

# SPARKS

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P.O. Box 342768 \* Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 \* Volume 119 \* December 2025

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Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC)

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## W4BS

### REPEATER SYSTEM

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

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You are invited to attend our monthly membership meeting at 7 pm on: Tuesday, December 9th, 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.

- **NO FCC TESTING FOR DECEMBER**
- **Meeting at 7:00 pm**
  - Potluck Gathering

**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](mailto:KZ4GJ.Don@gmail.com)

## Club Announcements!

**2026 Hamfest** – We appreciate and congratulate Steve Frazier, who stepped up and volunteered and was subsequently unanimously approved as the Chairman of the event. Having a leader in place this early is going to really help our efforts! And now an update from Steve.

As I write this on Friday December 5, we are 127 days away from the Hamfest in 2026. That may seem like a long time, but it will go quickly.

We are off to a good start by locking in the Agricenter as a venue. With the 2026 Hamfest, we have new opportunities and new challenges.

The opportunities include: more space, a new location that is more accessible to the general public, a chance to build on the hamfest of the past and grow in the future.

The challenges include: we have more space to fill, how do we get more of the general public involved, what are things that we want to do to grow the hamfest.

I have reached out to all the previous vendors and had several respond that they will be coming to the 2026 hamfest, but we still have a lot of space to fill.

I have visited several of the clubs in the area to inform them of the change and to start getting them involved. They are reaching out to their members and I will follow up with them after the first of the year.

The main thing we need are your ideas on what you would like to have at the hamfest. I know you all have ideas so let me hear from you.

One thing I would like to do soon is decide on a name. Hamfest is ok for the amateur radio community, but does it reach out to the general public? I would like for this to get more people involved in amateur radio and not have a lot of people show up at the Agricenter expecting to eat ham and potato salad.

I look forward to hearing from you and working with you.

Steve Frazier

KK4VPT

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 8 students in the class are Rich KN4GJH, John KQ4UIC, Dexter KJ5HMT, Michael KJ5MKR, Patrick KJ5MKS, Rajesh KR4CPZ, Barry KR4EPL, and Danny KR4CVH.

The next **Extra** license class will start on January 3, 2026 if there are six students registered.

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

The next **General** license class will probably start in early November 2026.

## Extra Class 1-26 – January 3 – February 21, 2026

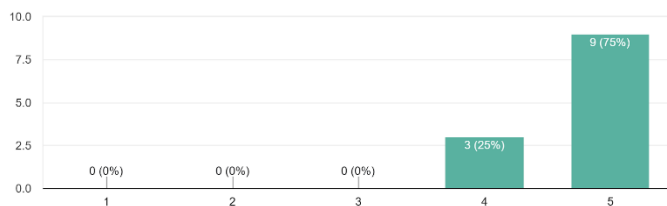
An online Extra Class license class is being planned for six Saturdays on January 3, 10, 31, February 7, 14 and 21, 2026 from 9am to 1pm. The 6<sup>th</sup> class will be an opportunity to take the FCC exam as a place to be determined. If interested in a class, send an email to [wa4ovo@gmail.com](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com) with Subject line: Extra Class and name, email address and cellphone number in text.

## November Membership Meeting Signal Report

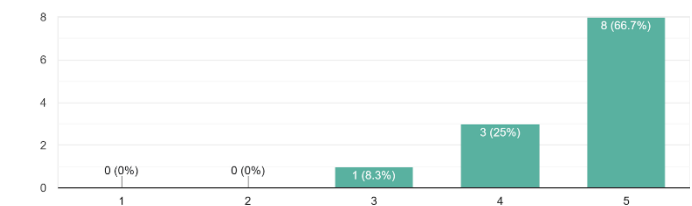
I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had 45 people on the sign in sheet and 12 surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback on how 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.

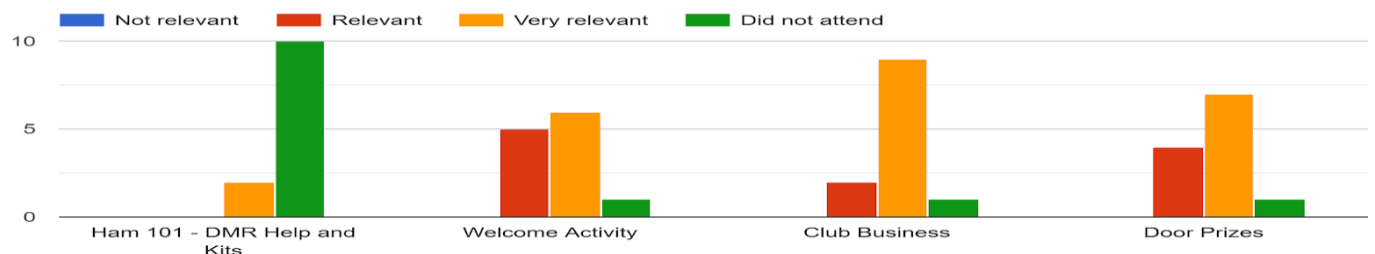
How satisfied were you with the event?  
12 responses



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



### Which sessions did you find most relevant?



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

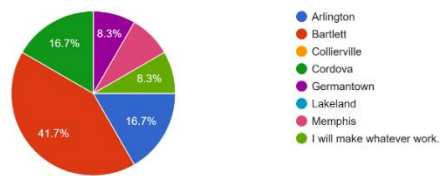
5 responses

Building a homemade antenna  
Winlink presentation?  
APRS

POTA, SOTA, QRP, Contesting  
N/A

Bonus Survey Question:

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



# News and Articles for our Membership

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

December is the month that our club community comes together and celebrates the holiday season. We sit down around tables with good food and worry about nothing. We enjoy a time of talking and fellowship. I encourage you to come out to our meeting this coming Tuesday. Bring your favorite pot luck dish and come hang out with other club members. The club provides 2 hams as the main dish, but we look forward to seeing the various dishes that everyone brings.

We are headed in to 2026 with a growing club. Activity is up and interest is up. We have a great board of directors on board for next year. We need each and everyone of our members to please let us know what is your interest. We are looking for fun and engaging things to plan for the membership.

Swap Stomper is coming in January on the 17<sup>th</sup> – please look for more information in this issue of Sparks. Also coming up in January is Winter Field Day (24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>). There are members that are planning an activity around Winter Field Day! Please look for more information in this issue of Sparks. For those looking for something this month please don't forget about the ARRL 10m contest coming up on December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. It is on the 10m band so it is open to ALL license levels and it does not take a lot to get on the air. If you would like some help, please ask. I, or others will be glad to assist.

We are going forward with the Hamfest in April. We need lots of help with it. Steve Frazier has agreed to be the chairperson of this event. If you would like to get more information or let him know that you are willing to help please send him an email at [hamfestchair@deltaclub.org](mailto:hamfestchair@deltaclub.org).

I am looking forward to this next year. We have had a great 2025! We explored power poles, antennae, j-poles, solar, batteries, Win-Link, DMR, meshtastic, and many, many other things. We had testing and training classes as well. It is so wonderful to see the activities thriving (I have to admit it is great to see a small group of people meeting in the parking lot before the meeting—I see you meshtastic). I would hope that you would share our club with other people.

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**

It has been a busy year. We stood up a DMR repeater and added Allstar to our flagship 146.820 repeater. Allstar wider coverage for NWS Weather nets and a bonus of members being able to check in on nets when out of town. However, we've not tackled the noise issue on the 82 repeater yet. The challenge is to figure out where the issue is without draining the club funds. A single climb up the tower costs \$3000+, so we need to make sure the issue is not down below. I think I have a way to troubleshoot gear in the cabinet without spending money. I need to line up experts to help, so we will be working on this over the next couple of months.

I hope to see everybody at the Christmas dinner on Tuesday. If you can't make it then, come on out to our January meeting and start the year with us. There is great value in networking locally that I believe is an advantage over just a social media approach to ham radio. We have helped hams with radio programming, updating skills, and finding out who can help you with a equipment issue in your house or car.

Dan  
AA4DF

## **Swamp Stompers**

**Submitted by Steve Frazier, KK4VPT**

Once again as the temperatures outside start to fall and the stress level due to all the things we need to do at the end of the year start to rise, it is time to start planning for Swamp Stompers. If you have done Swamp Stompers in the past, I will be reaching out to you soon to see if you are interested in participating again in 2026. If you have not done Swamp Stompers before, it is a 25k and 50k ultra run that will take place January 17 in Shelby Forest. Since this takes place on the trails, we do not follow the runners like we do the bike riders on the Bluff City Blues ride, but we do help with communications at the start / finish line and at 3 aid stations along the route. We do this using UHF/ VHF, so all licensed hams are able to participate. We usually use the 146.82 repeater, but we are looking at other options this year to use as the primary and backup. The food and company is always great at the aid stations and I feel safe in saying this will be one of the "coolest" things you will do using your ham radio license.

If you would like more information or want to sign up, I will be at the pot luck at the December meeting (at or near the desert table) or you can call (218-6385) or email ([sfrazier1@bellsouth.net](mailto:sfrazier1@bellsouth.net)) me.

Steve

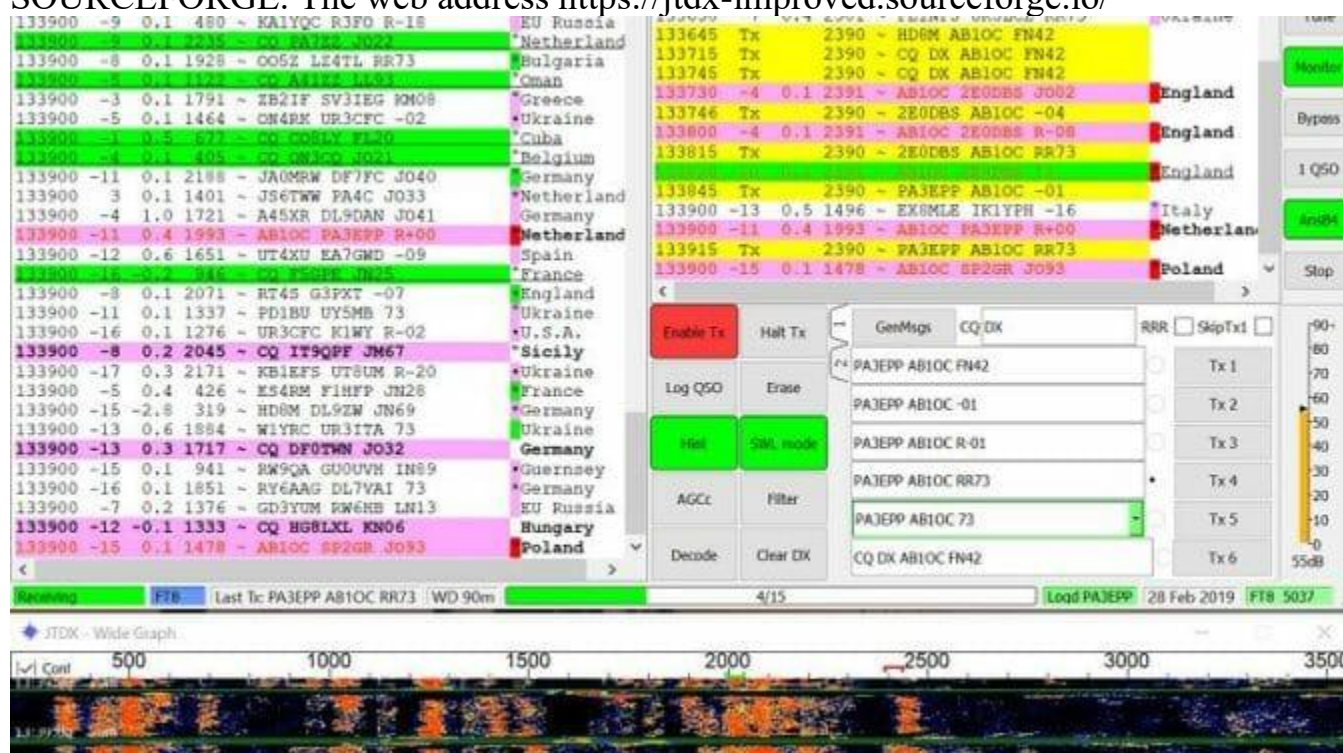
KK4VPT



## Packet Update

### Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Another digital modes software package is now being used by amateurs. JTDX is a software package for the latest digital modes. This program is similar to WSJT-X with improvements. The program supports JT9, JT65, T10, and FT8 modes. The program has new decoder options to enhance low signal readability. It has advanced automatic sequencing and QSO selection features. The software also offers messaging filtering. Weak signals and crowded bands is the reason this program was developed. This allows amateurs to make as many contacts as possible. You can get on YouTube to see videos using JTDX. You can learn more about JTDX and download it at SOURCEFORGE. The web address <https://jtdx-improved.sourceforge.io/>



James Butler  
KB4LJV



## Amateur Hardware Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

The cheapest multiband HF radio is now the USDX. The circuit uses a minimum number of parts to create a multimode radio. Developed by PE1NNZ and DL2MAN this radio is available as a kit for less than \$100. The radio consists of multiple PC boards stacked to together to complete the radio. The standard case is a small 3D printed one to keep cost down. The knob used on the radio is also 3D printed. If you do not want to build your own unit you can buy it assembled in the case and ready to use. The software for the radio is constantly getting better and upgrades are free. Since the hardware and software are open source. The overall design has been copied by the Chinese. Their “clones” look different but function in a similar fashion. You can find the kits and radios on Amazon and Ebay by searching. To find lots of additional information go to the DL2MAN website. The web address is <https://dl2man.de/>



(tr)uSDX 5-band Multimode QRP



By DL2MAN/PE1NNZ

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](mailto:treasurer@deltaclub.org)** with any questions or concerns regarding application submission and/or payment of annual dues.

LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS

November 1, 2025 through November 28, 2025

SUMMARY

Beginning Balance	\$16,184.78	Minimum Daily Balance	\$15,437
Deposits & Credits	\$516.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$15,938
Withdrawals	\$302.11 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$804.78 -		
Ending Balance	\$15,593.89		

DEPOSITS & CREDITS

11/20	Deposit - Thank You	516.00
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WITHDRAWALS

11/10	Rsc Insurance Br Risk-Strat Robert Broom M121331205754	302.11
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CHECKS

Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
11/13	1669	33.05	11/19	1671	400.00
11/26	1670	360.00	11/13	1672	11.73
				Total Checks	\$804.78

\* Break In Check Number Sequence.

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY

Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
11/10	15,882.67	11/19	15,437.89	11/26	15,593.89
11/13	15,837.89	11/20	15,953.89		

<b>Applications Received - October 2025</b>		
(1) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$5.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(1) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$20.00
(1) New Membership(s) - Family		\$25.00
(9) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$180.00
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$0.00
(0) Donations Received		\$286.00
	<b>Total Dues Received</b>	<b>\$516.00</b>
<b>Other Deposits &amp; Credits</b>		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)		\$0.00
(0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$0.00
Sale of Delta Club Patches (0 @ \$5)		\$0.00
Estate Sales		\$0.00
	<b>Total Other Deposits</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
	<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$516.00</b>
<b>Withdrawals &amp; Debits</b>		
Risk Strategies Co - Equipment insurance		\$302.11
	<b>Total Withdrawals</b>	<b>\$302.11</b>
<b>Checks</b>		
Check #1669 - Josh Cunningham - Refreshments		\$33.05
Check #1670 - US Postal Service - Annual PO box rental		\$360.00
Check #1671 - Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary - Donation		\$400.00
Check #1672 - Josh Cunningham - Refreshments		\$11.73
	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>\$804.78</b>

## SMALL BUSINESS CD \*8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,597.75	3.680 %	\$227.01	\$5.08
<a href="#">SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</a> *8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$51.68	\$263.01	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	11/22/2025	9/21/2026	
<a href="#">▲ Hide More Details</a>			

## 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	\$38.89
<a href="#">SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</a> *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	
<a href="#">▲ Hide More Details</a>			

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

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

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes December 2, 2025

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting - December 2, 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, Director of Meetings and Special Events, Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

Absent: None.

Guests: Steve Frazier, KK4VPT.

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on December 2, 2025, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present.

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 6:40pm.

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

President Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Joe Plunk introduced Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, who joined the meeting as a guest. Steve has agreed to serve as the chairman of the Hamfest Committee.

The BOD voted unanimously to accept the Secretary's Minutes, which had been circulated by email. The minutes will be presented to the membership for their approval.

Paul Broom presented the new and renewal membership applications, which had been received since the November BOD meeting.

Perry Hayes made a motion to accept all of the membership applications, which was seconded by Tyler Henley. The motion passed without objection.

Treasurer Paul Broom presented the Treasurer's Report.

Paul reported that one of the club's certificates of Deposit had paid interest this month.

Paul said that the club's liability insurance policy needed to be renewed by the end of December. The cost will be \$200. Paul asked for authority to pay the bill by e-check, as he did for the club's equipment insurance policy.

Joe Lowenthal made a motion that Paul Broom be allowed to pay the insurance bill as he

requested. There was a second by Perry Hayes. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Plunk said that the Agricenter International wanted DARC to add them as an additional insured for the day of the hamfest.

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

There was a discussion about bills and reimbursement requests that were expected during the month of December.

There was a discussion about the club's internet domain, when it comes up for renewal and who holds the login credentials.

Joe Plunk thanked Paul Broom for all of his hard work on the 2026 budget. Paul had prepared and circulated his proposed budget for 2026 via email.

There was a discussion about the December membership meeting, which will be a potluck holiday dinner. Director of Meetings and Special Events Josh Cunningham will purchase and prepare two hams, which will be served at the dinner.

There was a discussion about offering a Ham 101 class, offering a video presentation, and the presentation of awards and recognition at the December meeting.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek reported that the 443.2 repeater is down. Joe Lowenthal has volunteered to visit the University of Memphis repeater site. Joe will look to see if there are problems with the controller, repeater or electricity.

Dan says the 146.82 repeater continues to have scratchy audio. He said similar problems occurred in the past after a lightning strike.

Dan is considering adding a DCI filter, examining the duplexers, and swapping duplexers with the Methodist North repeater site. The noise floor at the Brunswick site might also have to be measured.

If none of these measures work, Dan said it might be necessary to hire a climber to inspect the equipment on the tower.

Joe Plunk said that BOD/Club members could be on the lookout for sales on duplexers. Dan Fleek said the duplexers at Brunswick have pass band reject filters. Dan will look for deals on duplexers at the Dayton Hamvention.

There was a discussion about using the 146.82 repeater to support the Swamp Stomper race on January 17th, and possibly using the club's DMR repeater for that purpose.

There was a discussion about the 224.42 repeater. Dan Fleek said the repeater does not have a Roger beep, and it has a short squelch tail. This has led some people to believe the repeater is down. Joe Lowenthal checked and said that he was able to key up the repeater.

There was a lengthy discussion about the hamfest, which DARC is planning to host on April 11, 2026.

The draft contract with the Agricenter included a \$500 fee for access to a parking lot area. A new contract is being prepared which does not include the use of that area. Joe Plunk and Steve Frazier said that the size and location of the outdoor area meant that only six small spaces would be available, which does not justify the \$500 expense. Steve said there was another outdoor area that the club might be able to use.

There were discussions about the layout of the hamfest space, and the possibility of hanging curtains or using other barriers to control the flow of visitors.

Steve said he has reached out to all of the vendors who participated in Memphis FreeFest in the past. Some have responded. None have said that they won't participate.

There were discussions about individuals and groups that may give presentations or hold seminars at the hamfest.

Steve Frazier said that DARC may need to charge a fee for tables and chairs at the hamfest, to offset the fees we will be required to pay.

There were discussions about the ARRL grant application, the hamfest theme of emergency communications, advertising the hamfest on the Agricenter video sign on Walnut Grove Road and the requirement that DARC hire security for the hamfest.

Steve Frazier said he will continue to be in touch with vendors and with local amateur radio clubs during the month of December. He plans to submit articles about the hamfest and Swamp Stomper race for publication in Sparks.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said the General Class License Class is finishing up, and will be testing next Monday night.

Joe said that he will need at least 6 students to start an Extra Class License Class, tentatively scheduled to begin on the first Saturday in January.

Director of Programs Adam White said that he is sending out an email to gauge interest in Winter Field Day, to be held on January 24-25.

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The Zoom recording was paused while the BOD discussed and voted on the New Ham of the Year and Ham of the Year Awards, to be announced at the December membership meeting.

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There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Johnathan Urschel made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Perry Hayes. The motion passed unanimously.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:01pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, January 6, 2026 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 11, 2025

The November 2025 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 11, 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 7:00 pm. There were 45 members and visitors in attendance.

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Treasurer Paul Broom, KY4MX, 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: Vice President Tyler Henley KQ4QEV.

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.

Adam White made a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes and the Treasurer's Report, as published in Sparks. There was a second by Don Strahl, KZ4GJ. The motion passed unanimously.

Nominations Committee Chairman Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, said that no additional nominations had been received for the BOD elections. President Joe Plunk asked for a motion to close nominations, and to elect the entire slate of candidates. Don Strahl made the motion, with a second by Dr. Randy Redd, KQ4HJH. The motion passed without opposition. The entire slate of candidates was elected unanimously.

The elected and appointed members of the BOD for 2026 are:

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Treasurer Paul Broom, KY4MX, 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.

Joe Plunk announced that DARC had an opportunity to host a hamfest in the Memphis area. The Memphis Amateur Radio Association (MARA) is shutting down Memphis FreeFest. Joe said that it is important to have a hamfest in Memphis, and DARC could step in to fill the void.

Joe said that the BOD could not run the hamfest alone. The membership will have to step up, in order to make this happen.

Joe said that the membership would have to decide if DARC should host the hamfest. If so, the cost of renting the venue at Agricenter International would have to be approved as a non-budgeted expense for 2025.

Additionally, a hamfest committee would have to be formed, and would need to have a finalized budget ready by December - which would be presented as part of a grant application to the ARRL Foundation.

Joe Plunk has already reserved the venue, which is at Agricenter International, Hall A Wing A. The date of the hamfest would be Saturday, April 11, 2026. Load-in would occur on Friday, and cleanup would be performed on Saturday night - after the event closes.

The venue costs \$1,800, the seminar rooms will cost \$600 (\$300 per room) and access to the parking lot is \$500. Joe Plunk said he would request authorization for an expenditure up to \$3,500 for securing the site.

Once the expenditure is approved, Joe said the committee could start contacting vendors. Joe Plunk said that ARRL Delta Division Director David Norris, K5UZ, is committed to helping DARC get a grant to cover, or offset, the cost of hosting the hamfest.

Tables and chairs must be rented from Agricenter's preferred vendor. The fee for tables and chairs will be part of the 2026 DARC budget.

There was a lengthy discussion about the proposed hamfest. Joe Plunk and other BOD members answered questions. Many DARC members had comments. The topics included: concessions, a flea market, food trucks, STEM classes, opportunities for youth and scouts, participation by other clubs and organizations, possible seminar topics and the size of the venue.

Ned Savage, KA4BLL, made a motion that the DARC host a hamfest. There was a second by Johnathan Urschel. The motion passed without opposition.

Joe Lowenthal made a motion to approve the non-budgeted expense of renting the venue at Agricenter International - in an amount up to \$3,500. There was a second by Don Strahl. The motion passed with one "nay" vote.

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#### Minutes of the Special BOD Meeting

During a break in the membership meeting, President Joe Plunk convened a special meeting of the BOD. Secretary Perry Hayes declared a quorum.

Joe Plunk asked for a motion that the BOD approve the signing of a contract with Agricenter International, for rental of the hamfest venue, in an amount of up to \$3,500.

Adam White made the motion, with a second by Perry Hayes. The motion passed unanimously.

Dan Fleek made a motion to adjourn the special BOD meeting, which was seconded by Josh Cunningham. The motion passed without opposition.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the special BOD meeting

\*\*\*\*\*

After the break, the club enjoyed a round of "Ham Radio Jeopardy" hosted by John Reiners.

President Joe Plunk presented Dr. Randy Redd with a \$400 donation to the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. Joe thanked the Seminary for the gracious use of their facilities.

Joe Plunk and Johnathan Urschel hosted the annual door prize drawings. Johnathan was responsible for ordering the prizes this year, and he also made power connectors - which were given to members who didn't win a prize.

Joe Plunk reminded everyone that the December meeting will be the annual DARC pot-luck holiday party. There will not be an official program, just fellowship. DARC will provide two hams, and the membership will supply additional food and desserts.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek said that the 443.200 repeater went off the air recently. A team will visit the site soon to investigate the issue.

Dan also said that 146.82 repeater has experienced problems with noise. A visit has already been made to the Brunswick repeater site, but additional visits are planned to help diagnose and fix the problem. Dan thanked everyone for their patience.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that a new General Class License Class has met for the first time. 9 students are enrolled in the class and 7 attended the first meeting (2 were sick).

Joe said plans were being made for a possible Extra Class License Class, which would likely begin in January and meet on Saturdays from 9am - 1pm. Anyone interested should contact Joe Lowenthal.

Director of Programs Adam White said that he was still working to secure a venue for Winter Field Day, which will be held on January 24-25. Carolyn Horne, KX4QF, found a discount for camping, if the club decides to take that route. Adam said more information would be available soon, and everyone should stay tuned.

Director of Meetings and Special Events Josh Cunningham said that two people tested for General at the VE session tonight. Both passed. Those in attendance gave the new Generals a hearty round of applause.

Steve Frazier said that the annual Swamp Stompers Race will be held on January 17th. DARC will be supporting the race again. Those interested in volunteering should contact Steve for more information.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to complete a Signal Report survey.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said that he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Dan Fleek made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Dr. Randy Redd. The motion passed without opposition. President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:33 pm.

The next regular membership meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, beginning at 7:00pm. This will be a holiday party, with no official business scheduled.

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

*Licenses Earned in 2025 from Delta Classes*

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](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com) with Subject line: Tech, General or Extra Class and name, email address and cellphone number in text.**

The next **Extra** license class will start on January 3, 2026 if there are six students registered.

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

The next **General** license class will probably start in early November 2026.

### **Extra Class 1-26 – January 3 – February 21, 2026**

An online Extra Class license class is being planned for six Saturdays on January 3, 10, 31, February 7, 14 and 21, 2026 from 9am to 1pm. The 6<sup>th</sup> class will be an opportunity to take the FCC exam as a place to be determined. If interested in a class, send an email to [wa4ovo@gmail.com](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com) with Subject line: Extra Class and name, email address and cellphone number in text.

## Current 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 8 students in the class are Rich KN4GJH, John KQ4UIC, Dexter KJ5HMT, Michael KJ5MKR, Patrick KJ5MKS, Rajesh KR4CPZ, Barry KR4EPL, and Danny KR4CVH.



John KN4BVH on Safety



Carolyn KX4QF on Antennas



Randall KY4MY on Equipment



Paul KY4MX on Rules & Regs

The instructors were Steve KK4VPT, Perry N4GJ, Josh KQ4IOS, Bobby KD4BS, Carolyn KX4QF, John KN4BVH, Paul KY4MX, Randall KY4MY and Joe WA4OVO. The Delta Club ARRL VE Team will provide an opportunity for FCC testing on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup>. 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 28<sup>th</sup>. The others plan to test soon.



Tech Class 3-25 first session with  
Bobby KD5BS instructing

John KN4BVH on Safety

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**

### **How to Print Your FCC License**

- 1. Go to <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp>**
- 2. Enter your FCC Registration Number (FRN) and Password and click on Submit.**
  - A. If you do not know your FRN, go to [License Search](https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp)**  
<https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp>
  - B. Under License Search in center of page, to the right of By Call Sign, enter your callsign and click on Search. (Your FRN is in the center of the page.)**
  - C. If you do not know your Password, click on Contact Tech Support after Forgot your Password?**
- 3. When My License screen comes up, go to the green shaded box with Download your official authorization [here](#). Click on here.**
- 4. Under Download Authorizations screen, highlight your callsign in the My Authorization area at the bottom.**
- 5. Click on ADD to right of the highlighted callsign.**
- 6. Highlight your callsign in Authorization to Download and then click on Download on bottom right of the screen. (If pop-ups are blocked, click on Allow One.)**

7. Click on the printer icon to print your License.

8. Sign your license.

INDIVIDUAL EMAIL ADDRESS IN QRZ  
Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

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

ARRL Benefits

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

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

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

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

If you are interested in joining Shelby County ARES, complete an application at <https://www.tnares.com>. Click (do not pull down) on INFORMATION on the top right of the page. Next, go to TN ARES Membership and Appointment Application Forms and then click

on ARES Membership Application: FSD-98. Complete the form and click SUBMIT at the bottom of the page. You should get an acknowledgment soon after submitting.

## **YL News**

**Submitted by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB**

The YL Net is every Saturday at 8:45 pm on the 146.820 W4BS repeater, which has a PL tone of 107.2 Hz. 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](mailto:ky4fb.tn@gmail.com) or call/text at 901.356.1475. 73!

## 2025 Board of Directors

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[President@deltacub.org](mailto:President@deltacub.org)  
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901-491-2755

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[treasurer@deltacub.com](mailto:treasurer@deltacub.com)  
901-517-1490

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[wa4ovo@gmail.com](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com)  
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### **Director of Meetings & Special Events**

Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS  
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**Repeater Trustee**  
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**Public Information Officer**  
OPEN

### **Club Historian**

John Reiners, KN4BVH  
[KN4BVH@comcast.net](mailto:KN4BVH@comcast.net)  
901-541-0310

## 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 <sup>th</sup> Monday

## TENNESSEE HF NETS

Net Name	Freq. MHz	Local Time	Day of Week
Tennessee CW Net	3.563	7:00p	Daily
Tennessee Slow CW Net	3.682	7:30p	Tue-Sun
Tennessee Alternate Phone Net	7.238		As needed
CUSEC	3.810		As needed
CUSEC	7.180		As needed
(Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)			

### **3980 kHz – Tennessee Phone Net**

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

Saturday - 8:00 AM & 5:30 PM

Sunday - 8:00 AM only

Holidays - 8:00 AM only

## DELTA CLUB ADVERTISEMENTS





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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

Chick-fil-A Paragon Place  
6282 Poplar Avenue  
At Poplar and Massey  
Memphis, TN 38119  
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C - 901.230.3043  
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