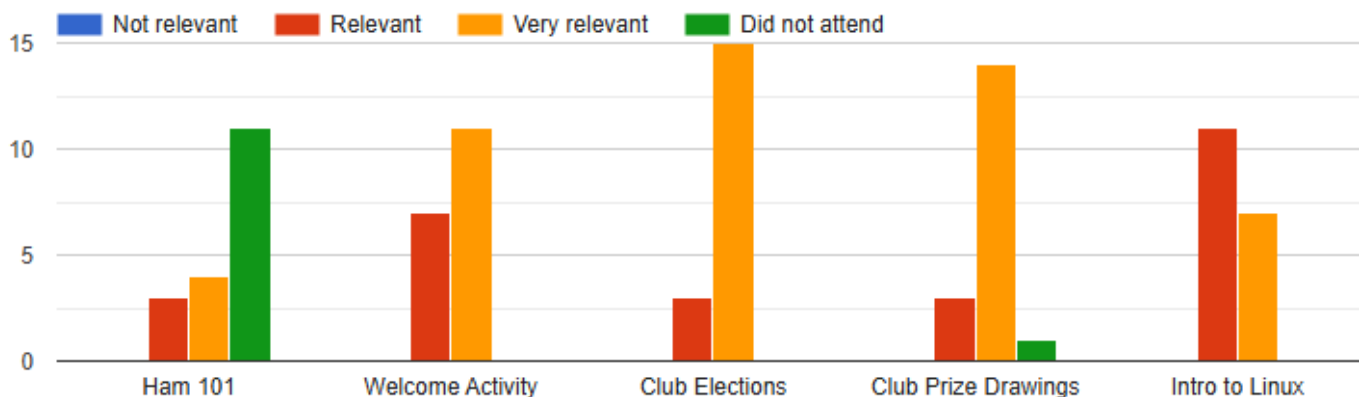
How relevant and helpful do you think it was to our hobby?
18 responses

[Copy chart](#)



Which sessions did you find most relevant?

[Copy chart](#)



Please let us know one thing you would like to see as a club activity next year. (14 Responses)

"Make and Take" type activity, where we can build a helpful project. Maybe something like a powerpole distribution block.

Soldering class

Get more active in ARRL events.

Would like to see a working group of elmers to really help out the new guys get into the hobby. This would make it a lot easier to have a dedicated group to help everyone out. It's a great hobby but starting out you never know what you don't know.

Connector soldering/attachment guide

Can't think of anything now. Will have something for next month.

A project build. Pick some hardware to build from a lot. Build it at the meeting.

Go Box contest

Fox hunt

Unsure

Beginners/start up "club: :)

Winter field day

I enjoy all the lessons I've seen at the meetings. Maybe more info on antennas since that seems to be a complicated area. I would like to see an event that provides more hands-on experience on making contact on ham radio and an intro into satellites, if possible. Respectfully.

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.



Fresh News and Articles for our Membership

President's Corner Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

As we approach the close of another year, I want to take a moment to reflect on all that we've accomplished together as a ham radio community. This year has been a testament to the strength and resilience of our club. From successful field days (The 2024 ARRL Field Day results are now available in the December issue QST and on the ARRL Field Day website at <https://field-day.arrl.org/fdresults.php>) to our regular on-air meetups, we've continued to grow in both numbers and knowledge. Many of you have gone above and beyond in sharing your expertise, whether through workshops, mentoring new operators, or volunteering your time during events. Your commitment is what makes this club such a special place, and I am deeply grateful for each of you.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting year in store. Plans are already underway for new activities, including antenna building workshops, kit building workshops, more opportunities to engage in public service communications and other activities that you, our membership, ask for. Our club's success depends on the continued involvement and enthusiasm of every member, and I encourage each of you to stay active, share your ideas, and help us make 2025 even better. I wish you and your families a joyful holiday season, and I look forward to seeing all that we can achieve together in the year ahead.

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 December Signal Report!

Lastly, please ask one person to join our club and have fun with us!

73

Joe Plunk, NS4E

Vice President's Corner

Another year is coming to a close. I count myself blessed and fortunate to have joined such a great group of guys and gals. As we begin the season of cold weather and staying bundled up inside, don't be afraid to call out on the local repeaters and see who all are listening. With Interstates 40 & 55 so close, lots of people driving through might be listening or even calling out themselves. It is amazing just how many people look up repeaters on their path and plug them into their radios. I have heard many fellow hams sound surprised to get a response and then tell me they hardly ever get someone to call back when they key up. That speaks volumes about how active and alive ham radio is in our area. We also have younger members who will be out of school and staying active with these repeaters will keep them interested in our hobby. Switching gears, the holiday season can be rough on some people. This might be your first Christmas without a loved one; or this time of year could bring up bad memories. Always remember that you are not alone, and there is a world full of people here to support you. Should you need to talk to someone, feel free to reach out to me or the other board members. Everyone is at different points in life, but it's best to walk through it with others. Merry Christmas everyone.

Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV

PACKET UPDATE

Amateurs like to run different computer operating systems. One popular system is the Linux operating system. One place to learn more about Linux is a website called "Linux in the Hamshack". They offer lots of information on Linux operating system. They have other sites you can go to get information. They have a Linux and amateur radio podcast you can listen to. The website has a resource area to get additional information about Linux and amateur radio. Operation of amateur radio software is discussed. The site includes other sites with amateur radio podcasts you can listen to. The web address of the website is <https://lhspodcast.info/>

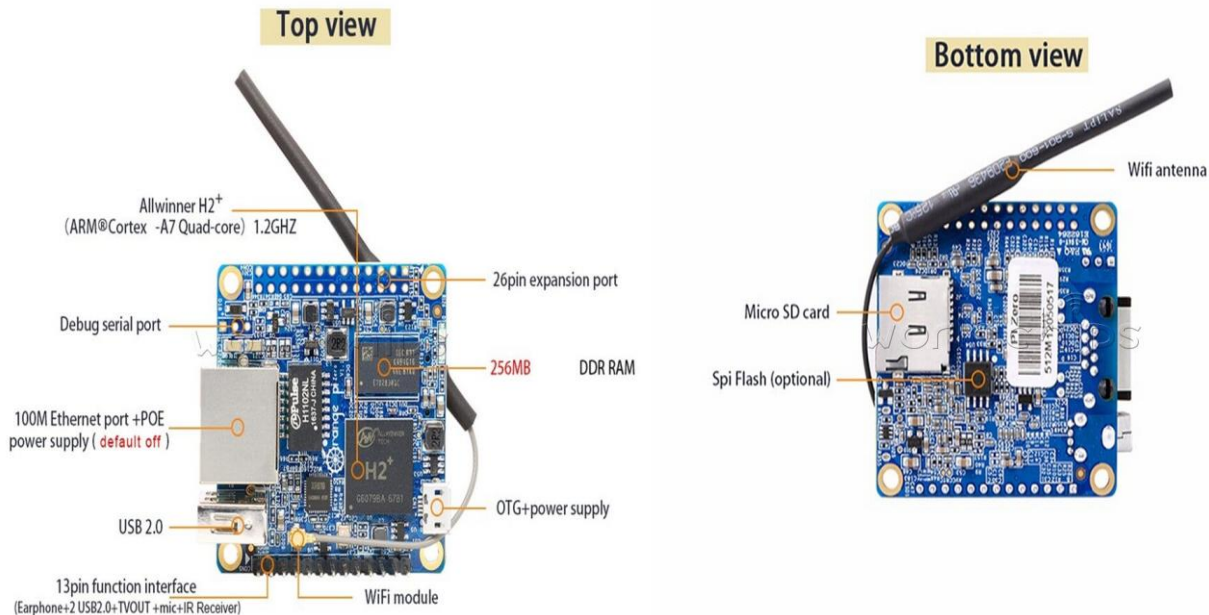
James Butler
KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE



Raspberry PI has come out with the PI Zero several years ago. The Chinese version is now on the market and the price is the lowest I have seen. The “Orange PI Zero” is a small form factor single board microprocessor. It has 256 MB, 512 MB or 1 GB of memory. The quad core processor runs at over 1 gigahertz speed. The board also has built in WIFI with a small antenna. On the back an SD card slot allows you to load up an operating system on power up. The PC board comes with a USB connection, internet connector, SD card connector, power connector, a 26 pin expansion connector, and a 13 pin audio video interface. The most common operating systems are the android operating system or a version of Linux made for the PI. If you want to see all you can do with the Orange PI Zero do a search on Google. To buy one go to Ebay and search “Orange PI Zero”.

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					
November 1, 2024 through November 29, 2024					
SUMMARY					
Beginning Balance	\$20,709.70	Minimum Daily Balance	\$20,286		
Deposits & Credits	\$865.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$20,541		
Withdrawals	\$235.48 -				
Fees	\$0.00 -				
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +				
Checks	\$1,032.25 -				
Ending Balance	\$20,306.97				
DEPOSITS & CREDITS					
11/12	Deposit - Thank You		275.00		
11/14	Deposit - Thank You		60.00		
11/15	Deposit - Thank You		510.00		
11/29	Deposit - Thank You		20.00		
			Total Deposits & Credits		\$865.00
WITHDRAWALS					
11/14	Rsc Insurance Br Risk-Strat Delta Amateur M120746059963		235.48		
CHECKS					
Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
11/19	1632	342.00	11/12	1634	191.40
11/15	1633	498.85			
			Total Checks		\$1,032.25
* Break In Check Number Sequence.					
DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY					
Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
11/12	20,793.30	11/15	20,628.97	11/29	20,306.97
11/14	20,617.82	11/19	20,286.97		

Applications Received - Nov 2024		
(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$0.00
(1) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(2) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$40.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Family		\$0.00
(23) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$460.00
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$0.00
(1) Donations Received		\$30.00
	Total Dues Received	\$530.00
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
Deposit from sale of Stainless Tarheel Bracket		\$275.00
Deposit from sale of Antenna		\$60.00
	Total Other Deposits	\$335.00
	Total Deposits	\$865.00
Withdrawals		
Hanover Insurance - Annual premium for repeater equipment		\$235.48
	Total Withdrawals	\$235.48
Checks		
Check #1631 - Voided Check		
Check #1632 - Postmaster - PO Box Annual Renewal		\$342.00
Check #1633 - James Martin - Reimbursement for purchase of November club meeting prizes.		\$498.85
Check #1634 - Scott Adams - Reimbursement for club meeting refreshments.		\$191.40
	Total Payments	\$1,032.25

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,370.74	5.020 %	\$263.01	\$5.90
<div>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</div> <div>*8481</div>			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$67.34	\$107.73	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	11/25/2024	1/22/2025	
<div>▲ Hide More Details</div>			

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8503

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$11,522.15	0.000 %	\$274.10	\$0.00
<div>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</div> <div>*8503</div>			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$20.34	\$248.05	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	11/26/2024	12/26/2026	
<div>▲ Hide More Details</div>			

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes - December 3, 2024

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting - December 3, 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 December 3, 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.

Perry Hayes discussed his minutes of the November membership meeting, which were circulated to the BOD by email, and the one correction he received. There was no opposition to presenting those minutes in the December issue of *Sparks*.

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

Jim Martin discussed DARC's certificates of deposit (CDs). One matured in November (account number ending in 8503) and needs to be renewed. The other will mature in January (account number ending in 8481). Jim presented the terms and interest rates currently offered by Regions Bank.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, made a motion to roll over the CD (8503) for 3 months at an interest rate of 4.5%, which was seconded by Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV. The motion passed unanimously.

Perry Hayes made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Joe Lowenthal. The motion passed without objection.

Joe Lowenthal made a motion to renew the ARRL Club Liability Insurance policy for \$200, which was seconded by Tyler Henley. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Martin presented the new and renewal membership applications received since the last BOD meeting. Joe Lowenthal made a motion to accept all of the membership applications, which was seconded by Perry Hayes. The motion passed without opposition.

There was a discussion about the bills and reimbursement requests that were expected in December. These were budgeted expenditures, so no vote of approval by the BOD was necessary.

Joe Plunk asked if any BOD members had a hi-res version of the DARC logo in a digital format. Joe Lowenthal said he would email Joe Plunk the files that he has.

Joe Plunk asked if any BOD members had reports to make.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, reported that he purchased a new board for the Allstar node at the 146.625 repeater site. Dan will get with Jelly Thompson, N4HLT, to access the site and swap out the board.

There was a discussion about the repeater at the 146.625 site and about taking pictures of the equipment during the visit.

Dan said that our repeater coordinator, SERA, is now requiring two points of contact for our account. Dan said the APRS system at Methodist North is now working well, and receiving much better after a tune-up. Dan also said that he submitted a copy of the club's tax-exempt certificate to the vendor who is supplying the DMR repeater and amplifier for the 443.700 site. As a result, the club will not have to pay sales tax on that equipment.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to submit their articles for the December issue of *Sparks* to Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, as soon as possible.

Joe Plunk said he is working on the agenda for the December membership meeting. After the club business is concluded, there will be a potluck dinner, followed by awards and recognition of volunteers. The 2025 BOD will be introduced to the club members.

There was a discussion about a charitable donation to be made at the December membership meeting.

Joe Plunk asked the BOD members to encourage new hams to join the club, and to encourage existing members to renew.

Joe Plunk presented the results of the November *Signal Report* survey, where members were asked about activities, they would like the club to offer in 2025. There was a discussion about activities the club might offer.

There was a discussion about which members should receive the New Ham of the Year, Ham of the Year and Elmer of the Year awards, which will be presented at the December membership meeting. A consensus was reached on all three awards.

Treasurer Jim Martin announced that the State of Tennessee has granted DARC's application for tax-exempt status for club purchases. There was a discussion about how the club could take advantage of the tax-exempt status.

Vice President Tyler Henley said that he will miss the January membership meeting, due to Army commitments. Tyler said that he, Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, and Matt Cunningham, KQ4YPO, were talking about having an activity for Winter Field Day (January 25-26, 2025). Joe Plunk said that he would like to talk with Tyler, Josh, Matt and the club membership about participating in Winter Field Day.

Perry Hayes, Jim Martin, Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, Mike Harrison and Dan Fleek had no further reports.

Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, said that he had mixed emotions about leaving the BOD. He will still be around, and will be active in the club. John talked about his ideas for new club activities in 2025. John said these activities would boost new memberships and renewals.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal reported that the General Class license class will conclude this week, and have testing on December 12th. Joe is planning an Extra Class license class, to meet via Zoom. The class would meet on Saturdays, beginning on January 4th and ending on February 15th (skipping January 25th). At least 6 participants will be required for the Extra class.

Joe Lowenthal said a Technician Class license class would likely start in late February. Joe is not sure if the class would meet in person, or via zoom. There was a discussion about people outside of the Memphis area who would be interested in participating, if the class is offered via Zoom.

Joe Lowenthal said he listed the classes on the ARRL website, and there was a discussion about how that is done.

Public Information Officer (PIO) Adam White, K4SPB, will become the Director of Programs in January. There was a discussion about a new person being needed to fill the PIO position.

Joe Plunk said he would share program topics with Adam that have been suggested on the *Signal Report* surveys.

There was a discussion about updating the DARC website with the names and biographical information of the 2025 BOD members. Mike Harrison made a motion to update the BOD members and biographical information, which was seconded by John Reiners. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion about the 2025 Budget. Jim Martin said he was working on a draft of the budget, which he will distribute to the BOD soon. The club bylaws state that the draft budget should be prepared in December, submitted to the membership in January and voted upon in February.

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 Perry Hayes. The motion passed without objection.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 7:34pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7, 2025 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
November 12, 2024

The November 2024 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 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 7:00pm. There were 53 members and visitors in attendance.

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

Absent: Immediate Past-President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ, Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW.

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

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.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to complete a *Signal Report* survey. He is very interested to know what activities the membership wants the club to offer next year.

Joe Plunk asked if any of the BOD members had additional reports.

Perry Hayes and Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, had no additional reports.

Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, reminded everyone that it was time to renew their memberships for 2025.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, said that there were 7 students enrolled in the General Class license class. The class is meeting at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms Station on Thursday nights. The class will skip the week of Thanksgiving, and testing will take place on December 12th.

Joe said he will be having surgery, so he is not certain about the schedule for the Extra Class license class. Joe thinks there will be six sessions, starting the first Saturday of January and skipping the last Saturday of January. The class will probably meet via Zoom from 9am to 1pm.

Joe Lowenthal said three people passed their Technician Class license exams and one person passed their General Class license exam at the evening's FCC testing session.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, said he had ordered the gear for the club's DMR 443.700 repeater station. He hopes to be on the air by the end of 2024. Dan said the APRS station at Methodist North is now back up, and he plans to work on the 220 repeater next.

Joe Plunk said that Dan is still looking for members to adopt a repeater site. Volunteers would drive by a site, periodically, and make sure that everything looks in order.

Public Information officer (PIO) Adam White, K4SPB, said that he now has a packet and VARA Winkink station up on 144.99. The site can be accessed with a soundcard or TNC.

Joe Plunk asked the Nominations Committee to conduct the Board of Directors election. The committee put a slate of candidates in nomination at the October membership meeting. There were no additional persons nominated for any of the positions. The club voted unanimously to accept the entire slate of candidates, by acclamation.

The Delta Club Board of Directors for 2025 is:

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 Publications - Mike Harrison, KM4MRW

Director of Programs - Adam White, K4SPB

Secretary - Perry Hayes, N4GJ

After the conclusion of the elections, the Prize Drawing was held.

Dan Fleek gave a presentation entitled “An Introduction to Linux.” Linux is the kernel of the operating system, and the utilities, software and packaging make up the distribution. There are two distributions: Red Hat and Debian. Dan discussed running Linux on a dedicated laptop, in a window on a Windows computer and on a Raspberry Pi.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said that he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Bill Flanigan, KK4VPS, made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Joe Lowenthal. The motion passed without opposition. President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:14pm.

The next regular membership meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club will be the Annual Holiday Dinner, scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 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

3 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.

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 is text.

The next **Technician** license class will probably start in mid to late February 2025 unless there is no Extra Class license class.

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

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

An Extra Class license class is planned 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 25th. The 6th class will be in person at a location to be determined in the Memphis area for an opportunity to take the FCC exam. There needs to be at least six students registered for the class by December 23rd. To register, send an email to www.wa4ovo@gmail.com with Subject line: Extra Class and your name, callsign, email address and cellphone number in text.

CURRENT 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 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.

Congratulations to William KQ4UEO who upgraded on December 3rd.



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 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.

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

President

Joe Plunk, NS4E
NS4E@access-tech.com
901-491-2755

Vice President

Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV
ghenley@southaven.org
901-827-5859

Secretary

Perry Hayes, N4GJ
pshayes@gmail.com
901-626-2279

Treasurer

Jim Martin, KD4FUU
KD4FUU@gmail.com
248-830-8179

Director of Training

Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO
wa4ovo@gmail.com
901-628-4318

Director of Publications

Mike Harrison, KM4MRW
mheagle85@gmail.com
731-609-1948

Director of Programs

John Reiners, KN4BVH
KN4BVH@comcast.net
901-541-0310

Director of Meetings & Special Events

Scott Adams, KM4PMU
scottedadamsjr@hotmail.com
901-573-6280

Public Information Officer

Adam White, K4SPB
PIO@deltacub.org
817-201-3857

Immediate Past President

Ty McMahan, KX4MQ
KX4MQ@icloud.com
901-833-7119

Repeater Trustee

Dan Fleek, AA4DF
AA4DF@arrl.net
901-491-3192

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



Hamsource
Quality Accessories for the Shack and Field

John Kalotai, N1OLO
Owner

456 Long Hill Avenue
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
6282 Poplar Avenue
At Poplar and Massey
Memphis, TN 38119
W - 901.766.1875
C - 901.230.3043
Joe.Miller@cfafranchisee.com
chick-fil-a.com