

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 118 * November 2025



Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC)

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W4BS

REPEATER SYSTEM

146.820 ^{-107.2}	147.360 ^{+107.2}
146.625 ^{-107.2}	443.200 ^{+107.2}
224.420 ^{-107.2}	443.700*
144.390 Digipeater	*DMR

You are invited to attend our monthly membership meeting at 7 pm on: Tuesday, November 11th, 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.deltacub.org> for detailed instructions on how to find the correct entrance. Parking is available at 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**
 - DMR helpdesk and basic soldering to build a code oscillator kit
- **Meeting Programs begins at 7:00 pm**
 - BOD Elections
 - Freefest Discussion
 - Game and Doorprizes

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

Don Strahl KZ4GJ, VE Liaison

Phone: 901-833-1270

Email: KZ4GJ.Don@gmail.com

Club Announcements!

HAM 101

DMR helpdesk and basic soldering to build a code oscillator kit

Delta Club Training

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

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

The 9 students in the class are Rich KN4GJH, John KQ4UIC, Dexter KJ5HMT, Michael KJ5MKR, Patrick KJ5MKS, Rajesh KR4CPZ, Mark KM4TMO, Barry KR4EPL, and Danny KR4CVH.

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

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

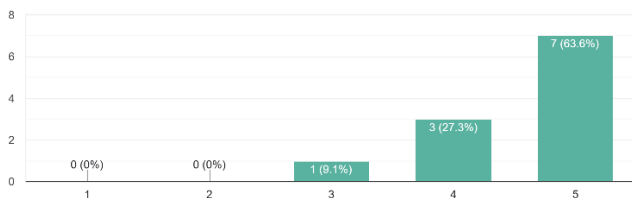
The next **Technician** license class will probably start in mid to late February 2026.

October Membership Meeting Signal Report

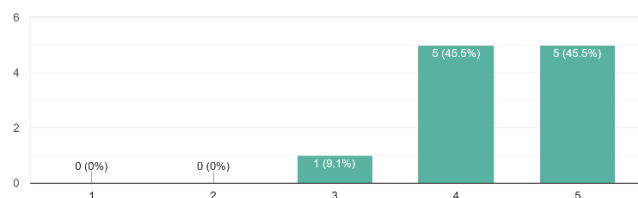
I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had 47 people on the sign in sheet and 14 surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback on how 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.

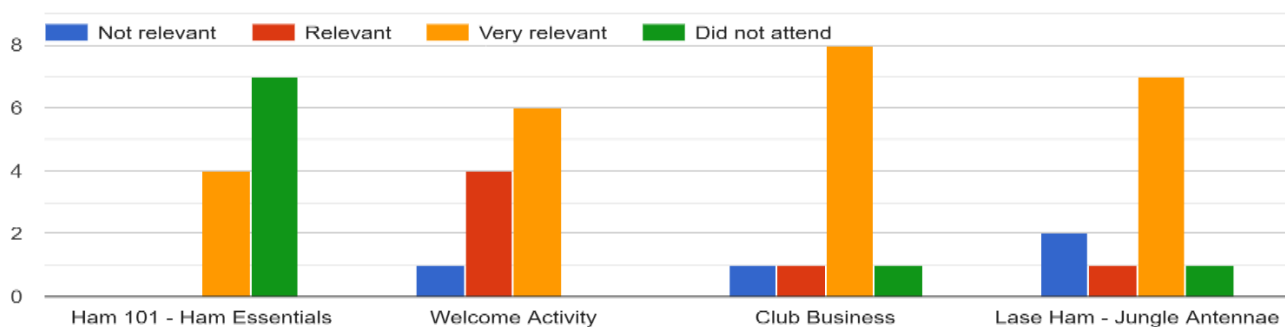
How satisfied were you with the event?
11 responses



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



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



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

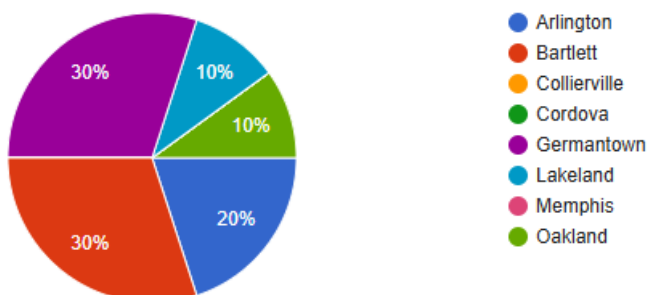
1 response

Satellite related class

Bonus Survey Question:

If the club could meet anywhere in Shelby County where would you like to see us meet?

10 responses



News and Articles for our Membership

President's Corner Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

Last month I wrote about community and being a part of a community. This month I wanted to pick up a different part of community. How do you build a community? What does building a community look like?

As a prelude to this article I asked my family how would they create community. This led to a very deep and thoughtful conversation. Many of the ideas I hope to capture and share and bring to our club. However, the question is not for my family to answer but for our club to answer.

Our club is growing, changing and improving. We are getting better at enjoying and promoting our hobby. Our Field Day results show great progress in how we are present in our community. I found it to be amazing that we were 23 out of 4375 entries for the number of people that attended our field day event.

We have another opportunity that has popped up for the club to create and build community. As I am sure a few of you have heard the Free Fest ham fest is no longer going to be put on as an event by the club that was running it. The Delta club has asked that club for permission to pickup and run an event for the Memphis market. We have a venue and the ARRL is willing to help with a grant to help cover some of the expenses. What we need now is for you, our members, to tell us if this is something you would like to see happen. The board is onboard with making this happen, but the board needs the membership's help to do so.

Please join us at our November membership meeting. It is going to be a packed meeting. We will have our 2026 elections, we will discuss the new ham fest, we will have a great time playing a ham focused game of jeopardy (that will have bonus door prize tickets) and we will wrap up with fabulous door prizes. I look forward to seeing everyone next week at our membership meeting.

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

Program's Corner Submitted by Adam White, K4SPB

We've had a good little bit of interest in Winter Field Day so far. So far seven people have reached out. If you missed the October meeting, the plan is likely to rent a couple cabins at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park the weekend of January 23-25 and activate from there. It'll be good to get an accurate headcount so we have adequate room for everyone.

In case you didn't see on Facebook, a few of us set up a radio tent at the Bartlett Fire Department pancake breakfast. It was a good experience to practice setting up in a new place

and briefly operate. Great to meet with the public and show them some of our capabilities. Hopefully we'll have more opportunities to do something similar in the future.

Repeater Trustee's Corner

Submitted by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

Some of you know that I volunteer as a reserve with Bartlett Fire Department. I was able to invite the club to set up a tent outside at our recent Bartlett Fire Dept Annual Pancake Breakfast. I appreciate the crew that came out. I heard positive things about the club afterwards. It was a good opportunity for the public to see our club and other club members to stop by and say hi. I hope we can find more opportunities like this.

This week we will be discussing the local hamfest for next year. We have the opportunity to pick up the sponsorship of Freefest. A lot of good conversation around ideas and a special meeting has occurred. We will need a lot of support from the membership in time and effort to make it successful.

The scratchiness continues with the 146.820 repeater. As I have said before, having a repeater on a tall tower is a blessing and a curse. We can easily burn through money trying different things if we are not careful and still wind up with the same problem. Before we consider tower climbs and antenna replacements, we must ensure that everything down below is working and this takes time. Please be patient as we work on this. When checking in to the nightly net, please use a good antenna and full power as this helps overcome the desense.

If you have DMR questions, bring them to the Ham 101 session before the meeting. DMR is still alive in the area. New people are popping up on the local talk groups all the time. The Wednesday night 9pm net on TG 31471 is a good way to find new hams and try out your radio on DMR.

Dan
AA4DF



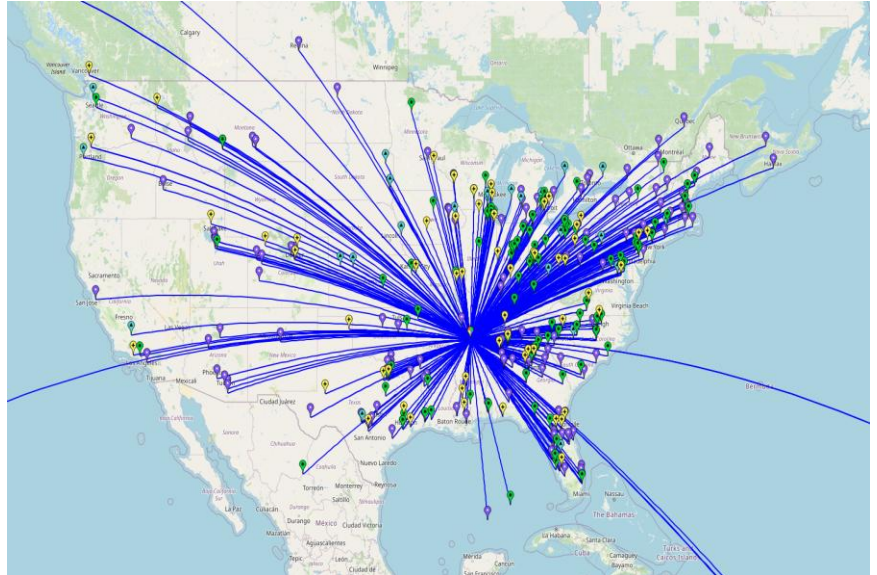
Field Day 2025 Results

Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

The results, please.

The Delta and Neshoba Amateur Radio Clubs collaborated this past field day. Our final entry is below.

Call	W4BS
GOTA Call	W4NRC
Final Score	3424
Category	4A
Section	TN
Power Multiplier	2
Club Name	Delta and Neshoba ARC
Participants	78
Transmitters	4
Power Source	G
Total CW QSOs	84
Total Digital QSOs	142
Total Phone QSOs	255
Total QSOs	481
Bonus Points	2010



Some interesting statistics come from looking at all the Field day entries (both domestic and international) and where our field day landed. Our clubs put some great numbers up using gear that was setup in less than 2 hours using all field expedient antennas and gear.

Across all entries there were a total of 181 4A entries.

Our entry was #4 in attendance of all 4A entries.

Our entry was #55 in points of all 4A entries.

Our entry was #84 in QSO of all 4A entries.

Our entry was #14 in bonus points of all 4A entries

Our clubs together with our entry was #23 out of **ALL** submitted entries (4375) in attendance with 78.

To put this number a little differently, our clubs were in the **top 1%** of all clubs with the number of people that attended our Field Day.

The links used to pull all these statistics are below.

<https://contests.arrl.org/ContestResults/2025/Field-Day-2025-FinalQSTResults.pdf>

<https://field-day.arrl.org/fdresults.php>

Packet Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Many amateurs are looking for free open source software. One of the best sites is “Sourceforge”. This site has the latest updates for ham radio software that you can download. It has software for digital modes. It has a download for ham radio Linux. The site also offers radio modification firmware updates with instructions. On the left side of the screen you can also select Windows, Linux, or Mac software. The site also has other categories you can explore. Go to the website to see all you can get. The web address is <https://sourceforge.net/directory/communications/?q=ham+radio>

OS

Linux (297) ☐

Windows (212) ☐

BSD (169) ☐

[More...](#)

Category

Communications (364) ☐

Scientific/Engineering (46) ☐

System (32) ☐

Multimedia (22) ☐

Education (18) ☐

Internet (16) ☐

Software Development (11) ☐

Business (10) ☐

Desktop Environment (4) ☐

Database (3) ☐

Showing 391 open source projects for "ham radio"

[View related business solutions](#)



Gen AI apps are built with MongoDB Atlas

Build gen AI apps with an all-in-one modern database: MongoDB Atlas

MongoDB Atlas provides built-in vector search and a flexible document model so developers can build, scale, and run gen AI apps without stitching together multiple databases. From LLM integration to semantic search, Atlas simplifies your AI architecture—and it's free to get started.

Start Free



Red Hat Enterprise Linux on Microsoft Azure

Deploy Red Hat Enterprise Linux on Microsoft Azure for a secure, reliable, and scalable cloud environment, fully integrated with Microsoft services.

Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) on Microsoft Azure provides a secure, reliable, and flexible foundation for your cloud infrastructure. Red Hat Enterprise Linux on Microsoft Azure is ideal for enterprises seeking to enhance their cloud environment with seamless integration, consistent performance, and comprehensive support.

Learn More

James Butler
KB4LJV

Amateur Hardware Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Baofeng has come out with a new model HT for amateurs. The new UV5RM is one of their latest models. It has lots of improvements on the older UV5R model. The battery is 2500 MAH instead of 1800 MAH of the old one. The newer screen is larger and now in color. Charging now uses a USB-C port on the battery back. The new model also has three power output levels. The highest level is 10 watts. The radio transmits on 2 meter and 440. It has an extended frequency range for receive including the 220 MHZ ham band. The radio has NOAA weather channels with weather alert. The price on this radio is under \$30 on Ebay. Go to Ebay and do a search for “UV5RM” to see all the information on this new Baofeng radio.



James Butler
KB4LJV

DARC Director's Reports

Treasurer's Report Submitted by Paul Broom, KY4MX

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

<https://deltaclub.org/membership>

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

Delta Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 342768

Memphis, TN 38184-2768

Blank applications are also available at club meetings. If you prefer, you can print and bring the completed form, along with applicable membership fees, to any in-person meeting. Please contact Paul Broom, KY4MX at **treasurer@deltaclub.org** with any questions or concerns regarding application submission and/or payment of annual dues.

LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS			
October 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025			
SUMMARY			
Beginning Balance	\$16,160.07	Minimum Daily Balance	\$16,160
Deposits & Credits	\$40.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$16,172
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$15.29 -		
Ending Balance	\$16,184.78		
DEPOSITS & CREDITS			
10/17	Deposit - Thank You		40.00
CHECKS			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
10/17	1668	15.29	
DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>		
10/17	16,184.78		

Applications Received - October 2025		
(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
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$0.00
(0) Donations Received		\$0.00
	Total Dues Received	\$0.00
Other Deposits & Credits		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)		\$0.00
(0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$0.00
Sale of Delta Club Patches (0 @ \$5)		\$0.00
Estate Sales		\$40.00
	Total Other Deposits	\$40.00
	Total Deposits	\$40.00
Withdrawals & Debits		
None		\$0.00
	Total Withdrawals	\$0.00
Checks		
Check #1664 - Joe Lowenthal - Estate sale postage		\$15.29
Check #1666 - Josh Cunningham - Refreshments (outstanding \$33.05)		\$0.00
	Total Payments	\$15.29

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,546.07	3.680 %	\$175.33	\$40.96
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER *8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$132.39	\$263.01	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	8/22/2025	9/21/2026	
▲ Hide More Details			

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8503

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$11,970.60	2.960 %	\$448.45	\$11.65
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER			
*8503			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$324.31	\$274.10	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	10/22/2025	5/22/2027	
▲ Hide More Details			

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes November 4, 2025

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

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

Absent: Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV.

Guests: ARRL Delta Division Director David Norris, K5UZ, Steve Frazier, KK4VPT.

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on November 4, 2025, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present.

President Joe Plunk called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

Secretary Perry Hayes called the roll and declared a quorum.

President Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Paul Broom moved to approve the Secretary's minutes, which were circulated by email. There was a second by Adam White. The motion passed without opposition.

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

Treasurer Paul Broom presented the Treasurer's Report. Paul also said that he had renewed DARC's certificate of deposit, with an account number ending in 8503.

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

Paul also discussed DARC's insurance policy, which covers the club's equipment. The policy is up for renewal in November. Paul said he was adding the DMR repeater and the amplifier to the list of items covered. The new premium will be \$302.11.

Joe Plunk asked if anyone was opposed to giving Paul the authority to renew the insurance policy with those terms. There were no objections.

There was a discussion about bills that were expected during the month of November.

Joe Plunk discussed the agenda for the November membership meeting.

Steve Frazier, the Chairman of the Nominations Committee, said that no additional nominations have been received. The BOD election will be held at the November meeting. Joe Plunk said the membership would elect the entire slate of candidates by acclamation.

There was a discussion about Winter Field Day, to be held on January 24-25. A number of members have expressed an interest in participating.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek said that the audio on the 146.82 repeater has been scratchy. A team may visit the repeater site soon to conduct some tests.

Joe Plunk began a discussion about a proposed hamfest, which would be hosted by DARC on April 11, 2026.

Joe Plunk has reserved a venue for the hamfest at the Agricenter International. Joe has also received an estimate for renting tables and chairs for the event.

Joe Plunk said that the responsibility for running the hamfest would not be responsibility of the BOD alone. The membership will have to step up, fill the spots on the hamfest committee and volunteer for the many positions that are needed.

There were a variety of discussions about the space at the Agricenter, how many seminar rooms would be needed, concessions, parking, support for LeBonheur hospital, door prizes, admission fees, vendors, potential participation and support from other clubs, seminar topics, expenses, the hamfest format, etc.

David Norris said that a request for a \$5,000 ARRL grant would be very reasonable.

Joe Plunk said the membership will be asked at the November meeting to indicate whether DARC should sponsor the hamfest. If so, the membership will have to approve the expenditure for renting the space at the Agricenter. A committee will have to be formed to run the hamfest. The committee will have to finalize a budget and apply for an ARRL grant in December.

Johnathan Urschel made a motion to accept the hamfest action plan for the November meeting, which was seconded by Paul Broom. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Plunk asked if any BOD members had additional reports.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that a new General Class License Class started last night. 9 students enrolled and 7 were present for the class. 2 students were sick and could not attend.

David Norris said that Joe Lowenthal is responsible for a tremendous number of new hams. Joe was asked about the numbers, and estimated that his classes have produced 633 new Technicians and a total of around 1,000 licenses earned.

Director of Programs Adam White discussed his proposed \$1,200 budget line item to purchase a KrakenSDR receiver system for radio direction finding.

No BOD members had any additional reports or comments.

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 unanimously.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 7:45pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 6:30pm, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Hayes, N4GJ
Secretary

**DARC Special Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ**

Delta Club Special BOD Meeting Minutes October 21, 2025

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Special Board of Directors Meeting - October 21, 2025.

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

Absent: None

Guests: David Norris, K5UZ, ARRL Delta Division Director

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met in a Special Session on October 21, 2025, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present.

President Joe Plunk announced that the Mid-South Amateur Radio Association (MARA) is no longer sponsoring a hamfest in Memphis.

Joe Plunk said that MARA had shared some information with him about the organization, budget and venue for the former Memphis FreeFest. Joe said that he had made preliminary contacts with some local venues.

There was a discussion about venues that might be appropriate for a hamfest.

Joe Plunk asked if the BOD (and Delta Club) wanted a hamfest to continue in the Memphis area. He asked if DARC should try to sponsor a hamfest. He asked if we should sponsor a hamfest in 2026, or skip a year and shoot for 2027.

Joe Lowenthal said that he has worked many hamfests in the past. He said approximately 12 volunteers would be needed to cover important aspects of the show, such as: Chairman, Publicity, Vendor Solicitations, Tables & Chairs, Door Prizes, Food, Security, Parking, Seminars, FCC Testing, Sound System and Treasurer.

There was a discussion about the income, expenses and attendance at the former Memphis FreeFest.

President Joe Plunk welcomed ARRL Delta Division Director David Norris.

David said that it is important to the amateur radio community that Memphis continue to host a hamfest. David also said that Memphis would be a great location for the upcoming Delta Division Convention.

David discussed the ARRL Division Convention Grant Program. He said that grant money may be available to help DARC get a new hamfest up and running. David discussed a scenario where the Division might provide assistance for three years, with the understanding that Memphis would host the Delta Division Convention during one of those years.

David discussed the information that is required for the application. He also described the process of awarding the grants.

Each BOD member was given an opportunity to share their thoughts about DARC sponsoring a hamfest. Most felt that it would be good for DARC to sponsor a hamfest. There was a discussion about the large amount of work that would be involved, and how DARC members would have to step up to fill the necessary positions. Some suggested including other clubs in the project.

There was a discussion about important deadlines, which are coming up soon. It was agreed that the matter needed to be presented to the membership quickly.

Johnathan Urschel moved that the BOD ask the membership to consider picking up the hamfest, and continuing it in 2026. The motion was seconded by Tyler Henley.

There was unanimous support for the motion, except for one member, who abstained.

There was a discussion about the club insurance policy, which will be coming up for renewal soon.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to adjourn.

Adam White made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Paul Broom. The motion passed unanimously.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 9:25pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 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 October 14, 2025

The October 2025 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 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 7:05 pm. There were 42 members and visitors in attendance.

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

Absent: Treasurer Paul Broom, KY4MX.

President Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Joe Plunk asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves.

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

President Joe Plunk asked if any BOD members had reports for the membership.

Director of Programs Adam White said that Winter Field Day will be held on January 24-25, 2026. There will be a discussion about Winter Field Day during tonight's meeting.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said a General Class License Class is scheduled to begin on November 3rd. It will meet on 5 Monday nights, through December 8th. Six students have signed up, but at least 10 students are required for the class to be viable. Anyone interested should contact Joe at wa4ovo@gmail.com.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek said that the club's repeaters are working well. There are plans to install another Allstar node soon. An upgrade to the audio board on the 146.625 repeater in Germantown is also planned.

Club Historian John Reiners announced that the Mid South DMR net, held each Wednesday night on TG 31471, will be moving to 9:00pm - beginning on October 22nd.

John also said the Great ShakeOut earthquake drill will be held on October 16th. Reports can be sent via Winlink.

Nominations Committee Chair Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, said that no additional nominations had been received for the November BOD elections.

Joe Plunk said that all of the current BOD members had agreed to continue in their offices next year. Joe Lowenthal made a motion to nominate the current BOD members to continue their service in 2026, which was seconded by Dan Wehner, KN4FBJ. The motion passed without opposition.

Director of Programs Adam White discussed Winter Field Day, to be held on January 24-25, 2026. Adam said that Meeman-Shelby Forest and T.O. Fuller State Parks would be good locations. Camping, cabin rental and RV/camper parking (with hookups) are available. Anyone interested can contact Adam at programs@deltacub.org.

Adam introduced the evening's speaker, George Kostopoulos, KO4HVI. George is known as the "Laser Ham." George designed and sells a foldable ground plane antenna, known as the "Jungle Antenna." George offers a 2 meter (+ 440 receive), 220 MHz and 440 MHz version of the antenna. A 10% discount code will be offered to any DARC members wishing to make a purchase. George's website is TheLaserHam.com

Rick Kansch, N0KYN, President of the Mid-South Amateur Radio Association (MARA), announced that his club would no longer sponsor the hamfest known as Memphis FreeFest.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said that he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Dave Church, AD4Q, made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Dr. Randy Redd. The motion passed unanimously. President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:17 pm.

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

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

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

Licenses Earned in 2025 from Delta Classes

14 Technician

1 General

3 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 with Subject line: Tech, General or Extra Class and name, email address and cellphone number is text.

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

The next **Technician** license class will probably start In mid to late February 2026.

Scheduled Classes

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

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

The 9 students in the class are Rich KN4GJH, John KQ4UIC, Dexter KJ5HMT, Michael KJ5MKR, Patrick KJ5MKS, Rajesh KR4CPZ, Mark KM4TMO, Barry KR4EPL, and Danny KR4CVH.

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

Previous Classes

Tech Class 3-25 – June 30 – August 11, 2025

A Technician license class was held on six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on June 30, July 7, 21, 28, August 4 and 11. Nine students attended the first class. The classes were held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms Station training room, 6850 Appling Farms Pkwy, Memphis. Seven students took their exam on August 4th. Congratulations to Mike Haney KJ5MKR, Patrick Haney KJ5MKS, Jessica Powell KR4FVA, Julie Stovall KR4FVB and Greg Wagner KR4FVC who earned their Technician license. Congratulations to Mark Heckle KR4GOO for earning his Technician license on August 28th. The others plan to test soon.



Tech Class 3-25 first session with

John KN4BVH on Safety

Bobby KD5BS instructing

Photos by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors were Bobby Stroud KD5BS, Paul Broom KY4MX, John Reiners KN4BVH, Perry Hayes N4GJ, Carolyn Horne KX4QF, Steve Frazier KK4VPT, and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO.

The equipment demonstrators during the sixth class were Rick Tillman WA4NVM and Richard Martin K4DXF on satellites; Rick Pellicciotti KJ4NWQ on APRS; John Reiners KN4BVH on ARES, D-STAR, Fusion and DMR; and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO on repeater basics.

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. 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!

We are looking for more YL Net Control Operators (NCOs)! You do not need to have experience calling a Net to be a YL NCO; you just need to be able to get into the repeater and read from a script. It's a great Net to try out as being a NCO, and you would only call the YL

Net about once a month. If interested, please email Mary Jean KY4FB at ky4fb.tn@gmail.com or call/text at 901.356.1475. 73!

2025 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)	443.200	+(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	147.030	+ (107.2)	9:00p	Sunday
Desoto County EMA	146.910	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Monday
MedMERS Net	146.820	- (107.2)	12:00p	Wednesday
Midsouth DMR Net	DMR – TG31471		7:30p	Wednesday
Crowley's Ridge ARC	147.150	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Wednesday
Crowley's Ridge ARC	145.450	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Wednesday
Tipton ARS	145.490	+ (100.0)	7:30p	Thursday
Olive Branch ARC	147.255	+ (79.9)	8:30p	Thursday
OBARC Linked	444.700	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Thursday
ARES Training Net	146.850	- (107.2)	9:00p	Thursday
TN Statewide DMR Net	DMR – TG3147		8:00p	Friday
Four-Forty Net	443.200	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Friday
Neshoba Club Info Net	146.625	- (107.2)	8:30p	4 th Monday

TENNESSEE HF NETS

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

CUSEC 7.180
(Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)

As needed

3980 kHz – Tennessee Phone Net

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

Saturday - 8:00 AM & 5:30 PM

Sunday - 8:00 AM only

Holidays - 8:00 AM only

DELTA CLUB ADVERTISEMENTS

	Hamsource <i>Quality Accessories for the Shack and Field</i> 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)
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	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
Joe Miller Owner	